

Author: STELLA SKALTSA

CAPInv. 857: hoi protoi Assklepiastai

I. LOCATION

i. Geographical area	Western Asia Minor
ii. Region	Mysia
iii. Site	Yüntdağ (ca. 30 km SE of Pergamon)

II. NAME

i. Full name (original language)	οἱ πρῶτοι Ἀσκληπιασταί (SEG 60: 1332)
ii. Full name (transliterated)	<i>hoi protoi Assklepiastai</i>

III. DATE

i. Date(s)	f. ii BC
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IV. NAME AND TERMINOLOGY

ii. Name elements	Theophoric:	Asklepios
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V. SOURCES

i. Source(s)	SEG 60: 1332 (first half of ii BC)
Note	The date of the inscription is based on letterforms (Müller 2010: 428).
i.a. Source type(s)	Epigraphic source(s)
i.b. Document(s) typology & language/script	List of the founding members of a cult association in Greek.
i.c. Physical format(s)	Stele of andesite, with partly preserved segmental pediment on top. H. 118 x W 41-46 Th. 14-15 cm.

ii. Source(s) provenance	Located by the photographer of the German archaeological team in a private collection in Bergama in 1993. The inscription is said to have been found in a privately owned field in Yaylakale (Yaylaköy) (Müller 2010: 440).
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VI. BUILT AND VISUAL SPACE

i. Archaeological remains	The stele is reported to have been found in a privately owned field in Yalakale. Another inscribed stele was found in the vicinity, being reused as a washboard (<i>Chiron</i> 2010: p. 440). The text is partly preserved. It contains regulations that should be observed upon access to the <i>hieron</i> . The regulations concern the purity/ cleanliness of those entering the sanctuary (in case of intercourse, death and abortion/miscarriage). There is also mention of an incubation hall (ἐγκοιμητήριον, <i>enkoimeterion</i> , ll. 14-15). Sanctuaries of healing gods (e.g. Asklepios) were usually provided with incubation halls. The content of this inscription provides further evidence that the <i>hieron</i> founded by Demetrios should have been in this area, and it must have been dedicated to Asklepios, as it can also be inferred by the name of association itself.
ii. References to buildings/objects	τὸ ἱερόν, <i>to hieron</i> (l. 3) ἐγκοιμητήριον, <i>enkoimeterion</i> (ll. 14-15)

VII. ORGANIZATION

i. Founder(s)	Demetrios (l. 1), the <i>phourarchos</i> , founded <i>to hieron</i> (τοῦ κτίσαντος τὸ ἱερόν, <i>to ktisantos to hieron</i> , ll. 2-3). It seems that the foundation of the shrine necessitated the formation of a cultic association. The <i>Asklepiastai</i> are called <i>hoi protoi</i> , an indication that the list includes the names of those who came together (<i>synelthon</i> , l. 4) for the first time upon the foundation of the shrine. Hence, Demetrios could also be considered the founder of the association. His name is recorded on the top of the name list (l. 6).
ii. Leadership	
Eponymous office	The inscription is dated after Demetrios, the φρουράρχος (<i>phourarchos</i>): ἐπὶ Δημητρίου φρουράρχου, <i>epi Demetriou phourarchou</i> (ll. 1-2)
iii. Members	οἱ πρῶτοι Ἀσκληπιασταί, <i>hoi protoi Assklepiastai</i> (<i>Chiron</i> 2010: p. 427, ll. 4-5)

IX. MEMBERSHIP

i. Number	The names of fifteen members are recorded in the stele (ll. 6-20).
ii. Gender	Men
Note	All members are male: Δημήτριος Σεύθου Μικαδίων Ἀρισταγόρου Μητρόδωρος Ἀφ(?)άρου Ἀσκληπιάδης Γλαυκίου Μητροφάνης Ἀρτεμιδώρου Μακεδὼν Ἀνδρέστου Νικάνωρ Μικαδίωνος Ἀρτέμων Ἀθηναίου Ἡρακλείδης Βακχίου Κάλας Γλαυκίου Ἀπολλώνιος Δημητρίου (letters ου are inscribed in the previous line) Σ(?)ώνικος Ἀριστοκράτου Ἀριστογένης Διονυσοδώρου Ἀγνήωρ Βακχίου Πυρρίας Δημέου

iii. Age	Adults
iv. Status	All names in the stele are Greek followed by patronymics. The diverse ethnic origin of the members (western Asia Minor [regions of Ionia, Mysia and Lydia], Macedonia and Thessaly), as inferred by the onomastics, can be explained in light of a military background (Müller 2010: 435). It seems that the <i>protoi Asklepiastai</i> were in all likelihood soldiers of an Attalid garrison, stationed in the fortress under the commandship of Demetrios, the founder of the <i>hieron</i> .
v. Relations	Family ties can be discerned for some of the members (e.g. father - son or brothers) on grounds of the onomastics: Father and son: Μικαδίων Ἀρισταγόρου (l. 7) Νικάνωρ Μικαδίωνος (l. 12) Brothers: Ἀσκληπιάδης Γλαυκίου (l. 9) Κάλας Γλαυκίου (l. 15) Brothers: Ἡρακλείδης Βακχίου (l. 14) Ἀγνήνωρ Βακχίου (l. 19)

X. ACTIVITIES

iii. Worship	The <i>Asklepiastai</i> came together in the newly founded <i>hieron</i> , apparently for cult practices.
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XII. NOTES

iii. Bibliography	Müller, H. (2010), 'Ein Kultverein von Asklepiasten im Yüntdağ', <i>Chiron</i> 40: 427-57.
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XIII. EVALUATION

i. Private association	Certain
Note	The name of the association <i>hoi protoi Asklepiastai</i> suggests that the group expected a certain degree of continuity in its activities. The <i>Asklepiastai</i> would have taken over the administration of the newly founded shrine.