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CAPInv. GR-48: synodoi pleious, koina ton syndeipnon

I. LOCATION

i.	Geographical area	The Near East and Beyond
ii.	Region	Syria

II. GENERAL REFERENCE

i.a.	Full reference (original language)	σύνοδοι πλείους, κοινὰ τῶν συνδείπνων (Posidon. *FGH* 10 = Ath. 210e-f and 527e-f)
i.b.	Full reference (transliterated)	*synodoi pleious, koina ton syndeipnon*
ii.	Reference context	In a description of decadent life in Syrian cities, Posidonius of Apamea says that the Syrians hold συνόδους πλείους, *synodous pleious*, and refer to τὰ κοινὰ τῶν συνδείπνων, *ta koina ton syndeipnon*, as *grammateia*.

III. DATE

i.	Date(s)	100 - 51 BC

IV. TERMINOLOGY

i.	Descriptive terms	σύνοδος, *synodos* κοινόν, *koinon*
	Note	*synodos*: Posidon. *Athen. dipn.* 12.527e-f (F10) *koinon*: Posidon. *Athen. dipn.* 5.210e-f (F10)

V. SOURCES

i.	Source(s)	Posidon. *FGH* 10 = Ath. 210e-f and 527e-f (100-51 BC)
	Online Resources	Ath. 210e-f and Ath. 527e-f
i.a.	Source type(s)	Literary source(s)

VIII. NOTES

iii.	Bibliography	Bowersock, G.W. (1999), 'Les Euemerioi et les confréries joyeuses', *CRAI*: 1241-56. Ziebarth, E. (1896), *Das griechische Vereinswesen*. Leipzig.

IX. EVALUATION

i.	Private associations	Probable
	Note	The wording is strongly reminiscent of voluntary associations. Ziebarth 1896: 125 and others believe that the reference is to associations of σύνδειπνοι. But how could these be called *grammateia*? Bowersock 1999: 1251-2 uses the reference to show that the oriental *marzeah* possessed archives and administrative functions. The new LCL-translation of Athenaeus by Olson gives a different impression: σύνοδοι πλείους, *synodoi pleious* are "large numbers of parties", τὰ κοινὰ τῶν συνδείπνων, *ta koina ton syndeipnon* are "their communal dining halls". At least in the latter case, the solution is not really satisfactory. It is probable that Posidonius did in fact refer to banqueting associations; the note on their self-designation as *grammateia* may have a local background that escapes us.
ii.	Historical authenticity	The tone of Posidonius' report is clearly polemical, so the authenticity is questionable.