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CAPInv. GR-67: philoi

I. LOCATION

i. Geographical area	Central Greece
ii. Region	Boiotia

II. GENERAL REFERENCE

i.a. Full reference (original language)	φίλοι (Polyb. <i>Histories</i> . 20.6.5)
i.b. Full reference (transliterated)	<i>philoi</i>
ii. Reference context	Polybius draws a very unflattering portrait of Boiotia, in which Boiotians, instead of bequeathing their wealth to their heirs, spend it all on banquets (<i>syssitia</i>) with their friends (<i>philoi</i>). The terminology used by Polybius points to an allusion to the associative habits of the Boiotians in the latter part of the 3rd century BC. However the term <i>philoi</i> is not to be understood as a technical term for members of associations.

III. DATE

i. Date(s)	250 - 192 BC
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V. SOURCES

i. Source(s)	Polyb. <i>Histories</i> . 20.6.5 (250 - 192 BC)
Online Resources	Polyb. <i>Histories</i>. 20.6.5
i.a. Source type(s)	Literary source(s)
i.b. Document(s) typology & language/script	Greek.

VIII. NOTES

i. Comments	Polybius' portrait of Boiotian decadence needs to be dealt with very critically. Nevertheless, the vocabulary used in the passage in question points to an allusion to the associative phenomenon in Boiotia at the end of the 3rd and beginning of the 2nd centuries BC. The notion of association is well rendered in the old translation by Shuckburgh 1889: 'and even many who did possess children left the larger part of their property to the members of their own club', and also in the more recent Loeb edition by Paton 1979: 'Even many who had families distributed the greater part of their fortune among their clubs, [...]'.
iii. Bibliography	Feyel, M. (1942), <i>Polybe et l'histoire de Béotie au III^e siècle avant notre ère</i> . Paris. Müller, C. (2013), 'The Rise and Fall of the Boeotians: Polybius 20. 4–7 as a Literary <i>Topos</i> ', in B. Gibson and T. Harrison (eds.), <i>Polybius and his World: Essays in Memory of F.W. Walbank</i> . Oxford: 267–78. Paton, W.R. (1979) <i>The Histories. Polybius</i> . Cambridge, Mass. Shuckburgh, E.S. (1889) <i>The histories of Polybius, tr. E.S. Shuckburgh</i> . London.

IX. EVALUATION

i. Private associations	Probable
Note	The terminology employed is used as a general description of private associations.