

CAPInv. 1084: cultores dei patri

I. LOCATION

i. Geographical area	Southern Italy with Sicily
ii. Region	Campania
iii. Site	Pozzuoli (anc. Puteoli)

II. NAME

i. Full name (original language)	cultores dei patri (<i>AE</i> 1972: no. 79, l. 10)
ii. Full name (transliterated)	<i>cultores dei patri</i>

III. DATE

i. Date(s)	s. iii - 337 AD
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IV. NAME AND TERMINOLOGY

ii. Name elements	Cultic:	<i>cultores</i> : the worshippers
	Theophoric:	<i>deus patrius</i> (<i>AE</i> 1972: no. 79, l. 10)

V. SOURCES

i. Source(s)	<i>AE</i> 1972: no. 79 (AD 290-326) CIL X 1805 (s. iii AD - AD 337)
Note	See also: <i>AE</i> 1972: no. 79, EDR075343
Online Resources	TM 250430 and EDR075343 (<i>AE</i> 1972: no. 79) TM 536111 (CIL X 1805)
i.a. Source type(s)	Epigraphic source(s)

i.b. Document(s) typology & language/script	Both inscriptions are written in Latin. <i>AE</i> 1972: no. 79 is a dedication of a statue to Iulius Sulpicius Sucessus made by the <i>cultores dei patri</i> together with the <i>regio decatriae</i> (<i>AE</i> 1972: no. 79, l. 10) and the <i>vexillari</i> (<i>AE</i> 1972: no. 79, l. 11). <i>CIL</i> X 1805 is a funerary inscription of an unknown man described as <i>sacerdos d(ei) p(atri) immunis</i> (<i>CIL</i> X 1805, l. 3).
i.c. Physical format(s)	<i>AE</i> 1972: no. 79 is a large marble statue base. <i>CIL</i> X 1805 is a fragmentary inscription known through manuscript tradition.
ii. Source(s) provenance	The base <i>AE</i> 1972: no. 79 was found in 1965, embedded in the Campanile of the Cathedral of S. Procolo at Pozzuoli. <i>CIL</i> X 1805 was found near Pozzuoli.

VII. ORGANIZATION

ii. Leadership	Probably a <i>sacerdos</i> , see the <i>sacerdos dei patri</i> attested in <i>CIL</i> X 1805, l. 3. In <i>CIL</i> X 1805 the anonymous priest held his office as an <i>immunis</i> (l. 3), i.e. without making the customary outlay for amusements or other purposes, cf. Peterson 1919: 95. It may imply that normally the chief officer received his position in the association with some payment.
iii. Members	Referred to as <i>cultores dei patri</i> (<i>AE</i> 1972: no. 79, l. 10).
viii. Obligations	The erection of the base/statue may imply that the <i>cultores dei patri</i> either collected money ad hoc or each member had to pay regularly some sum, which went into the (unattested) treasury.

VIII. PROPERTY AND POSSESSIONS

i. Treasury/Funds	The erection of the base/statue may imply that the association had its own funds/treasury.
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IX. MEMBERSHIP

ii. Gender	Men
Note	See the anonymous <i>sacerdos dei patri</i> attested in <i>CIL</i> X 1805.
iii. Age	Adults
Note	See the anonymous <i>sacerdos dei patri</i> attested in <i>CIL</i> X 1805.
iv. Status	The unknown <i>sacerdos dei patri</i> of <i>CIL</i> X 1805 was a man of equestrian rank, who, as <i>curator aquae Augustae</i> (<i>CIL</i> X 1805, l. 6), had secured for years and at his own expense the maintenance of the most important city aqueduct, see Camodeca 1980-1981: 117.

X. ACTIVITIES

iv. Honours/Other activities	The <i>cultores dei patri</i> awarded a base statue for Iulius Sulpicius Sucessus who was <i>vir egregius, patronus coloniae</i> and <i>procurator portus Puteolanorum</i> (<i>AE</i> 1972: no. 79, ll. 4-5). The honor is justified with reference to his benefactions and love towards the citizens and the homeland (<i>ob meritis et adfectione amoreque eius erga cives et patriam</i> , <i>AE</i> 1972: no. 79, ll. 6-7).
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XI. INTERACTION

- i. Local interaction** The honorand Iulius Sulpicius Successus in *AE* 1972: no. 79 was a local man of equestrian rank (see D'Arms 1972: 259). The *cultores dei patri* dedicated the statue together with other local groups: the *regio decatria*, i.e. a city region of Puteoli, and the *vexillari* (see [CAPInv. 1083](#)), i.e. the collegial standard bearers. The *ordo decurionum* and the *populus Puteolanus* gave their approval.

XII. NOTES

- i. Comments** The identity of the deity called *deus patrius* is not clear, see Peterson 1919: 398-9. D'Arms 1972: 268-70 believes that the *deus patrius* was a god, perhaps Serapis, revered by a foreign group in the city.
- iii. Bibliography** Camodeca, G. (1980-1981), 'Ricerche su Puteoli tardoromana (fine III – IV secolo)', *Puteoli* 4-5: 59-128.
Castagnetti, S. (2007), 'I collegia della Campania', in E. Lo Cascio and G.D. Merola (eds.), *Forme di aggregazione nel mondo romano*, Bari: 223-42.
D'Arms, J.H. (1972), 'A new inscribed base from 4th century Puteoli', *PP* 27: 255-70.
Peterson, R.M. (1919), *The cults of Campania*. Rome.

XIII. EVALUATION

- i. Private association** Certain
- Note** For the use of the term *cultores* to indicate the ordinary members of a *collegium*, which was religious in character see Castagnetti 2007: 228.