

CAPInv. 1467: **astiopolai**

I. LOCATION

i. Geographical area	Western Asia Minor
ii. Region	Ionia
iii. Site	Ephesos

II. NAME

i. Full name (original language)	ἄστιπολαί (I.Eph(esos) 454c, l. 4)
ii. Full name (transliterated)	<i>astiopolai</i>

III. DATE

i. Date(s)	150 (?) - 250 (?) AD
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IV. NAME AND TERMINOLOGY

ii. Name elements	Professional:	<i>astiopolai</i> . It is possible that ἄστιπόλων, <i>astiopolon</i> , is a misspelling for ἄστιπόλων, <i>astiopolon</i> ; cf. Ruffing 2008: 446-7 (who speculates that the group belongs to the textile sector, like the <i>eripolai</i> (l. 3) mentioned in the same inscription).
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V. SOURCES

i. Source(s)	I.Eph(esos) 454c (150 (?) - 250 (?) AD)
Note	See also: Dittmann-Schöne II.1.5
Online Resources	I.Eph(esos) 454c
i.a. Source type(s)	Epigraphic source(s)

i.b. Document(s) typology & language/script	Seat inscription, greek
i.c. Physical format(s)	Inscribed pillar
ii. Source(s) provenance	Gymnasium of Vedius

XII. NOTES

i. Comments	There were several associations with reserved seats in the latrines of the gymnasium of Vedius. The <i>astiopolai</i> seem to have been one of them, although the term remains unclear. Another option is to take <i>astiopolai</i> as an attribute to <i>eripolai</i> (Dittmann-Schöne 2010: 131; Royer 2005: 154; cf. CAPIInv. 1466). But the sense would still be doubtful, and given that the stone shows yet another (albeit erased) name of an association (<i>linoplokoï</i> , ll. 1-2), there is no objection to regarding the <i>astiopolai</i> as an additional group. For its probable background in textile production, see Ruffing 2008: 446-7.
iii. Bibliography	Dittmann-Schöne, I. (2010), <i>Die Berufsvereine in den Städten des kaiserzeitlichen Kleinasien</i> . 2nd. ed. Regensburg. Royer, A. (2005), <i>Associations professionnelles et groupes de gens de métier dans les cités grecques d'Asie Mineure à l'époque impériale (Ier - Ve siècles ap. J.-C.)</i> . Lyon. Ruffing, K. (2008), <i>Die berufliche Spezialisierung in Handel und Handwerk</i> . 2 vols. Rahden, Westf.

XIII. EVALUATION

i. Private association	Probable
Note	Professional associations in the 2nd/3rd century were often very close to the official civic institutions, but they probably remained essentially private associations.
ii. Historical authenticity	Certain