

CAPInv. 467: Ptolemai mystai

I. LOCATION

i. Geographical area	Western Asia Minor
ii. Region	Phrygia
iii. Site	Nakoleia

II. NAME

i. Full name (original language)	Πτολεμῖνοι μύσται (MAMA V KB 6, l. 1)
ii. Full name (transliterated)	<i>Ptolemai mystai</i>

III. DATE

i. Date(s)	ii AD
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IV. NAME AND TERMINOLOGY

ii. Name elements	Topographical:	<i>Ptolemai</i> is probably the designation of a village near Nakoleia.
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V. SOURCES

i. Source(s)	MAMA V KB 6 (ii AD)
Note	See also: Jaccottet II no. 77
Online Resources	MAMA V KB 6
i.a. Source type(s)	Epigraphic source(s)
i.b. Document(s) typology & language/script	Dedicatory inscription. Greek.
i.c. Physical format(s)	Marble altar with representations of Dionysiac cult scenes (for photo and description, see Haspels).

ii. Source(s) provenance	Ayvali
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X. ACTIVITIES

iii. Worship	The scenes depicted on the altar show cult scenes that were probably familiar to initiates; cf. Haspels 1962: 287, who regards this (and similar scenes in monuments for Zeus <i>Dionysos</i> , presumably an old Phrygian deity) as evidence for "an old local cult, which was taken up, and perhaps enlarged, in Roman time."
Deities worshipped	Dionysos
iv. Honours/Other activities	The <i>mystai</i> dedicate an altar to Dionysos.

XII. NOTES

i. Comments	This altar belongs to a group of similar monuments; cf. Jaccottet 2003: 152-3, 158-60 for discussion.
ii. Poland concordance	Poland B 422
iii. Bibliography	Haspels, C.H.E. (1962), 'Relics of a Dionysiac Cult in Asia Minor', <i>AJA</i> 66: 285-7. Jaccottet, A.-F. (2003), <i>Choisir Dionysos. Les associations dionysiaques ou la face cachée du dionysisme</i> . 2 vols. Zürich.

XIII. EVALUATION

i. Private association	Probable
Note	The status of <i>mystai</i> -groups is not quite clear; most of them probably served both the private interests of their members and the needs of civic religion.
ii. Historical authenticity	Certain