

CAPInv. 684: **bakcheion**

I. LOCATION

i. Geographical area	Thrace
ii. Region	Inland Thrace
iii. Site	Bizye

II. NAME

i. Full name (original language)	βακχείον (IGBulg III.2 1864, l. 1; IGBulg III.2 1865, ll. 4-5)
ii. Full name (transliterated)	<i>bakcheion</i>

III. DATE

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

i. Name in other forms	βακχίον (IGBulg III.2 1864) βακχείον μέγα (IGBulg III.2 1865)
iii. Descriptive terms	βακχεῖον, <i>bakcheion</i>
Note	<i>bakcheion</i> : IGBulg III.2 1864, l. 1; IGBulg III.2 1865, ll. 4-5

V. SOURCES

i. Source(s)	IGBulg III.2 1862 (?) IGBulg III.2 1864 (?) IGBulg III.2 1865 (f. iii AD)
Note	See also: IGBulg III.2 1864:Jaccottet II no. 43 IGBulg III.2 1865:Jaccottet II no. 44 IGBulg III.2 1862:Jaccottet II no. 45; SEG 33: 563

Online Resources	IGBulg III.2 1862 and AGRW ID 13946 IGBulg III.2 1864 and AGRW ID 13948 IGBulg III.2 1865 and AGRW ID 13950
i.a. Source type(s)	Epigraphic source(s)
i.b. Document(s) typology & language/script	(All inscriptions are in Greek) IGBulg III.2 1862: Funerary epigram IGBulg III.2 1864: Dedication IGBulg III.2 1865: Dedication
i.c. Physical format(s)	IGBulg III.2 1862: Marble stele, broken at its upper and left side (1.48 x 0.81 x 0.20). At its upper part partly preserved relief decoration, possibly of the so-called 'Thracian Rider' or of funerary banquet. IGBulg III.2 1864: Marble altar (0.55 x 0.50 x 0.04) IGBulg III.2 1865: Marble altar (0.70 x 0.68 x 0.64)
ii. Source(s) provenance	IGBulg III.2 1862 originates from the site of Miškova niva near Gradišteto Hill, appr. 4 km south of Malkovo Tărnovo. IGBulg III.2 1864: from Malkovo Tărnovo IGBulg III.2 1865: Found reused at the church of the village Brăšljan (f. Sarmasik). Inscriptions IGBulg III.2 1864 and 1865 were both originally set up at the sanctuary of Zeus-Dionysos (as indicated by the text), securely located at Malkovo Tărnovo; the site of Miškova niva -where the funerary inscription IGBulg III.2 1862 originates- is thought to have been a small mining and metallurgical agglomeration, with its own tumular necropolis, see Delev 1983: 11.

VI. BUILT AND VISUAL SPACE

i. Archaeological remains	At Miškova niva excavations have revealed remains of dwelling complexes (Roman <i>villa</i> ?) two tholos tombs, inscriptions and reliefs, all dating from the Roman period, see Baltac 2013: 291, no. 8 for further bibliography.
ii. References to buildings/objects	The two inscriptions set up at the sanctuary of Malkovo Tărnovo (IGBulg III.2 1864 and 1865) are both designated as βωμοί, <i>bomoi</i> (IGBulg III.2 1864, l. 1 and 1865, l. 2), in the text. IGBulg III.2 1862 was erected at the τύμβος, <i>tymbos</i> (l. 1), of the deceased.

VII. ORGANIZATION

ii. Leadership	ἱερεός, <i>hierous</i> (for the two male priests of IGBulg III.2 1864, l. 1 and IGBulg III.2 1865, l. 4). πρόπολος, <i>propolos</i> (for the priestess of IGBulg III.2 1862, l. 12).
iii. Members	Referred to collectively as μύσταις, <i>mystes</i> (IGBulg III.2 1865, l. 8) or συνμύσταις, <i>synmystes</i> (IGBulg III.2 1864, l. 4). In IGBulg III.2 1864 the συνμύσταις, <i>synmystes</i> , are also designated as the priest's παῖδες, <i>paides</i> (ll. 3-4: τῶν πέ[δ]ων (sic) μου συνμύστων, <i>ton pe[d]on (sic) mou synmyston</i>) that may be interpreted as a kind of affective language.

IX. MEMBERSHIP

ii. Gender	Men Women
Note	The members were both men and women.

iv. Status

All persons named (four) follow the Greek onomastic formula, using names of Greek origin.

X. ACTIVITIES

iii. Worship

Zeus-Dionysos as indicated by IGBulg III.2 1864 and IGBulg III.2 1865.

A reference to Semele in the funerary epigram IGBulg III.2 1862 has been interpreted as pointing to initiation rituals and to beliefs connected to death and rebirth, see Jaccottet, 2003: 93.

Deities worshipped

Zeus-Dionysos and Semele (?)

iv. Honours/Other activities

Inscriptions IGBulg III.2 1864 and IGBulg III.2 1865 have been set up by two priests of the *backheion* in honour of their fellow μύστες, *mystes*.

XII. NOTES

i. Comments

The word συμμύστες, *symmystes*, has been restituted in an inscription probably originating from Bizye itself, see Dawkins and Hasluck (1905-1906): 178, no. 3: οἱ Ἀυλο[π]όρεος συμ[μύ]σται | Ἀπόλλωνι..., *hoi] Aulo[p]oreos sym[mystai] | Apolloni...* But, as indicated by the editors, 'the stone is so fragmentary that conjecture is unprofitable'.

iii. Bibliography

Baltac, A. (2013), 'Types of Habitation in the Rural Environment of the Roman Province of Thrace: The villa Type Structures', in Parissaki, M.-G. (ed.), *Thrakika Zetemata II. Aspects of the Roman Province of Thrace*, Athens: 289-97.
 Delev, P. (1983), 'L'építaphe de Chrístè et le sanctuaire de Zeus-Dionysos à Malko Tärnovo', *Arheologija* 25: 1-11.
 Jaccottet, Fr. (2003), *Choisir Dionysos: Les associations dionysiaques ou la face cachée du dionysisme*. 2 vols. Zürich: 90-3, nos. 43-5.

XIII. EVALUATION

i. Private association

Certain

Note

The terminology used points to a private association.