

CAPInv. GR-48: **synodoi pleious, koina ton syndeipnon**

### I. LOCATION

i. Geographical area	The Near East and Beyond
ii. Region	Syria

### II. GENERAL REFERENCE

i.a. Full reference (original language)	σύνοδοι πλείους, κοινὰ τῶν συνδείπνων (Posidon. <i>FGH</i> 10 = Ath. 210e-f and 527e-f)
i.b. Full reference (transliterated)	<i>synodoi pleious, koina ton syndeipnon</i>
ii. Reference context	In a description of decadent life in Syrian cities, Posidonius of Apamea says that the Syrians hold συνόδους πλείους, <i>synodous pleious</i> , and refer to τὰ κοινὰ τῶν συνδείπνων, <i>ta koina ton syndeipnon</i> , as <i>grammateia</i> .

### III. DATE

i. Date(s)	100 - 51 BC
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### IV. TERMINOLOGY

i. Descriptive terms	σύνοδος, <i>synodos</i> κοινόν, <i>koinon</i>
Note	<i>synodos</i> : Posidon. <i>Athen. dipn.</i> 12.527e-f (F10) <i>koinon</i> : Posidon. <i>Athen. dipn.</i> 5.210e-f (F10)

### V. SOURCES

i. Source(s)	Posidon. <i>FGH</i> 10 = Ath. 210e-f and 527e-f (100-51 BC)
Online Resources	<a href="#">Ath. 210e-f</a> and <a href="#">Ath. 527e-f</a>
i.a. Source type(s)	Literary source(s)

## VIII. NOTES

### iii. Bibliography

Bowersock, G.W. (1999), 'Les Eumeroi et les confréries joyeuses', *CRAI*: 1241-56.  
Ziebarth, E. (1896), *Das griechische Vereinswesen*. Leipzig.

## IX. EVALUATION

### i. Private associations

Probable

#### Note

The wording is strongly reminiscent of voluntary associations. Ziebarth 1896: 125 and others believe that the reference is to associations of σύνδειπνοι. But how could these be called *grammateia*? Bowersock 1999: 1251-2 uses the reference to show that the oriental *marzeah* possessed archives and administrative functions. The new LCL-translation of Athenaeus by Olson gives a different impression: σύνοδοι πλείους, *synodoi pleious* are "large numbers of parties", τὰ κοινὰ τῶν συνδείπνων, *ta koina ton syndeipnon* are "their communal dining halls". At least in the latter case, the solution is not really satisfactory. It is probable that Posidonius did in fact refer to banqueting associations; the note on their self-designation as *grammateia* may have a local background that escapes us.

### ii. Historical authenticity

The tone of Posidonius' report is clearly polemical, so the authenticity is questionable.