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Isopoliteia as an Independent Honor

Epigraphical texts are usually classified in well-defined categories. This include the isopoliteia treaties. To assume the existence of this category means to recognize isopoliteia as a well-known institution, whose consequences -or privileges- were and are identifiable and common to each treaty. Scholars, however, have been unable to agree on the nature of isopoliteia. Some think that it was just one of various privileges that two cities could bestow on each other (Guarducci 1940; Magnetto 1997). Others interpret it as an independent grant, to which other provisions were attached - such as *epigamia*, the possibility of lending-borrowing money, grazing in each other's territory, the right to take part into the other city's assemblies and festivals, the official and public reading of the document itself for the general knowledge of the population (Gewantka 1975; Ager 1994). Thus scholars are uncertain whether the isopoliteia should be singled out as if it was *the* privilege, or must be seen as just *one* of the privileges granted in a given text. I. Cr. III, iii 4 is an isopoliteia treaty to which all these attested honors are attached. Through a comparison of I. Cr. III, iii 4 with other significant treaties of isopoliteia preserved in Crete (I. Cr. I, v 53; I. Cr. I, vi 2; I. Cr. I, xvi 5; I. Cr. I, xvi 17 etc.), it is possible to show that in those documents isopoliteia was granted as a free-standing honor: i.e., the other grants eventually attached could vary, but the *conditio sine qua non* for the existence of the agreement between two cities must have been the concession of isopoliteia. In the big picture, clarification of this problem may shed light on the relationships among communities in Hellenistic Crete and offer a comparison for similar institutions in the rest of the Greek world.

S. L. Ager, *Hellenistic Crete and Koinodikion*, JHS 114, 1994, pp. 1 -18.

W. Gawantka, *Isopolitie. Ein Beitrag zur Geschichte der zwischenstaatlichen Beziehungen in der griechischen Antike*, München 1975.

M. Guarducci, *Osservazioni intorno al trattato fra Hierapytna e Prianos*, *Epigraphica* 2, 1940, pp. 149 - 166.

Eadem, *Note sul koinon cretese*, RFIC 78, 1950, pp. 142 - 154.

A. Magnetto, *Gli arbitrati interstatali greci*, vol. II, Pisa 1997.