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Byzantine Monastic Foundation Documents:

A Complete Translation of the Surviving Founders' Typika and Testaments

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Glossary

This glossary contains the following: 1) transliterated terms not translated or identified in the translations in this collection; 2) transliterated terms that have been identified but occur more than once in the translations; and 3) certain English terms requiring extended definitions.

- abba(s)/apa* (“father”) title of respect, especially for prominent or older monks
- Acheiropoietos* miraculous icon of the Virgin Mary “not made by hands”
- aer* the largest of three liturgical veils used to cover the chalice and paten
- aerikon* supplementary fiscal levy on a village; fine for a felony
- ainoi* laudatory hymns containing the phrase “praise the Lord”
- Akathistos* anonymous hymn of twenty-four stanzas dedicated to the Virgin Mary and sung during the fifth week of the Great Lent while the congregation stands
- akedia* state of boredom and spiritual lethargy afflicting monks, especially solitaries
- almaia* cabbage preserved in brine and vinegar
- Anargyroi SS Kosmas and Damian, the most renowned of the healing saints who received no payment for their services (feast day: 1 November and 1 July)
- anthypatos* title conferred on high administrative officials
- antikaniskon* monetary payment in order to avoid the obligation of *kaniskon* (q.v.)
- antimitatikion* payment in order to avoid the obligation of providing lodging for troops
- antiphon (*antiphonon*) verses from the Psalter sung alternately by two choirs in the liturgy and the offices
- Antiphonetes* epithet of Christ who gave his life as “surety” for the salvation of mankind
- Antiphonetria* epithet of the Virgin Mary stressing her role as intercessor
- aplepton* the obligation to provide lodging for troops
- Apodeipnon, Mega* liturgical book containing the office of the Great Compline sung during Lent
- apokrisiarios* personal representative of an ecclesiastical authority; envoy of the emperor
- apostolikai* monks of the *apostolikon schema* (q.v.)
- apostolikon schema* intermediate monastic rank between those of martyr and angel
- Apostolos* liturgical book containing lections from the Acts and the Epistles of the apostles used during the liturgy
- archimandrite superior of a large monastery or group of monasteries
- Artzibourians Monophysite Armenians who fasted on Wednesday and Friday of the first week of the *Triodion* (the three-week period preceding the Great Lent). Byzantine polemicists derided this practice, claiming that it honored the memory of Artzibourion (or Artzibourios), the favorite dog of Armenian teacher and holy man St. Sergios
- asekretissa* wife of an imperial secretary

Glossary

- aspron* term used for various silver coins in the 14th–15th c.
- aspron, nomisma trachy* term applied mainly to the billon and occasionally to the electrum
trachy (q.v.)
- asteriskos* crossed metal bars supporting the veil that protects the paten containing the eucharistic bread
- aule* group of buildings in a courtyard surrounded by walls
- autokrator* absolute ruler; title of the emperor
- basileus*; f. *basilissa* emperor; empress
- Bebaia Elpis* (epithet of the Virgin Mary) “sure hope”
- caesar* title conferred on members of the imperial family under the Komnenoi
- caesarissa* wife of a *caesar* (q.v.)
- canon (*kanon*) liturgical hymn divided into nine odes, each of which consists of several stanzas
- Catechesis* sermon with instructions for the monks; book containing such sermons
- charistikarios* private individual who was granted the administration of a monastery
- chartoularios* official of a bureau with fiscal and archival duties; in the 11th c. the term could also designate a commander on the field
- Cheesefare, week of (*hebdomas tes tyrophagou / Tyrine*) week immediately preceding the beginning of the Great Lent, during which cheese might still be eaten
- chiaton nomisma* (lit. “*nomisma* with a X”) At the end of the 11th c. the term designated a *hyperpyron* (q.v.) of Alexios I (1081–1118) showing on the obverse the abbreviation $\overline{\text{IC}}/\overline{\text{XC}}$ (Jesus Christ)
- choros* large polygonal structure suspended from the dome of a church and carrying several lamps and small chandeliers
- chrysebull (*chrysoboullon*) document bearing the emperor’s gold seal (*bullā*)
- closure of a feast (*apodosis*) the day on which the prescribed period for the celebration of a feast ends
- Deesis* icon representing the Virgin Mary and John the Baptist standing on either side of Christ with their hands extended toward him
- despoina* (lit. “lady,” “mistress”) epithet of the Virgin Mary; title of the empress
- deutereuon* title of a priest who could act as a vicar for a *protopresbyteros* (senior priest) in the latter’s absence
- dikaiophylax* (of the Great Church) patriarchal official acting as judge in cases of an ecclesiastical nature
- dishypatos* title conferred on judges and administrative officials
- domestikos of the themes* official connected with the financial administration of the themes
- domestikos ton scholon* commander of the army
- doulos* (lit. “slave”) honorific title designating close association with the emperor
- doux* military commander of a large district

Glossary

- dromos* department of official post and transportation
- droungarios* a military officer of low rank
- droungarokometes* holder of the combined military office of *droungarios* (q.v.) and *komes* (a subaltern officer)
- ducat (*doukaton*) silver coin worth 1/12 of the *hyperpyron* (q.v.) in the 14th c.
- eidikos* head of the imperial treasury
- ekphrasis* description of a work of art
- ektenes / ektene* type of prolonged and fervent litany consisting of supplications and responses
- Eleousa* (epithet of the Virgin Mary) “merciful”
- emphyteusis* long-term lease of ecclesiastical lands
- enkainia* (lit. “inauguration”) feast held on the first Sunday after Easter to celebrate the beginning of a new life in Christ
- enkolpion* cross or small icon worn around the neck
- Entry of the Virgin into the Temple, or Feast of the Holy of Holies (*Eisodia / Hagia ton Hagion*) Presentation of the Virgin in the Temple (21 November)
- eparch (*eparchos*) governor of Constantinople
- epeixis* unidentified imperial revenue
- ephoreia* office of the *ephoros* (q.v.)
- ephoros* protector or guardian of a monastery
- epidosis* concession of an ecclesiastical institution from one ecclesiastical authority to another
- epimanikia* ornamental cuffs worn over the sleeves of a bishop’s alb
- episkepsis* property held by the emperor
- epi ton hippodromon* synonymous (?) with *epi tou hippodromou*, i.e., judge of a tribunal that met at the Hippodrome
- epi ton oikeiakon* head of the imperial private treasury
- epi tou kanikleiou* private secretary of the emperor and influential official
- epi tou stratou* high-ranking officer whose duty was to select the place where the army set up camp while on campaign
- epitaphios hymnos* funerary hymn
- epitrachelion* liturgical stole worn by priests and bishops
- esomonites* (“internal monk”) resident recipient of a living allowance
- Euchologion* liturgical book containing prayers for all services
- eukraton* beverage prepared from pepper, cumin, and anise by infusion with boiling water
- eulogetarion* short hymn that follows the recitation of the versicle “Blessed art Thou, O Lord”
- Evergetis* (epithet of the Virgin Mary) “benefactress”
- exagion* weight measure equivalent to 4.44 g. However, the use of this term in the *typika* indicates a larger measure
- exaposteilarion* hymn sung at the end of matins
- exomonites* (“external monk”) non-resident recipient of a living allowance

Glossary

- Fast of St. Philip** from the day after the commemoration of St. Philip, 14 November through 24 December
- Fast of the Dormition of the Virgin Mary** from 1 through 14 August
- Fast of the Holy Apostles** from the Sunday of All Saints (first Sunday after Pentecost) through 28 June
- Feasts of the Lord (*despotikai heortai*)** feasts in honor of Christ. Together with the feasts of the Virgin Mary, the apostles Peter and Paul and St. John the Baptist, they form the Great Feasts (*megalai heortai*), i.e., Birth of the Virgin (8 September), Exaltation of the Cross (14 September), Presentation of the Virgin in the Temple (21 November), Nativity (25 December), Epiphany (6 January), Presentation of Christ in the Temple (2 February), Annunciation (25 March), Birth of St. John the Baptist (24 June), SS Peter and Paul (29 June), Transfiguration (6 August), Dormition of the Virgin (15 August), Beheading of St. John the Baptist (29 August), and the mobile feasts of Easter (Palm Sunday, Crucifixion, Resurrection, Ascension, Pentecost)
- follis* unit of account equal to 1/288th of the standard *nomisma* (q.v.)
- gammata* ornaments in the form of the Greek letter *gamma*, indicative of the number three and hence a symbol of the Trinity
- gellion* unidentified coin, probably Italian
- Gerontikon* book containing the sayings and deeds of the early ascetics
- Gorgoepekoos* epithet of the Virgin Mary, “who listens and responds swiftly to a prayer”
- graptai* title of four elderly women tending the church of the Theotokos Eleousa at the Pantokrator monastery
- grosso* Venetian silver coin of small value
- gruel (groute)* plain or roasted flour mixed with hot water
- hagiogeorgaton, nomisma electrum trachy* (q.v.) showing on the reverse the emperor John II Komnenos (1118–43) and St. George
- Heirmologion* liturgical book with or without musical notation, containing model stanzas on which the melody and rhythm of the odes of various canons are based
- Heortologion* book listing the feasts of the church accompanied by brief biographies of the commemorated saints
- heroon* funerary chapel dedicated to St. Michael at the Pantokrator monastery
- hetoimasia* icon representing the prepared throne for Christ’s Second Coming
- Hexameros* title given to the homilies of Basil of Caesarea on the six days of Creation in Genesis I and often to John Chrysostom’s 67 homilies on Genesis
- hexagion* see *exagion*
- hexapterygon* metal disk with a representation of the six-winged Serapheim carried on a pole during a religious procession
- hippodromou, krites tou* judge of a tribunal that met at the hippodrome
- Hodegetria* precious icon of the Virgin attributed to St. Luke and kept at the Hodegon monastery in Constantinople

Glossary

- holokotanon, stamenon* standard gold coin
- horeiarios* official in charge of the state granaries
- Horologion* liturgical book containing the daily offices: *mesonyktikon* (midnight office), *orthros* (matins), *horai* (first, third, sixth and ninth hours), *hesperinos* (vespers) and *apodeipnon* (compline)
- hypakoe* hymn sung after a *eulogetarion* (q.v.) during matins on Sundays and feast days
- hyperpyron* the standard gold coin from the late 11th c. onward
- hyperpyros litra* a *litra* (q.v.) of gold or 72 gold coins
- hypertimon* increase of estimated tax
- hypertimos* honorary title of a metropolitan
- idiomelon sticheron* (q.v.) that has its own melody and rhythm
- idiorythmism (*idiorythmia*, “self-regulation”) monastic regime permitting monks to acquire property through their own labor, sleep and eat in their own cells, and be governed by an elected council of monks instead of a superior
- imposed guest (*katapemptos*) guest sent to the monastery by an outside authority
- ithmos* (= *ethmos*, lit. “strainer”) perforated (?) metal cover for the communion chalice
- kaballarios* (“knight”/ “cavalryman”) low-ranking dignitary
- kaniskion* (lit. “small basket”) donation in kind to landlords and state officials; gift for admission to monastery
- kanonikon* tax imposed on monasteries for the maintenance of the local bishop
- kaprilingas (camerlengus)* chief financial officer at the court of Roger I (1071–1101) of Sicily
- kastrision* unidentified term describing a kind of silk cloth
- kastrisios* (= *kastresios*) courtier in charge of the emperor’s quarters
- kastron* fortified settlement; town
- katechoumena / katechoumeneia* gallery in the triforium of a church
- katepanikion* small administrative unit from the 12th c. onward
- katepano* governor of a large province in the 11th c.; local official from the 12th c. onward
- kathisma* subdivision of the Psalter; hymn during the singing of which sitting is permitted
- katovlia* unidentified part of a reliquary
- Kecharitomene* (epithet of the Virgin Mary) “full of grace”
- kellion* monastic cell in the vicinity of a cenobitic monastery occupied by a *kelliotes* (q.v.); small monastery
- kelliotes* monk living alone or with a companion in the vicinity of a cenobitic monastery that he would visit for purposes of worship and from which he received his weekly supplies
- kentarchos* commander of a hundred men in the army or fleet
- kentemata* embroidery-like signs preceding the name of a feast day in the monastic calendar to indicate either a minor feast or one for which a fast is prescribed
- kentenaarion* 100 *litrai* (q.v.); often used in reference to gold or gold coins

Glossary

- klimakes* term describing three hospices built by Pakourianos
- kokkion* unit of account equal to 1/24th of the standard *nomisma* (q.v.); unidentified large measurement of surface
- kollyba* boiled wheat mixed with raisins, pomegranate seeds, herbs and a sprinkling of roasted flour and sugar, served after a memorial service
- komodromikion* secondary tax, consisting of the obligation to provide army blacksmiths with nails and horseshoes
- Kontakarion* liturgical book containing a collection of *kontakia* (q.v.)
- kontakion* liturgical hymn in honor of a saint or a feast
- Kosmosoteira* (epithet of the Virgin Mary) “savior of the world”
- koudai* unidentified participants in a religious procession, probably the “rear guards” (?) (from Italian, *coda*)
- kouropalates* title granted to generals in the 11th c. (but not a high-ranking dignity from the 12th c. onward)
- koutroubin* type of commercial boat
- kraktai* professional chanters
- kyklion* term designating a building erected by Attaleiates to serve as a hostel
- Kyrie eleison* liturgical prayer “God have mercy”
-
- lamna* metal beam with candleholders used over icon frames and the sanctuary screen
- lamplighting, office of (*lychnikon*) first part of vespers when the lamps are lit in the evening
- laosynaktes* monastic official in charge of maintaining order in the church
- lavra* monastery consisting of dispersed individual cells and a community center for assembling on weekends
- Lent, Great (*megale tessarakoste*) forty-day period of fasting and penitence preceding Holy Week (i.e., the week before Easter)
- lepton* surface measurement equal to 1 square *orgyia* (= square with sides of 2.10 m)
- libellikon* reduced land tax paid by individuals or monasteries to whom the state ceded lands whose tax-paying owners had disappeared
- libellos* document connected with the assignment to a private individual or monastery of real property in a village commune on which taxes had ceased to be paid
- litra* measure of weight varying from 319 g to 324 g
- logariastes* financial official serving as comptroller in various departments
- Logos* (epithet of Christ) “the Word of God”
- logothetes* chief of a government bureau; patriarchal official acting as the patriarch’s representative and spokesman
- logothetes, genikos* head of the fiscal department dealing with the assessment and collection of taxes
- logothetes stratiotikos* high-ranking official dealing with soldiers’ taxes. By the 11th c. he had also acquired judicial duties.
- logothetes tou dromou* high-ranking official acting as minister of foreign affairs and adviser to the emperor

Glossary

- lysis* document issued by the imperial or patriarchal chancery in response to a petition
- magistros* high-ranking title that had begun to lose its significance by the 11th c.
- magoulikon* nun's headcovering
- malagma* pure gold
- malaratoi* soldiers armed with axes
- mandator* official employed for special missions
- maphorion* a garment covering the head and shoulders and, in the case of civil officials, the entire body
- matzoukation* fiscal levy for the maintenance of soldiers armed with maces
- measure (*metron*) measure of capacity: maritime or standard measure for wine (= 10.25 liters) and oil (= 8.52 liters); *annonikon* (= 2/3 maritime measure); monastic (= 4/5 maritime measure)
- Meatfare, week of (*hebdomas tes Apokreo*) the last week during which meat might still be eaten before the beginning of the Great Lent, i.e., second week before the Great Lent
- megas domestikos* supreme commander of the army
- megas doux* commander of the fleet
- megas doux ton scholon* in the East synonymous (?) with *megas domestikos ton scholon* in the East, i.e., commander in chief of the army in the East
- megas droungarios* high-ranking naval officer
- megas konostaulos* ("count of the stable") title born by members of the aristocracy from the 13th c. onward
- megas logariastes* financial official acting as general controller of expenses
- megas primikerios* high-ranking courtier whose function was to present the emperor with his scepter at court ceremonies
- megas stratopedarches* high-ranking official responsible for the provisioning of the army
- Menaion* liturgical book containing hymns and prayers proper to the matins and vespers of the fixed feasts of one of the twelve months of the year
- Menologion* book containing *Lives* of saints in the order of their commemoration in the church calendar
- merarches* commander of a cavalry division
- mesaplekton* fiscal obligation connected with the billeting of troops (?)
- mesoria* intermediate hours recited after each of the four liturgical hours (first, third, sixth and ninth)
- Metastasis tes Theotokou* the "removal" to heaven of the Virgin Mary; also known as the Dormition (*Koimesis*) or the Assumption (*Analepsis*) of the Virgin (feast day: 15 August)
- modios* measure of weight and land; *annonikos* (revenue *modios* = 26.667 *litrai* [q.v.], or 11.389 liters; *monasteriakos* (monastic *modios* = 32 *litrai*, or 13.667 liters); *thalassios* (maritime *modios* = 40 *litrai*, or 17.084 liters). The land *modios* varied from 888.73 sq. m to 1,279.78 sq. m.
- mystikos* private secretary of the emperor

Glossary

mystographos assistant to the *mystikos* (q.v.)

Neptikon book on spiritual vigilance

night office (*pannychis*) brief service celebrated after vespers or compline

nomisma standard gold coin

Nomokanon book containing the acts of the holy synods, canon law and civil law

nomophylax (“guardian of law”) title created for the head of the law school in

Constantinople in the mid-11th c. and subsequently held mostly by canonists

noummion lowest unit of account, synonymous with small change

octave (*oktoemera*) the week after a feast or the eighth day after the feast marking the closure
(*apodosis*) of the festival

odes canticles from the Old Testament sung during liturgical offices

oikeiaka (*sekreton ton oikeiakon*) bureau in charge of imperial property

oikistikos official with fiscal and judicial functions

oikomodion secondary tax in kind levied on peasant households

oikonomion imperial bureau of finances

oikos stanza of a *kontakion* (q.v.)

Oktoechos liturgical book containing under each of the eight Byzantine musical modes a set
of hymns proper to Sunday offices throughout the year except for Lent, Easter and
Pentecost

omphaitos unidentified part of a building in the monastery of Kecharitomenē

orthotes fiscal officer dealing with the re-establishment of taxes on lands previously exempted
from taxation

ounce (*oungia*) 1/12 *litra* (q.v.)

Panagia (epithet of the Virgin Mary) “All Holy”; ritual offering of a piece of bread at the end
of a meal in honor of the Virgin

Pandektes book on Christian spirituality by the 7th-c. Palestinian monk Antiochos; Nikon, the
author of (20) *Black Mountain*, has a similar work.

Panegyrikon liturgical book containing appropriate sermons for the feasts of the church

panhypersebastos dignity conferred on members of the imperial family under the Komnenoi

Panoiktirmon (epithet of Christ) “All Merciful”

pansebastohypertatos title held by members of the imperial family under the Komnenoi

pansebastos sebastos title held by members of the imperial family under the Komnenoi

Pantanassa (epithet of the Virgin Mary) “Queen of All”

Pantokrator (epithet of Christ) “Ruler of All”

panyoikeiotatos an inflation of *oikeios*, an honorific title denoting close association with
the emperor

papa (“father”) term of respect for priests

parakelliotai term applied to the first hermits who settled near the *kellion* (q.v.) of
Athanasios on the Great Meteoron

Glossary

- Parakletike* liturgical book containing under each of the eight Byzantine musical modes the hymns for weekdays and Sundays throughout the year except for Lent, Easter, and Pentecost
- parakoimomenos* chamberlain and bodyguard of the emperor
- parastasimon* solemn office consisting of prayers and supplications for the dead
- Paterikon* book containing tales and sayings of various fathers
- patrikios* dignity conferred on governors and generals
- peisa* weight measure equated with 128 kg
- Pentekostarion* liturgical book containing the offices from Easter Sunday through the first Sunday after Pentecost
- Peribleptos* (epithet of the Virgin Mary) “Celebrated,” “Eminent”
- Petritziotissa / Petritzonitissa* epithet of the Theotokos of Petritzos, a medieval *kastron* near modern Bačkovovo in Bulgaria
- phakiolion* headcovering worn by nuns
- phiale* fountain in the atrium of a church
- Philanthropos* (epithet of Christ) “Lover of Mankind”
- pinkernes* cupbearer of the emperor; under the Komnenoi this office was held by members of the imperial family
- pittakion* document issued by the imperial or patriarchal chancery
- platidion* type of commercial boat
- podēa* piece of precious cloth hanging from the bottom of an icon to the ground
- polyeleos* selected verses from Psalms 44 (45), 134 (135), and 135 (136) sung during matins on the feasts of the Lord and other feast days
- praipositos* eunuch involved in palace ceremony
- praktikon* inventory of a taxpayer’s property
- Praxapostolos* lectionary containing the whole text of the Apostolic Acts and Epistles
- Presanctified Gifts, liturgy of (*leitourgia ton prohegiasmenon*) liturgy following vespers on weekdays during the Great Lent in which consecrated elements from an earlier Eucharist are used
- primikerios* title of supervising doctors at the Pantokrator hospital
- Prodromos* (epithet of St. John the Baptist) “Forerunner”
- proleusimaios* member of the retinue of a general
- prokeimenon* verse from the psalms sung before the Apostolic Epistle in the liturgy or before other lections in the offices
- pronoia* imperial grant of tax and other revenues from a specific property
- prooimion* Psalm 103 (104), with which the office of vespers begins
- Prophetologion / Prophetes / Propheteia* liturgical book containing readings from the prophets and other books of the Old Testament
- prosodia* fees paid to state officials
- prosoimoi* hymns similar in rhythm and melody
- prostagma / prostaxis* imperial document conveying an administrative order
- protekdikos* ecclesiastical judge responsible for the defense of suspected criminal offenders

Glossary

- protoallagator* chief of the officers in charge of military detachments called *allagia*
- protokentarchos* chief of the *kentarchoi* (q.v.)
- protomenites* title of the chiefs of the medical staff at the Pantokrator hospital
- protonotarios* chief of imperial scribes and secretaries
- protopapas* senior priest who in the absence of the bishop acted as his vicar
- protoproedros* high-ranking title implying precedence
- protos* head of the Athonite monastic community; chief doctor at the Pantokrator hospital
- protospatharios* title conferred on commanders of themes up to the 10th c. By the 11th c., it was held by lower military officers and other functionaries
- protospatharissa* wife of a *protospatharios* (q.v.)
- protostrator* commander of the troops and one of the highest dignitaries under the Palaiologoi
- protostratorissa* wife of a *protostrator* (q.v.)
- protosynkellos* adviser to the patriarch or a bishop
- protovestiaría* first in rank of the empress's attendants
- protovestarios* title held by high civil and military officials
- Psychosostis* (epithet of the Virgin Mary) "Savior of Souls"
- pterygia* lateral spaces in the sanctuary (?)
- ptochotrophos* official in charge of an institution for the poor and sick
- quaestor* judicial officer
- raso* the outer garment of a monk
- sakellarios* official in charge of the imperial or patriarchal *sakelle* (q.v.); local ecclesiastical treasurer
- sakelle* imperial treasury where a record of imperial monasteries and their properties was kept; name of the patriarchal treasury
- sakellion* see *sakelle*
- Schematologion* book containing the service for the clothing of a monk
- sebastokrator* title conferred on the emperor's sons and brothers under the Komnenoi
- sebastokratorissa* wife of a *sebastokrator* (q.v.)
- sebastos* title held by members of the aristocracy and the imperial family under the Komnenoi
- sekretion* department of administration
- semantron* traditional instrument of call in monasteries. It consisted of a flat wood or metal board struck with a hammer to produce a resounding tone
- semeioma* / *semeiosis* record of a judicial decision
- sigillidion* diminutive of *sigillion* (q.v.)
- sigillion* official document confirmed by a seal
- skaramangion* silk tunic with belt and long sleeves worn by the emperor and members of the court; silk cloth by the same name used as a cover for the altar

Glossary

- skepe* headcovering of a nun
- skete* small monastery; hermitage
- solemnion* imperial grant
- spharakandidatos* dignity conferred on officials of lower rank
- sphragis* (lit. “seal”) blessing, i.e., sign of the cross made by the installing bishop on the head of a newly elected superior; same rite performed by the superior at the installation of other monastic officials
- staurion* eucharistic bread offering in the shape of a small cross
- stauropegion* monastic foundation charter issued by local bishop or the patriarch
- sthlabopolos* (= *sklabopoulos*) see *doulos*
- Sticherarion* liturgical book containing the *stichera* (q.v.)
- Sticherokathistarion* liturgical book containing both *stichera* (q.v.) and *kathismata* (q.v.)
- sticheron* hymn sung after one or more verses of a psalm
- Stichophon* unidentified liturgical book in Church Slavonic probably similar to the Byzantine *Sticherarion* (q.v.)
- strateia* monetary commutation of military service
- strategos* (general) military governor of province; commander of small territorial and military unit by the 11th c.
- strateutes* army recruiting officer
- sympentheros* father-in-law of one’s son or daughter
- synapte* type of litany consisting of a series of intercessory prayers and responses linked together
- synaxarion* church calendar of fixed feasts indicating, but not including, the liturgical readings proper to each feast; collection of brief hagiographical notices and other information relevant to the celebration of feasts in the church calendar; title of monastic liturgical *typika*
- synone* obligation of farmers to sell part of their crops to the state at a fixed price; monetary land tax from the 10th c. onward
- synthronon* seats for the bishop and the priests in the back of the apse of a church
- tagmata* after the end of the 10th c., the term applied to military contingents in general
- taxation* fiscal levy for the maintenance of police
- taxiarches* military commander of a 1,000-man unit
- Telonia* (lit. “places of toll”) places where the souls of dead sinners are stopped and examined by demons personifying various sins; title of work by Neophytos the Recluse
- templon* screen separating the nave from the sanctuary
- tetareron* gold coin of light weight (3.98 g) in the 11th c.; small copper coin worth 1/4 of the old *folllis* (q.v.), which it replaced by the end of the 11th c.
- tetartion* 1/4 *modios* (q.v.)
- Tetrabaseleon* book containing the four books of Kings in the Old Testament: I Kings (I Samuel), II Kings (II Samuel), III Kings (I Kings), IV Kings (II Kings)
- tetrakarikoxyton* building for the private use of the empress in the monastery of Kecharitomene

Glossary

theotokion hymn addressed to the Virgin Mary; *hyperpyron* of John II Komnenos (1118–43) showing on the reverse the emperor and the Virgin Mary

Theotokos epithet of the Virgin Mary “Mother of God”

three hundred and eighteen fathers alleged number of the fathers who attended the Council of Nicaea in 325, suggesting the 318 servants of Abraham

topoteretes military officer in charge of a small district

tourmarches high-ranking military commander and civil governor of a large subdivision of a theme

trachy, nomisma concave coin of electrum (= 1/3 standard gold coin) or billon (= 1/48 standard gold coin) struck from the 11th to the 14th c.

tribounos official in charge of road maintenance in Constantinople

trikephalon, nomisma electrum *trachy* (q.v) that had on it the head of the emperor, the Virgin Mary, and Christ

triklinos dining room; reception hall

Triodion liturgical book whose hymns are composed, for the most part of three odes. It contains offices for the nine weeks preceding Easter and the eight weeks following it. The latter period was covered by the *Pentekostarion* (q.v) after the 14th c.

triodyon short hymn of three odes

trisagion the “thrice holy” hymn (“Holy is God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal”); intercessory prayer beginning with this hymn

troparion short liturgical hymn

tropike small pavillion serving as a residence for royal nuns at the convent of Kecharitomene

typikon monastic foundation charter; liturgical ordinal describing the services for each day

tzieron type of kitchen utensil or agricultural tool (?)

tzounganion / tsoukganion ball game of Persian origin played on horseback

velum (judge of the *velum*) member of a tribunal meeting behind a curtain at the hippodrome

vestarches title conferred on low-ranking officials

vestes title granted to prominent military commanders

vestiarion state treasury

vestiarites imperial bodyguard

vestiaritissa wife of a *vestiarites* (q.v.)

voivode (voivodas) title of the ruler of Wallachia

washing of the feet (*nifter*) ceremonial washing of the monk’s feet by the superior on Holy Thursday in commemoration of Christ’s washing of the feet of the Apostles at the Last Supper

zeugaratos a peasant who owned a pair of oxen

zeugarion land cultivated by a pair of oxen

zupan (zupanos) high-ranking Wallachian official