



## Summary :

A family of the military aristocracy, emerging at the end of the 10<sup>th</sup> century. Its members occupied a prominent place in the byzantine military hierarchy. The second generation of the Dalassenoi was also given the chance to occupy the throne. Information regarding the family is available up until the end of the 12<sup>th</sup> and the beginning of the 13<sup>th</sup> century. After 1204, the family loses its place in the upper layers of the byzantine society.

## Main Role

Military officials

### 1. General

The Dalassenoi were a family of the military aristocracy, emerging at the end of the 10<sup>th</sup> century. Its members occupied a prominent place in the byzantine military hierarchy. The second generation of the Dalassenoi was also given the chance to occupy the throne. The Dalassenoi became related to the [Doukes](#) and the [Komnenoi](#). Information regarding the Dalassenoi family is available up until the end of the 12<sup>th</sup> and the beginning of the 13<sup>th</sup> century. After 1204, the family prestige is waning.

### 2. Descent of the Dalassenoi

According to [Michael Psellos](#), the aristocratic family of the Dalassenoi came from Dalassa,<sup>1</sup> identified with Talas monastery, east of [Melitene](#).<sup>2</sup> Their family name derives from that place name. Their ethnic origin is not clear. It is possible that they were a family of [armenian descent](#), occupying byzantine offices.<sup>3</sup> Their names, however, were not armenian.<sup>4</sup> During the 11<sup>th</sup> century, the Dalassenoi were associated with the [theme of Armeniakon](#), where family members occupied lands. Members of the Dalassenoi family were also associated with the region of [Antioch](#), serving in high military and administrative offices for many generations.

### 3. The emergence of the Dalassenoi (2nd half of the 10th – first decades of the 11th century)

The earliest evidence about the Dalassenoi dates back to the time of [Basil II](#) (976-1025), when certain family members were in imperial service. Damianos, the patriarch of the Dalassenoi, is first mentioned in 995, when he was appointed **dux** of [Antioch](#). He held the office until 998, when he was killed in the battle of Apameia in Syria. It is known that Damianos had at least three sons: [Constantine](#), Theophylaktos and Romanos. More valid evidence about his sons can be found during the last years of Basil II. It is believed, however, that they started their careers earlier, because they were among the combatants in the battle of Apameia.<sup>5</sup> Constantine Dalassenos, like his father before him, was the dux of Antioch in 1024-1025, whereas Theophylaktos was appointed **strategos** of the [theme of Anatolikon](#), the most important byzantine theme. The offices of the first Dalassenoi, mentioned at the time of Basil II and Constantine VIII (1025-1028), were of military or administrative nature and were associated with the eastern part of the empire, the region of the themes of Antioch, Anatolikon, Iberia and Vaspurakan.

The favor of the last male members of the [macedonian dynasty](#) towards the Dalassenoi manifested itself in 1028, when Constantine VIII decided on his deathbed to designate **patrikios** Constantine Dalassenos as his successor to the throne. Although that decision was later changed in favor of Romanos III Argyros (1028-1034), the fact that already the second generation of the Dalassenoi was given the chance to ascend the throne attest to the rapidity of their ascent.

### 4. The conflict of the Dalassenoi with members of the Paphlagonian dynasty

The prominence and the prestige of the Dalassenoi were confirmed at the time of [Michael IV](#) and [Michael V](#), when the family assumed the role of the main opponent of the new authority. It can be inferred that the central problem of the authority of Michael IV and [John Orphanotrophos](#), the emperor's brother, was the attempt to neutralize the political opposition. Its leader was Constantine



Dalassenos, supported by his large family and others. Among his supporters were the future emperor [Constantine Doukas](#), married to the daughter of Constantine Dalassenos at the time,<sup>6</sup> and [wealthy citizens](#) of [Asia Minor](#): Baianos, Goudeles and Probatas. Michael Psellos mentions the favor of the [populace of Constantinople](#) towards Dalassenos.<sup>7</sup> It is also known that he was supported by the most prominent citizens of Antioch, as a consequence of the prolonged presence of the Dalassenoi family in high-ranking offices at the region. Michael IV himself, being of humble descent from [Paphlagonia](#), had realized the social prestige and the political power of the Dalassenoi and had been forced to confront Constantine Dalassenos, first by attempting to convince him to stay loyal through negotiations and the granting of dignities, then by taking measures against him, such as prosecution and incarceration of Constantine, and finally (1038-1039) by prosecuting his brothers and other relatives. Those preemptive measures of Michael IV were reinforced by his successor Michael V: as soon as he assumed power (December 1041), he forced Constantine Dalassenos to become a monk.<sup>8</sup>

The prestige of the Dalassenoi, however, at the time of the Paphlagonian dynasty led Constantine Dalassenos to challenge the imperial throne for a second time in 1042. Following the dethronement of Michael V (April 1042), the power was assumed by Zoe and her sister Theodora. It quickly became obvious that the Empire needed an emperor and Zoe had to decide which nobleman to choose as her third consecutive husband. Constantine Dalassenos was called to the [palace](#) and presented to Zoe. During their conversation, it seemed to Zoe that he was a man of austere principles, so she chose Constantine IX Monomachos (1042-1055) instead.<sup>9</sup>

## 5. The Dalassenoi during the 2nd half of the 11th century

During the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the 11<sup>th</sup> century, the Dalassenoi family enjoyed great prestige. The example of Anna Dalassene, the mother of emperor Alexios I Komnenos (1081-1118) and the most notable female member of the family, is the most characteristic. Her father was Alexios Charon, whereas her mother descended from Theophylaktos and Hadrian Dalassenos, brother and nephew of Constantine Dalassenos respectively. Anna kept her mother's family name, because it was more noted and prestigious. Thanks to her marriage to [John Komnenos](#), brother of [Isaac I Komnenos](#), the Dalassenoi became relatives to the Komnenoi.<sup>10</sup> During the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the 11<sup>th</sup> century, an alliance of aristocratic families will be created around those two families. Anna Dalassene was the main contributor to the creation of that alliance.<sup>11</sup>

One is able to follow the family tree of the Dalassenoi with no gaps until the time of Damianos, his sons and his descendants until the mid-11<sup>th</sup> century. From the next period, many people bearing the same family name have been attested, mainly through seals, but their relationship to the family is hard to be accurately defined. The titles and the offices of the Dalassenoi during the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the 11<sup>th</sup> and the 12<sup>th</sup> century show that the family maintained its place in the hierarchy among the byzantine aristocratic families, and that its members held military offices in most cases. Certain evidence also shows that after the mid-11<sup>th</sup> century members of the Dalassenoi family held offices in the European part of the Empire, such as Theodore Dalassenos, [proedros](#) and dux of Thessaloniki and Serres in 1062-1063,<sup>12</sup> or Damianos Dalassenos, dux of Skopje in 1073.

## 6. The Dalassenoi during the Komnenoi dynasty

At the time of Alexios I, many members of the Dalassenoi family were active, the most prominent being Constantine Dalassenos,<sup>13</sup> a relative of the Emperor and one of the most competent officials of the period. In "[Alexias](#)", by [Anna Komnene](#), his name is mentioned along with the office of [thalassokratoras](#).<sup>14</sup> That member of the Dalassenoi family distinguished himself during the battles against [emir Tzacha](#) at the end of the 11<sup>th</sup> century.

At the time of Alexios I, Constantine Dalassenos-Doukas was also active, and he is known through sigillographic evidence. His mother descended from the Dalassenoi and his father from the Doukes, evidence that the Dalassenoi and the Doukes renewed their family ties during the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the 11<sup>th</sup> century.

At the beginning of the 12<sup>th</sup> century, the Dalassenoi also renewed their family ties with the Komnenoi. John Rogeros or John



Dalassenos,<sup>15</sup> whose mother descended from the Dalassenoi, was married to Maria, firstborn daughter of emperor [John II Komnenos](#). John Dalassenos was appointed **caesar** ca. 1138.<sup>16</sup> When [Manuel I Komnenos](#) assumed power (1143), caesar John organized a conspiracy against the emperor. Following its suppression, he was not severely punished, just temporarily removed from the capital.

## 7. The waning of the prestige of the Dalassenoi family in the 13th century

The Dalassenoi were considered a prominent family until the end of the 12<sup>th</sup> century. Their prestige, however, started waning at the beginning of the 13<sup>th</sup> century. Following the [fall of Constantinople](#) during [Crusade IV](#), the Dalassenoi finally lose their prestige as an aristocratic family.<sup>17</sup>

- 
1. Renauld, E. (ed.), *Michel Psellos, Chronographie ou histoire d'un siecle de Byzance (976-1077)* 1 (Paris 1926), pp. 122.12.1-123.12.26; 2 (Paris 1928) 141.6.16-20.
  2. Suggested by Adontz, N., "Notes Armeno-byzantines", *Byzantion* 10 (1935), pp. 180-184. See also Hild, F. – Restle, M., *Kappadokien (Kappadokia, Charsianon, Sebasteia und Lykandos)* (TIB 2, Vienna 1981), p. 197, and Cheynet, J.-C., *Etudes prosopographiques* (Paris 1986), p. 75.
  3. The armenian origin of the Dalassenoi family is supported by Adontz, N., "Notes Armeno-byzantines", *Byzantion* 10 (1935), and Charanis, P., *The Armenians in the Byzantine Empire* (Lisbon 1963), pp. 45-46. Kazhdan, A., *Armjane v sostave gospodstvujuscego klassa vizantijskoj imperii XI-XII vv.* (Yerevan 1975), pp. 93-93, presents that theory with reservation.
  4. See Cheynet, J.-C., *Etudes prosopographiques* (Paris 1986), pp. 75-76.
  5. According to the christian Arab Yahya al-Antaki, the two sons of *doux* Damianos were captured during the battle of Apameia, taken to Cairo and released in 1008, after 10 years. See also Canard, M., "Les sources arabes de l'histoire byzantine aux confins des Xe et XIe siecles", *Revue des Etudes Byzantines* 19 (1961), pp. 299-300.
  6. The daughter of Constantine Dalassenos, whose name remains unknown, was the first wife of the future emperor Constantine I Doukas (1059-1067). She died without an heir. See Polemis, D., *The Doukai. A Contribution to Byzantine Prosopography* (University of London Historical Studies 22, London 1968), p. 34.
  7. Renauld, E. (ed.), *Michel Psellos, Chronographie ou histoire d'un siecle de Byzance (976-1077)* 1 (Paris 1926), pp. 122-123.
  8. Michael Psellos mentions the incarceration of Constantine Dalassenos to a monastery. See Renauld, E. (ed.), *Michel Psellos, Chronographie ou histoire d'un siecle de Byzance (976-1077)* 1 (Paris 1926), p. 123. On the other hand, Michael Attaliates mentions that Michael V Kalaphates released Dalassenos as soon as he assumed power: Bekker, I. (ed.), *Michaelis Attaliotae Historia* (Bonn 1853), p. 11.15-18.
  9. Renauld, E. (ed.), *Michel Psellos, Chronographie ou histoire d'un siecle de Byzance (976-1077)* 1 (Paris 1926), p. 123. In contrast to Psellos, according to whom Zoe had to choose among three candidates (Constantine Dalassenos, Constantine Artoklines or Constantine Monomachos), John Skylitzes, the main source on Constantine Dalassenos, does not even mention him among the candidates for marrying Zoe in 1042, see Thurn, I. (ed.), *Ioannis Scylitzae Synopsis Historiarum* (Corpus Fontium Historiae Byzantinae 5, Berlin – New York 1973), pp. 422-423.
  10. Βαρζός, Κ., *Η γενεαλογία των Κομνηνών* 1 (Thessaloniki 1984), p. 51, believes that the wedding took place in 1044.
  11. Anna Dalassene managed to relate her family to the most prominent byzantine families of the 11<sup>th</sup> century: the Doukes, the Melissenoi, the Taronites, etc.
  12. Theodore is mentioned in 1067 bearing the title of protonovelissimos, which is confusing, because the title of novelissimos up until the time of Alexios I was granted to members of the imperial family or high officials. See Cheynet, J.-C., *Etudes prosopographiques*



(Paris 1986), p. 91.

13. According to Anna Comnena, Constantine Dalassenos was a relative of Alexios I from his mother; see Reinsch, D.R. – Kambylis , A. (ed.), *Annae Comnenae Alexias* (Corpus Fontium Historiae Byzantinae 40, Berlin – New York 2001), pp. 223.92-95.

14. Reinsch, D.R. – Kambylis , A. (ed.), *Annae Comnenae Alexias* (Corpus Fontium Historiae Byzantinae 40, Berlin – New York 2001), pp. 261.1-2; 264.4-5.

15. Stiernon, L., "Notes de titulature et de prosopographie byzantines: a propos de trois membres de la famille Rogerios (XIIe siecle)", *Revue des Etudes Byzantines* 22 (1964), pp. 185-187. See also Cheynet, J.-C., *Etudes prosopographiques* (Paris 1986), pp. 112-113.

16. John Rogeros or John Dalassenos was appointed kaisaras following the death of Nikephoros Bryennios (ca. 1138). See Cheynet, J.-C., *Etudes prosopographiques* (Paris 1986), p. 112 and note 129.

17. *Prosopographisches Lexikon der Palaiologenzeit* 3 (Vienna 1978), nr. 5035-5036.

---

#### Bibliography :

	<b>Charanis P.</b> , <i>The Armenians in the Byzantine Empire</i> , Lisbon 1963
	<b>Ιωάννης Σκυλίτζης</b> , <i>Σύνοψις Ιστοριών</i> , Thurn, I. (ed.), <i>Ioannis Skylitzae Synopsis Historiarum</i> , Corpus Fontium Historiae Byzantinae 5, Berlin – New York 1973
	<b>Μιχαήλ Ψελλός</b> , <i>Χρονογραφία</i> , Renauld, É. (ed.), <i>Michael Psellos, Chronographie ou histoire d'un siècle de Byzance (976-1077), I-II</i> , Paris 1926-1928 (ανατ. 1967)
	<b>Μιχαήλ Ατταλειάτης</b> , <i>Ιστορία</i> , Bekker, I. (ed.), <i>Michaelis Attaliothae Historia</i> , Corpus Scriptorum Historiae Byzantinae, Bonn 1853
	<b>Polemis D.</b> , <i>The Doukai. A Contribution to Byzantine Prosopography</i> , London 1968, University of London Historical Studies 22
	<b>Hild F., Restle M.</b> , <i>Kappadokien. Kappadokia, Charsianon, Sebasteia und Lykandos</i> , Wien 1981, TIB 2
	<b>Βλυσίδου Β., Λουγγής Γ., Λαμπάκης Σ., Σαββίδης Α., Κουντούρα-Γαλάκη Ε.</b> , <i>Η Μικρά Ασία των θεμάτων. Έρευνες πάνω στη γεωγραφική φυσιογνωμία και προσωπογραφία των βυζαντινών θεμάτων της Μικράς Ασίας (7ος-11ος αι.)</i> , Αθήνα 1998, Ερευνητική Βιβλιοθήκη 1
	<b>Cheyne J.-C.</b> , <i>Pouvoir et contestations à Byzance (963-1210)</i> , Paris 1990, Byzantina Sorbonensia 9
	<b>Cheyne J.-C., Vannier J.F.</b> , <i>Études prosopographiques</i> , Paris 1986, Byzantina Sorbonensia 5
	<b>Krsmanović B.</b> , <i>Uspon vojnog plemstva u Vizantiji XI veka</i> , Beograd 2001
	<b>Βαρζός Κ.</b> , <i>Η γενεαλογία των Κομνηνών I-2</i> , Θεσσαλονίκη 1984, Βυζαντινά Κείμενα και Μελέται 20
	<b>Μπουρδάρα Κ.</b> , <i>Καθοσίωσις και Τυραννίς κατά τους Μέσους Βυζαντινούς χρόνους I: Μακεδονική δυναστεία 867-1056</i> , Αθήνα 1981
	<b>Forsyth J.</b> , <i>The Byzantine-Arab Chronicle (938-1034) of Yahya b. Sa'id Al-Antaki</i> , Ann Arbor 1977



	<b>Skoulatos B.</b> , <i>Les personnages byzantins de l'Alexiade. Analyse prosopographique et synthèse</i> , Louvain 1980, Université de Louvain, Recueil de Travaux d' Histoire et de Philologie 6e série, fasc. 20
	<b>Laurent V.</b> , "La chronologie des gouverneurs d'Antioche sous la seconde domination byzantine", <i>Mélanges de l'Université Saint-Joseph</i> , 38, 1962, 219-254
	<b>Каждан А. П.</b> , <i>Армяне в составе господствующего класса Византийской империи в XI-XII вв.</i> , Ереван 1975
	<b>Guilland R.</b> , "Patrices du règne de Basile II", <i>Jahrbuch der Österreichischen Byzantinistik</i> , 20, 1971, 83-108
	"Δαλασσηνοί", <i>Prosopographisches Lexikon der Palaiologenzeit</i> , fasc. 3, Wien 1978, no 5035-5036
	"Δαλασσηνοί", <i>Prosopographisches Lexikon der Palaiologenzeit. Addenda und Corrigenda zu Faszikel 1-8</i> , Wien 1988, no 91747
	<b>Adontz N.</b> , "Notes Arméno-byzantines", <i>Byzantion</i> , 10, 1935, 161-203
	<b>Kazhdan A.</b> , "Dalassenos", Kazhdan, A. (ed.), <i>The Oxford Dictionary of Byzantium 1</i> , New York – Oxford 1991, 578
	<b>Stiernon L.</b> , "Notes de titulature et de prosopographie byzantines: à propos de trois membres de la famille Rogérios (XIIe siècle)", <i>Revue des Etudes Byzantines</i> , 22, 1964, 184-198
	<b>Νικηφόρος Βρυέννιος</b> , <i>Υψη Ιστορίας</i> , Gautier, P. (ed.), <i>Nicéphore Bryennios, Histoire</i> , Corpus Fontium Historiae Byzantinae 9, Bruxelles 1975
	<b>Άννα Κομνηνή</b> , <i>Αλεξιάς</i> , Reinsch, D.R. – Kambylis, A. (eds), <i>Annae Comnenae Alexias</i> , Corpus Fontium Historiae Byzantinae 40, Berlin – New York 2001
	<b>Canard M.</b> , "Les sources arabes de l'histoire byzantine aux confins des Xe et XIe siècles", <i>Revue des Etudes Byzantines</i> , 19, 1961, 284-314

## Webliography :

	Άννα Δαλασσηνή <a href="http://www.pbw.kcl.ac.uk/apps/person.jsp?personKey=106273&amp;keys=,10,,12,&amp;hUnits=,1">http://www.pbw.kcl.ac.uk/apps/person.jsp?personKey=106273&amp;keys=,10,,12,&amp;hUnits=,1</a>
	Θεοφύλακτος Δαλασσηνός <a href="http://www.pbw.kcl.ac.uk/apps/person.jsp?personKey=108472&amp;keys=&amp;hUnits=,1">http://www.pbw.kcl.ac.uk/apps/person.jsp?personKey=108472&amp;keys=&amp;hUnits=,1</a>
	Κωνσταντίνος Δαλασσηνός <a href="http://linnet.cch.kcl.ac.uk:8080/pbe3/person.jsp?personKey=107532&amp;keys=,2,,5,&amp;hUnits=,1,72874,73044,73185,73579,74082,,73618,,73080,#5">http://linnet.cch.kcl.ac.uk:8080/pbe3/person.jsp?personKey=107532&amp;keys=,2,,5,&amp;hUnits=,1,72874,73044,73185,73579,74082,,73618,,73080,#5</a>

## Glossary :

	caesar In the Roman Empire the title of Caesar was given to the Emperor. From the reign of Diocletian (284-305) on this title was conferred on the young co-emperor. This was also the highest title on the hierarchy of the Byzantine court. In the 8th c. the title of Caesar was usually given to the successor of the throne. In the late 11th c. this office was downgraded and from the 14th c. on it was mainly conferred on foreign princes.
	doukas (lat. dux) Antiquity: Roman military commander who, in some provinces, combined military and civil functions.



Buzantium: a higher military officer. From the second half of the 10th c. the title indicates the military commander of a larger district. After the 12th c., doukes were called the governors of small themes.

**emir**

(from Arabic amir) Emir meaning "commander" or "general", later also "prince". Also a high title of nobility or office in some Turkic historical states.

**patrikios**

(from lat. *patricius*) Higher title of honour, placed, according to the "*Tactika*" of the 9th and the 10th centuries, between *anthypatos* and *protospatharios*. It was given to the most important governors and generals. Gradually, however, it fell into disuse and from the 12th century did not exist any more.

**proedros**

A high office of the Byzantine court, first known under Nikephoros II Phokas. The responsibilities of the proedros are rather uncertain. In the 11th c. the title was accorded oftenly, but it disappears after the 12th c. As an ecclesiastical office, proedros was equal to a metropolitan and was accorded to the regent metropolitan of a bishopric or a metropolitan see, until the election of a hierarch there.

**strategos ("general")**

During the Roman period his duties were mainly political. Office of the Byzantine state's provincial administration. At first the title was given to the military and political administrator of the themes, namely of the big geographic and administrative unities of the Byzantine empire. Gradually the title lost its power and, already in the 11th century, strategoi were turned to simple commanders of military units, responsible for the defence of a region.

**thalassokrator**

A literary term that designates the *duke* or the *katepano* of the Byzantine fleet. He was a high-ranking official of the fleet, who was in charge of operations and supervised the recruitment and the funding of the navy. The naval *strategoï* were his subordinates.

## Sources

Thurn, I. (ed.), *Ioannis Scylitzae Synopsis Historiarum* (Corpus Fontium Historiae Byzantinae 5, Berlin – New York 1973), pp. 367.50-54; 373.15-374.26; 381.8-15; 392.25-393.41; 393.58-394.69; 395.95-396.32; 397.43-49; 404.50-54.

Bekker, I. (ed.), *Michaelis Attaliothae Historia* (Corpus Scriptorum Historiae Byzantinae, Bonn 1853), p. 11.5-18.

Renauld, É. (ed.), *Michel Psellos, Chronographie ou histoire d'un siècle de Byzance (976-1077)* 1 (Paris 1926), p. 122.12.1-123.12.26.

Renauld, É. (ed.), *Michel Psellos, Chronographie ou histoire d'un siècle de Byzance (976-1077)* 2 (Paris 1928), p. 141.6.16-20.

Gautier, P. (ed.), *Nicéphore Bryennios, Histoire* (Corpus Fontium Historiae Byzantinae 9, Bruxelles 1975), p. 77.13-20.

Reinsch, D.R. – Kambylis, A. (ed.), *Annae Comnenae Alexias* (Corpus Fontium Historiae Byzantinae 40, Berlin – New York 2001), pp. 105.55-70; 223.92-3; 261.1-31; 264.2-6.

## Quotations

John Skylitzes mentions Theophylaktos Dalassenos as an official under Emperor Basil II (ca. 1020)

τοῦ δὲ θανάτου τοῦ Φωκᾶ γνωσθέντος τῷ βασιλεῖ πέμπεται Θεοφύλακτος ὁ Δαμιανοῦ τοῦ Δαλασσηνοῦ υἱός, καὶ τὸν Ξιφίαν συλλαβῶν ἐκπέμπει δέσμιον εἰς τὴν βασιλῖδα πρὸς Ἰωάννην τὸν πρωτονοτάριον, ὃς ἐν τῇ νήσῳ τοῦ Αντιγόνου μοναχὸν αὐτὸν ἀποκείρει.

Thurn, I. (ed.), *Ioannis Scylitzae Synopsis Historiarum* (Corpus Fontium Historiae Byzantinae 5, Berlin – New York 1973), p. 367.50-54.

Constantine Dalassenos almost ascends the throne

Ἐνάτη δὲ Νοεμβρίου μηνός, τῆς δωδεκάτης ἰνδικτιῶνος, ἐν ἔτει ἑξακισχιλιοστῷ πεντακοσιοστῷ τριακοστῷ ἑβδόμῳ, αἰφνιδίῳ νόσῳ ληφθεὶς ὁ Κωνσταντῖνος καὶ παρὰ τῶν ἰατρῶν ἀπαγορευθεὶς ἐσκέπτετο, τίνα ἂν καταλίποι διάδοχον τῆς βασιλείας. ἔδοξεν οὖν αὐτῷ τὸν πατρικίον Κωνσταντῖνον τὸν Δαλασσηνὸν μεταστείλασθαι, κατὰ τὸν Ἀρμενιακὸν ἐν τῷ ἰδίῳ οἴκῳ σχολάζοντα, γαμβρόν τε ποιήσασθαι ἐπὶ μᾶ τῶν θυγατέρων καὶ ἀναγορεῦσαι βασιλεῖα. καὶ δὴ πέμπεται ἄξων αὐτὸν εὐνοῦχος τις τῶν



πιστικωτάτων, ὁ λεγόμενος Ἐργοδότης. σπουδῆ δὲ τοῦ Συμεῶν φιλῶς διακειμένου πρὸς τὸν πατρίκιον Ῥωμανὸν τὸν Ἀργυρόν, αὕτη μὲν παρωράθη ἡ γνώμη, καὶ στέλλεται τις τάχα ἐκ βασιλείως ἐς τὸν Δαλασσηνόν, ἐκεῖσε προσμένειν κελεύοντος αὐτόν, ὅπη ἂν ἡ γραφὴ καταλήψῃται, ἄγεται δὲ ὁ Ῥωμανὸς ἐς τὰ βασίλεια.

Thurn, I. (ed.), *Ioannis Scylitzae Synopsis Historiarum* (Corpus Fontium Historiae Byzantinae 5, Berlin – New York 1973), p. 373.15-374.26.

#### Constantine Dlassenos takes part to the campaign of Romanos III Argyros in Syria

τότε δὴ καὶ Κωνσταντῖνος πατρίκιος ὁ Δαλασσηνός ἐκπεμφθεὶς ἀνακόψαι τοὺς ἐπεμβαίνοντας καὶ ἀνδρῶν τι καὶ γενναῖον διαπράξασθαι, καὶ τούτοις συμπλακεῖς καὶ ἀκόσμως φυγῶν μεγάλης συγχύσεως καὶ ταραχῆς τὰ Ῥωμαίων ἐνέπλησε καὶ τὸν βασιλέα αὐτόν. ἐπανελθόντος γὰρ αὐτοῦ τεθορυβημένου καὶ τὸ στρατόπεδον ἅπαν ταραχῆς ἐμφορήσαντος καὶ ἀκοσμίας, οὐκέτι τοῦ λοιποῦ λόγος μάχης ἐτύγχανεν, ἀλλ' ἕκαστος, ὡς πῆ δυνατὸν ἦν, τὴν ἑαυτοῦ ἐπραγματεύετο σωτηρίαν.

Thurn, I. (ed.), *Ioannis Scylitzae Synopsis Historiarum* (Corpus Fontium Historiae Byzantinae 5, Berlin – New York 1973), p. 381.8-15.

#### John Skylitzes on the reaction of Constantine Dalassenos to Michael IV's ascent on the throne

πάντα δὲ τὰ ἔνδον καταστησάμενος γράμματα κατὰ πάσης ἐκπέμπει τῆς οἰκουμένης, γνωρίζοντα τοῖς πᾶσιν, ὡς εἶη μὲν Ῥωμανὸς ὁ βασιλεὺς τὸ φυσικὸν ἀποδεδωκὸς χρῆος, ἀνηγόρευται δὲ ὁ Μιχαὴλ ἐτι ζώντος ἐκείνου καὶ ἐπιτρέποντος, καὶ τῆ βασιλίδι συζεύγνυται. πρὸς ἅπερ πάντες μὲν ὑπεκλίνοντο οἱ ἄλλοι, καὶ δι' εὐφήμου φωνῆς τὸν νέον ἐμεγάλυνον βασιλέα. μόνος δὲ Κωνσταντῖνος πατρίκιος ὁ Δαλασσηνός, οἵκαδε διατρέβων, οὐκ ἤνεγκε πρῶως τὴν ἀκοήν, ἀλλὰ καὶ ἀπεδυσπέτησε πρὸς τὰ φημιζόμενα καὶ διὰ θαύματος ἤγε, πῶς πλείστων ἀγαθῶν ὄντων ἀνδρῶν ἐξ οἴκων λαμπρῶν καὶ ἐπισήμου γένους χυδαῖος καὶ τριωβολιμαῖος ἄνθρωπος τῶν ἄλλων προτετίμητο πάντων καὶ δεσπότης καὶ βασιλεὺς ἀνηγόρευτο. τοῦτο δὲ πυθόμενος ὁ Ἰωάννης ἐπλήσθη μὲν, ὡς εἰκός, θορύβου καὶ ταραχῆς, ἐμελέτα δὲ καὶ ἐσκέπτετο, πῶς ἂν καὶ τόνδε τὸν ἀνδρα ὑπὸ τὴν ἑαυτοῦ θείτο σαγήνην. καὶ δὴ στέλλεται πρὸς αὐτόν εἰς τῶν εὐνοῦχων ὁ λεγόμενος Ἐργοδότης, ἐπιτήδειος ὑπηρετεῖν εἰς τὰ τοιοῦτα, ἐφ' ᾧ ὄρκους δοῦναι τε καὶ λαβεῖν καὶ ἀγαγεῖν τὸν ἀνδρα ἐς βασιλέα.

Thurn, I. (ed.), *Ioannis Scylitzae Synopsis Historiarum* (Corpus Fontium Historiae Byzantinae 5, Berlin – New York 1973), p. 392.25-393.41.

#### The temporary reconciliation between Constantine Dalassenos and Michael IV, described in John Skylitzes's Chronicle

Ἄρτι δὲ τοῦ Ἐργοδότου πρὸς τὸν Δαλασσηνὸν ἀφικομένου, πιστεῦσαι μὲν οὗτος τοῖς ὄρκους καὶ σὺν αὐτῷ ἀπελθεῖν ἐν τῷ Βυζαντίῳ οὐκ ἠθέλησεν, τῶν τινὰ δὲ πέμψας πιστοτάτων αὐτῷ ὄρκους τε ἀπήτησε μείζονας τοῦ μή τι παθεῖν χαλεπόν, καὶ ἀπελθεῖν ἐπηγγέλατο. πέμπεται τοίνυν Κωνσταντῖνος ὁ Φαγίτζης εὐνοῦχος, ἄνθρωπος Παφλαγῶν καὶ συνήθης τῷ βασιλεῖ, τὰ τε τίμα ἐπαγόμενος ξύλα καὶ τὸ ἅγιον ἐκμαγαεῖον καὶ τὴν πρὸς Αὐγαρον ἰδιόγραφον ἐπιστολὴν τοῦ κυρίου καὶ σωτήρος ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ καὶ εἰκόνα τῆς ὑπεραγίας θεοτόκου. ὃς ἀπελθὼν καὶ ὄρκους τῷ Κωνσταντίνῳ δούς καὶ λαβῶν, ἔρχεται μετ' αὐτοῦ εἰς τὸ Βυζάντιον. ἐλθόντα δὲ τοῦτον φιλοφρόνως ὁ βασιλεὺς ὑπέδεξατο, καὶ ἀνθύπατον τιμήσας καὶ δώροις μεγίστοις δεξιωσάμενος ἀνέτως καὶ ἀδεῶς προσέταξε διάγειν ἐν τῷ ὄντι κατὰ τὰ Κύρου οἶκῳ αὐτοῦ.

Thurn, I. (ed.), *Ioannis Scylitzae Synopsis Historiarum* (Corpus Fontium Historiae Byzantinae 5, Berlin – New York 1973), p. 393.58-394.69.

#### The events that led to the exile of Constantine Dalassenos and his relatives (1034), related by John Skylitzes

Μιχαὴλ δὲ ὁ βασιλεὺς ὑπὸ τε τῆς δαιμονίου νόσου εἰργόμενος, καὶ ἄλλως πρὸς μεταχείρησιν πραγμάτων νωθρός τις ὢν καὶ ἀμβλὺς, σχῆμα μὲν εἶχε τῆς βασιλείας καὶ ὄνομα, ἡ δὲ τῶν πραγμάτων ἐνέργεια ἅπασα πολιτικῶν τε καὶ στρατιωτικῶν ἐν ταῖς χερσὶν ἦν τοῦ Ἰωάννου. εὐθύς οὖν προχειρίζεται Νικήταν τὸν ἑαυτοῦ ἀδελφὸν δοῦκα Ἀντιοχείας, ὃν ἀπελθόντα εἰσελθεῖν ἐν τῇ πόλει οὐ συνεχώρησαν οἱ Ἀντιοχεῖς. πρὸ μικροῦ γὰρ φορολόγος τις, Σαλίβας τὴν προσηγορίαν, τὰ κατ' αὐτοὺς ἐπιτετραμμένος καὶ βαρέως τοῖς ἀνθρώποις ἐπενηνεγμένος κτείνεται παρὰ τοῦ δήμου τῶν Ἀντιοχεῶν. διὰ οὖν τὸν τούτου φόνον, ἵνα μή τι καὶ ἀνήκεστον πάθωσι δεδιότες οἱ Ἀντιοχεῖς, ἀπέκλεισαν τῷ Νικήτῃ τὴν εἰσοδόν. ὄρκους δὲ τούτου πιστωσαμένου, ὡς ἀμνηστία κακῶν αὐτοῖς ἔσεται, καὶ οὐδὲν οὐδεὶς πείσεται ἄχαρι διὰ τὸν τοῦ Σαλίβα φόνον, συγχωροῦσι τὴν εἰσοδόν. ὁ δὲ τῆς πόλεως ἐπειλημμένος καὶ κύριος τῶν πραγμάτων γενόμενος, ὀλίγα ἢ οὐδὲν τῶν ὄρκων φροντίσας, ἀμφὶ μὲν τοὺς ἑκατὸν ἀνδρας ἀπέκτεινεν ἀποτεμῶν τε καὶ ἀνασκολοπίσας, ἔνδεκα δὲ τοὺς προὔχοντας ζαμπλοῦτους ἀνδρας καὶ γένει περιφανεῖς δεσμεύσας,



ὦν κορυφαῖος ἦν ὁ πατρίκιος Ἐλπίδιος, δεσμίους ἐκπέμπει πρὸς τὸ Βυζάντιον, γράψας τῷ ἀδελφῷ Ἰωάννῃ, μὴ διὰ τὸν τοῦ Σαλίβα φόνον κωλυθῆναι αὐτῷ τὴν εἰς τὴν πόλιν εἴσοδον, ἀλλὰ διὰ τὴν εἰς τὸν Δαλασσηνὸν εὐνοίαν. τοῦτο τῆς προαποκειμένης ὑπονοίας κατὰ τοῦ Δαλασσηνοῦ τῷ Ἰωάννῃ ζώπυρον ἐγεγόνει καὶ εἰς πυρσὸν ἀνήπτετο. καὶ εὐθὺς ἄγεται εἰς τὰ βασιλεία, καὶ κατὰ τὴν τρίτην τοῦ Αὐγούστου μηνὸς τῆς δευτέρας ἰνδικτιῶνος ἐν τῇ νήσῳ Πλάτῃ περιορίζεται. βάλλεται δὲ καὶ ἐν τινι πύργῳ ὁ ἐπὶ θυγατρὶ γαμβρὸς αὐτοῦ Κωνσταντῖνος ὁ Δουκάς, ὅτιπερ ἐπεβοᾶτο τὴν ἀδικίαν καὶ τὴν παράβασιν τῶν ὄρκων ἐξήλεγχε καὶ τὸν θεὸν ἐμαρτύρητο. ἔπαθον δὲ δι' αὐτὸν καὶ ἄνδρες τρεῖς τῶν ἐκ τῆς Μικρᾶς Ἀσίας εὐγενεῖς καὶ πλούσιοι, ὁ Γουδέλης, ὁ Βαϊανὸς καὶ ὁ λεγόμενος Προβατᾶς, δημευθείσης τῆς οὐσίας αὐτῶν καὶ Κωνσταντῖνῳ τῷ τοῦ βασιλέως ἀφορισθείσης ἀδελφῷ. τότε καὶ Συμεὼν πρωτοβεστιάριος, ὁ τῶν θεραπόντων τοῦ βασιλέως εἰς Κωνσταντῖνου, ὅτι μὴ ἠρέσκετο τοῖς δρωμένοις, ἀλλὰ τὴν εἰς τὸν Δαλασσηνὸν ἀδικίαν ἐπεβοᾶτο καὶ τὴν τῶν ὄρκων ἀθέτησιν τῶν βασιλείων, διώκεται καὶ τῆς πόλεως, κὰν τῷ Ὀλύμπῳ γενόμενος τὴν κοσμικὴν ἀπέθετο τρίχα, καρεῖς ἐν τῷ παρ' αὐτοῦ νεουργηθέντι μοναστηρίῳ.

Thurn, I. (ed.), *Ioannis Scylitzae Synopsis Historiarum* (Corpus Fontium Historiae Byzantinae 5, Berlin – New York 1973), p. 395.95-396.32.

#### John Skylitzes mentions John Orphanotrophos's obsession with Constantine Dalassenos

περαιωθέντες δὲ καὶ τὸν Ἰστρον οἱ Πατζινάκαι πᾶσαν ἐληΐσαντο τὴν Μυσίαν ἄχρι Θεσσαλονίκης, καὶ τὰ τῶν ἄφρων πλοῖα τὰς Κυκλάδας οὐ μικρῶς ἐλυμήναντο. ὦν οὐδεμία φροντίς ἦν τῷ Ἰωάννῃ, μόνῃ δ' ἔμμονον ἀσχολίαν εἶχεν, ὅπως ἂν ὁ Δαλασσηνὸς ἀσφαλῶς τηρεῖτο, καὶ μὴ τὰς αὐτοῦ λάθοι διαδορὰς πλεκτάνας. καὶ δῆτα μεταγαγὼν ἀπὸ τῆς νήσου Πλάτης αὐτὸν πύργῳ καθείργνυσιν ἀσφαλεῖ, ἐπιστήσας αὐτῷ φρουροὺς οὐκ ἀγεννεῖς.

Thurn, I. (ed.), *Ioannis Scylitzae Synopsis Historiarum* (Corpus Fontium Historiae Byzantinae 5, Berlin – New York 1973), p. 397.43-49.

#### John Skylitzes on the persecution of the Dalassenoi by John Orphanotrophos

Τῷ δὲ ,Ζφμζ' ἔτει, ἰνδικτιῶνος ἐβδόμῃς, ἐπιτεινῶν τὸ πρὸς τὸν Δαλασσηνὸν ἔχθος ὁ Ἰωάννης ὑπερορίζει καὶ Θεοφύλακτον πατρίκιον τὸν αὐτοῦ ἀδελφόν, καὶ τὸν ἕτερον ἀδελφὸν αὐτοῦ τὸν πατρίκιον Ῥωμανόν, καὶ Ἀδριανὸν τὸν ἀνεψιὸν αὐτῶν καὶ τοὺς λοιποὺς τοὺς κατὰ γένος αὐτῷ ἐγγίζοντας. ἔσπευδε γὰρ ἀφανίσει τὸ γένος αὐτοῦ.

Thurn, I. (ed.), *Ioannis Scylitzae Synopsis Historiarum* (Corpus Fontium Historiae Byzantinae 5, Berlin – New York 1973), p. 404.50-54.

#### Michael V Kalaphates sets Constantine Dalassenos free (1041)

καὶ ἦν ὁ ἀνὴρ ἐπὶ μὲν τῆς προτέρας διαγωγῆς κακιζόμενος καὶ τοῖς ἐπαινετῶς πολιτευομένοις μὴ συναπτόμενος, ἐπὶ δὲ τῆς βασιλικῆς ἀναβάσεως καὶ λίαν ἐγκωμιαζόμενός τε καὶ σεμνυνόμενος, οἷα φιλοτίμως ἄρτι πρῶτον ὑπὲρ τοὺς πρὸ αὐτοῦ βεβασιλευκότας τῇ συγκλήτῳ καὶ τοῖς ἄλλοις προσφερόμενος ὑπήκοοις, καὶ τιμαῖς περιβλέπτοις καὶ ἀξιώμασι πλείστους ὄσους καταγεραίρων, καὶ τὴν εὐνομίαν, εἴπερ τις ἄλλος, σπουδάζων ἀνεγερθῆναι, καὶ τῶν ἀδικουμένων ἐκδικητῆς ἀναφαινόμενος ἀπαραίτητος, καὶ δικαιοσύνην τῶν ἄλλων ἀπάντων ὑπεραίρων καὶ προσιμώμενος. ἐξήγαγε γὰρ καὶ τῆς χρονίας φρουρᾶς τὸν τε Κωνσταντῖνον ἐκεῖνον τὸν Δαλασσηνόν, ὡς ὑποπτον περὶ τῆς βασιλείας ἐν πύργῳ ἀποκλεισθέντα παρὰ τοῦ θεοῦ αὐτοῦ,...

Bekker, I. (ed.), *Michaelis Attaliothae Historia* (CSHB, Bonn 1853), p. 11.5-18.

#### Michael Psellos comments on the moral character of Constantine Dalassenos

Ἦν δὲ τις ἀνὴρ τὸ τῆνικαῦτα μετὰ τῶν ἄλλων, καὶ τὸ εἶδος οὐκ ἄλλος, ᾧ πατρίξ μὲν ἡ Δάλασσα, χωρίον ἐπισημότατον, Κωνσταντῖνος δὲ τοῦνομα, ὡσπερ εἰς ἀρχικὸν ὄγκον παρεσκευασμένος παρὰ τῆς φύσεως· οὕτω γὰρ δεκαέτης ἐγεγόνει καὶ ἡ φήμη τοῦτον εἰς τὴν κρείττω ἤρην ὑπόληψιν· ἐδεδοίκεσαν γοῦν τὸν ἄνδρα οἱ βασιλεύοντες καὶ πάντες αὐτῷ τὴν εἰς τὰ βασιλεία πορείαν ἀπέφραττον, ὁ δὲ γε Παφλαγῶν Μιχαὴλ καὶ κατακλείσας εἶχεν, οὐ μάλλον ἐκεῖνον δεδιώς ἢ τοὺς πολλοὺς ἐπ' αὐτῷ· ὀρθὴ γὰρ ἡ Πόλις ἐγεγόνει ἰδοῦσα τὸν ἄνδρα καὶ μετεώριστο ὡς αὐτίκα τὴν ὑπὲρ αὐτοῦ διαπραξέουσα· ἀλλ' ὁ μὲν ἐν φρουρίῳ καθείρξας ἐφύλαττεν· ὁ δὲ γε μετ' ἐκεῖνον βασιλεύσας ἀνεψιός, ὁμοῦ τε τοῖς βασιλικοῖς θρόνοις ἐγκαθιδρύθη καὶ σβεννύει τούτῳ τὴν τῆς βασιλείας ὑπόληψιν· μετασχηματίζει γὰρ αὐτῷ τὴν περιβολὴν καὶ μετὰ τῶν μελαμοφορούντων ἰστά, οὐχ ὡς εὐνοῦς συμβιβάζων Θεῷ, ἀλλ' ὡς δύσνοῦς ἀπάγων τοῦ ὑπονοουμένου σκοποῦ· ἀλλ' ὁ μὲν ἔστεργε τὴν ψυχὴν, ὁ δὲ καιρὸς τοῦτον ἐκάλει πρὸς τὴν ἀρχὴν, καὶ εἶχε τοῦ τὸ σχῆμα μεταβαλεῖν ἐγγὺς τὸ παράδειγμα· ἡ γὰρ βασιλίς τὸ πρῶτον παθοῦσα ἐπεποιήκει τὸ





δεύτερον· καὶ προήχθη ταύτη ἐπ' ἄλλο τι μετακεκλημένος· ἀποτομώτερον δὲ τοῖς λόγοις χρησάμενος καὶ γενναιοτέρων ἐνθυμημάτων περὶ τῆς βασιλείας ἀψάμενος, καὶ μηδὲν τι τοῦ γενναίου καθυφείς λήματος, δυσχερέστερος τοῖς πολλοῖς ἔδοξε καὶ τὸ ἦθος βαρύτερος, καὶ τῶν προσδοκιῶν ἀπώσθη ὑποπτουθεῖς.

Renauld, É. (ed.), *Michel Psellos, Chronographie ou histoire d'un siècle de Byzance (976-1077)* 1 (Paris 1926), p. 122.12.1-123.12.26.

Michael Psellos on the first wife of Constantine X Doukas, the daughter of Constantine Dalassenos

γυναῖκα δὲ γήμας καὶ γένει περιφανῆ (Κωνσταντίνου γὰρ ἦν παῖς ἐκείνου, ὃν τὸ μὲν χωρίον ἡ Δάλασσα ἤνεγκεν, ἡ δὲ ῥώμη πανταχοῦ τῆς οἰκουμένης ἐκήρυξε) καὶ κάλλει διαπρεπῆ, σωφροσύνη τὸν βίον ἐκόσμησεν.

Renauld, É. (ed.), *Michel Psellos, Chronographie ou histoire d'un siècle de Byzance (976-1077)* 2 (Paris 1928), p. 141.6.16-20.

The historian Nikephoros Bryennios relates the descent of Anna Dalassene

ὁ δὲ Ἰωάννης τῆ τοῦ Χάρωνος Ἀλεξίου, ᾧ τὰ κατὰ τὴν Ἰταλίαν ἐκ βασιλέως ἐγκεχειρίστο πράγματα, ἀνδρὸς φρενήρους καὶ νουνεχοῦς καὶ τὴν χεῖρα γενναίου καὶ τὴν ψυχὴν θαρσαλέου, ᾧ καὶ τὸ ἐπώνυμον ἐκ τῆς ἀνδρίας κεκληρωτό· τὸν τινα γὰρ τῶν ἐναντίων βαλὼν ἐπεὶ νεκρὸν ἀποδέδειχε, Χάρων ἐντεῦθεν ἐπωνομάσθη. Τοῦτου τὴν θυγατέρα γήμας ὁ Ἰωάννης Ἄνναν εἰς Δαλασσηνοῦς τὸ γένος μητρόθεν ἀνέγκουσιν τοὺς Ἀδριανοὺς ἐκείνους καὶ τοὺς Θεοφυλάκτους, παίδων ἀρίστων ἀπεφάνθη πατήρ.

Gautier, P. (ed.), *Nicéphore Bryennios, Histoire* (Corpus Fontium Historiae Byzantinae 9, Bruxelles 1975), p. 77.13-20.

Anna Comnena praises her grandmother Anna Dalassene

τοιαῦτα τὰ τῆς Ἀλεξίου βασιλείας προοίμια· οὐ γάρ τις αὐτοκράτορα τοῦτον εἰκότως τό γε νῦν ὀνομάσειε τῆς αὐτοκράτορος περιωπῆς ἅπαξ ἀποκληρωθείσης παρ' αὐτοῦ τῆ μητρὶ. ἄλλος μὲν οὖν νόμοις ἐγκωμιστικοῖς ὑπέικων πατρίδα τῆς θαυμασίας ἐκείνης μητρὸς ἐπαινείτω καὶ γένος πρὸς Ἀδριανοὺς ἐκείνους τοὺς Δαλασσηνοὺς ἀναφερόμενον καὶ Χάρωνας καὶ τῷ πελάγει τῶν κατ' ἐκείνους προτερημάτων ἐπαφιέτω τὸν λόγον, ἔμοι δὲ ἱστορίαν Ξυγγραφοῦση οὐκ ἐκ γένους καὶ αἵματος προσήκει ταύτην χαρακτηρίζειν, ἀλλ' ἐκ τρόπου καὶ ἀρετῆς καὶ τούτων, ὅπόσον ὁ τῆς ἱστορίας ὑποτίθεται λόγος. ἵνα γὰρ πρὸς ἐκείνην ἐπαναδραμοῦμαι καὶ αὐθις, ἀξίωμα μὲν οὖν μέγιστον αὐτῆ οὐ γυναικῶν μόνον, ἀλλὰ καὶ ἀρρένων καθίστατο καὶ κόσμος τῆς ἀνθρωπίνης φύσεως. τὴν δὲ περὶ τὰ βασίλεια γυναικωνίτιν παντάπασι διεφθορυῖαν, ἐξότου ὁ Μονομάχος ἐκείνος τὸ τῆς βασιλείας ἀνεδήσατο κράτος, καὶ εἰς ἔρωτας ἀλόγους ἀποκλίνας καὶ μέχρι τῆς βασιλείας τοῦμου πατρὸς ἐπὶ τὸ βέλτιον ἀλλοιώσασα εἰς κόσμον ἐπαινούμενον μετήνεγκε.

Reinsch, D.R. – Kambylis, A. (ed.), *Annae Comnenae Alexias* (Corpus Fontium Historiae Byzantinae 40, Berlin – New York 2001), p. 105.55-70.

Alexios I Komnenos appoints his relative Constantine Dalassenos head of the navy

τοῦ συμβάντος δὲ τῷ Κασταμονίτῃ ὁ βασιλεὺς ἐν εἰδήσει γενόμενος ἕτερον ἐξοπλίζει στόλον ἐπιστήσας δοῦκα τοῦτου Κωνσταντίνου τὸν Δαλασσηνόν, ἀνδρα μαχιμώτατον καὶ μητρόθεν τούτῳ προσήκοντα. ὃς κατὰ τὴν ἡἰόνα τῆς Χίου γενόμενος παραχρημα τῆς τοῦ κάστρου πολιορκίας εἶχετο ἐκθύμως μαχόμενος καὶ σπεύδων τὴν πόλιν ἐλεῖν πρὸ τοῦ τὸν Τζαχὰν ἀπὸ τῆς Σμύρνης καταλαβεῖν.

Reinsch, D.R. – Kambylis, A. (ed.), *Annae Comnenae Alexias* (Corpus Fontium Historiae Byzantinae 40, Berlin – New York 2001), p. 223.92-3.

Anna Komnena relates how Constantine Dalassenos confronted emir Tzacha

ἐνόσω δὲ ταῦτα ἐγένετο, ὁ Δαλασσηνὸς Κωνσταντίνος θαλασσοκράτωρ τῆνικαῦτα ὦν καὶ μήπω ἐφθακῶς, κατὰ τὰ ἐντεταλμένα παρὰ τοῦ Δούκα εἰς ἀκρωτηρίον τι τὰς ναῦς προσορμίσας, ἐπεὶ ταῦτα μεμαθήκοι, ἐλθὼν ἡξίου τὸν Δούκαν παραχωρηθῆναι οἱ μετὰ τοῦ Τζαχὰ συνάψαι πόλεμον. ὁ δὲ τὸν προγεγονότα εὐλαβοῦμενος ὄρκον ἀνεβάλετο τέως· ὁ δὲ Δαλασσηνὸς ἐνέκειτο λέγων



ὡς «σὺ μὲν ὁμώμοκας, ἐγὼ δ' οὐ παρῆν, καὶ σὺ μὲν τήρει ἅς δέδωκας πίστεις ἀρραγεῖς, ἐγὼ δ' μήτε παρῶν μητ' ὁμώμοκῶς μήτε τι τῶν συνδοξάντων ἀμφοῖν γινώσκων ἐπαποδύσομαι πρὸς τὸν κατὰ τοῦ Τζαχᾶ πόλεμον». ἐπεὶ δ' ὁ Τζαχᾶς τὰ πρυμνήσια λύσας ὡς εἶχε κατευθῦν Σμύρνης τὸν ἀπόπλουον ἐποιεῖτο, καταλαμβάνει τοῦτον ὁ Δαλασσηνὸς θᾶττον ἢ λόγος καὶ παραχρῆμα προσβαλὼν ἐδίωκεν. ἀλλὰ καὶ ὁ Δούκας τὸ ἐπίλοιπον τοῦ ναυτικοῦ τοῦ Τζαχᾶ λύον τὰ πρυμνήσια ἐφθακῶς κατέσχε μὲν τὰς ναῦς καὶ τῆς βαρβαρικῆς χειρὸς τοὺς δορυαλώτους ἅπαντας καὶ τοὺς ἐν αὐτοῖς δεσμώτας αἰχμαλώτους ἐρρύσατο. ὁ δὲ Δαλασσηνὸς πολλὰ τῶν τοῦ Τζαχᾶ ληστρικών πλοίων κατασχὼν τοὺς ἐνόντας σὺν αὐτοῖς ἐρέταις ἀναρρῆσθαι παρεκελεύετο. τάχα δ' ἂν καὶ ὁ Τζαχᾶς αὐτὸς ἐαλώκει, εἰ μὴ πανούργος ὢν καὶ τὸ μέλλον ὑφορώμενος εἰς ἐν τῶν κουφοτέρων ἀκατίων μεταβὰς διὰ τὸ ἀνύποπτον διεσώθη λαθῶν στοχαζόμενος γὰρ τοῦ συμπεσόντος αὐτῷ ἐκ τῆς ἠπείρου Τούρκους παρεσκευάκει εἰς τι ἀκρωτήριον ἐστάναι καὶ ὄραν, μέχρις ἂν ἡ τὴν Σμύρνην ἀκινδύνως αὐτὸς καταλάβῃ ἢ πολεμίους περικτυχῶν πρὸς αὐτοὺς τὴν ναῦν ἐξορμίσει καθάπερ εἰς τι κρησφύγετον. καὶ δὴ τοῦ σκοποῦ οὐκ ἠστόχει, ἀλλ' ἐκεῖ τὴν ναῦν προσορμίσας μετὰ τῶν ἀπεκδεχομένων αὐτὸν Τούρκων ἐνωθεὶς ὡς πρὸς Σμύρνην ὤχετο, καὶ δὴ καὶ ταύτην κατέλαβεν, ὁ δὲ Δαλασσηνὸς νικητὴς ὑποστρέψας ἐνοῦται τῷ μεγάλῳ δουκί. καὶ ὁ Δούκας τὰ κατὰ τὴν Μυτιλήνην ἀσφαλίσάμενος, ἐπεὶ καὶ ὁ Δαλασσηνὸς ἐκεῖθεν ὑπέστρεψε, τοῦ ῥωμαϊκοῦ στόλου πολὺ μέρος ἀφελόμενος κατὰ τῶν παρὰ τοῦ Τζαχᾶ κατεχομένων (καὶ γὰρ ἰκανὰς ἔφθασε νήσους χειρώσασθαι) ἐξαπέστειλε, καὶ ἐξ ἐπιδρομῆς τὴν τε Σάμον καὶ τινὰς ἄλλας νήσους κατασχὼν ἐπανέρχεται πρὸς τὴν βασιλεύουσαν.

Reinsch, D.R. – Kambylis, A. (ed.), *Annae Comnenae Alexias* (Corpus Fontium Historiae Byzantinae 40, Berlin – New York 2001), p. 261.1-31.

#### The expedition of Constantine Dalassenos against emir Tzachas

ταῦτα μεμαθηκῶς ὁ αὐτοκράτωρ οὐκ ἀνέπιπτεν αὐθις οὐδ' ἀνεβάλλετο, ἀλλ' ἐκ θαλάττης καὶ ἠπείρου ἔσπευδε τοῦτον καταγωνίσασθαι. τὸν μὲν οὖν Κωνσταντῖνον τὸν Δαλασσηνὸν θαλασσοκράτορα προχειρισάμενος τῆνικαῦτα μετὰ τοῦ ναυτικοῦ παντὸς ἐξέπεμψε κατὰ τοῦ Τζαχᾶ...

Reinsch, D.R. – Kambylis, A. (ed.), *Annae Comnenae Alexias* (Corpus Fontium Historiae Byzantinae 40, Berlin – New York 2001), p. 264.2-6.

### Chronological Table

End of the 10<sup>th</sup> century: emergence of the Dalassenoi family

995-998: Damianos Dalassenos, patriarch of the family, serves as *doux* of Antioch

1024/1025: Constantine Dalassenos, son of Damianos, is appointed *doux* of Antioch

1028: Constantine VIII decides to marry Constantine Dalassenos to Zoe and appoint him successor to the throne but changes his decision in favor of Romanos Argyros

1030: Constantine Dalassenos takes part in the campaign of emperor Romanos III Argyros to Syria

1034: exile and incarceration of Constantine Dalassenos by John Orphanotrophos

1038/1039: systematic prosecutions of members of the Dalassenoi family by John Orphanotrophos

1041: Michael V Kalaphates forces Constantine Dalassenos to become a monk

1042: Constantine Dalassenos is a candidate for the imperial throne for a second time but empress Zoe finally chooses Constantine Monomachos

1<sup>st</sup> half of the 11<sup>th</sup> century: The Dalassenoi become relatives to the families of the Doukes and Komnenoi

1062-1063: Theodore Dalassenos is mentioned as proedros and *doux* of Thessaloniki and Serres



1073: Damianos Dalassenos is mentioned as *doux* of Skopje

1090- ca. 1093: Constantine Dalassenos, a relative of emperor Alexios I, fights against emir Tzacha as the commander of the naval forces of the empire

Beginning of the 12<sup>th</sup> century: The Dalassenoi renew their family bonds with the Komnenoi dynasty

ca. 1138: John Dalassenos bears the title of *kaisaras*

1143: Conspiracy of John Rogeros against Manuel I Komnenos

Beginning of the 13<sup>th</sup> century: The prestige of the Dalassenoi family begins to wane

### Auxiliary Catalogs

A list of prominent members of the family:

**Damianos Dalassenos:**

Patriarch of the family, he lived during the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the 10<sup>th</sup> century. He was *doux* of Antioch. He was killed in the battle of Apameia (998).

**Constantine Dalassenos:**

Eldest son of the former, he lived at the end of the 10<sup>th</sup> and the 1<sup>st</sup> half of the 11<sup>th</sup> century. He died in 1042. He was a candidate for the imperial throne twice – in 1028 and in 1042.

**Theophylaktos Dalassenos:**

Son of Damianos, he lived in the 1<sup>st</sup> half of the 11<sup>th</sup> century. He too was *doux* of Antioch.

**Romanos Dalassenos:**

Son of Damianos, he lived in the 1<sup>st</sup> half of the 11<sup>th</sup> century. He was *katepano* of Iberia.

**Theodore Dalassenos:**

*Doux* of Thessaloniki and Serres in 1062-1063.

**Damianos Dalassenos:**

*Doux* of Skopje in 1073.

**Hadrian Dalassenos:**

Nephew of Constantine, Theophylaktos and Romanos Dalassenos. He was imprisoned in 1038-1039 by John Orphanotrophos.

**Anna Dallassene:**

Granddaughter of the former from her mother. Mother of emperor Alexios I Komnenos. She was born ca. 1030 – she died in 1101-1102.

**Constantine Dalassenos:**

He lived in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the 11<sup>th</sup> century. One of the most competent naval commanders and a relative of Alexios I Komnenos. He shined during the battles against Tzacha, the emir of Smyrna.

**Constantine Dalassenos Doukas:**

He lived at the end of the 11<sup>th</sup> and the beginning of the 12<sup>th</sup> century.



John Rogeros Dalassenos:

He lived in the 1<sup>st</sup> half of the 12<sup>th</sup> century. He was married to the daughter of the emperor John II Komnenos ca. 1138 and was appointed caesar. He conspired against Manuel I Komnenos ca. 1143.

Theodore Dalassenos:

He is mentioned as a judge in 1196. He bore the title of *sebastos*.