Land and Privilege in Byzantium

A pronoia was a type of conditional grant from the emperor, often to soldiers, of various properties and privileges. In large measure the institution of pronoia characterized social and economic relations in later Byzantium, and its study is the study of later Byzantium. Filling the need for a comprehensive study of the institution, this book examines the origin, evolution, and characteristics of pronoia, focusing particularly on the later thirteenth and fourteenth centuries. But the book is much more than a study of a single institution. With a broad chronological scope extending from the mid-tenth to the mid-fifteenth century, it incorporates the latest understanding of Byzantine agrarian relations, taxation, administration, and the economy, as it deals with relations between the emperor, monastic and lay landholders, including soldiers and peasants. Particular attention is paid to the relation between the pronoia and western European, Slavic, and Middle Eastern institutions, especially the Ottoman timar.

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Land and Privilege in Byzantium

The Institution of Pronoia

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To Lyn
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[8.75] Chrysobull of Andronikos II Palaiologos for the monastery of St. John Prodromos (September 1317), Prostagma of Andronikos II Palaiologos to a fiscal official (April 1325), Prostagma of Andronikos II Palaiologos to a fiscal official (November 1325), and Orismos of Andronikos III Palaiologos to a fiscal official (1327), regarding the agridion of Monospeton

[8.76] Chrysobull of Andronikos III Palaiologos for the monastery of Zographou regarding the oikonomia of the sevastos Devlitzenos (1328)

[8.77] Greek chrysobull of Symeon Uroš for the monastery of St. George in Zavlantia (1359)

[8.78] Chrysobull of John V Palaiologos for the stratopedarches of the monokavalloi John Choumnos (1344)

[9.1] Prostagma of Manuel II Palaiologos for the monasteries of Mount Athos (1408)

[9.2] Prostagma of Manuel II Palaiologos for two Thessalonian monasteries (1415)

[9.3] Act of Paul Gazes and George Prinkips for the monastery of Docheiariou (1409)
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[9.4] Act of Paul Gazes and George Prinkips for the monastery of Lavra (1409)
[9.5] Act of Paul Gazes and Michael Karianites for the monastery of Vatopedi (1406)
[9.6] Praktikon of Stephen Doukas Radenos, Constantine Palaiologos Oinaiotes, and John Radenos for the monastery of Lavra (1420)
[9.8] The George Gemistos dossier (1427–50)
[10.1] Act of the tribunal of the metropolitan of Serres for the monastery of Esphigmenou involving Demetrios Vryennios Laskaris (1393)
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A note on transliteration, pronunciation, and dates

Byzantine Greek is a challenge to transliterate. In the interest of standardization, I have transliterated most Greek (as well as Slavic and Turkish) technical terms and names of people and places according to the form in which they appear in the *Oxford Dictionary of Byzantium* (1991), the editors of which have adopted a system for Greek that uses a modified letter-for-letter approach (“a” for *alpha*, “b” for *beta*) but employs common English forms wherever they are well established (“Constantine” rather than “Konstantinos”). I depart from the *ODB* when I transliterate the letter *beta*. In the period this book deals with (the eleventh through the fifteenth centuries), *beta* was generally pronounced like a “v.” Thus, throughout the book, I have opted for the transliteration that better represents the sound of medieval Greek. And so, “Glavas” rather than the *ODB*’s “Glabas,” and “Vrynios” rather than “Brynnios,” and in technical terms “sevastos” rather than “sebastos.” There are a handful of exceptions, such as “Bosporos,” “Bulgaria,” “Botaneiates,” and of course “Byzantium.”

Even though Byzantine Greek sounded much like modern Greek, scholars sometimes pronounce it as if it were ancient Greek or some mixture of ancient and modern. The *ODB* system of transliteration, while it has the virtue of simplicity and is rather faithful to the spelling of Greek, is quite misleading in regard to pronunciation (for which it offers no assistance). Consequently, and with no claim to be doing justice to the complexities of the medieval Greek language, I provide a few general rules here to help the reader approximate the later Byzantine pronunciations of the strange names and terms that appear in this book.

- *o* is always long as in *low*
- *ei, i, oi, y,* and the final *e* are all pronounced as *ee* in *tree* (thus, two of the most commonly used words in this book, *pronoia* and *oiikononia*, are pronounced “PRO-nee-ah” and “ee-ko-no-MEE-ah”)
- *-es* at the end of words (Metochites, *vestiarites*) is pronounced as *eece* in *Greece*, except in plural forms (*praktores, posotetes*), where it is pronounced as *ess* in *less*
A note on transliteration, pronunciation, and dates

*au* and *eu* are respectively pronounced “af” and “ef” before a consonant and “av” and “ev” before another vowel

*ch* is pronounced as in the Scottish *loch* or German *nach*

*d* is pronounced as *th* in *then*

*g* between two vowels is pronounced as the *y* in *mayor*

*h* at the beginning of a word is silent

*rh* is pronounced as *r*

In Slavic words, *c* is pronounced “ts,” *ć* and *č* are pronounced “ch,” *dj* is pronounced as the *j* in *judge,* *j* is pronounced as the *y* in *yellow,* *ś* is pronounced “sh,” and *ż* is pronounced “zh” as in *measure* and *vision.* For the handful of Turkish words that appear in these pages, it is perhaps worth noting that *ç* is pronounced as the *j* in *judge,* *ç* is pronounced “ch,” and *ş* is pronounced “sh.”

Dates

The Byzantine year began on September 1. A few dates are cited in the form “1267/8,” which signifies the period from September 1, 1267, to August 31, 1268.
Abbreviations


List of abbreviations

Bartusis, *Late Byzantine Army*  

Bartusis, “Smallholding Soldiers”  

Byz  
*Byzantion*. Brussels, 1924–

BZ  

CFHB  
Corpus Fontium Historiae Byzantinae

Charanis, “Monastic Properties”  

Charanis, “Social Structure”  

Chilandar ed. Petit  

Chilandar ed. Živojinović  

Choniates, Bonn edn.  
Choniates, Niketas, *Nicetae Choniatae Historia*. Ed. I. Bekker. CSHB. Bonn, 1835

Choniates, ed. van Dieten  

CSHB  
Corpus Scriptorum Historiae Byzantinae, 50 vols. Bonn, 1828–97

Dionysiou  
List of abbreviations

Docheiariou


Dölger, Beiträge


Dölger, Regesten


EHB


Esphigménou


Gregoras

Nicephori Gregorae Byzantina Historia, ed. L. Schopen. 3 vols. CSHB. Bonn, 1829, 1830, 1855

Hohlweg, “Zur Frage der Pronoia”


Hvostova, Osobennosti


IRAIK

Izvestija Russkogo arheologiîskogo instituta v Konstantinopole
List of abbreviations

*Iviron*  

*JÖB*  
*Jahrbuch der Österreichischen Byzantinistik (byzantinischen Gesellschaft)*. Vienna, 1951–

*Kantakouzenos*  

*Kazhdan, Agrarnye otnošenija*  

*Kazhdan, Derevnja i gorod*  
A. P. Kazhdan, *Derevnja i gorod v Vizantii ix–x vv*. Moscow, 1960

*Kazhdan, “Formen”*  

*Kutlumus*  

*Lavra*  

*Lefort, Villages de Macédoine*  