Did you know?

Thema was an institution of the administrative organization of the Byzantine Empire. Originally, thema was a military unit. Gradually and by the 10th century., the term acquired military, administrative and geographical meaning.

which means



In which *thema* was Constantine administrator according to the lead seal's inscription? Can you locate the place on the following map?



What could be the content of the letter that the lead seal sealed?



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Learning about byzantine seals

from boullae to IPs

WORKSHEET 4





Sectoral Operational Programme
"Human Resources Development,
Education and Lifelong Learning"





Gallery 4

"From Iconoclasm to the splendor of the Macedonian and Komnenian dynasties"

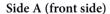
What are lead seals?

Lead seals (or lead bullae in Greek) were personal seals used for sealing documents in the Byzantine Empire. Byzantines in this way ensured a) the confidentiality and security of correspondence b) the authenticity of the signature of the sender c) a document's validity. From lead seals information regarding the owners can be obtained (e.g. name and title).

Nowadays, in which ways do we ensure the confidentiality and				
validity of documents?				
(mark all the correct answers)				
stamp	seal			
signature	digital signature			
envelope	sealing wax			

Find the lead seal of Romanos Diogenes in the museum display







Side B (back side)



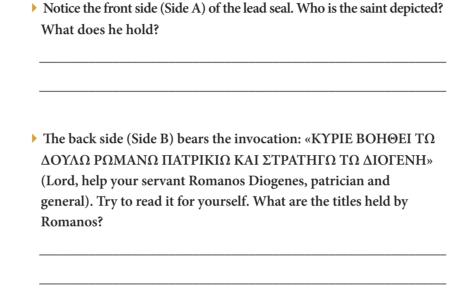
Folded document with a lead seal ensuring its authenticity. Vlatades

Monastery Collection.

Did you know?

A considerable number of seals belonging to officers involved in the public and military administration have survived.

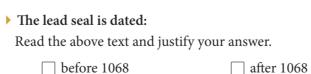
On those seals we come across ranks like "katepano", "strategos" (general), and "patrikios" (patrician). Regularly, through seals, we can trace the evolution of their owner through state administration and uncover information about the administrative organization of the Byzantine Empire.



Did you know?

Romanos Diogenes (1030-1072) belonged to the Byzantine military aristocracy of Cappadocia. Originally he was a general. He was crowned emperor in 1068 as Romanos IV Diogenes. He is renowned for his defeat at Manzikert in 1071 by Seljuk Turks.

Remember Romanos IV Diogenes when you reach the corresponding chapter of the history book.



Find the lead seal of Konstantinos vestarches in the museum display





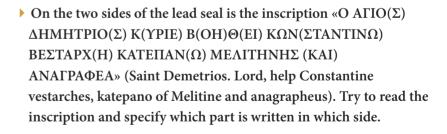


Side B (back side)

Notice the front side (side A) and try to recognize the saint depicted. What does he hold?

Did you know?

Constantine of this lead seal, who lived in 11th cent., had more than one rank. He was at the same time awarded with the rank of vestarches, a title usually attributed to high-ranking generals and with the rank of katepano, meaning the governor of a military unit. Finally, he was called anagrapheas, a fiscal officer responsible for the control of the land registry.



Side A:			
Side B:			