

► Write the three ranks that Constantine was awarded with.

1. _____

which means _____

2. _____

which means _____

3. _____

which means _____

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.

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



The Provinces (Themes) of the Byzantine Empire, 1025AD

► 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



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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)

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> stamp | <input type="checkbox"/> seal |
| <input type="checkbox"/> signature | <input type="checkbox"/> digital signature |
| <input type="checkbox"/> envelope | <input type="checkbox"/> sealing wax |

- ▶ Find the lead seal of Romanos Diogenes in the museum display



Side A (front side)



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.

- ▶ Notice the front side (Side A) of the lead seal. Who is the saint depicted? What does he hold?

- ▶ The back side (Side B) bears the invocation: «ΚΥΡΙΕ ΒΟΗΘΕΙ ΤΩ ΔΟΥΛΩ ΡΩΜΑΝΩ ΠΑΤΡΙΚΙΩ ΚΑΙ ΣΤΡΑΤΗΓΩ ΤΩ ΔΙΟΓΕΝΗ» (Lord, help your servant Romanos Diogenes, patrician and general). Try to read it for yourself. What are the titles held by Romanos?

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.

- ▶ The lead seal is dated:
Read the above text and justify your answer.

- before 1068 after 1068

- ▶ Find the lead seal of Konstantinos vestarches in the museum display



Side A (front side)



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.

- ▶ On the two sides of the lead seal is the inscription «Ο ΑΓΙΟ(Σ) ΔΗΜΗΤΡΙΟ(Σ) Κ(ΥΡΙΕ) Β(ΟΗ)Θ(ΕΙ) ΚΩΝ(ΣΤΑΝΤΙΝΩ) ΒΕΣΤΑΡΧ(Η) ΚΑΤΕΠΑΝ(Ω) ΜΕΛΙΘΝΗΣ (ΚΑΙ) ΑΝΑΓΡΑΦΕΑ» (Saint Demetrios. Lord, help Constantine vestarches, katepano of Melitine and anagrapheus). Try to read the inscription and specify which part is written in which side.

Side A:

Side B:
