

SUMMARIES OF THE SYMPOSION



ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΔΗΜΟΚΡΑΤΙΑ
ΥΠΟΥΡΓΕΙΟ ΠΑΙΔΕΙΑΣ, ΘΡΗΣΚΕΥΜΑΤΩΝ
ΚΑΙ ΑΘΛΗΤΙΣΜΟΥ
ΓΕΝΙΚΗ ΓΡΑΜΜΑΤΕΙΑ ΘΡΗΣΚΕΥΜΑΤΩΝ



ARISTOTLE
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MUSEUM
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CULTURE



SCHOOL OF HISTORY
AND ARCHAEOLOGY
ARISTOTLE UNIVERSITY OF THESSALONIKI



100
XRONIA 100 AΠΕ



Ελευθέριος Βενιζέλος
Πρόεδρος της Δημοκρατίας
1918-1924

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Έν Θεσσαλονίκη τῇ δευτέρᾳ Πόλει

**XIVth International Symposium
of Byzantine Sigillography**

6th-8th OCTOBER 2025

**Museum of Byzantine Culture,
Melina Merkouri Amphitheater**

2 Stratou Avenue, 54640 Thessaloniki, Greece

Sub auspiciis



CITY OF THESSALONIKI



ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΔΗΜΟΚΡΑΤΙΑ
ΥΠΟΥΡΓΕΙΟ ΕΣΩΤΕΡΙΚΩΝ
(ΜΑΚΕΔΟΝΙΑΣ-ΘΡΑΚΗΣ)



ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΕΠΙΤΡΟΠΗ
ΒΥΖΑΝΤΙΝΩΝ ΣΠΟΥΔΩΝ

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Keynote

WERNER SEIBT

Das Phänomen der Andrapoda-Siegel im letzten Jahrzehnt des 7. Jahrhunderts

Im letzten Jahrzehnt des 7. Jahrhunderts, besonders in den letzten Jahren der ersten Regierungsperiode Justinians II., kam es zu groß angelegten, staatlich gelenkten Sklavenmärkten auf den *apothekai* mehrerer Provinzen Kleinasiens. Von 693/694 bis 695/696 war Georgios *apo hypaton*, ein erfahrener Kommerkiarier, dafür verantwortlich, in den Jahren 695/696 und 696/697 ein *Theophanes apo eparchon*. Nur in einigen Fällen wird als ethnische Abstammung der *andrapoda* „Slawen“ angegeben; der historische Zusammenhang lässt vermuten, dass auch viele Armenier davon betroffen waren. Gelegentlich verbreitern neue Siegel den bisherigen Quellenbestand. Eine Revision des aktualisierten Standes dieser thematischen Gruppe wird präsentiert und interpretiert.

Presentations

NIKOLAY A. ALEKSEINKO

Perspectives for New Discoveries of Sigillographic Sources in Byzantine Taurica

In recent years, the number of seal finds has been increasing, and their distribution area within the Crimean Peninsula has been expanding. New discoveries include seals of Emperor Alexios I Komnenos (1081–1118) in the vicinity of Cherson, of Andronikos III Palaiologos (1328–1341) in Central Crimea near Belogorsk, a molybdoboull of Patriarch Methodios I Homologetes (843–847) at the ancient fort of Tepe-Kermen, and a seal of the skeuophylax of the Great Church, Agapetos (eleventh century), from Eski-Kermen. Other important finds are a seal of Constantine, patrikios and genikos logothetes (last quarter of the ninth century), from the waters near Cape Plaka, and a bulla of Kosmas, genikos kommerkiarios of the Pontos (800–850), from the vicinity of Koktebel' on the southern coast of Crimea. These and a number of additional seals clearly point to promising prospects for future discoveries in the fields of Byzantine sigillography and the history of relations between Byzantine Taurica, on the one hand, and the wider Greek oecumene, the central and peripheral regions of the Empire, their administrative structures, and specific representatives of imperial authority, on the other. The appearance of finds with relatively precise documentation of their provenance not only refines our understanding of the geographical reach of the Byzantine administrative apparatus but also raises questions concerning the senders and addressees of the correspondence.

GERT BOERSEMA

Sigillography and prosopography of the late antique Roman world

Our prosopographical knowledge of the Byzantine world is greatly enhanced by the publication of lead seals. These seals are very rarely older than the 6th century, even though there is a significant number of seals in existence that can be dated to the 4th and 5th centuries, some of which bear the names of their owners. By far the largest part of seals from these 'dark ages' of sigillography has not yet made its way to scholarly publications. In this contribution some general aspects of seals from the 4th and 5th centuries will be discussed, with a special focus on a group within this group: seals with named portraits, and the possibilities of these for the study of Roman and early Byzantine prosopography.

VERA BULGURLU

A Selection of Seals from the Archaeological Museum of Afyon, Turkey

A first study of the Byzantine lead seals in the Museum of Afyon Karahisar was published in SBS 8, 2003. As the seals were registered along with other finds of the day, it was a long process to sort through the pages of the imposing large black catalogues in the museum archive. Due to the construction of a new museum, it was only possible after many years to access the rest of the collection, thanks to the Director, arch.Mehmet Uyumez, to whom I express my gratitude here. 49 more seals were studied. As a number of these seals are in poor condition, a selection has been made for this presentation.

MARIA CAMPAGNOLO-POTHITOU

Οι Πενταηλόπουλοι στο φως πέντε σφραγίδων και σφραγιδίων του 11^{ου} αιώνα

Ένα άγνωστο και ανέκδοτο σφραγίδιο της συλλογής του Μουσείου Τέχνης και Ιστορίας της Γενεύης μας δίνει την ευκαιρία να συντάξουμε μία προσωπογραφική μελέτη της οικογένειας των Πενταηλοπούλων, άγνωστης από τις πηγές αλλά και από τους δημοσιευμένους έως τώρα σιγilloγραφικούς καταλόγους. Το όνομα και τα υψηλά αξιώματα των μελών της στο πρώτο μισό του 11^{ου} αιώνα παραπέμπουν, όπως συχνά αποδεικνύει η μελέτη των σφραγίδων, στην μακρόχρονη ένταξη της οικογένειας στη βυζαντινή κοινωνία.

MARIA TERESA CATALANO

Representing Imperial Authority

The Role of the Emperor's Deputy in Literary and Sigillographic Records

This paper examines the office of the imperial deputy (*ek prosopou*) through a combined analysis of sigillographic and literary sources, paying particular attention to the data that seals provide about this office. While narrative texts occasionally mention figures acting on behalf of the emperor - especially during military campaigns or times of unrest - seals can offer direct insights into the official role and titles of these representatives. Sigillographic attestations not only confirm or supplement information found in other sources, but also highlight the institutionalisation of imperial representation in Constantinople and the provinces. By foregrounding the sigillographic evidence, the paper seeks to demonstrate the important role of seals in reconstructing the mechanisms of imperial governance.

MARIA TERESA CATALANO – MARTINA FILOSA – CLAUDIA SODE

New seals of judges and other judicial officers

Seals of judges and other judicial officers have proved essentially important for the study of the social milieu of individual officials, the cumulation of titles and offices in both central and provincial administration, as well as mobility between capital and periphery or different administrative units, respectively. The expansion of knowledge, however, is only possible on the basis of broader source material. Among the approximately 1.700 seals in the Robert Feind Collection in Cologne, there are eleven specimens that can be ascribed to judges. Not all of the issuers are registered in the prosopographical works, for some of them new identifications can be proposed.

In full knowledge of the different opinions on the responsibilities of the *kensor*, the paper also aims at analyzing an anonymous metrical seal of a *kensor*, dated to the 11th century.

PANTELIS CHARALAMPAKIS – NIKOLAY DIMITROV – GEORGI SENGELEVICH –

METODI ZLATKOV – ZHENYA ZHEKOVA

Digital Sigillographic Corpus of Bulgaria: a research tool with emphasis on find-spots

Byzantine and medieval Bulgarian seals are of great importance to the study of history and archaeology alike, especially when discovered during systematic and rescue excavations, i.e. with known find-spots. Today, museums and private collections in Bulgaria keep approximately 4.500 such specimens, as well as numerous Roman/Late Roman pieces. These large numbers are, naturally, difficult to work with, especially through printed publications. Modern technologies can take this material a step forward, so that scholars within Bulgaria and abroad can take full advantage of its potential for systematic, scientific research. The Project Digital Sigillographic Corpus of Bulgaria (DigiSigiCorpBG), funded by the National Scientific Programme “Development and Promotion of Bulgarian Studies Abroad” and developed by the National Archaeological Institute with Museum at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, in partnership with museums throughout the country, has created a bilingual (English – Bulgarian), open access, electronic database, designed with the current methods applied on SigiDoc and including seals and matrices for sealing discovered in Bulgaria. The specimens are presented through high quality images and are included in an interactive georeferenced map with find-spots. During the presentation, special emphasis will be placed on the preparation of the map and its accuracy, through the examples of particular archaeological sites and seals.

JEAN-CLAUDE CHEYNET

Un Danishmendide au service de Byzance?

Une vente aux enchères récente a proposé le sceau d'un protonobélissime dont le nom du bénéficiaire n'a pas été lu complètement. La bulle peut être datée du règne d'Alexis Comnène. Le nom du sigillant est Tanousman, soit Danishmend. Des hypothèses seront testées pour expliquer comment un Danishmendide a pu recevoir une telle dignité.

NILGÜN ELAM

New Byzantine Seals with Family Names from the Turkish State Museums

Byzantine molybdeboulla are widely considered to be an invaluable type of historical evidence, as they provide accurate information on Byzantine prosopography, administration and culture. The potential of sigillography to supplement the missing administrative personnel lists of Byzantine Anatolia through the seals belonging to members of different ranks of the administrative hierarchy suffices to underline the importance of this discipline. The sigillographic material with their data enables historians to fill in the gaps left by written sources. The majority of the sigillographic material in Turkey (with the exception of the Istanbul Archaeological Museums and some of provincial museums) remains unpublished. This study focuses on the data provided by a group of unpublished seals from the Turkish state-museums that we examined within the scope of a research project (2219-International Post-Doctoral Research Fellowship Programme) supported by the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Türkiye (TUBITAK). The collections of these museums holds nine seals which belong to Romanos Diogenes vestarches and katepano (1050s-1060s), Samuel Alousianos proedros and doux [1070-1090 (1070)], Samuel Alousianos vestarches and doux (2nd half of the 11th c.), Samuel Alousianos protospatharios and doux (1060-1080), Michael Kontostephanos (midst of the 11th c.), Niketas Xylinites, proedros and logothetes of the dromos [midst of the 11th c. (1050)], Ioannes Kastamonites protoproedros and doux (late 11th c.), Leon Tzikandeles kouropalates (midst of the 12th c.) and Michael Boilas, sebastos [13th c. (1250)]. The aim of this study is to discuss the contribution of the seals to the reconstruction of the *cursus honorum* of the well-known individuals and to introduce for the first time some seals whose owners are largely untraceable in written sources.

MARTINA FILOSA

Continuity and Transformation in Byzantine Charitable Institutions:

The Case of the Diakonia τῶν Βήρου

The recent discovery of a late 11th-century lead seal mentioning a *gerokomos* τῶν Βήρου sheds new light on the long-term continuity of Byzantine charitable care. This find is particularly significant in light of earlier seals and lead tokens stemming from the *diakonia* τῶν Βήρου, dated to the 7th century, which have been linked in recent scholarship to charitable food distribution or the use of public baths (*loutra*). By examining this newly surfaced sigillographic evidence alongside earlier material, this paper explores the evolving role of this *diakonia* and investigates how both the State and the Church sustained forms of institutionalized assistance over several centuries. The analysis contributes to broader discussions on the resilience and adaptability of welfare structures in Byzantium, particularly through the lens of sigillography and material culture.

IOAKEIM FOTIOS

*Ἐκφάνσεις τῆς ἱστορικῆς πορείας τῆς βυζαντινῆς Κύπρου (6ος-12ος αἰ.):
Ἡ μαρτυρία τῶν σφραγίδων*

*Aspects of the historical course of Byzantine Cyprus (6th-12th centuries):
The testimony of seals*

Στὴν παρούσα μας εἰσήγηση ἐπιχειρεῖται μία προσέγγιση σὲ ποικίλες ἐκφάνσεις τῆς ἱστορικῆς πορείας τῆς Κύπρου κατὰ τὴ βυζαντινὴ περίοδο, μὲ βάση κατεξοχὴν τὴ μαρτυρία βυζαντινῶν μολυβδοβούλλων ποὺ ξεκίνησαν ἀπὸ τὴ νήσο ἢ καὶ βρέθηκαν σ' αὐτή, συνοδεύοντας σχετικὲς ἐπιστολές. Τὰ παρουσιαζόμενα ἐδῶ μολυβδόβουλλα μποροῦν νὰ διακριθοῦν σὲ τρεῖς γενικὲς κατηγορίες: α. Ἀνέκδοτα, δηλαδὴ ἐκδιδόμενα ἐδῶ γιὰ πρώτη φορά, χωρὶς ἄλλο γνωστὸ παράλληλο· β. ἀνέκδοτα, μὲ τὴν ἔννοια ὅτι ὑπάρχουν μὲν γνωστὰ παράλληλα, ἀλλὰ τὰ συγκεκριμένα ἐκδίδονται ἐδῶ γιὰ πρώτη φορά· γ. ἐκδεδομένα ἤδη, ἀλλὰ πλημμελῶς. Εἶναι σημαντικό νὰ τονισθεῖ ὅτι ὅλες αὐτὲς οἱ σφραγίδες ἀπόκεινται σὲ ἰδιωτικὲς κυπριακὲς συλλογές, καὶ ὅτι ἀποτελοῦν μόνο μία ἐπιλεκτικὴ διαλογὴ στὸ ὑπάρχον πλούσιο σχετικὸ σφραγιστικὸ ὑλικό. Βάσει λοιπὸν τῶν σφραγιστικῶν αὐτῶν μαρτυριῶν συμπεραίνεται ὅτι ἡ μεγαλόνησος καθόλη τὴν ὑπὸ ἐξέταση περίοδο (6ος-12ος αἰ.), ἀποτέλεσε *de facto* τμῆμα τῆς βυζαντινῆς αὐτοκρατορίας. Ἀνατρέπεται ἔτσι καὶ ἐδῶ ἄρδην ἡ θεωρία συγκεκριμένων ἀκαδημαϊκῶν —σαφῶς πολιτικῶν προϋποθέσεων—, περὶ τοῦ ὅτι ἡ περίοδος τῶν ἀραβικῶν κατὰ τῆς νήσου ἐπιδρομῶν (649-950) ὑπῆρξε περίοδος *condominium* (συγκυριαρχίας τῆς νήσου ἀπὸ Βυζαντινοὺς καὶ Ἀραβες) καὶ ὅτι ἡ νήσος ἦταν "no man's island". Στὴ νήσο λειτουργοῦσε ἡ τοπικὴ βυζαντινὴ διοίκηση, καθὼς καὶ ἡ Ὁρθόδοξη ἐκκλησιαστικὴ ἱεραρχία.

In the present paper, an approach is attempted to various aspects of the historical course of Cyprus during the Byzantine period, based primarily on the testimony of Byzantine lead seals that originated from the island or were found on it, accompanying relevant letters. The lead seals presented here can be distinguished into three general categories: a. Unpublished, that is, published here for the first time, without any other known parallel; b. unpublished, in the sense that they exist alongside known ones, but the specific ones are published here for the first time; c. already published, but incompletely. It is important to emphasize that all these seals are kept in private Cypriot collections, and that they constitute only a selective part of the existing rich relative seal material. Based on these seal testimonies, it is concluded that the island throughout the period under examination (6th-12th centuries) was *de facto* part of the Byzantine Empire. Thus, the theory of specific academic —based on clearly political assumptions— is completely overturned here, regarding the period of the Arab raids on the island (649-950) as a period of a so called "*condominium*" (co-governorship of the island by both Byzantines and Arabs) and that the island was a "no man's island". The local Byzantine administration functioned on the island, as did the Orthodox ecclesiastical hierarchy.

**A. GKOUTZIOUKOSTAS – A.-K. WASSILIOU-SEIBT – D. P. DRAKOULIS –
D. SIDIROPOULOS – K. DIADOS**

Lead Seals in Byzantine Thrace (LSByT): Goals, Findings, and Progress

The research project "Lead Seals in Byzantine Thrace: Re-examination of Data, Mapping the Distribution of Findings, and Tracing the Communication Networks (LSByT)," funded by the Hellenic Foundation for Research and Innovation (HFRI) for a duration of three and a half years, analyzed 2,909 lead seals with known findspot discovered in the territory of modern Bulgaria. These seals largely correspond to the Early Byzantine provinces of Rhodope, Thrace, Haimimontos, Moesia Secunda, and Scythia Minor (5th-7th centuries), as well as the Middle Byzantine themes of Thrace and Macedonia (8th-12th centuries). In this paper, the objectives and methodology of the project are outlined, alongside the results of the re-examination of the sigillographic material and the visualization of the distribution of seals. Additionally, certain historical conclusions are drawn, and the ongoing progress of the project is discussed.

OLGA KARAGIORGOU

Refined Prosopography: Curricula Vitae of Thematic Officials in the TAKTIKON online

The *TAKTIKON* Research Project realised at the Academy of Athens by Olga Karagiorgou (Director), Pantelis Charalampakis and Christos Malatras (Scientific collaborators), studies the prosopography and administrative structure of the Byzantine themes, based on sigillographic and non-sigillographic evidence. Next to the publication of the project's results in print, their appearance also in digital format has always been a major concern since the conception of the Project. The development of a high-standard database successfully presenting the collected data based on the interconnection of the OFFICIAL, the BOULLOTERIA that he used, and all the MOLYBDOBOULLA that he issued during his career (each one of these units strictly identified by a unique marker), presupposed a fruitful collaboration with experts in Digital Humanities and (the more demanding task of securing) funds. Thanks to the financial support that the *TAKTIKON* Research Project received from the Research Committee of the Academy of Athens in 2022 and 2024, and the expertise of the "EPAPHOS New Technologies" company (Athens), the *TAKTIKON* online database underwent a necessary technical update, and its content is being currently verified/enriched by a team of four researchers (Philippos Kollios, Paraskevi Platanou, Garyfallia Prifti, Athanasios Sotiriou). Following the first presentation of the renewed structure and the possibilities of the *TAKTIKON* online database at the 13th International Symposium of Byzantine Sigillography (Cologne, 27-29 March 2025, see <https://byzantinistik.phil-fak.uni-koeln.de/siegelsymposium/programme/karagiorgou>), this paper will present the progress that has been achieved in the incorporation of data and will specifically exemplify the digital presentation in the *TAKTIKON* online of sigillographic and non-sigillographic data pertaining specifically to (the more demanding cases of) Byzantine officials with a rich *cursus honorum*, whose command extended over more than one areas of jurisdiction.

Molybdoboulla "on the move": A proposed joint effort to systematically record their appearances

Among the 1110 molybdoboulla issued by officials active in Hellas, Opsikion, the Anatolikoi and the Kibyrraiotai included in the volume *TAKTIKON. Studies on the Prosopography and Administration of the Byzantine themata* (Athens 2021), 134 specimens (12.18%) have been presented in more than 40 auction houses. The contribution of auctioned seals is particularly significant in cases where they offer the only available evidence for Byzantine names or institutions unattested in other sources, or in cases where, due to their better state of preservation, they reveal or confirm the reading of legends on less well-preserved molybdoboulla, issued by the same or similar boulloteria. The importance of the testimony of auctioned seals is underlined by the decision of the editors of the *Studies in Byzantine Sigillography* to index these specimens in special appendices, which appeared in *SBS* 3 (1993), 6 (1999),

8 (2003), 10 (2010) and 12 (2016), amounting to a total of almost 2.000 entries. The Herculean task to compile these catalogues in print, as well as the appearance (in recent years) of seals in online auctions, explain why no further attempt was made to register auctioned seals in print. The steadily increasing number of auctioned seals in recent years, however, and the special attention required while recording them (to avoid, among others, double entries, when unsold specimens appear in more than one auctions) underline the need to systematically and carefully index this material with digital means. The research project “Byzantine IDs in the world wide web”, funded by the Research Committee of the Academy of Athens, includes the creation of a database specifically designed for the recording of auctioned seals. The first presentation of this database here aims to provoke discussion and receive the necessary feedback for the further development of this tool, which will hopefully enable sigillographers to easier locate and integrate this material in their studies.

IOANNA KOLTSIDA-MAKRI

Συλλογή Βυζαντινών μολυβδοβούλλων Ιωάννη Βάμπουλα. Μία νέα πολύτιμη ιστορική πηγή

Η ιδιωτική συλλογή του κυρίου Ι. Βάμπουλα περιλαμβάνει περισσότερα από 250 μολυβδόβουλλα, τα οποία χρονολογούνται από τον 6ο έως και τον 12ο αιώνα. Συγκροτήθηκε με διαδικτυακές αγορές του υλικού από έγκριτους οίκους δημοπρασιών του εξωτερικού στο διάστημα από το 2021 έως και σήμερα, εμπλουτίζεται δε συνεχώς με νέα αποκτήματα. Σημειώνεται ότι κατά την πορεία της σύστασής της τηρούνται όλες τις νόμιμες διαδικασίες που επιβάλλει το Υπουργείο Πολιτισμού στους κατόχους ιδιωτικών συλλογών. Το ενδιαφέρον του συλλέκτη για τις βυζαντινές σφραγίδες αλληλογραφίας εδράζεται στην αγάπη του για τη βυζαντινή ιστορία και την εκτίμησή του για το συγκεκριμένο υλικό, που αποτελεί σημαντική πηγή της. Επιπροσθέτως οι σφραγίδες συμπληρώνουν τη μεγάλη του συλλογή από βυζαντινά νομίσματα, 1.100 τον αριθμό. Από τα 242 τεμάχια που έχουν εξεταστεί μέχρι τώρα, 159 ανήκουν σε αξιωματούχους διαφόρων διοικητικών υπηρεσιών, εκ των οποίων 60 μαρτυρούν γεωγραφικούς προσδιορισμούς, 26 διακεκριμένες βυζαντινές οικογένειες της αριστοκρατίας, 2 είναι αυτοκρατορικά, 5 εκκλησιαστικά, 45 τιτλούχων χωρίς ένδειξη αξιώματος, 25 ιδιωτών με αναφορά βαπτιστικού ονόματος, 4 έμμετρα και 6 αδιάγνωστα. Αξιοσημείωτος είναι ο σημαντικός αριθμός στρατηγών των θεμάτων που ανέρχεται στους 34. Από εικονογραφική άποψη στους εμπροσθότυπους παριστάνονται μορφές της Θεοτόκου και πολλών αγίων και σε αρκετά συνονόματων των κατόχων, μεγάλος αριθμός μονογραμμάτων επικλήσεως του τύπου Θεοτόκε και Κύριε βοήθει της εικονομαχικής περιόδου, καθώς και ορθογώνια μονογράμματα, αετοί και απλές επιγραφές. Η κατάσταση διατήρησης κρίνεται από εξαιρετική, σε ορισμένα κομμάτια, έως μέτρια. Στο σύνολό τους παρουσιάζουν οξείδωση και γαιώδη απόχρωση από επικάλυψη χώματος. Σε αρκετά τεμάχια παρατηρούνται αποκρούσεις, θραύσεις, ρωγμές, εξίτηλα σημεία και γενικά απώλεια υλικού στην περιφέρεια, αλλά και στις επιφάνειες σφράγισης, ιδίως επί της αύλακος της μηρίνου. Στην ανακοίνωση αυτή επέλεξα να δώσω έμφαση στα

μολυβδόβουλλα με αναφορές γεωγραφικών περιοχών και οικογενειακών ονομάτων. Οι ειδικές αυτές μαρτυρίες αναγνωρίζονται ως ιδιαίτερα αξιόλογες στη βυζαντινή σιγίλλογραφία, επειδή συμβάλλουν σε μεγάλο βαθμό στον εμπλουτισμό τόσο της ιστορικής τοπογραφίας, όσο και της βυζαντινής προσωπογραφίας. Οι κάτοχοι αυτών των σφραγίδων είχαν σπουδαία κοινωνική συνεισφορά στη διοίκηση της αυτοκρατορίας και διαδραμάτισαν καθοριστικό ρόλο σε σημαντικά ιστορικά γεγονότα. Πρόκειται δηλαδή για μια πρωτοποριακή ιστορική πηγή, η οποία εμπλουτίζεται καθημερινά με νέες διαδικτυακές αγορές. Με μεγάλο μάλιστα ενδιαφέρον παρατηρούμε ότι τα τελευταία χρόνια η εν λόγω πηγή αξιοποιείται συστηματικά στην έρευνα από τους ιστορικούς και τους αρχαιολόγους, ιδίως όταν πρόκειται για ανασκαφικά ευρήματα, χωρίς ωστόσο να υστερεί και το κομμάτι των ιδιωτικών συλλογών.

ANDREAS KÜLZER

Das byzantinische Westanatolien im Spiegel ausgewählter Siegel

Die spätantik-frühbyzantinischen Provinzen Asia und Lydia, die im Mittelpunkt des Vortrages stehen werden, sind neben einigen anderen Provinzen im Verlauf einer in der Mitte des dritten Jahrhunderts einsetzenden und im vierten Jahrhundert abgeschlossenen Verwaltungsreform aus der im zweiten Jahrhundert v. Chr. begründeten römischen Provinz Asia hervorgegangen. Die beiden genannten Provinzen gehörten ob ihres günstigen Klimas, der zahlreichen Gewässer und Flüsse sowie der Fruchtbarkeit ihrer Böden zu den Kernräumen des byzantinischen Reiches; sie waren vergleichsweise dichtbevölkert und reich an Siedlungen. Im sechsten Jahrhundert sind mehr als vierzig größere Siedlungen, sogenannte Marktzentren, im Gebiet der Asia belegt, mit dem Hauptort Ephesos, zudem gab es immerhin mehr als zwanzig Zentralorte in Lydia, mit dem Hauptort Sardeis. Die Geschichte der beiden Provinzen ist grundsätzlich gut dokumentiert, wobei die literarischen Quellen vielfach durch archäologische oder sigillographische Befunde ergänzt werden. Dies gilt insbesondere für die Zeit vom siebten bis zum neunten Jahrhundert. Aus dieser Periode stammen die bekannten Kommerkiarier-Siegel, auf denen geographische Bezeichnungen genannt sind, vielfach Bezeichnungen von frühbyzantinischen Provinzen, die oftmals miteinander kombiniert werden. Der Vortrag intendiert die Präsentation ausgewählter Siegel samt einigen Darlegungen zu dem oft mit den Provinznamen verbundenen Terminus *apothēkē*, im Plural *apothēkai*, wörtlich wohl „Lager“ oder „Umschlagplatz“.

ERGÜN LAFLI – ALEV ÇETİNGÖZ

Byzantine lead seals from Mersin in southern Turkey

Byzantine sigillographical collections in the museums in the territories of ancient Cilicia in southern Turkey, such as Tarsus, Adana, Gaziantep and Kahramanmaraş were already published. In the Archaeological Museum of Mersin (Byzantine Zephyrium) a group of ca. 200 unpublished lead seals are curated which belongs to a period between the mid-sixth and second half of the 12th century AD. Almost all of these seals originate probably from southern part of Turkey, especially from eastern Cilicia and the city of Mopsuestia (mod. Misis in Adana). Owners of the seals were primarily ecclesiastical, juristic or military dignitaries who were possibly active in Cilicia. This article does not only give readers an argument of sigillographic results for Cilicia, but also leads to new conclusions about the less-known Byzantine history and dignitaries of Cilicia as well as rest of southern Asia Minor as well as Syria and Byzantine sigillography in general.

ERGÜN LAFLI – DOĞUKAN ÇAĞLAYAN – WERNER SEIBT

Byzantine lead seals from Izmir in western Turkey

In the Archaeological Museum of Izmir (Byzantine Smyrna) a group of 21 lead seals are curated which belongs to a period between the mid-seventh and second half of the 12th century AD. Almost all of these seals originate probably from western part of Turkey. Owners of the seals were primarily ecclesiastical, juristic or military dignitaries who were possibly active in Smyrna or Thrakesion. This article does not only give readers an argument of sigillographic results for Smyrna, but also leads to new conclusions about the less-known Byzantine history and dignitaries of Thrakesion as well as rest of western Asia Minor and Byzantine sigillography in general. In this paper four lead seals excavated in the Agora of Smyrna and published recently will also be presented.

ELENI LIANTA – ANTHOUSA PAPAGIANNAKI

Guardian, ornament, status symbol: the griffin on the Byzantine lead seals

Griffins, either on their own or engaged in combat, appear on a small number of private medieval lead seals. At first glance griffins may appear as a potentially odd choice for sealing one's personal correspondence. However, a closer look can offer an insight not only on the motives behind the choice of such an animal device, but also has the potential to reveal more information on the relationship between the decorative elements applied on the lead seals and the art of the Byzantine Empire in general. In this paper we will look into the iconographic motif of the griffin on the lead seals and, to the extent that is possible, to the individuals that employed them.

VANGELIS MALADAKIS

Συμβάτιος βασιλικὸς μανδάτωρ καὶ χαρτουλάριος Θεσσαλονίκης

Το 2016, κατά τη διάρκεια των ανασκαφικών εργασιών για την κατασκευή του σταθμού Αγία Σοφία του μητροπολιτικού σιδηροδρόμου στη Θεσσαλονίκη, εντοπίστηκε μολυβδόβουλλο με την επιγραφή: [Θεοτόκε βοήθει τῷ σῷ δούλῳ] Συμβατίῳ β(ασιλικῷ) μανδ(άτορι) (καὶ) χαρτουλ(αρίῳ) Θε[σ]σαλονίκ(ης). Με αφορμή αυτό το εύρημα, που χρονολογείται στον 9^ο αιώνα, και αξιοποιώντας αφηγηματικές πηγές, μοναστηριακά έγγραφα, τα Τακτικά, και φυσικά σιγίλλογραφικά παράλληλα, επιχειρείται επισκόπηση του αξιώματος του βασιλικού μανδάτορα, της θέσης του στη βυζαντινή υπαλληλία, της αποστολής του και της συνάφειάς του με άλλα αξιώματα.

During archaeological excavation for the construction of the Hagia Sophia station of the Metro in Thessaloniki in 2016, a lead seal was unearthed bearing the inscription: [Θεοτόκε βοήθει τῷ σῷ δούλῳ] Συμβατίῳ β(ασιλικῷ) μανδ(άτορι) (καὶ) χαρτουλ(αρίῳ) Θε[σ]σαλονίκ(ης). On the basis of this find of the 9th century, and making use of narrative sources, monastic documents, the *Taktika*, and, of course, sililographic evidence, I will attempt an overview of the office of the imperial mandator, his position in the Byzantine state, his mission, and his relationship with other offices.

CHRISTOS MALATRAS

The logothetai of the stratiotikon (7th-11th centuries)

The *logothetes tou stratiotikou* were high-ranking officials within the Byzantine administration. The office first emerged in the seventh century and is attested until the early fourteenth century, although by that time it had become largely honorary. This contribution focuses on the prosopography of the officeholders from the seventh to the eleventh century. It will attempt to establish a chronological list of these individuals, clarifying cases of homonymous figures and identifying anonymous persons or individuals mentioned in textual sources. Unpublished seals of *logothetai tou stratiotikou* will also be presented in the lecture. Ultimately once the chronological list has been established, the study will undertake an institutional analysis of the office, assessing its administrative significance over the centuries. In addition, a sociological analysis of the officeholders will be conducted, exploring their social origins and examining their power and influence within the state apparatus.

ROBERT MIHAJLOVSKI

The contribution of sigillographic data in researching of Medieval Pelagonia

This paper presents five Byzantine lead seals that were used in archaeological research study to obtain more data and information about the medieval sites in and around of modern Bitola. Among these are notable specimens, including a seal of dux of the west, Michael Saronites, a seal from the protospatharios and kourator Peter, a seal from Theodore vestarches, the imperial secretary Georgios Manganes, and a seal of the bishop Stephen of Pelagonia. They bring to the light a significant information for the Medieval period in the region, giving a bigger importance to the sigillography as a scientific discipline.

PAGONA PAPADOPOULOU

Late Byzantine gold bullae: some observations and thoughts

Unlike their lead counterparts, Byzantine gold bullae have received little attention after the seminal study by Philip Grierson, *Byzantine Lead Bullae with a Catalogue of Those at Dumbarton Oaks* (1966). This is all the more true with regard to late Byzantine gold bullae, and this despite the fact that they form the largest group of gold seals: among ca 65 surviving gold bullae, 34 belong to the Late period, i.e. 52%. To this number should also be added textual references to gold bullae, as well gold bullae that belong to the Latin successor states – as those of the Latin emperors of Constantinople. An imperial prerogative *par excellence*, gold bullae were produced by the imperial mint in Constantinople and were in close relation to coinage in terms of metal composition, weight and iconography. The dismemberment of the empire after 1204 as well as other factors, that will be discussed in the paper, probably led to a disconnection between the production of coinage and the production of gold blanks and *boulloteria* for gold seals by the mint. A new technique was introduced for the creation of gold bullae, while their iconography henceforth diverged from that of coins. The paper will discuss the available evidence on the materiality, iconography and epigraphy of Byzantine gold bullae, while offering a detailed consideration of the ideological messages conveyed by the iconography and epigraphy of gold seals, a comparison of this iconography to that of imperial images in other media, and an investigation of Byzantine gold bullae as prototypes for similar sealing practices outside the empire.

ANDREAS PÜLZ

Bleisiegel aus dem sogenannten Byzantinischen Palast von Ephesos

Im Zuge der Nachuntersuchungen am sogenannten Byzantinischen Palast in Ephesos wurde eine Reihe von byzantinischen Bleisiegeln gefunden. Die archäologisch-kontextuelle Auswertung sämtlicher Funde führte in Kombination mit bauhistorischen sowie topographisch-urbanistischen Überlegungen zu interessanten Neuerkenntnissen, die nunmehr eine Funktionszuweisung für diesen monumentalen Komplex als episkopale Residenz im direkten Umfeld der Bischofskirche der Stadt erlaubt.

ALESSIO SOPRACASA – MARTINA FILOSA – VIVIEN PRIGENT

“The “London Seals”: the collection of Byzantine seals held by the British Museum

The first nucleus of the Byzantine seals collection of the British Museum was acquired in 1864. The catalogue mentions “Leaden bullae, for the most part bearing monograms, of imperial and military officers and ecclesiastical dignitaries of Sicily and other parts of the Eastern Empire, probably about the seventh century”. Investigation in the archives of the British Library and the personal diary of the Keeper of Manuscript in charge of the purchase revealed that the 59 seals were actually sold by Antonino Salinas, who at the very same time announced the publication of a general corpus of Byzantine seals. The young Sicilian scholar and coin and seal collector benefitted from the recommendation of a network of Garibaldians headed by the Sir Anthony Panizzi, the father of the British Library. The identification of the provenance of this first nucleus of seals allows for a new analysis of this material in the context of the historical and administrative dynamics of Byzantine Sicily.

CHRISTOS STAVRAKOS

Ενδιαφέροντα κομμάτια από τη συλλογή του Κωνσταντίνου Καλαντζή (Αγρίνιο)

Important specimens from the collection Konstantinos Kalantzis (Agrinio)

Τα τελευταία χρόνια το ενδιαφέρον των Ελλήνων συλλεκτών για βυζαντινά μολυβδόβουλλα έχει αυξηθεί. Με διαφανείς διαδικασίες και κυρίως μέσα από δημοπρασίες αγοράζουν βυζαντινές σφραγίδες για τις οποίες στην πλειονότητά τους υπάρχουν και πληροφορίες για τον τόπο εύρεσής τους. Η συλλογή του Κωνσταντίνου Καλαντζή αυτή τη στιγμή αριθμεί 430 κομμάτια. Μολυβδόβουλλα από τη συλλογή αυτή έχουν παρουσιαστεί σε δύο προηγούμενες δημοσιεύσεις.

Με την ευκαιρία της διοργάνωσης του XIVth International Symposium of Byzantine Sigillography θα επιλεγθούν, θα παρουσιαστούν και θα σχολιαστούν μερικά από τα πιο ενδιαφέροντα κομμάτια της συλλογής, για να αναδειχθεί η σημασία της στο διεθνές επιστημονικό κοινό.

In recent years, there has been a growing interest among Greek collectors in Byzantine lead seals. Through transparent procedures, primarily auctions, they acquire these seals—many of which are accompanied by information about their place of discovery. One of them is the collection of Konstantinos Kalantzis which currently includes 430 pieces. Seals from this collection have already been featured in two previous publications. On the occasion of the *XIVth International Symposium of Byzantine Sigillography*, a selection of the most noteworthy pieces will be presented, commented on and discussed, with the aim of showcasing the significance of this collection to the international scientific community.

ELENA STEPANOVA

Late Roman Lead Sealings from the State Hermitage Collections

The study focuses on a group of late Roman lead sealings, intended for securing packs with goods, from the State Hermitage Museum. Most of them bear different images. The iconographic repertoire is very diverse, reflecting the realities of transitional period of the II-VI centuries. On the one hand, these are images traditional for antiquity, either of heads in profile, or of gods and goddesses, or of genre scenes; on the other hand, one can see Christian subjects, such as the Adoration of the Magi. Some sealings served as apotropaic ones and protected, for example, from the Evil Eye.

CHRISTOS TSATSOULIS

The Batatzes family according to sigillographic evidence.

A Contribution to Byzantine prosopography

Byzantine seals constitute the most important source for the prosopography of the Middle Byzantine period. The last thirty years have seen extensive research into the seals of families (e. g. Aspietai, Branades, Hexamilitai, Marchapsaboi, Melissenoi, Radenoi, Senacherim, Skleroi, Synadenoi etc.). The Batatzes family studied in the past by John S. Langdon was prominent in the administration of the Byzantine Empire in the later period and even counted an emperor (of Nicaea) among their ranks. However, our research has shown that the family and its members were active in political affairs from as early as the Middle Byzantine period. The family probably originated from

Adrianople and Didymoteichon. Several seals belonging to members of the family who held high administrative positions in the Balkan provinces of the Empire have been identified. The first literary reference to a member of the family is found in Ioannes Skylitzes, who states that at the end of the 10th century a Batatzes, a native of Adrianople *illoustrios* and *strategos*, joined the Bulgarian Tsar Samuel with his entire household. Correspondingly the most recent seal dates to the 14th century (1341) and belongs to the *protokynegos* Ioannes Batatzes. In this light, this paper constitutes a contribution to Byzantine prosopography by presenting the seals of the Batatzes family, whose members held prominent administrative positions such as *strategos*, *dux*, *katepano*, *domestikos* etc. as early as the 11th century.

ALEXANDRA-KYRIAKI WASSILIOU-SEIBT

Θεόγνωστος Μελισσηνός στρατηγός Κύπρου (πριν τα μέσα του 11ου αι.)

Theognostos Melissenos strategos of Cyprus (before the middle of the 11th C.)

Η ανασύνθεση της ιστορίας της μεσαιωνικής Κύπρου ανάγεται ως επί το πλείστον σε κατάλοιπα υλικού πολιτισμού μεταξύ των οποίων περιλαμβάνονται τα σφραγιστικά και επιγραφικά δεδομένα. Ιδιαίτερα πενιχρές είναι οι πληροφορίες που παρέχουν τα αφηγηματικά κείμενα για την Κύπρο του ενδεκάτου αιώνα, γεγονός που προσδίδει εξέχουσα βαρύτητα σε κάθε είδος άμεσης πηγής που σχετίζεται με την ιστορία της νήσου· επισημαίνουμε ότι οι γνώσεις μας για τις διοικητικές δομές και την προσωπογραφία της Βυζαντινής Κύπρου εδράζονται σχεδόν αποκλειστικά στις επιγραφές των βυζαντινών μολυβδοβούλλων, όπως προκύπτει και από τις συγκεκριμένες επιστημονικές εκδόσεις και μελέτες. Σχετικά πρόσφατα προσφέρθηκαν σε ξεχωριστές δημοπρασίες τρία αντίτυπα σφραγίδων, χωρίς προτεινόμενη ανάγνωση της επιγραφής και σχετική χρονολόγηση· τα αντίτυπα προέρχονται από την ίδια μήτρα (*βουλλωτήριον*) και τεκμαίρουν έναν επιπλέον στρατηγό Κύπρου (ανώτατο στρατιωτικό διοικητή της νήσου), ο οποίος μάλιστα ανήκει στην υψηλόβαθμη στρατιωτική αριστοκρατική οικογένεια των Μελισσηνών και φέρει το βαπτιστικό Θεόγνωστος. Ο σφραγιστικός τύπος, του οποίου ένα αντίτυπο περιήλθε στην προσωπική μου συλλογή, χρονολογείται πριν τα μέσα του ενδεκάτου αιώνα, και ειδικότερα επί της βασιλείας του Κωνσταντίνου Θ' (Μονομάχου) (1042-1055). Ο βαθμός συγγένειας του εν λόγω προσώπου με τον περίφημο και νεότερό του Νικηφόρο Μελισσηνό, τον μετέπειτα καίσαρα και κύριο της Θεσσαλονίκης (1081-1104), ο οποίος μάλιστα είχε διατελέσει σε πολύ προγενέστερη φάση *κατεπάνω Κύπρου*, δεν μπορεί να προσδιοριστεί. Στην ανακοίνωσή μας θα παρουσιάσουμε και θα εντάξουμε τον σφραγιστικό τύπο του Θεόγνωστου Μελισσηνού σε ένα συγκεκριμένο ιστορικό πλαίσιο· επιπρόσθετα θα προσπαθήσουμε να προσδιορίσουμε τον ενδεχόμενο βαθμό συγγένειας του εν λόγω αξιωματούχου με συνώνυμο πρόσωπο που μαρτυρείται επίσης αποκλειστικά σε μολυβδόβουλλα, και το οποίο ενδεχομένως ανήκε στον οικογενειακό κλάδο του Νικηφόρου Μελισσηνού.

The reconstruction of the history of medieval Cyprus is mostly based on remains of material culture, including sigillographic and epigraphic data. The information provided by narrative sources about Cyprus in the eleventh century is especially meager, which gives particular importance to any type of direct source related to the history of the island; we point out that our knowledge of the administrative structures and prosopography of Byzantine Cyprus is based almost exclusively on the inscriptions of Byzantine lead seals, as is evident from the relevant editions and studies. Relatively recently, three pieces from the same mold (*boulloterion*) were offered at separate auctions – without reading of the inscription and dating; the seal type can be dated before the middle of the eleventh century, and more specifically to the reign of Konstantinos IX (Monomachos) (1042–1055); he proved an additional *strategos* of Cyprus (supreme military commander of the island), who in fact comes from the high-ranking military aristocratic family Melissenos, and bore the first name Theognostos. A piece of this seal type came into my personal collection. The degree of kinship of the person in question with the famous Nikephoros Melissenos, the later *kaisar* and Lord of Thessaloniki (1081–1104), who at a much earlier stage of his career had served as *katepano* of Cyprus, cannot be determined. In our presentation we will analyze and place the seal type of Theognostos Melissenos in a specific historical context; in addition, we will try to determine the possible degree of kinship of this official with a synonymous who is also presumed exclusively on seals at different stages of his military career, and who possibly belonged to the family branch of Nikephoros Melissenos.

ZHENYA ZHEKOVA – TODOR TODOROV

New Finds of Byzantine Seals from Thermopolis (Aquae Calidae)

The famous Aquae Calidae mineral baths are located 15 km northwest of Burgas, Bulgaria. In the Middle Ages, they were called Therma (Thermopolis). For the first time under Emperor Justinian I a fortress wall was built to protect them from barbarian attacks. The current report includes 37 new seals, which are primarily in the chronological framework of the 11th – 12th centuries. All seals were acquired during regular archaeological excavations in the period 2018–2024. This report adds the conclusions made by Ivan Jordanov in 2015 in his study on the Byzantine seals from the complex. Based on the sigillographic material accumulated to date (already over 80 specimens), certain observations can be made regarding the purpose and functioning of this unique complex. The question that arises is to whom the correspondence sealed with them has been addressed, whether to some relatives being treated here or to a local government official.

