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| **Domestic of the Schools** |
| List of known holders[ |
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Kühn suggests that "Peter" may have been the monastic name of the aforementioned Stephen. | | Niketas Triphyllios | c. 797 – 803 | Irene of Athens | A patrikios, he supported the eunuch Aetios and later the usurpation of Nikephoros I, but died soon after, perhaps poisoned on the latter's orders, on 30 April 803. | | Stephen | c. 811 | Nikephoros I | A patrikios, he survived the disastrous Battle of Pliska and managed to enforce the succession of Nikephoros' son Staurakios. | | Anonymous | c. 813 | Michael I Rhangabe | An unnamed "grand domestic", likely a reference to a Domestic of the Schools, is mentioned by the Scriptor Incertus after the Battle of Versinikia. | | Manuel the Armenian | 829–858? | Theophilos | An experienced general, he was given the post along with the title of magistros after returning from a defection to the Arabs. He participated in several campaigns against the Arabs. Some sources claim he died in 838 following the Battle of Anzen, but other sources claim that he lived long after that and became regent for the young Michael III. | | Bardas | 858–861/2 | Michael III | Uncle of Michael III, he was appointed magistros and Domestic of the Schools after the banishment of the Empress-dowager Theodora. Promoted to kouropalatēs and eventually Caesar, as the virtual regent of the Empire he rarely exercised his military function, which he delegated to his son Antigonos and his brother Petronas. | | Antigonos | 861/2 865–866 | Michael III | Son of the Caesar Bardas, he had been conferred the Domesticate as an honorary appointment already at the age of nine or ten years. He succeeded his uncle Petronas as regular Domestic after the latter's retirement and death, but was unable to prevent the murder of his father by Basil the Macedonian and was removed from his post after that. | | Petronas | 863–865 | Michael III | Uncle of Michael III and an active general. He exercised the high command in place of his brother Bardas and was raised to the Domesticate and the rank of magistros following his victory over the Arabs at the Battle of Lalakaon. He retired to a monastery soon after. | | Marianos | c. 867 | Basil I the Macedonian | Brother of Basil I, he took part in Michael III's assassination and died soon after; his tomb at the convent of St. Euphemia and a seal of office record his post as a Domestic of the Schools. He was also logothetēs tōn agelōn and bore the rank of anthypatos patrikios. | | Christopher | 872 | Basil I the Macedonian | Son-in-law of Basil I and a magistros, little is known of him except that he led the Byzantine forces to victory over the Paulicians at the Battle of Bathys Ryax. | | Andrew the Scythian | c. 877 – 883 884 – 887/8 | Basil I the Macedonian | Of unknown (possibly Slavic/Russian) origin, he was named Domestic, patrikios and magistros following his exploits against the Arabs. Dismissed following court intrigues, he was reinstated after his successor was routed by the Arabs and retained the post into the early reign of Leo VI the Wise, probably up to his death in 887/8. | | Kesta Styppiotes | 883/4 | Basil I the Macedonian | Probably hailing from Štip, he was defeated and possibly killed near Tarsus by Yazaman al-Khadim, soon after his appointment, leading to the reinstatement of Andrew the Scythian. | | Nikephoros Phokas the Elder | 887/8 – 893/4 | Leo VI the Wise | Celebrated for his exploits in southern Italy, he was named to the Domesticate after the death of Andrew the Scythian and served, mostly in the East, probably until 893/4 (or possibly 895). | | Leo Katakalon | 893/4 – 900s | Leo VI the Wise | A commander of the palace guard and relative of Patriarch Photios. After succeeding Nikephoros Phokas, he led the Byzantine army to successful expeditions in the east, and then in the disastrous Battle of Boulgarophygon in 896, but survived and continued in office until the early 900s (decade). | | Andronikos Doukas | c. 904–906 | Leo VI the Wise | He was appointed to the Domesticate before or after scoring a victory over the Arabs at Germanikeia in 904, and was dismissed following the court intrigues of Samonas the eunuch. He fled to the Arabs, where he died in captivity c. 910. | | Gregoras Iberitzes | c. 907/8 | Leo VI the Wise | Iberitzes appears in 906, when he was sent against the fortress held by Andronikos Doukas and his family; a relative of the Doukai, he took part in the attempted usurpation of Constantine Doukas in 913 and was tonsured and exiled. | | [Constantine Doukas](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constantine_Doukas_(usurper)) | c. 913 | [Leo VI the Wise](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leo_VI_the_Wise) | The son of Andronikos Doukas, he escaped from Arab captivity and was restored to high military office by Leo. In 913, as Domestic of the Schools, he attempted to usurp the throne from Leo's infant son [Constantine VII](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constantine_VII), but failed and was killed. | | Leo Phokas | unknown first tenure, c. 916 – 919 | Leo VI the Wise, Constantine VII | Leo served as Domestic for the first time sometime under Leo VI, and again, with the rank of magistros, during much of the regency of Empress Zoe. He led the Byzantine forces in the disastrous Battle of Acheloos in 917, but survived. He was dismissed from the Domesticate by Constantine VII at the urging of Patriarch Nicholas Mystikos and then outmanoeuvred in the struggle for control of the throne by Romanos Lekapenos. After launching an unsuccessful revolt, he was captured and blinded. | | John Garidas | 919 | Constantine VII | An old officer in the Hetaireia, he replaced Leo Phokas in 919. | | Adralestos | c. 920/1 | Romanos I Lekapenos | Adralestos was Domestic in the early years of Romanos I's reign, but died shortly after his appointment. | | Pothos Argyros | 920/1–922 | Romanos I Lekapenos | Pothos Argyros replaced Adralestos after the latter's death. He participated in the Battle of Pegae (922) but escaped. He was possibly dismissed as responsible the defeat. | | Leo Argyros | unknown, possibly 922 | Romanos I Lekapenos (?) | Younger brother of Pothos Argyros, he served as military commander already under Leo VI. It is known that he was magistros and held the post of Domestic, but not when. R. Guilland speculates that this was either in the early years of Romanos I's reign or after the latter's fall. Hans-Joachim Kühn considers that he followed his brother for a short period. | | John Kourkouas | 922–944 | Romanos I Lekapenos | One of the closest associates of Romanos I, Kourkouas held the Domesticate for 22 years and seven months. He led numerous campaigns against the Arabs which resulted in the conquest of Melitene and the recovery of the Mandylion from Edessa. He was dismissed after the sons of Romanos I toppled their father from power in December 944. | | Pantherios | 944 | Stephen Lekapenos, Constantine Lekapenos | Appointed in place of John Kourkouas by Romanos I's sons, his tenure was short-lived as Constantine VII overthrew them and assumed sole power. | | Bardas Phokas | 945–954 | Constantine VII | A distinguished general and brother of Leo Phokas, he was sidelined under Romanos I. He supported Constantine VII's coup against the Lekapenoi and was named magistros and Domestic in return. His military record was poor however, suffering several defeats at the hands of Sayf al-Dawla, and he was replaced by his son Nikephoros in 954. When Nikephoros came to the throne he made his father Caesar. | | Nikephoros Phokas | 954–963 | Constantine VII | He succeeded his father in the Domesticate, and scored several successes against the Arabs: the sack of Adata in 957, the reconquest of Crete in 960–961 and victories against the Hamdanids in 962–963. In 963, following the death of Romanos II, he rose to the throne. He was murdered in 969 by John Tzimiskes. | | [Leo Phokas](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leo_Phokas_the_Younger) | 959–963 | [Romanos II](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Romanos_II) | Younger brother of Nikephoros II, he occupied senior military posts under Constantine VII, while Romanos II named him as the first Domestic of the West. In 960–961 he replaced his brother in the East during the Cretan campaign, and defeated [Sayf al-Dawla](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sayf_al-Dawla). When Nikephoros came to the throne he made him kouropalatēs a head minister. Following the murder of Nikephoros, he conspired repeatedly against Tzimiskes and was blinded and exiled. | | John Tzimiskes | 963 – ? | Nikephoros II Phokas | Nephew and close aide to Nikephoros Phokas, he was promoted to Domestic of the East on the latter's accession, but was later dismissed. He murdered Nikephoros II in December 969 and reigned as emperor until his death in 976. | | Romanos Kourkouas | 963 – ? | Nikephoros II Phokas | Son of John Kourkouas and related to Nikephoros Phokas, he was possibly promoted to Domestic of the West on the latter's accession. | | Melias | c. 972–973 | John I Tzimiskes | A relative of the celebrated early 10th-century stratēgos of the same name, he held the post of Domestic of the East. He led a campaign into Upper Mesopotamia in 972–973 and was captured during a siege of Amid. | | Bardas Phokas | 978–987 | Basil II | The heir to the Phokas clan's imperial aspirations, he rebelled against Tzimiskes but was defeated by Bardas Skleros and imprisoned. He was released and given the Domesticate of the East in 978 to confront the rebellion of Skleros against Basil II. He defeated Skleros, but in 987 he rebelled against Basil himself, only to die in the middle of a battle against the emperor at Abydos in April 989. | | Stephen "Kontostephanos" | c. 986 | Basil II | Domestic of the West during the campaign against Bulgaria, and in part responsible for the heavy defeat in the Battle of the Gates of Trajan | | [Nikephoros Ouranos](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nikephoros_Ouranos) | 996–999 | [Basil II](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Basil_II) | A confidante of Basil II and capable general, he was appointed "master of all the West" to confront the depredations of Tsar Samuel of Bulgaria, whom he decisively defeated at the Battle of Spercheios in 997. In 999 he was sent east as doux of Antioch, where he strengthened the Syrian frontier and scored successes against the Fatimids. | | Nicholas | 1025–1028, 1042–1044(?) | Constantine VIII Zoe | One of the eunuch favourites of Constantine VIII, he was named proedros, parakoimōmenos and Domestic of the Schools, although legally barred from the latter office. Dismissed by Romanos III, he was recalled to imperial favour and the Domesticate of the East by Zoe in 1042. In this capacity he led the defence against the Rus' raid of 1043 and campaigned without success in Armenia, whereupon he was relieved of his military command. | | Symeon | 1030 – ? | Romanos III Argyros | One of the eunuch favourites of Constantine VIII, he was named proedros and Drungary of the Watch by the emperor. He played a major role in the rise of Romanos III to the throne through his marriage to Zoe, and received the Domesticate of the East in 1030. | | Constantine | 1037–1041 1041–1042 | Michael IV Michael V | A eunuch brother of Michael IV, he was named doux of Antioch c. 1034/35 and was raised to Domestic of the East in 1037. His leadership was not very successful, and in 1040 a failed conspiracy was directed against him. After the death of Michael, Constantine was recalled and exiled by Empress Zoe. He was restored by his nephew Michael V and promoted to nōbelissimos, but was blinded and exiled again when the latter was deposed. | | Constantine Kabasilas | 1042 – ? | Zoe | One of the leaders of the revolt against Michael V, he was named "doux of the West" by Zoe. | | Constantine Arianites | c. 1048 – 1050 | Constantine IX | A distinguished general, he is recorded as holding the post of "master [of the troops] of the West" in the campaigns against the Pechenegs. He was killed before Adrianople in 1050. | | Theodore | 1054–1057 | Theodora | A eunuch and confidante of the empress, he was raised to the Domesticate of the East and the rank of proedros and sent east to fight the Turks. He marched against the rebellion of Isaac Komnenos and was defeated at the Battle of Petroe. | | John Komnenos | 1057 – ? | Isaac I Komnenos | Younger brother of Isaac I, he was raised to kouropalatēs and "Grand Domestic" by his brother. The usage of "Grand Domestic" is probably an anachronistic usage by later sources, and his real title was probably Domestic of Schools of the West. | | Philaretos Brachamios | c. 1068 – c. 1071 1078 – ? | Romanos IV Diogenes Nikephoros III Botaneiates | An Armenian nobleman, he was raised to Domestic of the East by Romanos IV, probably dismissed by Michael VII and reinstated by Nikephoros III. | | Andronikos Doukas | c. 1072 | Michael VII Doukas | Eldest son of the Caesar John Doukas, prōtoproedros and prōtovestiarios, he was appointed Domestic of the East to confront the deposed emperor Romanos IV. | | Isaac Komnenos | c. 1073 | Michael VII Doukas | Son of the kouropalatēs John Komnenos (brother of Isaac I), he was named Domestic and sent against the Turks, but was defeated and captured. | | Alexios Komnenos | 1078–1081 | Nikephoros III Botaneiates | Nephew of Isaac I, he was appointed to the Domesticate of the West to combat the revolts of Nikephoros Bryennios and Nikephoros Basilakes. In 1081, he deposed Nikephoros III and became emperor, ruling until his death in 1118. | | Gregory Pakourianos | 1081–1086 | Alexios I Komnenos | Was named "Grand Domestic of the West" after Alexios Komnenos ascended the throne, and was killed in battle in 1086. R. Guilland qualifies him as the "first person to be officially named "Grand Domestic"." | | Adrianos Komnenos | 1086 – after 1095 | Alexios I Komnenos | A younger brother of Alexios I, he succeeded Pakourianos as "Grand Domestic of the West" in 1086. | | Alexios Gidos | c. 1185 c. 1194 | Andronikos I Komnenos Isaac II Angelos | Known to have been "Grand Domestic of the East" in 1185, and Domestic of the West in 1194, when he led the Byzantine army in the disastrous Battle of Arcadiopolis. | | Basil Vatatzes | after 1185–1194 | Isaac II Angelos | Married to a niece of Isaac II, as Domestic of the East and doux of the Thracesians he suppressed the revolt of Theodore Mankaphas in 1189. By 1193 he was Domestic of the West at Adrianople. He was killed in the Battle of Arcadiopolis in 1194. | | Tzamplakon | unknown | John III Vatatzes | Father of Alexios Tzamplakon and first notable member of his family, he is known to have held the title during the reign of John III (1222–1254). | | Theodotos Kalothetos | c. 1254/1258 | John III Vatatzes or Theodore II Laskaris | He is known to have held the title from a letter addressed to him by Theodore II Laskaris (ruled 1254–1258). In 1259, he was governor of the Thracesian Theme. | | Ferran d'Aunés | c. 1304 | Andronikos II Palaiologos | A Catalan mercenary, he was raised to the dignity of "Domestic of the Schools" and entered the Byzantine nobility, marrying into the Raoul family | | Manuel Doukas Laskaris | c. 1320 | Andronikos II Palaiologos | He is the last known holder of the title, mentioned in 1320 as "Domestic of the Schools of the West" and governor of Thessalonica | |



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