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| **Droungarios of the Fleet** |
| https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/f/f0/Romanus_I_with_Christopher%2C_solidus.jpg/250px-Romanus_I_with_Christopher%2C_solidus.jpg |
| Gold *solidus* of Romanos I Lekapenos, who used his position as *droungarios* of the Fleet to become Emperor |
| Lead seal with cross surrounded by legend on the obverse and a simple legend in the reverse |
| Seal of Niketas, *magistros*, *droungarios tou basilikou ploïmou* and *katepanō tōn ploïmōn* (late 9th/early 10th century) |
| https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/1/19/Romans_%28Niketas_Oryphas%29_punish_Cretan_Saracens.jpg/250px-Romans_%28Niketas_Oryphas%29_punish_Cretan_Saracens.jpg |
| The *droungarios* of the Fleet Niketas Ooryphas punishes the Cretan Saracens, as depicted in the *Madrid Skylitzes*. |
| **List of known holders** |
| *Note: Uncertain entries are marked in italics.* |
| |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | **Name** | **Tenure** | **Appointed by** | **Notes** | | *Krateros* | c. 820s | Michael II the Amorian | Titled *exarchōn tou stolou* ("leader of the fleet") by Zonaras, perhaps the first holder of the post. | | John | c. 859/67 | Michael III | Addressee of a letter by Patriarch Photios; otherwise unknown. | | Niketas Ooryphas | c. 860–873 or 879 (?) | Michael III Basil I the Macedonian | A very successful commander, he spearheaded Basil I's naval offensive, relieving the Arab siege of Ragusa, attacking the Emirate of Bari, and scoring two major victories over the Cretan Saracens at Kardia and the Gulf of Corinth. | | Elias | c. 862/67 – c. 869 | Basil I the Macedonian | A *prōtospatharios*, he was charged by Basil with bringing the deposed [Patriarch of Constantinople](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Patriarch_of_Constantinople) Ignatios to the capital in 867. Addressee of three letters by Patriarch Photios between c. 862 and 869. | | Adrianos | c. 877/78 | Basil I the Macedonian | Former deputy of Ooryphas, he was sent by Basil I to assist Syracuse in Sicily during its final siege by the Aghlabids, but was delayed by contrary winds and failed to reach the city. | | Nasar | c. 879/80 | Basil I the Macedonian | Inflicted two heavy defeats on the Aghlabids of Ifriqiya at Cephalonia and in southern Italy. | | Eustathios [Argyros] | c. 894–904 | Leo VI the Wise | Participated in the Byzantine–Bulgarian war of 894–896, and was dismissed after failing to prevent the fall of Taormina in Sicily to the Aghlabids in 902. Restored to his post, he was again dismissed in 904 for failing to confront the Saracens under Leo of Tripoli. His possible identity with the contemporary general Eustathios Argyros is a matter of dispute. | | Himerios | 904–912 | Leo VI the Wise | Appointed to replace Eustathios, he failed to prevent the sack of Thessalonica, but scored a few successes against the Arabs. Dismissed after leading a failed expedition against Crete, and suffering a heavy defeat at the hands of Leo of Tripoli at Chios in 912. | | Romanos Lekapenos | c. 917–919 | Zoe Karbonopsina | A career naval officer of lowly origin, he rose to senior commands, becoming eventually *droungarios* of the Fleet under the regime of Empress-regent Zoe Karbonopsina. Used his position to outmanoeuvre her and the general Leo Phokas the Elder, and assume the guardianship of Zoe's son Constantine VII, to whom he married his daughter. Became senior emperor in 920, and ruled until deposed by his own sons in 944. | | John Rhadenos | c. 921/22 | Romanos I Lekapenos | Scored a decisive victory over Leo of Tripoli off Lemnos, in which Leo was killed. | | Alexios Mosele | c. 922 | Romanos I Lekapenos | Killed at the Battle of Pegae against the Bulgarians in 922 | | Lips | either c. 908/17 or c. 922/44 (?) | either Leo VI the Wise or Romanos I Lekapenos | The *Patria of Constantinople* record a *patrikios* and *droungarios* of the Fleet, who during the joint reign of Romanos Lekapenos and Constantine VII established a monastery and a guest house in Constantinople. He is usually identified with Constantine Lips, who founded the Lips Monastery in c. 908, but this identification is uncertain; Constantine Lips was active under Leo VI and killed at the Battle of Acheloos in 917. | | Constantine Gongyles | c. 944/45–949 | Constantine VII | Eunuch active in the court since the regency of Zoe, he was appointed to the post immediately after Constantine VII became sole emperor, and led the failed expedition to recover Crete in 949. | | Constantine | unknown | Romanos I Lekapenos | A *prōtospatharios* and *manglabitēs*, he was sent to a diplomatic mission to Caucasian Iberia c. 923; in the sources he is also recorded by his (evidently later) titles of *patrikios* and *droungarios* of the Fleet, hence identified by some either with Constantine Lips or with Constantine Gongyles, but both are problematic. | | Joseph Bringas | 950s | Constantine VII | Eunuch holding senior offices in the court since Romanos I's reign, Constantine VII appointed him *droungarios* of the Fleet as well; under Romanos II rose to *paradynasteuōn* and chief minister of the empire. | | Niketas Abalantes | c. 964 | Nikephoros II Phokas | Leader of the great expedition to recover Sicily, after initial success the Byzantine fleet was decisively defeated by the Fatimids at the Battle of the Straits. Niketas was taken captive to Ifriqiya, where he remained until ransomed in 967. | | Leo Lekapenos | c. 971–976 | John I Tzimiskes | Relative and close collaborator of the powerful *parakoimōmenos* Basil Lekapenos, he was appointed to the post as part of Tzimiskes's purge of Nikephoros Phokas' followers. He organized the dispatch of the fleet in the 971 expedition against the Rus', but himself remained in Constantinople, where he suppressed an abortive coup by Leo Phokas the Younger. He remained in the post until promoted (either already by Tzimiskes or by Basil II) to *prōtovestiarios*. | | *Bardas Parsakoutenos* | c. 977/78 | Basil II | Leo the Deacon reports that he defeated a rebel fleet off Abydos during the first rebellion of Bardas Skleros. His title is unclear, but it is generally assumed that he commanded the Imperial Fleet. | | *Theodore Karantenos* | c. 977/78 | Basil II | Termed *nauarchos* by John Skylitzes, defeated a rebel fleet under Michael Kourtikios off Phocaea during the first rebellion of Bardas Skleros. It is unclear whether he commanded the Imperial Fleet or a thematic squadron. | | Kyriakos | c. 989 | Basil II | Mentioned only as defending Abydos against the rebel Bardas Phokas the Younger in spring 989. | | Stephen | c. 1038–1040 | Michael IV the Paphlagonian | Brother-in-law of the emperor and *patrikios*, he was largely responsible for the failure of the attempt to recover Sicily through his dispute with George Maniakes. He is not explicitly called *droungarios*, however, but rather "master of the fleet" (*[kat]archōn tou stolou*). | | Nikephoros Komnenos | c. 1081 | Alexios I Komnenos | Younger brother of Alexios I, made *sebastos* and *megas droungarios tou stolou* after the latter's accession. This was an honorific appointment rather than an active office, and Nikephoros does not appear to have exercised any command. | | Eustathios Kymineianos | c. 1101 | Alexios I Komnenos | Confidante and one of the chief aides of Alexios, he held various fleet commands after 1087. He probably became *megas droungarios* in c. 1101/02, when he was sent to seize and refortify Korykos. In 1107 he governed Constantinople in Alexios' absence on campaign. | | Constantine Dalassenos | c. 1090 | Alexios I Komnenos | Qualified as *thalassokrator* ("master of the sea") by Anna Komnene, he was likely a *megas droungarios*. He commanded the Byzantine fleet against the Turkish emir Tzachas. | | *Demetrios Branas* | c. 1141 | Manuel I Komnenos | Admiral (*nauarchos*) during the campaign against Mesud I, Sultan of Rum. | | *Constantine Komnenos* | c. 1143–1147 | Manuel I Komnenos | Attendant of Church councils in 1143 and 1147, qualified simply as *sebastos* and *megas droungarios*, possibly *megas droungarios tēs viglas* rather than of the Fleet. | | *Nikephoros Dasiotes* | c. 1147 | Manuel I Komnenos | Admiral (*nauarchos*) of the fleet that conveyed Conrad III to Palestine. | | *Maios* | c. 1151 | Manuel I Komnenos | Admiral (*nauarchos*) who signed the peace treaty with the Kingdom of Sicily | | *John Makrembolites* | c. 1140s/50s | Manuel I Komnenos | Makrembolites is known as a courtier of Manuel. A seal calling him *megas droungarios* survives, but it most likely refers to the post of *megas droungarios tēs viglas* rather than of the Fleet. | | Gabalas | c. 1241–1266/67 | John III Vatatzes | The *pansebastos* and *megas droungarios tou stolou* Gabalas is attested in an act of the Nicaean emperor John Vatatzes. He was the father-in-law of a Michael Komnenos Branas. It is possible that it refers to either Leo Gabalas or his brother John Gabalas, the autonomous rulers of Rhodes. | | Stephen Mouzalon | until 1303 | Andronikos II Palaiologos | Sent to mediate in a quarrel between the Genoese and the Catalan Company, he was killed in the clash. | | John Doukas Mouzalon | early 14th century | Andronikos II Palaiologos | Recipient of a number of poems composed for him by Manuel Philes. | | John Philanthropenos | c. 1324 | Andronikos II Palaiologos | *Oikeios* of the Emperor, attested in the post in an act of July 1324. | | George Isaris | c. 1344 | possibly John V Palaiologos | *Megas droungarios tou stolou* in 1344, he joined John Kantakouzenos in the next year. Advanced to *megas primikērios* before his death c. 1373/74. | | *Loukas Notaras* | c. 1441 | Manuel II Palaiologos | Captained the ship that brought Constantine Palaiologos to Lesbos; called *droungarios*, he may have been *megas droungarios tou stolou*. He later became *megas doux* and was one of the chief ministers of the Empire up to the Fall of Constantinople. |   A number of holders are known only by their surviving seals of office, and can only approximately be dated: |
| |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | **Name** | **Period** | **Notes** | | Euphemianos | c. 750/c. 850 | Known from a series of 14 seals that detail his career, from *spatharios* and *droungarios* of the Aegean Sea, to *prōtospatharios* and *droungarios tou ploïmou*, and eventually *patrikios* and *stratēgos* of Hellas. | | John | late 8th/early 9th century | Known from a single seal that names him as *spatharios* and *droungarios tou ploïmou*. | | Basil | second half of 9th century | Known from a single seal naming him as *patrikios*, imperial *prōtospatharios* and *droungarios tou ploïmou*. | | Barsakios | late 9th century | Evidently Armenian in origin, known from a single seal naming him as *anthypatos*, *patrikios*, imperial *prōtospatharios* and *droungarios tou ploïmou*. | | Niketas | 10th century | Known only through his seal naming him as a *magistros*, *droungarios tou ploïmou* and *katepanō tōn ploïmōn*. Placed by Werner Seibt in the first third of the 10th century. | | Hilarion | 10th century | Known from a single seal naming him as imperial *prōtospatharios*, *droungarios tou ploïmou*, *primikērios* and *epi tou Chrysotriklinou*. | | [Theodoros] Rhadinos | first half of 11th century | Known from a single seal naming him as *anthypatos* and *patrikios*, imperial *prōtospatharios*, and *droungarios tou ploïmou*. His first name is tentative. | | Andronikos | first half of 11th century | Known only through two seals naming him as a *patrikios*, *droungarios tou ploïmou* and *pinkernēs*. | | Constantine | 11th century | Known only through a single seal naming him as a *vestarchēs* and *droungarios tōn ploïmōn*. | | Solomon | 11th century | Known only through a single seal naming him as a *droungarios tōn ploïmōn*. | |



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| **Compiler FLN** |