|  |
| --- |
| **Protostrator** |
| **List of known holders** |
| *Note: the list does not include holders known only through their seals but otherwise unidentified.* |
| |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | Name | Tenure | Appointed by | Notes | | Rouphos | c. 712 | Philippikos Bardanes | Recorded as "prōtostratōr of the Opsikion" by Theophanes the Confessor, he led his troops to depose and blind Philippikos Bardanes, raising Anastasios II on the throne. | | Constantine | c. 766 |  | Son of the Armenian patrikios Bardanes, recorded as "spatharios and imperial prōtostratōr" by Theophanes the Confessor and as one of the conspirators executed for plotting against Emperor Constantine V on 25 August 766. | | Bardanes Tourkos | before 803 | unknown | Attested as stratēgos of the Anatolic Theme and prōtostratōr in the Acts of Saints David, Symeon and George. He led an unsuccessful rebellion against Emperor Nikephoros I in 803, and was killed soon after. | | Leo the Armenian | c. 803 | Bardanes Tourkos | The future emperor Leo V the Armenian (r. 813–820) served as prōtostratōr to the general Bardanes Tourkos until the latter's failed revolt. | | Manuel the Armenian | c. 811–813 | Michael I Rhangabe | Appointed by Michael I as imperial *prōtostratōr*, he later advanced to *stratēgos* of the Armeniac Theme and eventually Domestic of the Schools under emperor Theophilos. | | Michael the Amorian | c. 811–813 | Leo the Armenian | During Michael I's rule, Leo the Armenian appointed his old comrade-in-arms Michael the Amorian as his own *prōtostratōr*. When Leo became emperor in 813, Michael advanced further in rank and became emperor himself when his supporters murdered Leo in 820. | | Anonymous | c. 858 | Michael III | Unnamed *basilikos prōtostratōr*, at the instigation of the Empress-dowager Theodora, who had been deposed and confined to a convent, he plotted the assassination of the regent Bardas. Discovered, he and his co-conspirators were executed in the Hippodrome of Constantinople. He was succeeded by Basil the Macedonian. | | Basil the Macedonian | c. 850s | Theophilitzes, Michael III | The peasant-born future emperor Basil I (r. 867–886) became *prōtostratōr* first of a wealthy magnate, Theophilitzes, before entering imperial service as a *stratōr*. Winning the favour of Emperor Michael III, he quickly became *prōtostratōr* after his predecessor was executed for participating in a conspiracy, and then progressively advanced to higher and higher office, being eventually named co-emperor in 866, and assassinating Michael in 867, becoming sole emperor and founding the Macedonian dynasty. | | Eustathios Argyros | c. 866 | Bardas | An Eustathios Argyros was *prōtostratōr* and supporter of the *Caesar* Bardas at the time of the latter's assassination in 866. He is likely identical with the later general of the same name, who had a distinguished career under Leo VI the Wise in the early 10th century. | | Nikephoros Phokas the Elder | c. 870s/880s | Basil I the Macedonian | Taken into the emperor's retinue as a youngster, he was soon raised to *prōtostratōr*. Became a successful general, his career culminating as Domestic of the Schools in the 890s. Effective founder of the Phokas family. | | Baïanos | c. 880 | Leo Apostyppes | *Prōtostratōr* of Apostyppes, after his master's disgrace, he revealed his crimes in a letter to Emperor Basil I, but was murdered by Apostyppes' sons in retaliation. | | Leo Sarakenopoulos | c. 980 | Basil II | A general active on the Danube frontier after 971, whose career is mostly known through his seals. In the latest, he held the posts of *patrikios*, Count of the Stable and *prōtostratōr*. | | Romanos Skleros | c. 1042–54 | Constantine IX Monomachos | A distinguished general and brother of the emperor's powerful mistress, he was named *magistros* and *prōtostratōr* c. 1042, as well as governor (*doux*) of Antioch. He remained *prōtostratōr* until 1054, when he was promoted to *proedros*. | | Constantine Doukas | c. 1071 | Michael VII Doukas | A son of the influential *Caesar* John Doukas and cousin of Emperor Michael VII. | | Michael Doukas | 1081 – unknown | Alexios I Komnenos | Grandson of the *Caesar* John Doukas, brother of Alexios' wife, Empress Irene Doukaina. He distinguished himself as a commander, often accompanying the emperor on campaign. | | Alexios Axouch | before 1157 – c. 1170 | Manuel I Komnenos | A son of the [Grand Domestic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grand_Domestic) John Axouch, he married Maria Komnene, daughter of Manuel I's deceased elder brother Alexios. A capable general, he fought in Manuel's wars in [southern Italy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Southern_Italy), Cilicia and Hungary before falling foul of the emperor and being confined to a monastery c. 1170. | | Alexios Komnenos | c. 1170 | Manuel I Komnenos | Attested as *prōtostratōr* in a synod in 1170, he later became *prōtovestiarios*, and was the lover and *de facto* co-regent of Empress-dowager Maria of Antioch in 1180–82. | | Manuel Kamytzes | c. 1185 – 1199 | Isaac II Angelos, Alexios III Angelos | First cousin of Isaac II and Alexios III, he served as commander against the rebel general Alexios Branas, during the passage of Frederick Barbarossa's army for the Third Crusade, and against the Vlach–Bulgarian rebellion. Captured in 1199 by the rebel Ivanko, he rebelled against Alexios III when the latter refused to ransom him and imprisoned his family. He was eventually defeated when his son-in-law, Dobromir Chrysos, defected to the emperor. | | Theodore Doukas | c. 1180s/1200s | Isaac II Angelos or Alexios III Angelos | *Prōtostratōr* and *sebastos*, known only through his seal. Guilland places him tentatively during the Angelos dynasty. | | John Ises | c. 1221–1236 | Theodore I Laskaris, John III Doukas Vatatzes | Attested as *prōtostratōr* in documents from 1221 and as late as 1236, he briefly occupied Adrianople in 1224, taking it from the [Latin Empire](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Latin_Empire), but was forced to abandon the city to Theodore Komnenos Doukas soon after. | | John Angelos | 1255–1258 | Theodore II Laskaris | One of the favourites of Theodore II, he was promoted to *prōtostratōr* in 1255, from the rank of *megas primikērios*. He died soon after the emperor's death, possibly committing suicide when the nobles under Michael Palaiologos took power. | | Alexios Doukas Philanthropenos | 1259–1273/74 | Michael VIII Palaiologos | Raised to *prōtostratōr* shortly after Michael VIII's coronation as emperor, he led the Byzantine navy on campaign in the 1260s and the 1270s in the place of the elderly [*megas doux*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Megas_doux) Michael Laskaris. He succeeded the latter after his death and the Byzantine victory at the Battle of Demetrias, but died soon after. | | Andronikos Doukas Aprenos | c. 1266 | Michael VIII Palaiologos | Known only as the father-in-law of the Grand Domestic Nikephoros Tarchaneiotes. | | Theodore Tzimiskes | c. 1268/1290 | Nikephoros I Komnenos Doukas | *Prōtostratōr* of the Despotate of Epirus, *ktetor* of the Church of Panagia Bellas, where he is depicted with his wife, and his brother John and his wife. | | Andronikos Palaiologos | by 1277–1279/80 | Michael VIII Palaiologos | A cousin or nephew and ally of Michael VIII during his ascent to the throne, he was raised to *prōtostratōr*, possibly as successor of Alexios Philanthropenos. He refused to recognize the Union of the Orthodox Church with the Papacy promoted by Michael, however, and was imprisoned, dying in prison c. 1279/80. | | Tzasimpaxis | c. 1279/80 | Michael VIII Palaiologos | His name derives from the Turkish title *chavush-bashi*. He originally fought for the Byzantine candidate for the Bulgarian throne, Ivan Asen III, and was named *prōtostratōr* by Michael VIII. Later joined Ivaylo. | | Michael Strategopoulos | c. 1280, 1283–93 | Michael VIII Palaiologos, Andronikos II Palaiologos | Deposed for the first time in 1280 for consulting prophetic books on Michael VIII's fate, re-instated by Andronikos II and deposed again and imprisoned in 1293 for accusations of conspiracy. | | Michael Doukas Glabas Tarchaneiotes | between 1297 and 1302/03 – after 1304 | Andronikos II Palaiologos | A distinguished general, he fought with success against the Serbs, Bulgarians and Angevins. Appointed *prōtostratōr* sometime between 1297 and 1304 (likely by 1302/03), he retired from service to a monastery and died soon after (between 1305 and 1308). | | Michael Zorianos | c. 1300 | Thomas I Komnenos Doukas | *Prōtostratōr* and *epi tēs trapezēs* of the Despotate of Epirus. | | John Philes | c. 1315 | Andronikos II Palaiologos | Nephew and friend of Andronikos II, despite having no military experience he destroyed a Turkish raid in Thrace, and was named *prōtostratōr* as a reward. | | Theodore Synadenos | 1321/29–1343 | Andronikos III Palaiologos | Friend and staunch supporter of Andronikos III in the struggle against Andronikos II, he was promoted *prōtostratōr* by 1329, perhaps as early as 1321. Held a succession of governorships under Andronikos III, and initially supported John VI Kantakouzenos in the civil war of 1341–47, before being forced to submit to the regency. Named *prōtovestiarios*, he was imprisoned shortly after, he died in 1345/46. | | Andronikos Palaiologos | 1342–1344 | John VI Kantakouzenos | Named *prōtostratōr* and governor of the Rhodope by John VI, but immediately defected to the regency. He drowned in July 1344 in the Hebros river. | | Andrew Phakiolatos | 1347–1354 | John VI Kantakouzenos | Of Genoese origin, he fought on behalf of the regency during the civil war, but in February 1347 allowed the entrance of Kantakouzenos into Constantinople. Named *prōtostratōr* by Kantakouzenos, he led the effort to rebuild the Byzantine navy in the unsuccessful war against the Genoese. | | George Phakrases | c. 1346 – after 1351 | John VI Kantakouzenos | Supporter of Kantakouzenos, raised to *prōtostratōr* by 1346, when he defeated Dobrotitsa. He also took part in the unsuccessful assault on Galata in 1351. | | Constantine Tarchaneiotes | c. 1351 | John VI Kantakouzenos | As *prōtostratōr* he led the Byzantine fleet in the unsuccessful assault on Galata in 1351. In 1352 he probably defected to John V Palaiologos. | | Manasses Tarchaneiotes | c. 1364 | John V Palaiologos | Mentioned only in a chrysobull in August 1364 as the owner of the monastery of Christ the Saviour in Thessalonica. After his death, it was to pass to the Vatopedi Monastery of Mount Athos. | | Michael Astras Synadenos | c. 1378 | John V Palaiologos | Mentioned only in an imperial *prostagma* regarding a dispute between the Hilandar and Zographou monasteries. | | John Palaiologos | c. 1375/76–77 | John V Palaiologos | Son of the Grand Domestic Demetrios Palaiologos, mentioned in one of the letters of Demetrios Kydones due to a financial dispute. | | Chrysos | c. 1376–79 | Andronikos IV Palaiologos | Mentioned only in a chrysobull as having illegally seized property of the Vatopedi Monastery in Thessalonica. | | Manuel Phrangopoulos | c. 1394 – after 1407 | Manuel II Palaiologos (?) | Active in the Despotate of the Morea, he signed a treaty with Venice in 1394. According to Karl Hopf, who does not provide a source, he and acted as regent for the underage Theodore II Palaiologos in 1407. Based on a Venetian document from 1429, he had been promoted to *megas doux*. | | Sarakenopoulos | c. 1395 | Manuel II Palaiologos (?) | Mentioned only as leading a revolt from the fortress of Greveno in 1395 against Theodore I Palaiologos. | | Kantakouzenos | c. 1395 (?) | unknown | Known only as the father of Theodora Kantakouzene, wife of Alexios IV of Trebizond. | | Joseph Vyzas | c. 1402 | unknown | *Stratoros* of the Kingdom of Cyprus at the time of his death in Nicosia in 1402. | | Stephen Bouisavos | 1411–1430 | Carlo I Tocco | Albanian, leader of the Malakasioi clan, submitted to Carlo Tocco in 1411 and was named *prōtostratōr* of Ioannina. | | Andronikopoulos | unknown, died before 1432 | unknown | Mentioned only in a document, he was *prōtostratōr* of the Empire of Trebizond. | | Manuel Kantakouzenos | 1420–1429 | Manuel II Palaiologos | Manuel II sent him as an envoy to Mehmed I in 1420, and is still attested in the post in 1429. | | *Nikephoros Melissenos* |  |  | Falsely recorded as *megas prōtostratōr* (a non-existent title) by Makarios Melissenos, who sought to promote the family's prestige. Nikephoros was actually a magnate in Messenia, became metropolitan of Adrianople and died soon after (1429). | | Markos Palaiologos Iagaris | c. 1430 | John VIII Palaiologos | High-ranking official and frequent diplomatic envoy, he was briefly *prōtostratōr* sometime around 1430, before being promoted further to *megas stratopedarchēs*. | | Nicholas Phrangopoulos | c. 1430 | John VIII Palaiologos | Recorded as an envoy of John VIII to Sultan Murad II during the siege of Thessalonica. He latter sided with Thomas Palaiologos against his Demetrios Palaiologos in their quarrels over control of the Morea. | | John Phrangopoulos | c. 1428 | John VIII Palaiologos | *Prōtostratōr*, *katholikos mesazōn*, and *generalis* of Constantine XI Palaiologos during the latter's tenure as Despot of the Morea. Founder of the Pantanassa Monastery in Mystras. | | Kantakouzenos | c. 1430s/1440s–1453 | John VIII Palaiologos | Unnamed son of the [*mesazōn*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mesazon) Demetrios Palaiologos Kantakouzenos, executed by Mehmed II after the Fall of Constantinople. | | Leo Phrangopoulos | c. 1443 | John VIII Palaiologos | Attested as travelling to Constantinople in 1443, a nephew of the Nikephoros Melissenos mentioned above. | | Palaiologos | 1453 | Constantine XI Palaiologos | Killed with his two sons during the Fall of Constantinople to the Ottomans. It has been suggested that he may be identified with Theophilos Palaiologos. | | Giovanni Giustiniani Longo | 1453 | Constantine XI Palaiologos | Commander of the Genoese troops during the Fall of Constantinople. Heavily wounded, he escaped the city, but died on his way to Chios. | |



|  |
| --- |
| **Compiler FLN** |