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| **Stratopedarches** |
| **List of known stratopedarchai** |
| Byzantine Empire |
| |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | **Name** | **Tenure** | **Appointed by** | **Notes** | | George Mouzalon | c. 1255 | Theodore II Laskaris | A childhood friend and the closest confidante of Theodore II, he was raised to the high ranks of prōtosebastos, megas stratopedarchēs, and later megas domestikos and prōtovestiarios. He was assassinated by the nobles under Michael VIII Palaiologos soon after Theodore II's death. | | Balaneidiotes | c. 1259 – before 1266 | Michael VIII Palaiologos | A page of Theodore II but of humble origin, he was betrothed on the emperor's wish to Theodora, daughter of Martha Palaiologina (sister of the future emperor Michael VIII) and the megas domestikos Nikephoros Tarchaneiotes. The betrothal was abruptly terminated by the emperor, who forced Theodora to marry the elderly Basil Kaballarios. Theodora and her mother opposed the marriage, and it remained unconsummated. After Michael VIII became emperor, he allowed his niece to marry Balanidiotes, and named him megas stratopedarchēs. He died before 1266. | | John Komnenos Doukas Angelos Synadenos | c. 1276/77 – before 1266 | Michael VIII Palaiologos Andronikos II Palaiologos | He was named megas stratopedarchēs in c. 1276/77, when he led an army against John I Doukas of Thessaly. He was defeated and captured at the Battle of Pharsalus, but evidently released soon after. In c. 1280 he married Theodora, daughter of Constantine Palaiologos and niece of Emperor Michael VIII. In 1281 he was one of the imperial commanders that raised the Siege of Berat and in 1283/4, he was sent, along with the megas domestikos Alexios Raoul, at the head of a fleet to Demetrias. He died as a monk, leaving behind two sons, Theodore and John Synadenos, and a daughter, Euphrosyne. | | Libadarios | c. 1296 | Andronikos II Palaiologos | Prōtovestiaritēs and governor of Neokastra, he suppressed the usurpation attempt by Alexios Philanthropenos in late 1295, and was promoted to megas stratopedarchēs as a reward. Possibly identical with Constantine Doukas Limpidares, a general fighting against the Turks who defected to the Angevins in 1307. | | Alexios | late 13th/early 14th century | Andronikos II Palaiologos (?) | Known solely through the works of the court poet Manuel Philes. | | Raoul | early 14th century | Andronikos II Palaiologos (?) | Known solely through the works of Manuel Philes. Was married and had children, who died early. Possibly the son of the megas domestikos Alexios Raoul. | | Manuel Palaiologos | 14th century | unknown | Otherwise unknown, but perhaps the same as Manuel Tagaris, who married into the Palaiologos family. | | Angelos Senachereim | c. 1310/11–1311 or 1315 | unknown | Son of the megas domestikos John Angelos Senachereim, he was an experienced soldier, having fought against the Turks, the Albanians, and the Catalan Company in the 1300s. In 1310/11 he was charged with escorting 2100 Turks under Halil, who had separated from the Catalans, through Macedonia to the Hellespont. Instead of ferrying them over, as promised, the co-emperor Michael IX Palaiologos attacked them, but was defeated. His wife and children all died before him. | | Manuel Tagaris | c. 1321–1329 | Andronikos II Palaiologos | A brave and capable soldier of humble birth, his successful defence of Philadelphia against the Ottoman Turks had merited him the hand of Andronikos II's niece, Theodora Asanina. In 1321, the emperor charged him to hunt and capture his grandson, Andronikos III Palaiologos, who had fled the capital, but Tagaris persuaded the emperor that this was unfeasible. He was the father of George Tagaris, also a megas stratopedarchēs. | | Andronikos Palaiologos | c. 1321–1324 | Andronikos III Palaiologos Andronikos II Palaiologos | Appointed megas stratopedarchēs by Andronikos III during the early phase of his conflict with his grandfather, Andronikos II. Named governor of Stenimachos and Tzepaina in the [Rhodope](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rhodope_Mountains) region, he defected to Andronikos II. In c. 1324 he was sent as envoy to Michael Shishman of Bulgaria. | | Sphrantzes Palaiologos | 1334–1339 | Andronikos III Palaiologos | A minor nobleman, he was named megas stratopedarchēs as a reward for assassinating the renegade general Syrgiannes Palaiologos. He died of typhus in 1339 while campaigning in Acarnania. | | Andronikos Palaiologos | 1341–1342 | John V Palaiologos | Appointed megas stratopedarchēs after the coronation of John V on 19 November 1341, he was soon promoted to prōtostratōr and fought against John VI Kantakouzenos during the Byzantine civil war of 1341–1347. | | George Choumnos | 1341–1342 | John V Palaiologos | Long-serving official and governor in Thessalonica in 1328 and Constantinople in 1339, as well as epi tēs trapezēs. He was appointed megas stratopedarchēs after the coronation of John V on 19 November 1341, but fell into disfavour and was placed under house arrest in late 1342 for advocating a compromise peace with John VI Kantakouzenos during the civil war of 1341–1347. | | John Vatatzes | 1343–1345 | John VI Kantakouzenos | Prōtokynēgos and megas chartoularios. Originally a partisan of the anti-Kantakouzenos regency in the civil war, in 1341–1342 and again in 1343 he defected to John VI Kantakouzenos, who named him megas stratopedarchēs. He was killed by Turkish mercenaries at Garella in 1345. His son was married to the daughter of Patriarch John XIV Kalekas, and his two daughters were married to the son of the megas doux Alexios Apokaukos, and to the emir of the Karasids, Suleyman. | | Demetrios Tzamplakon | 1345–1366/7 | John VI Kantakouzenos | Son of Alexios Tzamplakon, landowner in Macedonia, and supporter of Kantakouzenos. He unsuccessfully opposed the surrender of Serres to the Serbian ruler Stephen Dushan in 1345, and retired to Christopolis after that. | | George Tagaris | 1346–1355 | John V Palaiologos John VI Kantakouzenos | Son of the megas stratopedarchēs Manuel Tagaris. Sent by Empress-dowager Anna of Savoy to the Saruhanids for aid in 1346, attested in 1355 as a supporter of the Union of the Churches. | | Peter Koutzalas | c. 1348 | unknown | Landowner near Trikala, attested in an act of donation to the Lykousada Monastery at Fanari. | | Michael Philanthropenos | c. 1350 or earlier | John V Palaiologos (?) | Attested as landowner in Chalcidice, and as a "cousin" of John V Palaiologos. | | George Synadenos Astras | c. 1354 – before 1366 | John VI Kantakouzenos John V Palaiologos | In 1354 he was entrusted with the renovation of the Hagia Sophia. Later governor of Ainos, Lemnos, and Thessalonica, where he died in 1365/66 of the plague. | | Demetrios Angelos Metochites | c. 1355 | John VI Kantakouzenos | Son of Theodore Metochites, governor of Strumitza in 1326 and of Serres in 1328/29. Addressed by Pope Innocent VI in 1355 as a supporter of the Union of the Churches. | | Alexios | 1358 – before 1373 | John V Palaiologos | Son of the megas domestikos Demetrios Palaiologos, ruler, along with his brother, the megas primmikērios John, of the coastal region around the Strymon River and the island of Thasos from c. 1357 until his death sometime between 1368 and 1373. In 1362/3 he founded the Pantokratoros Monastery on Mount Athos along with his brother. | | Markos Palaiologos Iagaris | 1430 – unknown | John VIII Palaiologos | Frequently employed as a diplomatic envoy to Western powers and the Ottomans between 1417 and 1438, he was promoted to megas stratopedarchēs from prōtostratōr in 1429/30. | | Phrangopoulos | by 1437 | unknown | Attested only as emissary between John Eugenikos and Bessarion. | | [Demetrios Palaiologos Metochites](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Demetrios_Palaiologos_Metochites) | 1444–1453 | [John VIII Palaiologos](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_VIII_Palaiologos) [Constantine XI Palaiologos](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constantine_XI_Palaiologos) | Governor of Lemnos, he was named megas stratopedarchēs in 1444. He was the last governor of Constantinople, serving from 1449. He was killed along with his sons during the [Fall of Constantinople](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fall_of_Constantinople) in 1453. | |
| **Empire of Trebizond** |
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