

THE ASIAN CAPTAINS

*A Register Drawn at Prusa
in the First Year After the Fall of the City*

Compiled by the notaries of the chancery of the most serene Despot of the Romans, Theodōros Komnēnos Laskaris, in the Year of the World **six thousand seven hundred and thirteen**, that the lord may know by name and by reckoning those captains of the Roman race who yet bear the cross in Asia, whether sworn or unsworn to his house, and to what coin and to what manner of speech each is most fitly approached.

Of their hidden councils, of their letters with our enemies, and of those secret dispositions which only Almighty God may rightly judge, this register sayeth nothing.

— sealed at Prusa, in the chancery of the Despot —





Theodōros Mankaphas

Archon of Philadelphia — called Morotheodōros by the demos



From a miniature kept in the chancery

Theodōros, of the Mankaphas line of Philadelphia, archon of that city by the love of its burghers and not by patent of any chancery. Twice has the demos of Philadelphia set the diadem upon his brow — once in the days of the lord Isaakios Angelos, and again in this present desolation. He has struck silver in his own name and worn the porphyry, and the memory of it has not departed from him.

Toward the Latin he bears the hate proper to a Roman; toward the house of Komnenos and its kinsmen he carries the older grudge of a wool-merchant's son for the courtiers who would not have his coin. Let him be approached not as a vassal but as a king who has not yet been crowned. His joints, we are told by those who keep his household, no longer bear a hard winter ride.



His seat, as our man hath drawn it

Of his person, as the chancery hath it

Of his years:	in his sixtieth winter
Of his arm:	formidable (vii of x)
Of his household:	vi hundred spears
Of his coffers:	ccxx hyperpyra
Of his temper:	of the greatest ambition (x of x)
In piety:	indifferent (iv of x)
Of his manner:	a captain of the field, not of the chamber
Of his seat:	Philadelphia, upon the Hermos





Leōn Branās

Of the wall of Philadelphia — captain of the militia-saints of Philadelphia



From a miniature kept in the chancery

Leōn, of the house of Branās — that line which gave us once the rebel Alexios Branās and gives us now this man, captain of the militia-saints upon the Philadelphian wall. He is of the demos and not of the court, and prides himself in it.

He keeps the night watch in person through the dark seasons and holds the gate-keys himself at dusk. He desires no diadem and would be insulted by the offer of one; he asks only that the bells of Philadelphia ring in Greek hands, and that the gate be shut against Frank and Türkmen alike. A man whose loyalty is easily had by him who can show forth the imperial seal and the Orthodox cross together.



His seat, as our man hath drawn it

Of his person, as the chancery hath it

<i>Of his years:</i>	in his thirty-fifth year
<i>Of his arm:</i>	sufficient (v of x)
<i>Of his household:</i>	ii hundred and fifty spears
<i>Of his coffers:</i>	lxxx hyperpyra
<i>Of his temper:</i>	modest (iii of x)
<i>In piety:</i>	fervent (viii of x)
<i>Of his manner:</i>	a captain of the field
<i>Of his seat:</i>	Philadelphia, upon the Hermos





Sabbas Asidēnos

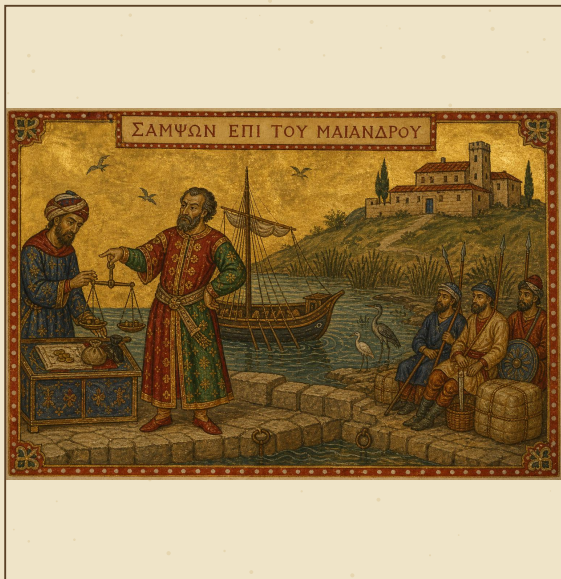
Lord of Sampsōn — of the lower Maeander



From a miniature kept in the chancery

Sabbas, of the house of Asidēnos, lord of the fortress of Sampsōn upon the lower Maeander. Of the old Anatolian gentry, accustomed to govern his own waters and to pay tax to no man unless the soldier stands at his door.

The river-trade of Milētos and the coastal cabotage pass under his sufferance, and he grows rich upon both. He bears the Latin no special love and the Laskarid no special faith; he is a merchant in armour, and is to be approached as such. Marriage into a great house would soften him; gold alone, our man at Milētos reports, will not.



His seat, as our man hath drawn it

Of his person, as the chancery hath it

Of his years:	in his forty-fifth year
Of his arm:	of middle reckoning (vi of x)
Of his household:	iv hundred spears
Of his coffers:	cxl hyperpyra
Of his temper:	of moderate ambition (vi of x)
In piety:	indifferent (iv of x)
Of his manner:	a man of council and account
Of his seat:	Sampsōn, upon the lower Maeander





Manouēl Maurozōmēs

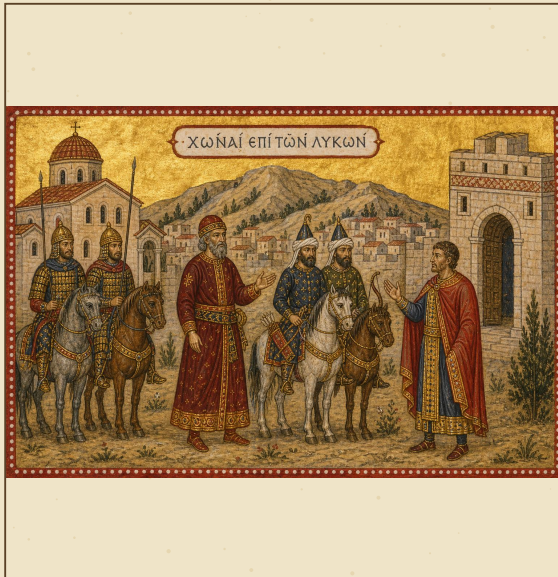
Lord of Chōnai — father-in-law to the Sultan at Iconium



From a miniature kept in the chancery

Manouēl, of the Maurozōmes line of old strategic blood, lord of Chōnai upon the upper Maeander. His daughter has been given in marriage to the Sultan Kaykhusraw at Iconium, and her children, should she bear, will be Seljuk princes baptised in Greek waters.

Whether this makes of him our shield against the East or its instrument the chancery cannot at present say. He is ambitious in the old Komnenian manner and reckons the Laskarid an upstart of yesterday. He is to be approached with the understanding that no man whose grandchildren may wear the turban is moved by appeal to the Roman cause alone.



His seat, as our man hath drawn it

Of his person, as the chancery hath it

Of his years:	in his fifty-fifth year
Of his arm:	formidable (vii of x)
Of his household:	v hundred spears
Of his coffers:	clxxx hyperpyra
Of his temper:	highly ambitious (viii of x)
In piety:	becoming (vi of x)
Of his manner:	of council, with the steel of the field
Of his seat:	Chōnai, upon the upper Maeander





Andronikos Kontostephanos

Strategos of Nymphaion — last strategos of the Thrakēsion



From a miniature kept in the chancery

Andronikos, of the Kontostephanoi — that line which has given the Romans admirals and megaduces beyond reckoning — strategos of Nymphaion and the last of his house to hold any commission of the Thrakēsion theme before the catastrophe.

An old soldier of the Komnenian wars who has buried two emperors and outlived his usefulness to all but the present hour. He bears the Latin the cold and patient hatred of a man who lost his sons before the walls of the City. He keeps the drill-yard at Nymphaion in the old discipline, and has not been seen to smile since the news from Pera. Honest legitimacy and a shared enemy are the two coins that buy him.



His seat, as our man hath drawn it

Of his person, as the chancery hath it

Of his years:	in his sixty-fifth year
Of his arm:	of middle reckoning (vi of x)
Of his household:	iii hundred and fifty spears
Of his coffers:	cx hyperpyra
Of his temper:	of measured ambition (v of x)
In piety:	fervent (vii of x)
Of his manner:	a captain of the field, of the old discipline
Of his seat:	Nymphaion, in the Thrakēsion



Colophon

Here endeth the register of the captains of the Roman race in Asia, drawn at Prusa in the chancery of the most serene Despot, in the Year of the World **6713**, being the first year after the taking of the Queen of Cities by the Latins.

Of the Greek lord of Trebizond, of the Komnēnoi of the Pontos, this register sayeth nothing — that house keepeth its own register, and is not of our reckoning.

Let the lord weigh these men not by their coffers alone, nor by the number of their spears, but by the manner of their souls, which only God seeth whole. The chancery hath set down what the chancery knoweth; the rest is the lord's to discover by trial and by patience.

— *the notaries of Prusa, by the hand of the protasēkrētis*

ΕΦΡΑΓΙΣ

(sigillum cancellariae Prusae)