

Byzantine Genealogy Bibliography

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7 October 2024

Byzantine genealogy can be challenging. There is a lot of debate among scholars concerning Byzantine genealogy so make sure you evaluate any links between generations thoroughly. For example, the parents of Theophano, the supposed niece of John I Tzimiskes, Emperor of Byzantium, and the wife of Otto II, Holy Roman Emperor, has been debated (she was probably the daughter of Constantine Skleros and Sophie Phokas). Likewise, the father of Leo IV, the Wise, Emperor of Byzantium, is unknown with any confidence as his mother, Eudoxie Ingerina was at the time of his birth the mistress of Emperor Michael III and the wife of the future Emperor Basil I, the Macedonian. Lastly, some claim that Yaroslav the Wise, Grand Prince of Kiev, was the son rather than the step-son of Anna *Porphyrogenita*, the daughter of Romanos II, Emperor of Byzantium (it is more likely that he was the son of Rogneda of Polotsk). These are just three outstanding Byzantine genealogical controversies that may never be satisfactorily resolved.

There are a number of reference books and articles I consult when researching Byzantine ancestry or have been told are of genealogical value, but I have not yet used them. Like all published genealogies, these works contain flaws and must be used with caution. Nevertheless, I would recommend starting with the following works:

Barzos (Βάρζος, Varzos), K. *Ἡ γενεαλογία των Κομνηνών* (The Genealogy of the Komnenos). 2 vols. (Thessalonike, 1984). Unfortunately, I do not read Greek, but this is apparently a key work for the Komnenos family. The findings of Barzos are summarized in the genealogical table in *The Oxford Dictionary of Byzantium*, vol. 2, p. 1145.

Bierbrier, M. L. "Modern Descendants of Byzantine Families." *Genealogists' Magazine*, 20, no. 3 (1980): 85-86. Also see his update regarding Theophano, the wife of Otto II, Holy Roman Emperor, in "Medieval and Royal Genealogy Update," *Genealogists' Magazine*, 25, no. 9 (March 1997): 357.

Blankinship, Khalid Yahya. "On the Alleged Marriage of a Muslim Princess to a Byzantine Rebel," *Genealogists' Magazine*, 24, no. 5 (March 1993): 190-196.

Brook, Lindsay L. "The Byzantine Ancestry of H.R.H. Prince Charles, Prince of Wales." *The Genealogist*, 2, no. 1 (Spring 1981): 3-50. Also see the following corrections and updates "Gremlins," 2, no. 2 (Fall 1981): 256-257; "Gremlins," 3, no. 1 (Spring 1982): 128; "Gremlins," 4, no. 2 (Fall 1983): 265-266; and 10, no. 1 (Spring 1989): 135.

Cawley, Charles, and the Foundation for Medieval Genealogy. Medieval Lands—Index, <https://fmg.ac/Projects/MedLands/CONTENTS.htm> (accessed 7 October 2024), has entries for Byzantium, 395-1057, 1057-1204, and 1261-1453. Other entries of interest including Emperors of Nikaia [Nicaea], 1208-1261; Byzantine Nobility; Constantinople, Latin Empire; Greece, Latin Lordships; Trebizond; and Lords of Epirus (Angelos).

Dauids, Adelbert, ed. *The Empress Theophano: Byzantium and the West at the Turn of the First Millennium*. Cambridge: Cambridge Univ. Press, 1995. In particular see Judith Herrin, "Theophano: Considerations on the Education of a Byzantine Princess," pp. 79-81, and A. Dauids, "Marriage Negotiations between Byzantium and the West and the Name of Theophano in Byzantium (Eighth to Tenth Centuries)," pp. 107-109.

Jongh, Suzanne de. "La généalogie des Comnène de Byzance." Unpublished dissertation, Brussels University, 1937. I have not seen this work, but it was apparently used by Barzos.

Kazhdan, Alexander P., ed. *The Oxford Dictionary of Byzantium*. New York-Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1991.

Mango, Cyril. "Eudocia Ingerina, the Normans, and the Macedonian Dynasty." *Zbornik Radova Vizantološkog Instituta*, XIV-XV (1973): 17-27.

Moriarty, G. Andrews. "Aaron of Bulgaria and His Son Tsar John Vladislav." *The American Genealogist*, 27, no. 1 (January 1951): 31-34.

Moriarty, G. Andrews. "Who was the Empress Theophano?" *The American Genealogist* 26, no. 3 (July 1950): 186-188, and 26, no. 4 (October 1950): 233-234.

Polemis, Demetrios I. *The Doukai: A Contribution to Byzantine Prosopography*. London: Univ. of London, The Athlone Press, 1968.

Settipani, Christian. *Les liens dynastiques entre Byzance et l'étranger à l'époque des Commènes et des Paléologues*. Paris: Éditions de Boccard, 2021.

Settipani, Christian. *Les prétentions généalogiques en Grèce. De l'époque byzantine à l'époque archaïque*. Vol. 1 studies, vol. 2 appendices. Paris, Editions De Boccard, 2017. Be forewarned that Settipani reviews genealogical claims that might lack evidence to support them.

Sturdza, Mihail-Dimitri. *Dictionnaire historique et généalogique des grandes familles de Grèce, d'Albanie et de Constantinople*. Paris: M.-D. Sturdza, 1983.

Toumanoff, Cyrille. *Les Dynasties de La Caucasic Chrétienne : De l'Antiquité Jusqu'au XIXe Siècle: Tables Généalogiques et Chronologiques*. Rome: Privately printed, 1990.

Vannier, Jean-François. *Notes généalogiques byzantino-géorgiennes*. Paris: Publications de la Sorbonne, 1998.

Willoughby, Rupert. "The Golden Line: Byzantine, Arab and Armenian Ancestry of the Russian Ruriks." *Genealogists' Magazine*, 23, no. 9 (March 1991): 321-327, and 23, no. 10 (June 1991): 369-372.

Wolf, Gunther. "Nochmals zur Frage: Wer war Theophanu?" *Byzantinische Zeitschrift* 81 (1988): 272-283.

Lastly, there are several Byzantine prosopography projects you might want to consult. Prosopography investigates the common characteristics of a group of people, for example, Byzantine notables. It is a combination of history, genealogy, and biography. I am aware of the following studies:

- Prosopography of the Later Roman Empire, covers the period 260-641 and was published in 3 vols. (1971–1992). It is very unlikely that you can build a lineage that will extend back this far.

- Prosopographisches Lexikon der Palaiologenzeit (Prosopographical Lexicon of the Palaiologan era) covers the period 1261-1453 during the Palaeologus dynasty. Bulgarians, Serbs, Albanians, Turks and other peoples are also included because they interacted with the Byzantine Empire. It was published in 12 main volumes (1976-1994), 2 appendix and errata volumes, and 1 index volume. Since 2001 it is available through an online subscription service and on CD.
- Prosopographie der mittelbyzantinischen Zeit (PMBZ) and the Prosopography of the Byzantine Empire (PBE) is an ongoing German-British project covering the period from 641 to 1262. Sigillography evidence is also included. It also covers the Kingdom of Jerusalem. At least 5 volumes have been published between 1998 and 2002. In 2001, the British Academy published a CD covering the from 641 to 867. A portion of the database covering the period 641-867 is hosted at King's College London and is freely accessible at <https://pbe.kcl.ac.uk/index.html> (accessed 15 September 2024).
- Encyclopaedic Prosopographical Lexicon of Byzantine History and Civilisation, published in Athens, projected to be printed in 8 volumes and will cover the period 300-1500. I am only aware of 3 volumes published as of 2024.