

The Basilica

BYZANTIUM NOVUM

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Web Sites You Should Know

Websites:

- [Main Site](#)
- [Map of Citizens](#)
- [Photobucket](#)

Facebook Groups:

- [Main List](#)
- [Byzantium Novum Citizens](#)
- [Ladies of the Byzantine Nation](#)
- [Senate](#)
- [Augustaion \(for citizens of BN who also are in SCA\):](#)

Yahoo Groups:

- [Main List](#)
 - [New Citizens](#)
 - [The Chancellery](#)
 - [The Senate](#)
 - [The Literature Club](#)
 - [The Militarium](#)
 - [The Foreign Ministry](#)
 - [Classical Religion](#)
 - [Byzantium Novum Church](#)
 - [For cultural subjects](#)
 - [To discuss "real world" options for BN](#)
 - [Latin Study Group](#)
 - [Augustaion](#)
 - [Practical Military Exercises](#)
- Local Yahoo Groups:**
- [Diocese of Anatoliou Pegalous](#)
 - [Province of Prasino Boura](#)
 - [Province of Megalopotamia](#)
 - [Province of Neophthia](#)
 - [County of Texas](#)
 - [County of Greece](#)
 - [County of California](#)

1054 AND ALL THAT

BY

THECLA PORPHYROGENITA

In 1054, Cardinal Humbert, the Papal legate in Constantinople, laid a papal bull excommunicating Patriarch Michael Cerularius on the altar of the Hagia Sophia and Cerularius responded by excommunicating Humbert and the Pope. The Great Schism, between the Church in the East and West, was on. Though no one then realized how significant the event would be—within its historical context it would be it could easily have been a spat between two high ecclesiastical officials—it formally divided the state church of the Roman Empire into Eastern and Western branches.

The Schism was long in the making. Since Diocletian's

division of the Roman Empire, the Greek East and Latin West had been growing apart. Initially, the East was the cultural center of the Empire while the North and West of Europe were underdeveloped hinterlands. But by the 11th century, on the eve of the Crusades, the West was feeling its oats and the Pope of Rome asserted paramount authority over the Church, in matters of theology and discipline. The theological crux of the Schism was the Filioque Clause, a late addition to the Nicene Creed, which asserted that the Holy Spirit proceeded from the Father "and the Son" (in Latin, "Filioque"), and not just "from the Father," as the original version formulated in the councils of Nicaea and

Constantinople had it. The Filioque first appeared at the Council of Toledo, in 589. Initially it may have been inserted into the Creed to counter Arianism—to affirm the full divinity of the Son and his equality with the Father by asserting that the Son, as well as the Father, was a progenitor of the Holy Spirit. But for whatever reason it was adopted, it became the signature of Latin Christianity. There was some theological motivation for the Filioque in the West. It seemed to be a natural concomitant of the Trinitarian doctrine developed by St. Augustine, whose prestige as a theologian was enormous in the West because he was the only one of the four Latin Fathers of the Church who

UPCOMING DATES OF REMEMBRANCE

5 Oct: Coronation of Emperor Heraclius 610AD
 27 Oct: Constantine beholds the Cross 312AD
 28 Oct: Constantine wins Battle of Milvian Bridge 312AD

16 Nov: Codex Justinianus is published 529AD
 12 Dec: Battle of Nineveh 627AD
 15 Dec: Battle of Ticameron 533AD

17 Dec: Fall of Rome to Goths under Totila 546AD
 25 Dec: Christmas
 27 Dec: Hagia Sophia was completed 537AD

MARCUS CASSIUS JULIANUS

Marcus Cassius Julianus is the founder of Byzantium Novum and the co-founder of an earlier micro-nation based on ancient Classical Rome, Nova Roma. He has been publicly active in the historical community since 1998. Marcus Cassius is also the founder of several other historical organizations and community forum lists, including the Julian Society,

an organization dedicated to the legacy of the Emperor Julian, and the Mithras List, an international forum for Mithraic studies.

Marcus has been a dealer in authentic ancient artifacts and coins since 1985 and is active in many historical events. He has put on "Roman Market Day," a public

historical event which hosts Roman Legion reenacting, gladiatorial shows, and educational presentations on bringing Ancient Rome to life. He is a business owner in Maine, and spends his personal time studying ancient topics and occasionally hunting for lost treasures with a metal detector.



ROHESIA ANVEN OF THESSALONIKE



**ROHESIA ANVEN OF
THESSALONIKE**

Photo credit:
Baron Bardulf Rauen 2011

Rohesia was born in the year 1090 and is the youngest of four siblings from France & Italy. Richard, her father, is a prominent merchant. A much different profession than her uncles, soldiers in the Norman army, but it provides him the opportunity to capitalize the family wealth in the wake of their conquests. Where he lacks in martial combat he makes up for in diplomacy and charisma. Her fondest memories of her father are about the trinkets he would bring home from his travels for her and her siblings.

It did not take long for her father to build a very successful trade businesses in Italy and eventually it led to ties within the Komnenoi-ruled Byzantine courts. It was then that her older sister, Ysabel, had a decent dowry to marry a rich and well to-do Greek, Nikolaos. Rohesia, then 13, and her eldest brother Aimery, moved with her sister to her new household. They helped with the expansion of her family's business with a branch in Thessalonike. Aimery along with Nikolaos runs the daily operation of the trade business in Thessalonike moving goods to Italy and France. Thessalonike is where she remains helping her sister with domestic duties and was afforded the opportunity to learn to read and write. She spends her spare time copying letters and illuminated works for others.

~Rohesia' Family Tree~

Father: Richard
 Mother: Aveline
 Brothers: Aimery (b. 1084 in Italy), Guymar (b. 1087 in France)
 Sister: Ysabel (b. 1083 in France)
 Brother-in-law: Nikolaos (Thessalonike b. 1078, m. 1103)
 Uncles: Gunthar (b. 1050, France), Lothar (b. 1052, France)
 Aunt: Genevieve (b. 1054)

THE COUNTS OF BYZANTIUM NOVUM

BY SENATOR BADUILA CHALKEUS, GRAND CHANCELLOR

Two key facts about Byzantium Novum are that we are new organization, and we are growing rapidly. In order to help us grow, there are a number of officers called “counts” scattered around the world. Within the US and Canada, each of them is responsible for a state, province, or territory. Throughout the rest of the world, they are responsible for a country. What do they do? What are they for? How can you become one? Are they all the same?

Counts are points of contact for the Empire in their area. They are there to recruit new members, provide information about Byzantium Novum to other people and organizations, and organize groups such as colonies. Counts might advertise on Craig’s List and/or set up a mailing list (such as a Yahoo Groups list). They will probably be key players in getting a colony up and running.

They are sometimes confused with governors, but they have no authority to govern and may or may not be leaders of groups. It’s also important to know that they only exist outside the dioceses of the Empire – that’s because a diocese is mature enough to operate without them.

In order to become a count, all you need to do is contact the Clerk of the Senate and ask to be made one. If there is not one already in your area, the clerk will present your name before the Senate in the routine monthly polling for appointment and he or she will notify you of the result. All appointments as counts are for one year.

There are three ranks of count: counts in their first year are called “count third class”, at the end of the first year they may be advanced to “count second class.” After the second year, they may retire with the title of “count first class,” which is a lifetime appointment.

So, if you are interested in helping us grow, contact the [Clerk of the Senate](#) to be made a count. The Empire needs your help!

SUBMISSIONS TO THE BASILICA



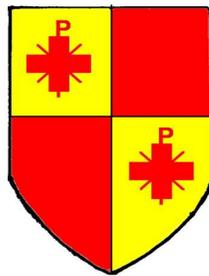
Are you a writer, photographer, artisan or have an interest in writing a piece for our newsletter? We’d love to have your input, and articles, book reviews, recipes, photos, poems, stories, drawings, and more would be wonderful additions to *The Basilica*! You must be willing to sign a release for anything used in this, or any other, publication by Byzantium Novum. Release forms can be received by contacting [Amma Doukaina](#), editor. Let us know what you’d like to see in *The Basilica*! Your time and input are valuable! Your knowledge should be shared! The options here are wide open, and we are eager to take items by our citizens to share! Please include a photo with your submission if possible!

Greetings from Anatoliou Pelagous

It is my honor to announce the formation of the first official diocese of Byzantium Novum, made of three provinces: Prasino Boura (KY & TN), Neophthia (NC & SC), and Megalopotamia (WVA & VA). Since we are newly formed, we are just now beginning to plan for the next year. Our hope is to have events in real life where citizens can get to know one another. I hope that the citizens in the diocese will open their hearts and homes to one another and share the medieval activities in their areas. The more we can involve people in things that make this all more realistic, the more we will grow and learn! It is all very exciting! It is my goal as Vicar to work closely with the Presidents of the three provinces to recruit and plan for ways to reach out to local educational outlets, SCA groups and other re-enactors who might be interested in a Byzantine persona. My first duty as Vicar was to name someone Vir Eminentissimus. I have given this honorary title to Senator Baduila Chalkeus, Magistrate of Megalopotamia. This honorific goes to Baduila for his hard work keeping BN moving ahead, his endless assistance with anything I ever ask of him, and his tireless work to help others form colonies, provinces, and hopefully, another diocese very soon!

It is an absolute pleasure to serve the citizens of Anatoliou Pelagous and Byzantium Novum. I pray that you will feel welcome to contact me if you need my assistance with anything. I am eager to hear ideas that can help us continue to grow!

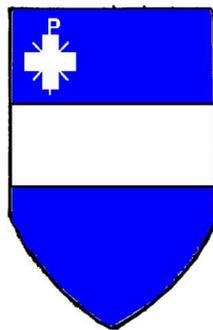
Blessings,
 Amma Doukaina
 Vicar of Anatoliou Pelagous



Diocese of
 Anatoliou Pelagous



Province of
 Prasino Boura



Province of
 Neophthia



Province of
 Megalopotamia

1054 AND ALL THAT (CONT'D FROM PAGE 1)

Fathers of the Church who had any serious claim to being a theologian: Gregory the Great and Ambrose were administrators; Jerome was a Biblical scholar, a man of letters and a crank. In *De Trinitatis* Augustine compared the Persons of the Trinity to a Father, Son and the Love between them that bound them together. And this strongly suggested that the Holy Spirit, understood as the mutual love between Father and Son, must proceed from both the Father and the Son.

Philosophy aside, even though bishops of Rome were initially reluctant to add Filioque to the Creed, it was popular in the West. Charlemagne loved it and hired a company of theologians to promote it. By his time the East and the West had drifted so far apart that that reconciliation was no longer possible. Empress Irene was deposed when word got out that she was contemplating marriage to Charlemagne. It boggles the mind to imagine how history might have gone if Irene had pulled off that alliance. Rome would have regained its status as a superpower. Western Europeans would have been Hellenized and the Christian heartland in the Middle East and Asia Minor would not have fallen to the Muslims. But it was not to be, and just decades after Irene was deposed, the Eastern and Western Churches were in schism. This "Photian Schism," a practice run for the final breach between the Eastern and Western branches of the Church that lasted from 863 to 867, was precipitated by the opposition of Pope Nicholas I to the appointment of the lay scholar Photios as Patriarch of Constantinople. However it also involved a doctrinal dispute about the inclusion of the Filioque Clause in the Creed.

Photios, in *The Mystogogy of the Holy Spirit*, opposed the inclusion of the Filioque on theological grounds. On his account the Persons of the Trinity were distinguished by their unique hypostatic properties such that each Person of the Trinity possessed only divine properties, which he had in virtue of being God, and hypostatic properties, which were peculiar to him and so distinguished him from other Trinitarian Persons. On this account, there could be no properties that just two Persons had. And this was incompatible with the Filioque Clause, according to which the Father and Son, but not the Spirit, had the property of being progenitors of the Spirit.

Now technically, Photios did not have to adopt such a strong position in order to distinguish the Persons. The principle of Indiscernibility of Identicals, which figures in the definition of identity, says that any objects, $a, b, a = b$ only if they have all the same properties. It follows that if they differ with respect to *any* property they are not identical so, from the logical point of view, to distinguish the Trinitarian Persons it suffices to show that they do not have *all* same properties.

However, there are also religious considerations. We know the Persons of the Trinity, as they reveal themselves to us in history and in our experience. We recognize their distinctive characters in the way we know the unique characters of our friends. And we experience the Father as creator and progenitor: we know him in virtue of his essential character as *source*. Being the Creator of all things visible and invisible, and Source of Trinitarian Persons is *him*, what makes him who he is, and what he therefore has uniquely. We experience him as source and only as source because he is the Unknown God whom Paul commended to the Athenians—God in his primary subjectivity, in Barth's terms. We know him only through his unknowability as the unknown source of what we do know and experience: we recognize that we can only know him through his actions, through his creation and through his generating the Son and Holy Spirit—that we can know nothing of him as he is in himself. That is the hypostatic character that distinguishes the Father as such. Likewise, each of the other Trinitarian Persons has his own hypostatic properties, which define his unique character. This is the way in which the Persons of the Trinity are distinguished on Photios' account.

What are the alternatives? If we cannot individuate the Persons by means of characteristic hypostatic properties, each unique to its possessor, then how do we distinguish them? On the Western account, suggested by Augustine and elaborated by Aquinas, it is the *relations* between the Persons that constitute and individuate them. But this is peculiar because there is an important sense in which, in general, the individuals that stand in a relation are *prior* to the relation in which they stand. A relation is a set. The individuals that constitute the set, we assume, exist independently of the way in which they're grouped and ordered to constitute a relation. And on the account suggested by Photios, the Persons are prior to the relations they bear to one another, as required: they are distinguished by their characteristic hypostatic properties. That is why, arguably, Photios' account is more plausible than the Trinitarian doctrine that developed in the West.

I am sympathetic to Photios' arguments. I am not however persuaded by the anathemas, which grace *The Mystogogy of the Holy Spirit*. I cannot believe that God cares whether we get it right about the Filioque: bad Trinitarian theology is not going to draw down the wrath of God. But the Photian Schism, and the Great Schism of 1054 that followed, were at bottom politically motivated by disputes between magnates and power brokers in the East and West, and appealed to popular sentiment because of long-standing cultural differences—and it is those differences, not theological disagreements, that do damage.

BOOK REPORT: *THE LANDMARK HERODOTUS* BY MARCUS AUDENS

The introduction was written by Rosalind Thomas, with an Editor's and Translator's Preface, an extensive dated outline to the text, a map key and the Nine Books. Also included are Appendices A through U, a list of ancient sources, an extensive bibliography, index, glossary, and reference maps.

The introduction discusses the following ideas relating to Herodotus:

- The Historical Background
- A set of four Introductory maps
- The Intellectual and Moral World of Herodotus
- Herodotus' Reliability
- Oral Tradition and Historical Narrative

The Editor's Preface makes the point of Herodotus's work as being a signal accomplishment considering the aspects of time and available information. He details his ideas thoroughly in his preface to the main text.

The Translator's Preface details her purpose in creating this translation from the *Oxford Classical Text*; C. Hyde (3rd edition, 1927) for the readers of modern English with dual translations occasionally and a list of exceptions. The Nine Books of the Histories begin with the Croesus of Lydia (716-547 BCE) and continue through the Battles of Plataea and Mycale (479 BCE).

All through the text are an extensive number of maps relating to the text page as well as a large number of photographs of ancient structures. The material text is quite interesting and with the distances translated to miles, yards, feet and inches, the measurements shared by the original author have a much greater clarity. Thus with the large number of maps, photographs, careful translation from the ancient Greek and the many explanatory footnotes, this translation and added appendices material makes this volume a pleasure to read, and use as a reference.

FORMING A COLONY WITHIN BYZANTIUM NOVUM BY BADUILA CHALKEUS

Our Empire is growing in leaps and bounds, but the vast majority of our members live outside of the organized local and regional groups (about 22% live in the diocese and colonies currently formed). For your information, local chapters in Byzantium Novum consist of provinces (local chapters that are part of a diocese, we have three provinces at present*) and colonies (local chapters that are outside the dioceses, we currently have two colonies**).

There are a number of areas where colonies could be founded quickly – the population already exists and is awaiting only a leader to get them organized. These areas are Washington-Oregon, California-Nevada, Utah-Colorado-Arizona-New Mexico, Texas-Arkansas-Louisiana, Wisconsin-Illinois, Michigan-Indiana-Ohio, Pennsylvania-New Jersey, Maryland-Delaware, New York***, Southern New England, England***, Netherlands-Belgium-Luxembourg, Germany, Serbia, and Greece.

So what do you need to form a colony? First of all, you need five citizens. All of the areas in the last paragraph meet or exceed that requirement. Second, you need a slate of officers. Under an administrative waiver granted with the consent of the Senate last month, that means you need just two officers: a governor (called a magistrate in colonies) and one other officer – a chancellor (administrator), chamberlain (recruiter), tribune (security or re-enactor), or a treasurer. You can, of course, have all of them!

There is a handy-dandy form that I will send the prospective governor, where he or she will list the officers and all the citizens, provide a name for the colony, and tell me where it is. The governor signs the form and sends it back to me.

At that point, I will take the form to the Senate for our monthly polling. The Senate polls the last half of every month (assuming we have something to vote on) and announces results on the first day of each month.

The whole process can be done in a few days and I will help all I can before, during and after the approval process.

I look forward to colonies and dioceses covering the globe. If you would like to form a colony, please contact me. Let's work together to make our Empire great!

*Megalopotamia in Virginia and West Virginia, Prasino Boura in Tennessee and Kentucky, and Neophthia in North and South Carolina. They are all parts of the Diocese of Anatoliou Pelagous.

** Valentia in Scotland and Nova Gallica in Eastern Canada.

*** Could actually form two colonies with the current population.

HELP WANTED!

The Empire of Byzantium Novum is seeking volunteers in several key positions. If you are interested in any of these or have questions regarding them, contact the Grand Chancellor, Senator Baduila Chalkeus, at jsmithcsa@yahoo.com.

Provost of the Chamber: This is a deputy to the Grand Chancellor, with responsibility for coordinating the recruiting effort across the Empire. Must be a good organizer and active in Byzantium Novum. Recommended that he/she be experienced in recruiting.

Provost of the Insignia: This is a deputy to the Grand Chancellor, with responsibility for coordinating heraldic display across the Empire. Must be a good organizer and active in Byzantium Novum. Recommended that he/she be experienced in heraldry.

Deputy Foreign Minister: This is the principal assistant to the Foreign Minister, with responsibility to contact other microstates and similar organizations with the purpose of establishing diplomatic relations. Must be a good writer and diplomat.

Assistant Foreign Ministers: These are assistants to the Foreign Minister and regional experts on areas important to our Empire in a historical context. Must be willing to participate by sharing information on the area of your regional assignment on the [Foreign Ministry Yahoo Group](#). The two areas available are: (1) The German and Italian States and (2) Successor States to the Empire (Trebizond, Epirus, Athens, Achaea, Nicaea, and the Latin Empire).

Magistrates: Seeking magistrates (governors) to form colonies of Byzantium Novum in the following parts of the world, with assistance from the Grand Chancellor. Must be willing to organize a local group and operate it in accordance with the directions of the Senate.

USA: Washington-Oregon, Colorado-Arizona-Utah, Illinois-Wisconsin, Michigan-Indiana-Ohio, Pennsylvania-New Jersey, Maryland-Delaware, New York and Rhode Island-Connecticut-Massachusetts.

Europe: England-Wales, Netherlands, Germany, Greece and Serbia.

Counts: Seeking counts (points of contact for recruiting and information) throughout the world. Must be willing to recruit and advertise our organization, with the assistance of the Provost of the Chamber or Grand Chancellor.

USA: Washington State, Arizona, Florida, Georgia, Michigan, Illinois, Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, Maryland and New York.

Canada: Ontario and Saskatchewan.
Europe: Belgium, Serbia and Russia.

Mayors: Seeking mayors (organizers of face-to-face activities in cities/towns) throughout the world, with the assistance of the Provost of the Chamber or Grand Chancellor. Must be willing to organize activities of people in your local area. We are specifically seeking mayors in the following urban areas:

USA: New York City, Boston, Chicago, Kansas City, Salt Lake City and Portland (Oregon).

Europe: Greater London and Belgrade.

Many of us here have taken names from the Byzantine era, mostly in Greek or Latin, but not everyone. Help is available for those of you who might like to take Byzantine-era names but don't know how to do it or where to start.

Three quick notes:

1 - I will be glad to help anyone build a name -- just send me an [email](#) off list.

2 - If you pick one, you need to let Senator [Amma](#) know so she can update the citizen roster with your new name.

3 - Picking a Byzantine-era name is not required, but there are some of us who think it adds to the experience.

Baduila Chalkeus

Grand Chancellor

Byzantine-styled image of Alexander the Great, and "The Greek Alexander Romance" is available for purchase [here](#).



REPORT FROM THE CHANCELLERY

Hello my friends,

The Chancellery has had a busy three months in the last quarter.

First of all, I would like to express my thanks and those of the Senate to counts who have left office during this quarter: Altessa Allyria Talaina Aeternia resigned as Count of Arizona, Ulfr the Varangian left office as count of Colorado when he moved to Tennessee, I left office as count of Virginia when my colony joined a diocese, Hrafn the Varangian left office as count of North Carolina for the same reason, as did Demetrios Palaiologos Dermokaites left office as count of Tennessee and Constantine Nikephorus Akrites as count of Kentucky.

We have really grown the number of groups in our Empire in this quarter. First of all, the Colony of Valentia (Scotland) was born at the end of June. At the end of August, we formed our first regional group, the Diocese of Anatoliou Pelagous which consists of three provinces: Megalopotamia (Virginia and West Virginia), which had been a colony; the Province of Neophthia (North and South Carolina), which had been a part of the old Colony of Megalopotamia; and the Province of Prasino Boura (Tennessee and Kentucky), which is entirely new. Also at the end of August, the Senate approved the Colony of Nova Gallica (Québec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, and Newfoundland). This is a sign of major success. As a result of this polling, we welcome our first vicar (head of a diocese) and the first three provincial presidents as well as a new magistrate (governor of a colony).

In the "Help Wanted" section of this newsletter, I am seeking a couple of deputies. One of them, the Provost of the Chamber, will be the chief recruiting officer of the Empire and will be in charge of all the counts in Byzantium Novum; this office will eventually lead to the establishment of the office of Grand Chamberlain. The other job is Provost of the Insignia, which will be the chief herald for our Empire, responsible for helping us design coats of arms and flags for the various branches of Byzantium Novum.

In addition to these two deputies, there are also listings seeking people to form colonies, people to be counts, and people to be mayors. These are the officers who will continue our growth in local groups.

If anyone is interested in any of these jobs, or wants more information about any of them, please [contact me](#).

REPORT ON SENATE ACTIVITIES

In June, 2011, the Senate:

*Approved the request of the Colony of Valentia (Scotland) to form as a local chapter in Byzantium Novum. *Appointed Constantine Nikephorus Akrites as Count of Kentucky.

In July, 2011, the Senate held no polls.

In August, 2011, the Senate:

*Approved the request of the Diocese of Anatoliou Pelagous (Virginia, West Virginia, North

Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Kentucky) to form as a regional group in Byzantium Novum.

*Approved the request of the Province of Prasino Boura (Tennessee and Kentucky) to form as a local chapter in Byzantium Novum under the Diocese of Anatoliou Pelagous.

*Approved the request of the Province of Neophthia (North and South Carolina) to form as a local chapter in Byzantium Novum under the Diocese of Anatoliou

Pelagous.

*Approved the request of the Colony of Nova Gallica (Québec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, and Newfoundland) to form as a local chapter in Byzantium Novum.

REPORT FROM THE FOREIGN MINISTRY

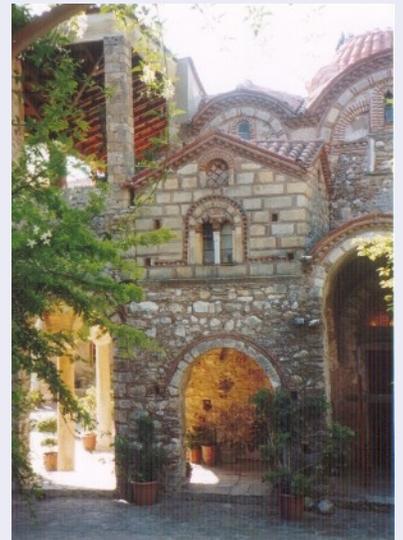
Hello my friends,

In the quarter just past, the Foreign Ministry studied neighboring kingdoms, empires, and rulers. In some cases, they were closely related to the Byzantine Empire. In all cases, they helped us understand the lives and times of that era.

The "Help Wanted" ad in this issue of the newsletter lists some vacancies in officer positions in the Foreign Ministry. I am looking three people to expand our ability to study the old Byzantine era and partner with like-minded organizations. If you are interested in the positions advertised, please contact me. We really need to expand our role in the greater micro-

national realm as well as increasing our understanding of the world as the Byzantines saw it – the positions I hope to fill in the coming quarter will do just that.

Baduila Chalkeus
Senator and Foreign Minister



The Church at Mystras

**B O O K R E P O R T : T H E L A T E B Y Z A N T I N E A R M Y :
A R M S A N D S O C I E T Y
B Y
B A D U I L A C H A L K E U S**

The Late Byzantine Army: Arms and Society 1204-1453, by Mark C.

Bartusis. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1992.

Collapse, chaos, and slow decay seem to be the hallmarks of the late Byzantine Empire. As land, power, and money ebbed, the Army suffered resulting in the ever-increasing decline of the empire. This book provides an excellent summary of the civil wars and seizure of the empire by crusaders that set the stage for the empire's eventual collapse to the Ottomans in 1453.

The book is divided into two major sections: The Army as an instrument of policy and the Army as an institution. The first is largely the history of the empire in the years immediately preceding the Late era, including the role of the emperor as principal policy maker and the army's role and involvement in the civil wars that racked the empire in those years and how the true Byzantine Empire was re-established. The second portion describes the army itself: imperial

commanders, mercenaries, *pronoians*, local militia, garrison and border guards, and the imperial *tagmata* as well as forces borrowed from neighboring countries: primarily Serbs, Ottomans, and Italians. Following the two principal sections, appendices are provided showing a list of soldiers (most of them common troops), a glossary, and a list of rulers (including neighboring states and despotates).

I got this book from an excellent library, the Gray Research Library at Marine Corps Base Quantico, in violation of my usual technique of buying books. Within a week of slow reading I regretted that decision. This book is a definite keeper. The wealth of research material on the organization and history of the various types of soldier will make this book one that I will return to many times in the future.

There are weaknesses. As is common in the medieval era, there were very few given names and this book does not have a clear way of telling one 'John,' for example, from another, forcing me to go back over and over to figure out who exactly was doing something. At one point an emperor would be referred to by his given name, later by a nickname or family name. Unfortunately, I am fairly new to this whole Byzantine history business so I really struggled with this and lost a lot of time.

I recommend this book highly for those of you who may be interested in the late empire.

Senator Baduila Chalkeus

**S U B M I S S I O N S T O T H E
B A S I L I C A**

Are you a writer, photographer, artist or have an interest in writing a piece for *The Basilica*? We would love to have your input, and articles, book reviews, recipes, photos, stories, drawings and more would be wonderful additions to the newsletter!

You must be willing to sign a release for anything used in this, or other publications

by Byzantium Novum.
[Release forms are available from Amma.](#)

Let us know what you'd like to see in upcoming issues! Your time and input are valuable! Your knowledge should be shared! The options here are wide open! Please include a photo of yourself with your submissions if you can.

Senators and other officers please send in your biographies with photos!

[Questions and ideas can be sent to the editor.](#)

Even worldwide we are very few, but it's the very few that make history when the many fail.

~~Amma Doukaina~~

B U S I N E S S N A M E

MISSION STATEMENT

Byzantium Novum is a micro-nation dedicated to the rebirth of Byzantine culture and civilization which was formed to become a small, legitimate successor state to the Byzantine Empire. We exist as a micro-national sovereignty project, working to bring Byzantine civilization to life in the modern world as much as is possible. Our goal is to establish a physical, symbolic and administrative world capitol of 100 acres or more, where the Byzantine State may have a real-world existence and coordinate Byzantine interests around the world.

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If you have a video of yourself lecturing on a Byzantine topic that we could share via our YouTube.com page, [let us know!](#) We'd love to start sharing video of the ways we all incorporate Byzantium into our daily lives.

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