

BYZANTINE GREEK

Compiled by Jessica Hammer

NOTES

Byzantine names consisted of a given name followed by one or more surnames (which could include both inherited names and patronymics). By-names or descriptive names were also sometimes used in addition to - but not instead of - inherited names and patronymics. Women used feminized forms of these names.

A very large number of middle- and sur-names could be included in a Byzantine name, such as in the actual historical example of John Doukas Angelos Palaiologos Raoul Laskaris Tornikes Philanthropenos Asanes. However, in common use, only those names which were politically or socially convenient were actually used. For example, names which indicated relationships to famous families would often be used, while those that were of lesser-blooded families would be omitted.

A typical male name might look like this:
Ioannes Doukas Laskaris ho Pontikoctonus

This name means: John whose mother is of the Doukas, whose father is of the Laskaris, known as "The Rat-Slayer."

If you don't know enough Greek to construct your own by-names, there's nothing wrong with just introducing them in English, as for example:
Ioannes Doukas Laskaris the Rat-Slayer

A typical female name might look like this:
Maria Angelina Palaiologina

This name means: Maria whose father's name was Palaiologos and who had someone named Angelina in her family.

If Maria married Ioannes, she could take any number of his names in addition to or instead of her own. So she could be Maria Laskarina, Maria Angelina Palaiologina Doukaina Laskarina ... or anything in between.

To feminize family names, convert endings as follows:
-es, -is, -on, and -os to -ina
-nos to -ne
-tes to -tissa
-as to -ina (but drop the s first)

Story-Games Names Project

MALE NAMES

1. Christophoros
2. Ioannes
3. Konstantinos
4. Makarios
5. Niphon
6. Theodoulos
7. Alexandros
8. Bardas
9. Andreas
10. Gregoras
11. Alexios
12. Nikolaos
13. Phillipos
14. Theodoros
15. Iakobos
16. Leontios
17. Nikodemos
18. Basileios
19. Petros
20. Andronikos

FEMALE NAMES

1. Maria
2. Anna
3. Eugenia
4. Xene
5. Leonta
6. Thomais
7. Theodora
8. Eirene
9. Helene
10. Elaiodora
11. Ioanna
12. Eudokia
13. Simonis
14. Zoe
15. Theodosia
16. Dragna
17. Stania
18. Theofana
19. Christina
20. Xanthe

SURNAMES 1

1. Dalassenos
2. Gabras
3. Komnenos
4. Melachrinos
5. Doukas
6. Asanes
7. Limpidares
8. Balsamon
9. Koresses
10. Trichas
11. TzAMPLAKON
12. Zarides
13. Skleros
14. Adrianos
15. Palaiologos
16. Chrysaphes
17. Aprenos
18. Eirenikos
19. Kaloethes
20. Paraspondylos

SURNAMES 2

1. Choumnos
2. Glabas
3. Kontostephanos
4. Agallon
5. Boumbalis
6. Sgouros
7. Tagaris
8. Mouzalon
9. Laskaris
10. Manouelites
11. Argyros
12. Kalamanos
13. Chrysoloras
14. Doukas
15. Tsaphas
16. Pleustes
17. Angelos
18. Philanthropenos
19. Sebastopoulos
20. Rossatas

BY-NAMES (Appropriate for peasants only)

1. Trykalas (potter)
2. Alieus (fisherman)
3. Makellares (butcher)
4. Iereus (priest)
5. Chalkeus (smith)
6. Kalligas (shoe-maker)
7. Vagenas (barrel-maker)
8. Raptas (tailor)
9. Mylonas (miller)
10. Diakonos (deacon)
11. Yfantas (weaver)
12. Kepouros (gardener)
13. Skiadas (hat-maker)
14. Flevotomos (doctor)
15. Neropoulos (water-seller)
16. Tzangares (shoemaker)
17. Krasopolia (wineseller)
18. Gounaras (furrier)
19. Ktistes (mason)
20. Pelekanos (carpenter)