



## Summary :

Some legends date missionary activity in the northern coast of the Black Sea back to the apostolic era, while some hagiographical sources trace it to the period of Diocletian and Constantine I. In the 6<sup>th</sup> century, these missions were connected with the empire's political activity, while during the Iconoclasm missionary activity passed into the hands of the exiled Iconophiles. The missionary activity of Constantine (Cyril) concerned also the Pontic region. Part of the Tatars of Crimea was converted in the Palaeologan era.

## Date

4th/ 6th-15th C.

## Geographical Location

Northern coast of the Black Sea

### 1. The state of research

Byzantine missionary activity, both from a theoretical point of view and in terms of the actual practices, is the main subject of the recently published work of S. A. Ivanov.<sup>1</sup> As far as research in the wider Black Sea region is concerned, Byzantine missions usually fall under the general category of the history of Christianity and its expansion in the area.

### 2. Apostolic tradition

According to tradition, missionary activity in the Black Sea coasts dates back to the apostolic era. The Byzantine conviction that the Apostle Andrew founded the [Patriarchate of Constantinople](#) emerged in the late 8<sup>th</sup> century; however, scholarly research has established a link between this belief and the legends concerning Andrew's missionary activity. The monk Epiphanius, from the monastery of Kallistratos at Constantinople, wrote the *Vita* of the Apostle Andrew between 815 and 843.<sup>2</sup> He recorded there the Apostle's itinerary, according to a tradition that was being established already in the 4<sup>th</sup> c. Among others, the *Vita* offers an account of Andrew's activity in Skythia, in the land of the "Kosogdians," that is the habitants of the city of [Sougdaia](#) (mod. Sudak in [Crimea](#)), in [Colchis](#), in the land of the "Ethiopeans" (the inhabitants of Inner Colchis) and the "Gorziniens" (Georgeans?), as well as in the "great Sebastopolis" (today's Sukhum in Abkhazia), in the garrisons of Apsaros (mod. Gonio in Azaria), and near the river Phasis, where Iberians, "Soussoi", "Foustoi" and Alans were settled.<sup>3</sup> According to the tradition, Andrew was buried in Patras, Greece, but his remains were transported to [Constantinople](#) and placed as relics in the church of the [Holy Apostles](#), built by [Constantine I](#). The Acts of Andrew (*Acta Andreae*), dated in the 7<sup>th</sup> century, have survived in several languages and describe Andrew's missionary activity in the Crimea and the [eastern coast](#) of the Black Sea.<sup>4</sup>

The diverse itinerary that Andrew followed can be traced around three large areas: Skythia (Crimea and its environs to the north), Colchis and the coastal area of [Asia Minor](#), including the city of Byzantium and its surroundings. The Latin sources that discuss Andrew's activity in Skythia are the eldest: the testimony of Arnobius (between the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> centuries), Tertullianus (first half of the 3<sup>rd</sup> century) and Origenes (d. 253). Eusebius of Caesarea borrowed a phrase from Origenes, according to which Skythia was destined for Andrew.<sup>5</sup>

During the first centuries of Christianity in Crimea there is no apparent evidence for a particular worshipping of Andrew (as was the case in Constantinople). On the contrary, in the eastern coast of the Black Sea existed a deeply rooted tradition that linked Andrew to the Christianisation of the area; this is verified by the Russian ambassadors to the Mingrelians,<sup>6</sup> as well as a missionary monk of the Vatican, Cristoforo Castelli in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Castelli writes that the great church of Pitsunda was dedicated to the Apostle Andrew, also considered an Evangelist in the area.<sup>7</sup>

### 3. The Early Byzantine period



The 'Passion of the Saints of Cherson', dating in the 4<sup>th</sup> century, contains information on the early history of Christianity in the Crimean peninsula.<sup>8</sup> In 299, at the time of Hermon, bishop of Jerusalem, a mission was sent to Crimea. One of the two bishops taking part, Basil (Basileus), was sent to preach in the city of Chersonesos, while the other one, Ephraim, was to spread the Christian faith among the barbarians ("Tauroskeythes") on the outskirts; both became Martyrs. Later on, another group of missionaries arrived in Chersonesos, comprised of three bishops (Eugenios, Agathodoros and Elpidios), but their mission also failed. Finally, at the time of Constantine I and after the martyrdom of Aetherios, the bishop Capiton managed to baptize the inhabitants of [Cherson](#). The comparison of this data with historical and archaeological evidence has caused long disputes.<sup>9</sup> Certain modifications to the text of Martyrios reveal the intent, during the reign of [Theodosius I](#), to emphasize the decisive role of the Constantinopolitan Seat. The bishop of Cherson, Aetherios, a historical figure, participated in the Council of Constantinople in 381.

Concerning Cimmerian Bosphorus, we find objects of Christian worship in tombs, dating to the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> centuries. The bishop Kadmos participated in the [Council of Nicaea](#) in 325. In the second half of the 4<sup>th</sup> century and in the 5<sup>th</sup> century, there is more archaeological evidence for the Christianisation of the area, including tombs, decorated with Christian symbols. In the eastern part of Crimea, the large [Jewish communities](#) created a friendly environment that made possible the propagation of Christianity. Near the medieval church in [Bosporus](#) (Kerch) came to light the remains of a baptistery, dated in the 6<sup>th</sup> century.<sup>10</sup>

In the eastern coast of the Black Sea another group of seven martyrs appears in the sources. These were seven brothers, soldiers and martyrs, who were exiled in [Pityous](#) during the time of Diocletian and Maximian (286-310). The Life of St Orentios, a 6<sup>th</sup> century source, describes the route from [Trebizond](#) to Pityous, in the form of a journey. Six of the brothers died in the coastal towns along the way, while only Longinos managed to reach Pityous.<sup>11</sup> Another party of Christian soldiers, the saints Eugenios, Valerian, Kanidios and Akylas, was also exiled in Pityous; they were later burned to death in Trebizond and became martyrs. The most famous exile in Pityous during that period was [St John Chrysostom](#), sent there in 406. However, he never made it to Pityous and died in the area Komana in [Pontos](#) in September of 407.<sup>12</sup>

John Chrysostom played an important role in the Christianisation of the [Goths](#) residing in Constantinople. Theodoretos of Cyr (5<sup>th</sup> century) compares Chrysostom to the Apostles. According to tradition, John had great missionary activity in the areas of the Abasgoi, the [Alans](#), the Iberians (Georgians) and other peoples. This activity is evident in the Life of John, written in the 7<sup>th</sup> century, but does not correspond to actual events.<sup>13</sup>

In the 6<sup>th</sup> century, historians, such as [Procopius of Caesarea](#), [Malalas](#) and others, mention the activities of Byzantine missionaries in the area of the Black Sea. According to [Agathias](#), [Justin I](#) baptized in Constantinople the ruler (prince) of Lazoi Tstathius ("spiritual child" of the emperor) in 522.<sup>14</sup> This ceremonial baptism of "barbarian" princes by the Byzantine emperors in the Baptistry of [Hagia Sophia](#) will later become a tradition of imperial diplomatic practices. In the period of Justinian this Byzantine mission became a mission endorsed by State. A typical example can be found in the Christianization of the Abkhazians (Abasgoi). Procopius writes that these people living in the Caucasus were still, in his days, worshipping trees as gods, as is indeed verified by modern Abkhazian place names. Therefore, several place names include the word "anykha" (an area or sacred item) and a word that is the name of a tree, for example "akhash-nykha" (the sacred area of the pear tree). At the beginning of the 5<sup>th</sup> decade of the 6<sup>th</sup> century, Justinian sent to Abkhazia the palace eunuch Euphratas, a person of Abkhazian decent, accompanied by priests. Euphratas managed to persuade the Abkhazian princes to denounce the practice of castration. During the same era the church of the Virgin Mary was built.<sup>15</sup> This church is identified as the Tsandripsh basilica, near the town Gagra (ancient Nitike).<sup>16</sup> In 527 Justinian baptised in Constantinople Grod (or Gord), ruler of the [Huns](#), who lived near the Cimmerian Bosphorus. In the 5<sup>th</sup> decade of the 6<sup>th</sup> century, the Goths Tetraxites, who resided in the valley of the river Ypanes or Kuban, requested a bishop from Justinian, who happily granted them their request.<sup>17</sup>

Therefore, the Christianisation of the "barbarians" by the missionaries sent from the empire's capital was integrated with the political and [diplomatic](#) context of the wars of Justinian.



#### 4. The Iconoclastic Period

The [Iconoclastic period](#) was a significant period for the propagation of Christianity, due to the fact that the iconoclasts were forced to leave the capital and other important cities. The martyr Stephen the Young, around 754, addresses the exiled iconoclastic monks and advises them to flee to the Black Sea area, near the province of Zichia, [Cherson](#), Bosphorus, Nikopse and Gothia.<sup>18</sup>

St Stephen of Sougdaia had significant missionary activity in Crimea. According to his Life, which survives in Greek, Slavic and Armenian versions, he must have been sent to Sougdaia by Patriarch German of Constantinople (715-730) around 729. As a bishop there, he managed to convert to Christianity many pagans (Antigae, Chazars and others), who formed a significant part of the population. For 35 years, for the duration of his bishopric, he also ordained many priests and deacons.<sup>19</sup> After his death on 764, his two pupils continued on teaching Christianity, one in Chazaria and one in Sougdaia.

At the beginning of the 9<sup>th</sup> century, the iconophile John Psychaites was exiled to [Crimea](#). There he persuaded many pagans, living in the environs of the Bosphorus, to convert to Christianity.<sup>20</sup> From the *Life of John of Gothia*, written between 815 and 843, we understand the complex reality of life in Crimea: in the mid-8<sup>th</sup> century, Gothia had regular iconoclastic bishops, while at the same time John was a 'heretic' iconophile bishop.<sup>21</sup>

The [Taktikon \(Notitia\)](#) of the [Patriarchate of Constantinople](#), also called the 'Taktikon De Boor' or 'the Iconophile Taktikon' (Cod. Par. 1555A, № 3 according to J. Darrouzès), dates to the end of the 8<sup>th</sup> century- beginning of 9<sup>th</sup> century. It mentions the province of Gothia, which includes the metropolitan see of Doros, and seven bishoprics. Among them were also the town Tamarcha and the fortress Astel, centre of the Chazar Hun. This metropolitan seat controlled a very large area: Crimea, part of northern Caucasus and part of the north-eastern coast of the Black Sea.<sup>22</sup> In this *Taktikon* we can detect the Patriarchate's intentions to extend its control on the areas surrounding the Black Sea.

#### 5. The Middle Byzantine and Palaiologan periods

Cherson of the Taurus area was a significant place for the missionary activity of Constantine-Cyril, one of the two brothers from Thessalonike, known as the Apostles of the Slavs (ca. 860).<sup>23</sup> Cyril visited "the peoples of Phoulloi", a town north-east of Crimea<sup>24</sup> and persuaded its citizens to cut down the holy tree that they worshipped until then. During Cyril's stay in Cherson, in the winter of 860/861, the relics of St Clemens were discovered in the island called 'Kazatchij' (of the Kazaks). The description of the itinerary of this mission is very rich in details concerning the topography of the town and the position of certain significant sanctuaries,<sup>25</sup> as well as the liturgical [typikon](#).<sup>26</sup>

In 988, in Cherson, the Russian prince Vladimir and his army ("druzhina") were [baptized](#) by the bishop of the town. Scholars have not yet identified the church where this ceremony took place. They have suggested the larger basilica of Ouvarov ("Ouvarovskaya"), the cross-shaped church in the main cemetery or even the cross-shaped church situated in the market-place.<sup>27</sup> The relics of St Clement and his pupil, along with ceremonial instruments, crosses and icons from Cherson were the gifts of Vladimir to the Cathedral of Kiev, the oldest church in Russia, also called "Desiatinnaia".<sup>28</sup> To commemorate his conversion to Christianity in Cherson, Vladimir built a church there (probably the so called 'basilica on the hill' in the western part of the city).<sup>29</sup>

At the beginning of the 10<sup>th</sup> century, the empire was busy with political problems in the area near the north-eastern coast of the Black Sea, inhabited by the Abkhazians, the [Alans](#) and the Khazars. Abkhazia was the "field of missions" for the conversion of the Alans of the northern Caucasus. Patriarch Nicholas Mystikos sent letters to Constantine III, ruler of Abkhazia (letter 51, dated in 914-916), to his son, George II (letter 46, dated 916-917) and to the bishop of Cherson (letter 106, dated 920), in which he mentions the conversion to Christianity of the Alans, their ruler, and another people that is not named.<sup>30</sup> The Christianization of the Alans was not smooth. A letter of Theodore, Bishop of Alania, addressed to Patriarch German of [Nicaea](#) in 1225, narrates the many difficulties that the propagation of Christianity had met in that area.<sup>31</sup>



The [Palaiologan](#) era was the final period of Byzantine missionary activity in Crimea. Toward the end of the 13<sup>th</sup> century, written sources mention the conversion to Christianity of the [Tatars](#). In the 14<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> c., a bishop of tataric ancestry is recorded in Sougdaia.<sup>32</sup>

1. Иванов, С. А., *Византийское миссионерство, Можно ли сделать из «варвара» христианина?* (Москва 2003).
2. "Epiphanius monachi et presbyteri de vita et actibus et morte sancti, et plane laudandi, et primi vocati inter alios apostolos Andreae," in Dressel, A. (ed.), *Epiphanius monachi et presbyteri edita et inedita* (Leipzig 1843), pp. 45-82 [= PG 120, col. 215-60].
3. Most of these names and countries have been already recorded in a 4th-C. opusculum of Epiphanius of Salamis, cf. T. Schermann, *Prophetarum vitae fabulosae* (Leipzig 1907), pp. 107-117: «β' Ἀνδρέας δὲ ὁ ἀδελφὸς αὐτοῦ, ὡς οἱ πρὸ ἡμῶν παραδεδόκασιν, ἐκίηρξε Σκύθαις καὶ Σογδιανοῖς καὶ Ὀρσίνοις καὶ ἐν Σεβαστοπόλει τῆς μεγάλης, ὅπου ἐστὶν ἡ παρεμβολὴ Ἀψαρος καὶ Ὑσσοῦ λιμὴν καὶ Φᾶσις ποταμὸς, ἔνθα οἱ κοῦσιν Αἰθίοπες, θάπτεται δὲ ἐν Πάτραις τῆς Ἀχαιῆς σταυρῶ προσδεθεὶς ὑπὸ Αἰγέα τοῦ βασιλέως Πατρῶν» [[http://users.uoa.gr/~nektar/orthodoxy/paterikon/epiphanius\\_apostoloi-12-70.htm](http://users.uoa.gr/~nektar/orthodoxy/paterikon/epiphanius_apostoloi-12-70.htm)].
4. Prieur, J., *Acta Andreae* (Corpus Christianorum, Series Apocryphorum 6, Turnhout 1989), pp. 443-549, 684-703; Vinogradov, A., "Die zweite Rezension der Acta Andreae et Matthiae apud anthropophagos [ВНГ 110В]", *Христианский Восток* 3 (IX), (2002), pp. 11-105; van Esbroeck, M., "Les Actes d'André d'après la tradition attribuée à Ephrem", *Христианский Восток* 3 (IX), (2002), pp. 106-151; *Деяния апостола Андрея, Предисловие*, перевод и комментарий А. Ю. Виноградова (Москва 2004) (Scrinium Philocalicum; 2); Виноградов, А. Ю., *Греческие предания о св. апостоле Андрее: Жития* (Москва-Санкт-Петербург 2005); Dvornik, F., *The Idea of Apostolicity in Byzantium and the Legend of the Apostle Andrew* (Cambridge Mass. 1958), pp. 173-189, 208-109; Виноградов, А. Ю., "Апостол Андрей и Черное Море: проблемы источниковедения", in Подосинов, А. В. (ed.), *Древнейшие государства Восточной Европы, 1996-1997* (Москва 1999), pp. 348-367; *Reallexikon für Antike und Christentum* XXII (Stuttgart 2007), pp. 96-97, s.v. "Krim" (L. Khrushkova).
5. von Harnack, A., *Die Mission und Ausbreitung des Christentums in den ersten drei Jahrhunderten* I-II (Leipzig 1924, repr. 1965), p. 539 ff, and in french *Mission et expansion du christianisme aux trois premiers siècles*, transl. M. Tardieu (Paris 2004). Harnack believes that Andrew indeed travelled in this whole area, but other scholars consider this purely a legend. See Зубарь, В. М. – Хворостяный, А. И., *От язычества к христианству, Начальный этап проникновения и утверждения христианства на юге Украины (вторая половина III– первая половина VI в.)* (Киев 2000), p. 54.
6. Лихачев, Д. С. (ed.), *Путешествия русских послов XVI-XVII вв., Статейные списки* (Москва-Ленинград 1954), p. 218.
7. Guiorgazze, V. (ed.), *Don Cristoforo De Castelli, Relazione e album dei schizzi sulla Georgia del secolo XVII* (Tbilisi 1976), fig. 466, pp. 177-178.
8. This source survives in three variations, Greek, Georgian and Russian. Латышев, В. В., "Жития св. епископов херсонских, Исследования и тексты", *Записки императорской Академии наук по историко-филологическому отделению* VIII 3 (1906), pp. 7-37, 58-62; Шестаков, С. П., *Очерки по истории Херсонеса в IV-X вв. по Р. Х.* (Памятники христианского Херсонеса III, Москва 1908), pp. 13-25, 139-141; Лавров, П., *Жития херсонских святых в греко-славянской письменности* (Памятники христианского Херсонеса II, Москва 1911), pp. 1-153; Латышев, В. В. – Кекелидзе, К., "Житие святых епископов Херсонских в грузинской минее", *Известия императорской археологической комиссии* 49 (1913), pp. 75-88; Halkin, F., "La passion des sept évêques de Cherson (Crimée)", *Analecta Bollandiana* 102 (1984), pp. 253-261, edition of the ВНГ 265z unpublished text from the 14th-c. manuscript Patmiacus 736.
9. Завадская, Е. А., "Христианизация ранневизантийского Херсонеса (IV-VI вв.)", in *Материалы по археологии, истории и этнографии Таврии X* (Симферополь 2003), pp. 405-406; *Reallexikon für Antike und Christentum* XXII (Stuttgart 2007), pp. 95-96, see "Krim" (L. Khrushkova). C. Zuckerman suggests a new reading of the source that will establish a more probable date for the mission of the bishops of Cherson: Zuckerman, C., "The Early Byzantine Strongholds in Eastern Pontus", *Travaux et Mémoires* 11 (1991), pp. 548-549; Цукерман, К., "Епископы и гарнизон Херсона в IV в.", in *Материалы по археологии, истории и этнографии Таврии IV* (Симферополь 1994-1995), pp. 545-561. This new interpretation appears rather ungrounded, as it is not fully verified by the sources: Хрушкова, Л. Г., "Современная раннехристианская и византийская археология в Крыму: проблемы и дискуссии", in Симонов, В. В. (ed.), *Раннее христианство в Северном Причерноморье* (Москва 2008), pp. 1215-1220.
10. Diatroptov, P. D., "The spread of Christianity in the Bosphorus in the 3rd-6th centuries", *Ancient Civilizations from Scythia to Siberia* 5.3 (1999), pp. 215-244; Зубарь, В. М. – Хворостяный, А. И., *От язычества к христианству, Начальный этап проникновения и утверждения*



- христианства на юге Украины (вторая половина III– первая половина VI в.) (Киев 2000), pp. 104-130; *Reallexikon für Antike und Christentum* XXII (Stuttgart 2007), pp. 103-106, s.v. "Krim" (L. Khrushkova).
11. Bryer, A. – Winfield, D., *The Byzantine Monuments and Topography of the Pontos* (Dumbarton Oaks Studies 20, Washington 1985), pp. 166-169, 325-327.
  12. Khrushkova, L., *Les monuments chrétiens de la côte orientale de la mer Noire, Abkhazie, IVe-XIVe siècles* (Bibliothèque de l'Antiquité Tardive 9, Turnhout 2006), pp. 24-25.
  13. Иванов, С. А., *Византийское миссионерство, Можно ли сделать из «варвара» христианина?* (Москва 2003), pp. 65-69.
  14. Αγαθίας, *Ιστορίαι* III.15.3, Keydell, R. (ed.), *Agathiae Myrinaei Historiarum Libri quinque* (Corpus Fontium Historiae Byzantinae 2, Berlin 1967), p. 103; Khrushkova, L., *Les monuments chrétiens de la côte orientale de la mer Noire, Abkhazie, IVe-XIVe siècles* (Turnhout 2006), p. 22.
  15. Προκόπιος, *Υπέρ των Πολέμων* VIII 3, 14-21, Haury, J. – Wirth, G. (ed.), *Procopius Caesarensis, Opera omnia, De bellis libri I-VIII*, vol. 2 (Leipzig 1962-1963), pp. 498-500. Evagrius in his *Ecclesiastical History*, IV 22, Bidez, J. – Parmentier, L. (ed.), *Evagrius, The Ecclesiastical History, with the Scholia* (Amsterdam 1964), p. 170 provides the same information. Procopius and Zonaras mention that the princes of Abkhazia and Lazike were widely practicing castration on boys, in order to sell them as slaves. Many eunuchs held important positions in the palace of Constantinople. See Guiland, P., "Les eunuques dans l'Empire byzantin", στο *Recherches sur les institutions byzantines* I (Berlin – Amsterdam 1967), pp. 166-167. Euphratas was *primekerios tou koitonos* (in charge of the palace eunuchs); many of these eunuchs were from the same area as him. See Martindale, J. R. (ed.), *The Prosopography of the Late Roman Empire* III A (Cambridge 1992), p. 465; Khrushkova, L., *Les monuments chrétiens de la côte orientale de la mer Noire, Abkhazie, IVe-XIVe siècles* (Turnhout 2006), p. 23; Иванов, С. А., *Византийское миссионерство, Можно ли сделать из «варвара» христианина?* (Москва 2003), p. 82-87.
  16. Хрушкова, Л. Г., *Раннехристианские памятники Восточного Причерноморья, IV-VII вв.* (Москва 2002), pp. 137-184.
  17. Иванов, С. И., *Византийское миссионерство, Можно ли сделать из «варвара» христианина?* (Москва 2003), p. 88.
  18. Auzéry, M.-F., *La Vie d'Étienne le Jeune par Étienne le Diacre* (Aldershot 1997); Auzéry, M.-F., *L'hagiographie et l'iconoclasme byzantin, le cas de la Vie d'Étienne le Jeune* (Birmingham Byzantine and Ottoman Monograph 5, Aldershot 1999); Иванов, С. И., *Византийское миссионерство, Можно ли сделать из «варвара» христианина?* (Москва 2003), p. 120. On the issue of the iconophile or iconoclastic inclination of Crimea see Auzéry, M.-F., "Gothie et Crimée de 750 à 830 dans les sources ecclésiastiques et monastiques grecques", *Ματєριαλє по архєολογιι, ιστοριι ι εтнογραφιι Ταυριι* 7 (2000), pp. 324-327; *Reallexikon für Antike und Christentum* XXII (Stuttgart 2007), pp. 100-102, see "Krim" (L. Khrushkova).
  19. Recent editions of the Life of St Stephen: Bozoyan, A., "La Vie arménienne de saint Étienne de Sougdaia", στο Zuckerman, C. (ed.), *La Crimée entre Byzance et le Khaganat Khazar* (Centre de recherches d'Histoire et Civilisation de Byzance, Monographies 25, Paris 2006), pp. 87-108; Ivanov, S. A., "The Slavonic Life of Saint Stefan of Surozh", στο Zuckerman, C. (ed.), pp. 109-170; Иванов, С. И., *Византийское миссионерство, Можно ли сделать из «варвара» христианина?* (Москва 2003), pp. 121-127.
  20. van den Ven, P., "La Vie grecque de Jean le Psichaitе, confesseur sous le règne de Léon l'Arménien (813-820)", *Le Muséon* III, Nouv. Sér. (1902), pp. 97-125.
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24. The location of the town called "Phoullai" has not been identified, even though there are several suggestions about it. The Tepsen plateau appears to be the most probable out of these suggestions. See Майко, В. В., *Средневековое городище на плато Тепсень в Юго-Восточном Крыму* (Киев 2004); *Reallexikon für Antike und Christentum XXII* (Stuttgart 2007), p. 83, s.v. "Krim" (L. Khrushkova).

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## Glossary :

	taktikon
	<p><b>1. Adm.:</b> A major source for the organization and development of Byzantine administration. In the Middle Byzantine period the taktika, as precedence lists ( τακτικά πρωτοκαθεδρίας or τακτικά της καθέδρας or κλητορολόγια or κλητοροθέσια) catalogued the officials who participated to the formal ceremonies of the imperial palace. Four precedence list are still preserved: Uspenskij, Philotheos', Benescevic, de l' Escurial.</p> <p><b>2. Mil.:</b> A "Taktika" is a famous manual for strategic and tactical military operations by land and by sea. Author in the early 10th century. at Leo F. The text preserved in a compendium and complete the form and influenced the drafting of such handbooks as downstream strategic.</p> <p><b>3. Eccl.:</b> The "taktiko", known also as "Notitia episcopatum" or <i>syntagmaton</i> , in the administration of the Church is a classification list of ecclesiastical authorities according to hierarchy.</p>
	typikon
	<p>Foundation document of a monastery compiling the rules regarding its administrative organization and liturgic rituals, as well as the comportment inside a cenobitic monastery.</p> <p>The monastic typika could also include the biography (vita) of the monastery founder along with a catalogue of the movable or immovable property of the monastery. They constitute an important source for the study of the monastic life, while at the same time they shed light on many aspects of the Byzantine society.</p> <p>The liturgical typika were calendars with instructions for each day's services, liturgical books with rules arranging the celebration rituals.</p>

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## Quotations

An excerpt from the Vita of St. Stephen of Sougdaia

2. κατὰ δὲ τὸν καιρὸν ἐκεῖνον τῆς περιωνύμου πόλεως Σουγδαίας πρόεδρος τὸν βίον ἀπολιπόντος καὶ πρὸς κύριον ἐκδημήσας, χρεια καὶ ζήτησις ἐγένετο ἑτέρου ἀρχιερέως· εὐρῶν δὲ ἡ ἐκκλησιαστικὴ τάξις τὸν αἰδιδίμον ἄνδρα καὶ διὰ τὴν προσοῦσαν αὐτοῦ ἀρετὴν καὶ τὸ εὐσταθὲς τοῦ ἤθους καὶ τοῦ λόγου βρῖθοντα καὶ ὀρθῶν δογμάτων ὑψηγητὴν, ψήφω καὶ δοκομασίᾳ τῆς θείας καὶ ἱεράς συνόδου καὶ αὐτοῦ τοῦ ἀποστολικοῦ θρόνου ἰθύνοντος (Γερμανοῦ, λέγω, τοῦ ἀγιωτάτου καὶ ὁμολογητοῦ) εἰς τὸν ἀρχιερατικὸν θρόνον ἀνάγεται ὁ πανιερώτατος Στέφανος. καὶ τίθεται τὸ φῶς ἐπὶ τὴν λυχνίαν καὶ φέγγει πᾶσιν τοῖς ἐκεῖσε μὴ μόνον πιστοῖς, ἀλλὰ καὶ ἀπίστοις, οὐ μόνον τοῖς ἐγγύς, ἀλλὰ καὶ τοῖς πόρρω· δίκην ἡλίου πάντας κατα φωτίζει καὶ καταγλάζει τῷ φαεινῷ αὐτοῦ βίῳ.

«Βίος τοῦ ὁσίου πατρὸς ἡμῶν Στεφάνου τοῦ ὁμολογητοῦ ἀρχιεπισκόπου Σουγδαίας», ed. В. Г. Василевский, *Труды* 3 (С.-Петербург - Ленинград 1915), pp. 73-4.

The patriarch Nicolas I Mystikos praises Constantine III of Abasgia of his role in the christianization of the Alans:

Τῷ περιδόξῳ ἐξουσιαστῇ Ἀβασγίας

Τὸ φιλόθεόν σου καὶ τὸ χρηστὸν τοῦ τρόπου ἐκίνησεν ἡμᾶς πρὸς τὴν σὴν ἀγάπην, ᾧ τοῦ θεοῦ ἄνθρωπε· καὶ ἰδοὺ πρῶτον διὰ τοῦ γράμματος προσαγορευόμεν σε καὶ ὡς τέκνον ἡμῶν οἷα παρόντες ἐναγκαλιζόμεθα καὶ πατρικοῖς φιλήμασι περιπτυσσόμεθα. Καὶ γὰρ τοῦ μὲν φιλοθέου ἀπόδειξις ἡ ἔνθεός σου σπουδὴ, ἣν ἐπὶ τῇ σωτηρίᾳ καὶ τῇ ἐπιγνώσει τῆς ἀληθείας τοῦ ἔθνους τῶν Ἀλανῶν ἐπεδείξω καὶ ἐπιδείκνυσαι ἀνεμάθομεν γὰρ ἐκ διαφόρων τῶν ἐπισταμένων τὰ σὰ κατορθώματα ὡς μετὰ γε θεὸν πολλὴν τὴν πρόνοιαν κατεβάλου εἰς τὸν φωτισμὸν τοῦ τῆς Ἀλανίας ἄρχοντος καὶ εἰς τοὺς ὅσοι σὺν αὐτῷ κατηξιώθησαν τοῦ ἀγίου βαπτίσματος.

R. J. H. Jenkins and L. G. Westerink (ed.), *Nicolas I Patriarch of Constantinople, Letters* (CFHB 6, Washington 1973), p. 278.