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Byzantine prosopography out of Orphanides-Nicolaides Collection of The Athens Numismatic Museum

The Orphanides-Nicolaides Collection of byzantine lead seals, consisting of 584 seals and tokens was published in 1996. During all these years the Collection has undeniably established a very strong historical evidence for the history of Byzantine civil and ecclesiastical administrations, the prosopography and the iconography as well. Certainly, as shown from the recent bibliography of the Byzantine sigillography, the Collection has become a very useful tool to historians, as a reliable historical source.

Besides, it seems that after so many years of publication, and after a good re-examination of several misread, at the first reading, inscriptions, the rich information of this precious historical source has not been yet exhausted! Important Byzantine families of aristocracy and several persons of interest, that played decisive roles in the making of historical events, emerge from the study of the inscriptions, enriching our knowledge about the Byzantine prosopography. Persons such as Anzas, Aristenos, Tarchaneiotes, Gymnos, Kourkouas, Alousianos, Artavasdos, Maroules Drosos, Kozazes, Ophryditzes, Attaleiates, Bataztes, Kamateros, Sarantenos, Pediassimos, Panokomites and others, appear glamorous from their seals to reinforce our interest for the important role of the Byzantine aristocracy in the administration of the empire.

Finally the aim of this paper is to build an integrated picture of the prosopographical data of this significant Collection of Byzantine lead seals.