



Summary :

Sabas Asidenos (second half of 12th c. - first half of 13th c.) was a court official and a relative of the imperial family of the Laskarids. In 1204, after the fall of Constantinople to the Latins, he temporarily assumed control over the valley of the lower Meander River. Towards the end of his life he was awarded the title of *sebastokrator*.

Date and Place of Birth

second half of 12th c.

Date and Place of Death

first half of 13th c.

Main Role

Hegemon (independent ruler)

1. Life and Activity

Sabas Asidenos possibly lived in [Sampson](#) (ancient Priene), near [Miletus](#). In 1204, after the fall of [Constantinople](#) to the Latins of the [fourth Crusade](#), he temporarily established an independent rule in the valley of the lower Meander River around the administrative centre of Sampson. But towards the late 1205 or the early 1206 he had to recognise the dominion of Emperor [Theodore I Laskaris](#) (1204-1222) in the region,¹ at the same time maintaining the province under his command.

The relations between Asidenos and Theodore I Laskaris were later restored and the two men even became relatives: according to a document of the monastery of Xerochoraphion issued in 1213/1214, Asidenos appears to have got married to a member of the imperial family of the Laskarids and been awarded the high title of *sebastokrator*.² In the same period his landed property had acquired the status of *episkepsis*.

No more information is available about other activities of Sabas Asidenos. The last time his name was mentioned was in 1216 in a document of the Theotokos tou Stylou Monastery (St. Paul the Younger) of [Mount Latros](#).³

1. In the same period the emperor of Nicaea regained control over the areas of the Κελβιανού Meander, Philadelphia and Neokastra. See Σαββίδης, Α., *Βυζαντινά στασιαστικά και αυτονομιστικά κινήματα στα Δωδεκάνησα και τη Μικρά Ασία, 1189-1240 μ.Χ.: Συμβολή στη μελέτη της υστεροβυζαντινής προσωπογραφίας και τοπογραφίας την εποχή των Αγγέλων, των Λασκαριδών της Νίκαιας και των Μεγαλοκομνηνών του Πόντου* (Athens 1987), p. 247.

2. The document of the monastery has been included in: Λάμπρος, Σ., "Ανέκδοτα έγγραφα της μονής Ξεροχωραφίου", *NE* 11 (1914), pp. 402-403; Miklosich, F. – Müller, J., *Acta et diplomata graeca medii aevi acta et profana* (Wien 1871), IV, p. 292, V, p. 257; Wilson, N. – Darrouzès, J., "Restes du cartulaire de Hiéra Xérochoraphion", *REB* 26 (1968), pp. 5-45, no. 2. In that period the title of *sebastokrator* was awarded to the emperor's brothers. See Σαββίδης, Α., *Βυζαντινά στασιαστικά και αυτονομιστικά κινήματα στα Δωδεκάνησα και τη Μικρά Ασία, 1189-1240 μ.Χ.: Συμβολή στη μελέτη της υστεροβυζαντινής προσωπογραφίας και τοπογραφίας την εποχή των Αγγέλων, των Λασκαριδών της Νίκαιας και των Μεγαλοκομνηνών του Πόντου* (Athens 1987), pp. 246-251.

3. Miklosich, F. – Müller, J., *Acta et diplomata graeca medii aevi acta et profana* IV (Wien 1871), p. 292.



Bibliography :

	Dölger F. , <i>Regesten der Kaiserurkunden des Oströmischen Reiches von 565-1453</i> , Corpus der Urkunden des mittelalters und der neuren Zeit, München – Berlin 1924-1965
	Angold M. , <i>A Byzantine Government in Exile. Government and Society under the Lascarids of Nicaea (1204-1261)</i> , Oxford 1975
	Σαββίδης Α. , <i>Βυζαντινά στασιαστικά και αυτονομιστικά κινήματα στα Δωδεκάνησα και στη Μικρά Ασία, 1189-σ. 1240 μ.Χ. Συμβολή στη μελέτη της υστεροβυζαντινής προσωπογραφίας και τοπογραφίας την εποχή των Αγγέλων, των Λασκαρίδων της Νίκαιας και των Μεγαλοκομνηνών του Πόντου</i> , Αθήνα 1987
	Cheyne J.-C. , <i>Pouvoir et contestations à Byzance (963-1210)</i> , Paris 1990, Byzantina Sorbonensia 9
	Hoffmann J. , <i>Rudimente von Territorialstaaten im Byzantinischen Reich (1071-1210): Untersuchungen über Unabhängigkeitsbestrebungen und ihr Verhältnis zu Kaiser und Reich</i> , München 1974
	Brand C.M. , "Asidenos Sabas", <i>The Oxford Dictionary of Byzantium 1</i> , 1991, 207
	Orgels P. , "Sabas Asidéno, dynaste de Sampsôn", <i>Βυζάντιον</i> , 10, 1935, 67-80

Glossary :

	episkepsis, couratoria
(byz) The large imperial estates, namely "episkepsis" (under the episkepsites) or "curatoria" (under the curator), included settlements, arable lands, forests, aquifer, domestic animals and cattle. The episkepsis could be either autonomous or form parts of the curatoria, which were rather larger estates. Any autonomous episkepsis could become a private estate after an imperial donation.	
	sebastokrator
Honorary title of the Byzantine court. The office was established in 1081 by Alexios I Komnenos for his elder brother Isaac, equivalent to the one of regent	

Sources

Heisenberg, A. (ed.), *Georgii Acropolitae Opera 1* (Bibliotheca Teubneriana, Leipzig 1903).

Σάθας, Κ.Ν. (ed.), *Μεσαιωνική Βιβλιοθήκη 7* (Paris 1894), pp. 1-556.

Λάμπρος, Σ. (ed.), «Ανέκδοτα έγγραφα της μονής Ξηροχωραφίου», *Νέος Ελληνομνήμων 11* (1914), pp. 401-414.

Miklosich, F. – Müller, J., *Acta et diplomata graeca medii aevi acta et profana IV, V* (Wien 1871, 1887).

Wilson, N. – Darrouzès, J., "Restes du cartulaire de Hiéra Xérochoraphion", *Revue des Études Byzantines 26* (1968), pp. 5-45, no. 2.

Chronological Table

second half of 12th c.: Birth of Sabas Asidenos

1204: Establishment of an independent rule in the area of Sampson (ancient Priene)

1205/1206: The emperor of Nicaea, Theodore I Laskaris, is acknowledged as the suzerain of the area of Sampson



1213/1214: Sabas Asidenos is awarded the title of *sebastokrator*

first half of 13th c.: Death of Sabas Asidenos