

SELECTIVE GLOSSARY OF GREEK, LATIN, AND ARABIC
TERMINOLOGY

Abbreviations and cross references

Ar.	Arabic	p. cl.	post classical
Byz.	Byzantine	pl.	plural
cl.	classical	q.v.	<i>quod vide</i> , which see
esp.	especially	R.	Roman
Gr.	Greek	sing.	singular
Lat.	Latin	W.	Western
lit.	literally	*	See Gazeteer

' <i>abd</i>	(Ar.) [pl. 'abīd]: lit. "slave"; in <i>Ifrīqiya</i> * and Egypt, black soldiers, originally bought as slaves.
' <i>ahd</i>	(Ar.): covenant; esp. Muslim covenant of peace with non-Muslim power.
<i>akation/akatenarion</i>	ἀκάτιον/ἀκατενάριον [pl. ἀκάτια/ἀκατενάρια]: diminutive derivative synonyms for <i>akatos</i> (q.v.).
<i>akatos</i>	ἄκατος (cl. & Byz. Gr.): light merchant galley.
<i>akritēs</i>	ἀκρίτης (Byz. Gr.) [pl. ἀκρίτια/ <i>akritai</i>]: from <i>akra</i> , "edges, border regions"; troops stationed in, or inhabitants of, frontier territories.
<i>Al-Ḥajj</i>	(Ar.): pilgrimage to Mecca, obligatory at least once in life for Muslims able to accomplish it, one of the five "pillars" of Islam.
<i>amīr</i>	(Ar.) [pl. <i>umarā'</i>]: lit. "commander", usually in the Middle Ages, a military commander of various rank, also a title.
<i>amīr al-juyūsh</i>	(Ar.): commander of the armies.
<i>Amīr al-Muslimīn</i>	(Ar.): "Commander of the Muslims", title of Almoravid rulers.
<i>aplēkton</i>	ἄπληκτον (Byz. Gr.) [pl. ἄπληκτια/ <i>aplēkta</i>]: lit. "fortified camp", staging area, rendezvous for forces, magazine where resources were stockpiled.

<i>Arithmos</i>	Ἄριθμός; in Byz. Gr. the regiment of imperial guards also known as the Βίγλα/ <i>Vigla</i> .
<i>asēkrētis</i>	ἀσηκρητίς (Byz. Gr.) [sing. & pl.]: upper echelon of imperial secretaries in the 6th-12th centuries.
<i>bourgesioi</i>	βουργέσιοι (Byz. Gr.): legal order or category created by Manuel I Komnēnos for foreigners permanently domiciled in the Empire.
<i>buṣṭa</i>	(Ar.) [pl. <i>buṣṭā</i>]: used in the 12th-13th centuries for large merchant sailing ships of the type referred to in contemporary W. sources as <i>naves</i> (<i>q.v.</i>).
<i>Caesar</i>	Καῖσαρ; in Byz. Gr. a dignity applied to junior emperors, often emperors' sons but also others on occasions.
<i>cattus/gatus</i>	(med. Lat.) [pl. <i>catti/gati</i>]: type of galley referred to commonly in W. sources of the late 11th and early 12th centuries, from the Ar. <i>qīṭ'a</i> (<i>q.v.</i>).
<i>chrysobull</i>	χρυσόβουλλον (Byz. Gr.): solemn document bearing the imperial gold <i>bullā</i> , seal.
<i>comes</i>	see <i>komēs</i> .
<i>comes Africae</i>	late imperial provincial administrator of the province of <i>Africa</i> .
<i>dā'ī</i>	(Ar.) lit. "caller/summoner", missionary propagandist; esp. spreading Ismā'īlism.
<i>diērēs</i>	διήρης [pl. διήρεις/ <i>diēreis</i>]: in cl. Gr. a "two" or bireme, rowing two files of oars each side; in Byz. literature a literary affectation for a warship but, occasionally, with apparent reference to an actual number of oar banks.
<i>domestikos tōn scholōn</i>	δομέστικος τῶν σχολῶν (Byz. Gr.): commander of the regiment of the <i>scholae</i> , the imperial guard.
<i>doux</i>	δουξ (Byz. Gr.) [pl: δουκάδες/ <i>doukades</i>]: esp. military commanders and provincial governors from the 11th century.
<i>droungarios</i>	δρουγγάριος (Byz. Gr.) [pl. δρουγγάριοι/ <i>droungarioi</i>]: high military rank in the 7th-

	8th centuries, esp. naval commands.
<i>droungarios tou ploi- mou/droungarios tōn ploimōn</i>	δρουγγάριος τοῦ πλοῦμου/δρουγγάριος τῶν πλοῦμῶν (Byz. Gr.): <i>droungarios</i> of the ship(s), of the imperial fleet at Constantinople.
<i>Eidikon</i>	Εἰδικόν (Byz. Gr.): etymology disputed, imperial treasury and warehouse.
<i>eparchos</i> of the city	ἑπαρχος τῆς πόλεως (Byz. Gr.): governor of Constantinople, responsible for law and order, justice, and commerce.
<i>exarchos</i>	ἑξάρχος (Byz. Gr.) [pl. ἑξάρχου/ <i>exarchoi</i>]: lit. “leader”, governor of certain provinces in the 6th-8th centuries, holding both civil and military power, esp. of Ravenna and <i>Carthage*</i> , hence ἑξαρχία/ <i>exarchia</i> , “exarchate”.
<i>geniza</i>	<i>genīza</i> (Hebrew): storehouse, depository for documents bearing name of God, in particular that attached to the synagogue in <i>al-Fuṣṭāṭ*</i> .
<i>Ghassānī</i>	(Ar.): from the Banū Ghassān, south Arabian tribe which settled around Damascus in the 3rd and 4th centuries C.E.
<i>ghurāb</i>	(Ar.) [pl. <i>aghriba</i>]: used for oared galleys of indeterminate types, often interchangeably with <i>shīnī</i> (<i>q.v.</i>).
<i>golafrus/garabus</i>	(med. Lat.) [pl. <i>golafri/garabi</i>]: name for W. galleys of some kind in the late 11th and early 12th centuries, from the Ar. <i>ghurāb</i> (<i>q.v.</i>)
<i>gumbaria</i>	(med. Lat.) [pl. <i>gumbariae</i>]: Latinization of the Byz. Gr. <i>koumb(p)arion</i> (<i>q.v.</i>) for a war galley.
<i>ḥājīb</i>	(Ar.): lit. “chamberlain”, superintendant of a place, head of government, chief minister; esp. in <i>al-Andalus*</i> .
<i>ḥarrāqa</i>	(Ar.) [pl. <i>ḥarrāqāt</i>]: used in a variety of contexts for light vessels of various kinds, often river boats and pleasure craft, but also for warships, fire ships in particular.
<i>hippagōgos</i>	ἵππαγωγός (cl. & Byz. Gr.) [pl. ἵππαγωγοί/

	<i>hippagoi</i>]: horse transport ship.
<i>imām</i>	(Ar.): religious leader, in particular the <i>imāms</i> of the <i>Shīʿa</i> (<i>q.v.</i>).
<i>jihād</i>	(Ar.): lit. “striving”, in particular, here, holy war to extend the boundaries of the <i>dār al-Islām</i> , the world ruled by Muslims.
<i>jizya</i>	(Ar.): poll tax levied on non-Muslim men under Muslim rule and recognized religiously as <i>dhimmī</i> , peoples of the book.
<i>jund</i>	(Ar.): esp. in <i>al-Andalus</i> , a regiment attached to a <i>kūra</i> (<i>q.v.</i>).
<i>Karabisianoī</i>	Καραβισιάνοι (Byz. Gr.): lit. “those of the <i>κάραβοι</i> ” (<i>q.v.</i>), first regular fleet of the Byzantine Empire.
<i>karabion/karabos</i>	καράβιον/κάραβος (Byz. Gr.) [pl. <i>καράβια(οι)/karabia(oi)</i>]: word for a war galley which first appeared in Muslim Egypt but then spread in the Byz. Empire.
<i>katēna</i>	κατήνα (Byz. Gr.) [pl. <i>κατήναι</i>]: possibly the same as <i>akation/akatenarion</i> (<i>q.v.</i>), etymology otherwise unknown, possibly Ar. <i>qiṭʿa</i> , transport vessel; used by Theophanēs the Confessor for Muslim transport ships.
<i>katepanō</i>	κατεπάνω (Byz. Gr.) [sing. & pl.]: lit. “the one above”, used in the 11th century, esp., for governors of major provinces, esp. Italy, <i>Mesopotamia</i> *, and Bulgaria.
<i>Khārijī</i>]	(Ar.) [pl. <i>Khawārij</i>]: lit. “seceders”, hearkened back to a supposed purity of the age of Caliph ‘Umar ibn al-Khaṭṭāb, believing that succession to the Caliphate should be decided by God alone.
<i>kleisourarchēs</i>	κλεισουράρχης (Byz. Gr.) [pl. <i>κλεισουράρχαι/kleisourarchai</i>]: commander of a <i>kleisoura</i> , territory smaller than, sometimes part of, a <i>thema</i> (<i>q.v.</i>).
<i>komēs</i>	<i>comes</i> (Lat.), κόμης (Byz. Gr.) [pl. <i>κόμητες/komētes</i>]: late imperial title for officials of various ranks with assignments, sometimes military, often linked to the imperial family; various functionaries in later times, also

	commander of a squadron of a fleet.
<i>koubikouarios</i>	κουβικουάριος (Byz. Gr.): general term for a palace eunuch waiting upon the emperor; appointed to many commands, including military ones.
<i>koumb(p)arion</i>	κουμβ(π)άριον (Byz. Gr.) [pl. κουμβ(π)άρια/ <i>koumb(p)aria</i>]: term for a Muslim galley, perhaps from <i>ghurāb</i> (q.v.).
<i>kūra</i>	(Ar.): landed district or dependent province, from Gr. χώρα, place.
<i>logothetēs</i>	λογοθέτης: lit. “auditor”, in Byz. Gr. a generic term for a high official, head of a department of the imperial administration.
<i>logothetēs tou dromou</i>	λογοθέτης τοῦ δρόμου (Byz. Gr.): head of the department of the δρόμος/ <i>dromos</i> , originally the public post but by the eighth century concerned with foreign affairs.
<i>logothetēs tōn agelōn</i>	λογοθέτης τῶν ἀγγελῶν (Byz. Gr.): head of the department of the ἀγέλαι, herds, of the imperial horses and mules.
<i>magister militum</i>	(p. cl. Lat.): commander in chief of armies in the later R. empire.
<i>Magnaaura</i>	Μαγναύρα (Byz. Gr.): ceremonial hall on the edge of the imperial palace in Constantinople.
<i>Mahdī</i>	<i>Al-Mahdī</i> (Ar.): lit. “the guided one”. Among the <i>Shīʿa</i> (q.v.), the hidden <i>imām</i> (q.v.), descendent of ‘Alī ibn Abī Ṭālib.
<i>maks</i>	(Ar.) [pl. <i>mukūs</i>]: non- <i>Qurʾānic</i> tax.
<i>malik</i>	(Ar.) [pl. <i>mulūk</i>]: ruler, loosely, “king”.
<i>mamlaka</i>	(Ar.) [pl. <i>mamālik</i>]: realm, loosely, “kingdom”.
<i>mamlūk</i>	(Ar.) [pl. <i>mamālīk</i>]: “one owned”, a slave. Slaves imported from non-Muslim regions and raised to be soldiers loyal to their owner/commander.
<i>Mardaites</i>	Μαρδαῖται (Byz. Gr.): a people, originally from the Tauros, who became famous as warriors in Byz. service, esp., here, in various fleets of the naval <i>themata</i> (q.v.).
<i>markab</i>	(Ar.) [pl. <i>marākib</i>]: generic term for ships in

	general.
<i>mawālī</i>	(Ar.): from <i>mawlā</i> , “client”: non-Arab converts to Islam adopted into Arab tribes as clients.
<i>megas domestikos</i>	μέγας δομέστικος (Byz. Gr.): supreme military commander below the emperor, esp. in 11th-12th centuries
<i>megas doux</i>	μέγας δούξ (Byz. Gr.): admiral of the imperial fleet from the late 11th century.
<i>monērēs</i>	μονήρης [pl. μονήρεις/ <i>monēreis</i>]: in cl. Gr. a “one” or monoreme, rowing one file of oars each side; in Byz. literature a literary affectation for a small warship, perhaps also actually used in practice.
<i>mujāhidūn</i>	(Ar.): those who wage <i>jihād</i> , both holy war and also other forms of “striving for God”.
<i>mulūk al-ṭawā’if</i>	(Ar.): <i>ṭā’ifa</i> , “party” “kings”; a generic, the rulers themselves used various titles.
<i>myoparōn</i>	μυοπάρων (cl. Gr.) [pl. μυοπάρωνες/ <i>myoparōnes</i>]: light pirate ship.
<i>navis</i>	[pl. <i>naves</i>]: in med. Lat. a generic for ships in general but having the specific sense of round-hulled, lateen-rigged, sailing ships in the 12th-14th centuries.
<i>nipsistarios</i>	νιψιστιάριος (Byz. Gr.): originally an official whose function was to hand the emperor a basin in which to wash his hands, became a title.
<i>Oghuz</i>	<i>Ghuzz</i> (Ar.), Οὔζοι (Byz. Gr.): the <i>Oghuz</i> Turks, confederations of Turkish peoples from S of the Aral Sea.
<i>ostiaros</i>	ὄστιάριος (Byz. Gr.), <i>ostiarus</i> (Lat.): doorkeeper, originally an office whose function was to introduce dignitaries to the emperor, became a title.
<i>parakoimōmenos</i>	παρακοιμώμενος (Byz. Gr.): lit. “sleeping at the side [of the emperor]”, high chamberlain, guardian of the emperor’s bedchamber, head of the civilian government in the tenth century.
<i>paria</i>	(med. Spanish), from med. Lat. <i>pariare</i> , to pay a fine; tribute paid by one state to another in

	return for protection or non-aggression.
<i>patrikios</i>	πατρίκιος (Byz. Gr.), <i>patricius</i> (Lat.): high ranking dignity, not an office, granted to important generals and governors.
<i>pentēkonteros</i>	πεντηκόντερος [pl. πεντηκόντεροι]: in cl. Gr., a fifty-oared galley; in Byz. literature a literary affectation.
<i>phortagōgoi</i>	φορταγωγοί (Byz. Gr.): lit. “load carriers”, transport ships.
<i>phortēgoi</i>	φορτηγοί (Byz. Gr.): lit. “load carriers”, transport ships.
<i>plōion</i>	πλοῖον (cl. & Byz. Gr.) [pl. πλοῖα/ <i>plōia</i>]: generic for ships in general.
<i>plōia makra</i>	πλοῖα μακρά: literary synonym in Byz. Gr. for “long ships”, war galleys.
<i>praefectus</i>	πραίφεκτος (Byz. Gr.), <i>praefectus</i> (Lat.): title conferred on local rulers.
<i>praefectus Aegypti</i>	title of governors of Egypt under the early R. empire.
<i>praetorian prefect</i>	<i>praefectus praetorio</i> (Lat.), ἑπαρχος τῶν πραιτωρίων/ <i>eparchos tōn praitōriōn</i> (cl. & Byz. Gr.): originally commander of the imperial bodyguard, but a high-ranking civil functionary from the 4th century, deputy to the emperor.
<i>proedros</i>	πρόεδρος: in Byz. Gr. a dignity rather than an office, ranking with the office of <i>proedros</i> [president] of the Senate.
<i>prōtasēkrētis</i>	πρωτασηκρήτις (Byz. Gr.): head of the secretaries, ἀσηκρήτις/ <i>asēkrētis</i> (q.v.) of the imperial chancery.
<i>prōtosebastos</i>	πρωτοσέβαστος (Byz. Gr.): lit. “first <i>sebastos</i> ”, high title conferred on close relatives of the emperor, esp. under the Komnēnoi emperors.
<i>prōtospatharios</i>	πρωτοσπαθάριος (Byz. Gr.): lit. “first sword-bearer”, first of the <i>spatharioi</i> , dignity awarded to military commanders, governors of <i>themata</i> (q.v.), foreign princes, and others. Varied in significance over the centuries.

<i>prōtopatharios tēs phialēs</i>	πρωτοσπαθάριος τῆς φιάλης (Byz. Gr.): <i>prōtopatharios</i> of the “basin”: judge of the oarsmen of the imperial ships, probably from the “basin” of the small harbour at <i>Boukoleon</i> , S of the imperial palace and the Hippodrome on the Sea of Marmara.
<i>qā'id</i>	(Ar.): military commander of various rank, in <i>al-Andalus</i> frequently commander in chief, admiral of a fleet.
<i>qārib</i>	(Ar.) [pl. <i>qawārib</i>]: sometimes a small boat or ship's boat but also a generic for sailing ships in general.
<i>qit'a</i>	(Ar.) [pl. <i>aqṭā'</i>]: word used esp. for war galleys but also for transport ships, both galleys and sailing ships.
<i>Rhōs</i>	Ῥῶς/Ρῶς (Byz. Gr.): Scandinavians settled in the Ukraine, especially along the Dnepr river and around Kiev.
<i>ribāt</i>	(Ar.) [pl. <i>ribāṭāt</i>]: fortress/“monastery” on the frontiers of the Muslim world where military and religious duties were performed.
<i>safīna</i>	(Ar.) [pl. <i>sufun</i>]: common word for ships in general, esp. transport ships.
<i>sagēna</i>	σαγήνα (Byz. Gr.) [pl. σαγήναι/ <i>sagēnai</i>]: etymology unknown, possibly from σαγήνη, a fishing net. Used for small ships of Muslim or Dalmatian pirates but by the <i>Stratēgikon</i> of Maurice for a Byzantine galley of some kind.
<i>saio</i>	<i>sagio</i> , <i>et var.</i> (p. cl. & med. Lat.): royal retainer in the Ostrogothic kingdom, agent of the king.
<i>sa(k)toura</i>	Σα(κ)τούρα (Byz. Gr.) [pl. σα(κ)τούρα/ <i>sa(k)-tourai</i>]: term for Cretan ships used in the <i>Vita Basilii</i> of the <i>Thephanēs continuatus</i> , probably from Ar. <i>shakhtūr</i> , some kind of small ship.
<i>sandanum</i>	(med. Lat.): from Byz. Gr. χελάνδιον/ <i>chelandion</i> , W. transport galley in the 12th-13th centuries.

<i>sekreton</i>	σέκρετον (Byz. Gr.): a department of the imperial administration.
<i>shalandī</i>	(Ar.) [pl. <i>shalandiyyāt</i>]: term used frequently in Muslim sources for Byz. galleys, then emulated by the Muslims, esp. in Egypt; from Byz. Gr. <i>chelandion</i> .
<i>sharī'a</i>	(Ar.): from the root <i>shara'a</i> , “prescribe”, the revealed law of Islam as found in the <i>Qur'ān</i> , the <i>sunna</i> (q.v.), and the schools of law.
<i>Shī'a</i>	(Ar.): from “ <i>shī'at 'Alī'</i> ”, “party of ‘Alī’”, Muslims believing (among other things) that the Caliphate should have descended through the line of Muḥammad’s son-in-law, ‘Alī ibn Abī Ṭālib.
<i>shūnī</i>	(Ar.) [pl. <i>shawānī</i>]: common generic term for a war galley.
<i>skevophoron</i>	σκευοφόρον (Byz. Gr.) [pl. <i>σκευοφόρα/skevophora</i>]: lit. “carrying vessel”, supply ship.
<i>skevos, barytera</i>	σκευός, βαρύτερα (Byz. Gr.) [pl. <i>σκεύη, βαρύτερα/skevē, barytera</i> : (lit.) “vessel of burden”, cargo ship.
<i>spatharios</i>	σπαθάριος (Byz. Gr.): lit. “sword-bearer”, a dignity and title rather than an office.
<i>stratēgos</i>	στρατηγός (Byz. Gr.) [pl. <i>στρατηγοὶ/stratēgoi</i>]: cl. Gr. for a military commander, by the 8th century applied to governors of <i>themata</i> (q.v.), holding both civil and military authority.
<i>sulṭān</i>	(Ar.): power or authority, secular title of ruler, alongside Caliph.
<i>Sunnī</i>	<i>Ahl al-sunna wa 'l-ijmā'</i> (Ar.), “people of the <i>sunna</i> and the consensus”: Muslims adhering to the <i>sunna</i> , the orthodox example of the Prophet Muḥammad, to one of the four schools of law, and not attributing any importance to the descendants of ‘Alī ibn Abī Ṭālib.
<i>tarida</i>	(med. Lat.) [pl. <i>taride</i>]: W. transport galley, especially for horses, of the 12th and 13th centuries, from the Ar. <i>ṭarīda</i> .

<i>ṭarīda</i>	(Ar.) [pl. <i>ṭarā'id</i>]: transport galley, esp. for horses.
<i>tetrērēs</i>	τετρήρης; in cl. Gr. a “four” or quadrireme, rowing four files of oars each side.
<i>thema</i>	Θέμα (Byz. Gr.) [pl. θέματα/ <i>themata</i>]: territory and army administered by a <i>stratēgos</i> (q.v.), also a squadron of a fleet.
<i>toparchēs</i>	τοπάρχης; in Byz. Gr. a term for military and civil authorities, by the 10th century used for independent, neighbouring rulers.
<i>topotērētēs</i>	τοποτηρητής; in Byz. Gr. deputy governor, lieutenant commander, esp. “port admiral”?
<i>tourmarchai tōn ploimōn</i>	τουρμάρχει τῶν πλοῦμων (Byz. Gr.): lieutenant commanders of the fleet of the <i>Stenon</i> *, under the <i>droungarios tōn ploimōn</i> (q.v.).
<i>tourmarchēs</i>	τουρμάρχης (Byz. Gr.) [pl. τουρμάρχει/ <i>tourmarchai</i>]: military commander of a <i>tourma</i> , regiment of a <i>thema</i> (q.v.), also a naval commander.
<i>triachontērēs</i>	τριαχοντήρης; in cl. Gr. a thirty-oared galley; in Byz. literature an affectation.
<i>triērēs</i>	τριήρης [pl. τριήρεις/ <i>triēreis</i>]: in cl. Gr. a “three” or trireme, rowing three files of oars each side; in Byz. literature an affectation for a warship.
<i>Vestiarion basilikon</i>	Βεστιάριον βασιλικόν (Byz. Gr.): lit. “imperial wardrobe”, warehouse, arsenal for military forces.