

## 2. Fixing the boundaries of the new city of Troia (June 1019)

*In the middle of the 11th century, in order to stabilise the border between the Byzantine empire's province of Italy and the Lombard principality of Benevento, the emperors initiated a policy of fortification in an area then scarcely populated, the Tavoliere. A line of new cities provided with citadels became the focus of a new defensive strategy linked to the garrisoning of elite troops. This policy also entailed a demographic aspect, that of imperial power organising the colonisation and exploitation of this very dry region, based on cattle breeding. The involvement in the process of the Byzantine governor, the 'katepano', reflects itself directly in the present name of the region: Capitanata. The present act, a Byzantine 'engraphon', is one of the few forms of direct documentary evidence of the implementation of this policy. The new city of Troia was meant to guard access to the coastal plain of Puglia.*

As the Franks, who rejected deliberately the domination of the counts of Ariano and sided with our sainted and mighty emperor, settled in the city (*kastron*) called Troia, which (lay) destroyed from times immemorial (but) which we restored and fortified with all possible care and indoustriousness; and as they asked that the boundaries (*synora*) of this city would be established in relation with the neighbouring territories, we listened to them; and, with the *protospatharios* John of Alfarana, his brother the *topoteretes* Byzantios, the counts of the tent Leo of Maralda, Stephanos of Matera, *chartouliarios*, Passari and Byzantios, Maragdos *domestikos* of the theme and many others being present, having surveyed the site, we so defined and established the boundaries: from the *kamara* of Saint-Eleutherios, walking to Travikellon, going down to Mentinon where is the source of the Gorganon and going down the river to the vineyard of Romanos, then, turning, straight towards Montaratro and crossing till reaching the road of Bovino on the creek, then along the road, twenty paces, up to an ash tree and a fig tree, then going down the creek to the east towards the road of the *kateuchariôn* and down the creek up to the hill of Rabianon, with on the right a cave, and walking towards two wild pear trees, (then) till reaching a forked oak, (then) reaching the church of Saint-Augousta, where there was a skirmish in the time of Tornikios Kontoleon, *protospatharios* and *katepano* of Italy, and going down from this church, reaching the boundaries (*synora*) of Siponto, and then, turning, reaching the peak where a spring flows and then a high peak, and then, down a meadow, going towards three oaks marked by a cross and then a tall oak marked with three crosses, near the spring of the river Sannoro, and following it up to the crossing called Mougkarada, going on the left up the peak of the hill of Maslogou, (then) going towards the creek called Lavella and (then) going

westwards in the direction of the hill of charms, and then towards the road of Monte Persigio, and then, climbing on the Monte Calvello, up to the top, and from here towards the creek, (being) the spring of the river Cervaro, and then towards Torrelupo, and finally towards the above mentioned *kamara* of Saint-Eleutherios.

The boundaries of the city of Troia having been so defined in front of the above mentioned *archontes* by Basilios Boioannes, *protospatharios* and *katepano* of Italy, it has been decided by him that inside these boundaries the inhabitants (*oiketores*) of Troia will dominate (*despozein*) up to Saint-Augousta, but that from this church up to the boundary (*synoron*) of Siponto the territory will be held jointly by the inhabitants of Troia and Vaccarizza, the people of each city pasturing his cattle without paying anything to the other city on his cattle; and for the cattle from elsewhere authorized to graze on this territory by the people of Vaccarizza and Troia, we decided that, from now, the tax on grazing that has to be paid for (the cattle) must be divided into thirds, two (thirds) of them going to the people of Troia, the third (third) granted to the people of Vaccarizza, with no one being authorized to anything more than what we have justly fixed. And for the guarantee of both parties and the security of the people of Troia and Vaccarizza, the present act has been established and given to them, affixed with our usual lead seal, in the month of June, Indiction 2, year 6527.

ed. F. Trinchera, *Syllabus Graecarum membranarum*, Naples 1865, n° 18.