



Summary :

He was born at Galata towards the late 15th century and died while a patriarch of Constantinople in 1556. He served as ecumenical patriarch from 1546 to 1556, while in 1540 he had become metropolitan of Nicomedia. He was pro-Latin. His patriarchal tenure was a period of turbulence due to the contact of his friend and dependent Metrophanes, metropolitan of Kaisareia, with the Catholic Church.

Other Names

Dionysios “Galatianos” or “Galatiotis”

Date and Place of Birth

late 15th century - Galata in Constantinople (Istanbul)

Date and Place of Death

1556 – Constantinople

Main Role

Ecumenical Patriarch

1. Descent – Career

Patriarch Dionysios II became known as “Galatianos” or “Galatiotis”, named after his birthplace, [Galata](#) of [Constantinople](#) (Istanbul). There is no information about his life and ascension to the ecclesiastical hierarchy until he became a [metropolitan of Nicomedia](#) circa 1540. Then, after having secured the support of some influential compatriots and Cantakouzenos Monairetos, he was elected patriarch of Constantinople on April 15, 1546. His election did not find full acceptance and met with reactions from certain circles. [Gedeon](#) refers to a previous patriarchal tenure in 1537, which is not evidenced and has not been accepted by contemporary researchers.¹

2. The mission of Metrophanes to Venice

Moderate and rather [well-disposed towards the Catholic Church](#), Dionysios II immediately after his election appointed his friend [Metrophanes](#) from [Hasköy](#), a pro-Latin prelate, as [metropolitan of Kaisareia](#). Then, in 1546, Dionysios sent him to Venice as an exarch of the Orthodox community there and assigned him with the task of raising money and keeping track of ecclesiastical developments in the West, mainly those related to the Protestant movement. However, Metrophanes’ activities in Italy, particularly when he rather arbitrarily went to Rome and met the Pope, fuelled various rumours among Orthodox populations, which led to great outcry against the patriarch. Serious incidents against Dionysios II, instigated by opponents to his election, took place in Constantinople in 1548 and eventuated in an attempt to murder him, thus causing him to nearly resign. Finally, he managed to go through the crisis and remained in the patriarchal throne until he died in July 1556.²

3. Other activity

The crisis connected with Metrophanes was the most important event in the tenure of Dionysios II and has somehow put into the shade the rest of his activities. He founded the monastery of the Panagia Kamariotissa on [Chalki](#) Island, where he was buried, and cautioned Stephanos, metropolitan of Kaisareia, who, according to evidence, had adopted an improper attitude and organised non-approved fund-raising.



1. Γεδεών, Μ., *Πατριαρχικοί Πίνακες: Ειδήσεις Ιστορικά Βιογραφικά περί των Πατριαρχών Κωνσταντινουπόλεως από Ανδρέου του Πρωτοκλήτου μέχρις Ιωακείμ Γ' του από Θεσσαλονίκης, 36-1884* (Constantinople 1890), p. 504
2. The date is confirmed by Venetian documents; see Μέρτζιος, Κ.Δ., *Πατριαρχικά ήτοι Ανέκδοτοι Πληροφορία Σχετικά προς τους Πατριάρχας Κωνσταντινουπόλεως από του 1556-1702* (Athens 1951), p. 3. Komninos Ypsilantis believes he died several years earlier, in 1549, which is not accepted though. See Κομνηνός Υψηλάντης, Α., *Πολιτικών και Εκκλησιαστικών ... Τα Μετά την Αλωσιν* (Constantinople 1870), p. 96.

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	Ζαχαριάδου Ελισάβετ , "Η Πατριαρχία του Διονυσίου Β' σε μια παραλλαγή του Ψευδο-Δωροθέου", <i>Θησαυρίσματα</i> , 1, 1962, 142-161
	Μυστακίδης Β. , "Περί των Πατριαρχών Διονυσίου Β' και Μητροφάνους Γ' και της Καθαιρέσεως αυτών κατά Νέα Ανέκδοτα Έγγραφα", <i>Εκκλησιαστική Αλήθεια</i> , 10, 1890, 180-184
	Μέρτζιος Κ. , <i>Πατριαρχικά ήτοι Ανέκδοτοι Πληροφορία Σχετικά προς τους Πατριάρχας Κωνσταντινουπόλεως από του 1556-1702</i> , Αθήνα 1951
	Γριτσόπουλος Τ. , "Διονύσιος ο Β' πατριάρχης Κωνσταντινουπόλεως", <i>Θρησκευτική και Ηθική Εγκυκλοπαίδεια</i> , τομ. 5, Αθήνα 1964, στ. 20-22

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