The year 1193:....Isaac, or Isach, was emperor at Constantinople. Regarding him, we related above under the year 1167 how he rose to power. In any event, he had a brother called Kyralexius, surnamed Andronicus, whom he had redeemed from the pagans in the third year of captivity. He had also made this same brother a seneschal and handed over to him a fortress called the "Lion Mouth," with taxes from its port to be handed over to himself. From this he remitted daily to the imperial fisc 4,000 pounds of silver. Exalted in such a manner, he contemplated evil in his heart against his brother the emperor. By means of promises and gifts, he attracted some Greek nobles to the plan and vigorously seduced them to support an imperial coup against his brother. These men were Livernas and Laufrage, Nicholas, Morcuflus and Constantius, Acharias, Peter of Navarre, and Synagun Kartaginenisis.

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1 Alberic, *Chronica*, MGH SS, 23:850, relates how Isaac seized the throne from Andronicus Comnenus, but this occurred in 1185, not in 1167 as Alberic states.

2 Their family name was Angelus, but their father’s Christian name was Andronicus. Andronicus was also the given name of Isaac’s imperial predecessor: Andronicus I Comnenus (r. 1183-1185), who was deposed and then tortured and executed at Isaac’s command (note 1).

3 See Hugh of Saint Pol and Ralph of Coggeshall. Alexius was captured in 1186 and released in 1187, returning to Constantinople aboard a Genoese ship (see note 84).

4 Alexius bore the title *sebastokrator*: Nicetas, *Historia*, 422 (Magoulias, *O City*, 232). This was Byzantium’s highest title after that of *autokrator* (emperor).

5 *Buccam-leonis*: the Bucoleon, or Great Palace. No other known source records this putative gift.

6 The harbor of Justinian, which was located along that side of the city washed by the Sea of Marmara.

7 Emperor Isaac, as the next sentence makes clear.

8 Alexius.

9 The coup that is related here happened in 1195 not 1193.

10 According to Nicetas, *Historia*, 451 (Magoulias, *O City*, 247), the chief co-conspirators were: Theodore Branas, George Palaeologos, John Petraliphas, Constantine Raoul, Manuel Kantakouzenos, and many others. Livernas (whom Geoffrey of Villehardouin called Vernas) was Theodore Branas (note 13), and Morcuflus, of course, was Mourtzouphlos. Synagun Kartaginenisis might be a very poor transliteration of Manuel Kan-
Having sent for Isaac under false pretenses, as though they were about to deliberate on some weighty matter, they bound him and threw him in prison with his eyes gouged out. They likewise placed his son, named Alexius, in another jail under a certain steward. When Andronicus desired to kill Alexius, that steward sent him to Philip, duke of Swabia, who was married to the sister of that same Alexius. And so this Andronicus usurped the imperial throne for nine years. Furthermore, the man called Livernas maintained, in place of a wife, the sister of the king of France, the empress, who was spending her bride’s gift and whom Alexius, the son of Manuel should have married. He had not married her in solemn nuptials because she had, in the manner of her clan, squandered her first bride’s gift. Indeed, we shall speak in its [proper] place of how he later legitimately wedded her and about the daughter whom he begot from her.