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| 13a. Herodias' daughter took part in events. Herodias was Herod's wife (Mk 6:17-22). Herodias' daughter "infatuated" king Herod with her dancing | 13b. Stefania was John Crescentius' wife and Otto's (Herod's?) mistress [44]. Stefania "infatuated" Otto III |
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To 13b: According to medieval chronicles, Stefania (after the death of Crescentius) was given away "as a booty" to the mercenaries. "But this narrative is purely a fabrication provoked by the national hatred of the Romans, and there exists another quite different legend according to which Stefania is portrayed in the fabulous role of the beloved of the conqueror of John (i.e., Otto III—A.F.)" ([44*], V. 3, pp. 358-359). "It was stated that the new Medea in the person of Crescentius' widow (i.e., Stefania—A. F.) entangled Otto III in her charms ..." ([44*], V. 3, p. 104).

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| 14a. Catastrophic turn of events for John. Demand of John's execution | 14b. Catastrophe: uprising in Rome, headed by Crescentius [44] |
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To 14b: "Having established his tribunal in the eternal city and pacified the Romans by declaring amnesty, Otto III ... returned to Germany ... However, the departure of Otto soon served as a signal for Romans to rise in revolt, and the National party again made a desperate attempt to overthrow the German yoke. Crescentius hatched a conspiracy to overthrow the German pope and his cronies. Discontent was rife among the masses: aliens who were ignorant of the Roman law dispensed justice and appointed judges who were not paid by the state and were therefore corrupt and biased ... The mutiny took place and the Pope fled on September 29, 996 ... The brave mutineer (John Crescentius—A. F.) hurried ... to establish his rule in Rome ... After the Pope's flight, a total revolution occurred in the administration of Rome ... Crescentius again declared himself as a patrician and the Consul of Romans" ([44*], V. 3, pp. 348, 351-352). In 998, Otto approached Rome with his army, and the city capitulated, except for the St. Angels castle where Crescentius and his allies took refuge, "vowing to fight till the last drop of blood ... Otto demanded that Crescentius lay down his arms" ([44*], V. 3, p. 355). Having received an insolent reply, Otto soon laid a siege to the castle and captured it on April 29, 998.

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| 15a. John's execution by Herod's order. John's beheading often used as important theme in iconography, painting, etc | 15b. Crescentius' execution by Otto's order. John's beheading often used as important theme of medieval legends and chronicles in 10th c. A.D. |
| 16a. John the Baptist famous Christian martyr | 16b. John Crescentius famous Roman martyr [44] |
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To 15b: "Crescentius was beheaded, cast down and then hanged ... According to the Italian historians, Crescentius' eyes were torn out, his limbs were broken and he was dragged on a cow's skin through the streets of Rome ..." ([44*], V. 3, p. 358-359). "Many fantastic tales were woven around the death of Crescentius" ([44*], V. 3, p. 358).