

but they also evoke Geoffrey Malaterra's description⁵¹. However, in the case of Palermo, the *Cronica* is the only narrative source of the Norman period to give an informed description of the city's fortified structures: "to remove the license for injuries, they quickly constructed two fortified *castra*, one next to the sea and the other in the place which is called Galca"⁵².

The *castrum iuxta mare*, refers to the *Castellammare* on the harbour which was probably built on a fortified Muslim-period structure that guarded the entrance to the port⁵³. The word *Galca* may derive from the Arabic *halaqa* – to enclose or to encircle – and refers to the former acropolis upon which the Normans built their palace on the remains of Byzantine and Muslim-era structures⁵⁴.

51) De rebus gestis Rogerii Calabriae et Siciliae comitis et Roberti Guiscardis ducis fratris eius, auctore Gaufrido Malaterra monacho Benedictino, a cura di Ernesto PONTIERI (RIS² 5/1, 1925–1928) III,11 p. 62–64, at p. 63: *Ab hac eadem urbe strictior sinus terrae ab utroque latere, mari urgente, longius in mare porrigitur, paucis uberrimis abundans.*

52) *Ad removendam iniuriam* [sic] *licenciam duo fortissima castra, alterum iuxta mare, alterum in loco, qui dicitur Galca, brevi tempore constituerunt* (V fol. 295v col. I). See also *Chronique* de Robert Viscart (as n. 18) p. 296.

53) For this structure, see Pseudo Ugo Falcando, *De rebus circa regni Siciliae curiam gestis. Epistola ad Petrum de desolatione Siciliae*, ed. Edoardo D'ANGELO (Edizione nazionale dei testi mediolatini 36, 2014) p. 146, 190, 238, 242, 296, 310, 341, 344; Petrus de Ebulo, *Liber ad honorem Augusti sive de rebus Siculis*. Codex 120 II der Burgerbibliothek Bern. Eine Bilderchronik der Stauferzeit, hg. von Theo KÖLZER / Marlis STÄHLI (1994) fol. 98r. A pre-Norman structure may be represented in the *Kitāb al-gharā'ib*, *An Eleventh-Century Egyptian Guide to the Universe. The "Book of Curiosities"*, ed. and trans. by Youssef RAPOPORT / Emilie SAVAGE-SMITH (Islamic Philosophy, Theology and Science. Texts and Studies 87, 2014) fols. 32B–33A, p. 464.

54) See Pseudo Ugo Falcando, *De rebus circa regni Siciliae curiam gestis* (as n. 53) p. 132, 168, with notes on p. 359, 364. The fourteenth century *Chronicon Siculum* uses the word *Galea*: Anonymi *Chronicon Siculum*, in: *Bibliotheca Scriptorum* 2 (as n. 19) p. 124. There is a vast body of literature on this question, see amongst others Vincenzo DI GIOVANNI, *La topografia antica di Palermo dal secolo X al XV* (1890) p. 249f., 430–437; Elena PEZZINI, *Palermo in the Twelfth Century: Transformation in forma urbis*, in: *A Companion to Medieval Palermo. The History of a Mediterranean City from 600 to 1500*, ed. by Annliese Nef (Brill's Companions to European History 5, 2013) p. 196–230; Ruggero LONGO, "In loco qui dicitur Galca": New Observations and Hypotheses on the Norman Palace in Palermo, *Journal of Transcultural Medieval Studies* 3 (2016) p. 225–317. Most recently, Theresa JÄCKH, *Raumgeschichte einer Hauptstadt. Palermo unter muslimischer und christlicher Herrschaft ca. 800–1200* (Bibliothek des Deutschen Historischen Instituts in Rom 144, 2023) p. 154–157, 216.