

### Allusions to the Kingdom of Sicily

A distinctive feature of the *Cronica* is its frequent allusions to the Kingdom of Sicily which had been founded in December 1130. In particular, the text regularly describes the first generation of Hauteville rulers using language that speaks to their descendants' royal status. The marriage of Count Roger I and his first wife Judith d'Évreux (d. 1076) was celebrated with regal splendour<sup>55</sup>; Robert Guiscard is referred to as majesty (*maiestas*) and the equal of kings<sup>56</sup>; Count Roger I's third wife Adelaide (r. as regent of Sicily 1101–1112) is claimed to be of the noble blood of Charlemagne<sup>57</sup>; and Tancred's, Moriella's, and Fressenda's noble origins are emphasised<sup>58</sup>. In numerous sections the anonymous author also pre-empts the consolidation of the kingdom. For example, the Byzantine general Maniakes (d. 1043) is described as having had the authority of the emperor in Sicily which is referred to as the *regnum*<sup>59</sup>; the text refers to royal infrastructure close to Nicotera<sup>60</sup>; and Palermo is described as "the royal city and

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55) V fol. 293r col. I: *Mellitum veniens (vehemens V) cum dilecta sibi nupta regio apparatu nupcias celebravit.*

56) V fol. 292r col. II: *Nec primum similem poterit nec habere sequentem / regibus exceptis eadem quos duxit origo / per quos diluerit (diluitur V) faex (fetum V) et pagana (pagnana V) caligo.* In V, this last hexameter is dislocated from the poem, and is found at the bottom of the same folio. However, here, it makes little sense in terms of the textual narrative (an account of the capture of Nicastro by Greek Christians), and forms the poem's ending in all the other manuscripts. It is possible that the poem's reference to kings fighting against pagan darkness may allude to royal involvement in the Second Crusade under Louis VII of France and Conrad III of Germany.

57) V fol. 298v col. I: *Errabergi uxore illius defuncta, duxit alteram a nobilissimo Karuli (Karulo V) Magni sanguine ducentem prosapiam in partibus Lorbardine oriundam (oriundem V) et studiose a parentibus enutritam et honestis moribus informatam, cuius nomen fuit Aeles Mabissa.* This would seem to be a corruption of *Marchesa Adelasia*.

58) For Tancred, the author notes that: *Fuit in partibus Normannie non longe a civitate Costancie, miles quidam nomine Trankedus genere nobilis et morum honestate preclarus* (V fol. 290r col. I). On the same folio, he describes Moriella as his *uxor nobilissima*, and claims that Fressenda was *genere et moribus insignis*.

59) V<sup>1</sup> fol. 2r: *iuxta praeceptum Maniaci, qui in eodem regno vicem imperatoris obtinebat.* In V, *regno* is replaced by *negocio* (V fol. 290v col. I).

60) V fol. 298r col. I: *in remenso itinere prope regiam ecclesiam quandam in honorem sancti Nicolay, et aliam in honorem sancti Gregorii consecratam furibundus devastavit.*