

work' and has been largely ignored within historiographical debate². However, to a large extent, critical disregard of the source is intimately connected with long-held questions concerning the text's narrative. This article will seek to explain these misconceptions and address these concerns via a deliberately selective approach. With an eye to how the text's manuscript tradition preserves processes of textual evolution and change, it will draw upon textual evidence to elucidate long-standing questions of dating and authorship³. In doing so, it will seek to move beyond analysing the text by reference to its usefulness as a source for chronological questions alone. Rather, by considering its broader implications, this article will suggest that a new investigation cannot only resolve vexed questions regarding the source itself, but also shed new light on key debates concerning the historiography of both the Norman conquests and the emergence and consolidation of the Norman kingdom after 1130.

Title and Editions

The text was first published in Giovanni Battista Caruso's (d. 1724) *Bibliotheca Historica Regni Siciliae* of 1723, as the *Anonymi Historia Sicula a Normannis ad Petrum Aragonensem*⁴. Three years later, Ludovico Antonio Muratori (d. 1750) modified this title to *Anonymi Vaticani Historia Sicula* in his draft papers for the *Rerum Italicarum scriptores*⁵. Yet, in the printed edition of 1726, it appeared as *Anonymi Vaticani Historia Sicula ad Petrum Aragonensem*⁶. The text continues to be best-known by this title even if neither Caruso's nor Muratori's titles have any support in the manuscript tradition.

2) See the introduction in: Amatus of Montecassino, *The History of the Normans*, trans. and comm. by Prescott DUNBAR / Graham A. LOUD (2004) p. 18.

3) For an overview of the textual narrative, see John ASPINWALL / Alex METCALFE, *Norman Identity and the Anonymous Historia Sicula*, in: *Sicily: Heritage of the World*, ed. by Dirk Booms / Peter Higgs (British Museum Research Publications 222, 2020) p. 115–123. A new edition and English translation of the text is currently in preparation by John Aspinwall, Alex Metcalfe, and John Thorley.

4) *Anonymi Historia Sicula a Normannis ad Petrum Aragonensem*, ed. Giovanni B. CARUSO, in: *Bibliotheca Historica Regni Siciliae* 2 (1723) p. 829–859.

5) Modena, Biblioteca Estense universitaria, Archivio Muratori 19.13.a fol. 13v.

6) *Anonymi Vaticani Historia Sicula a Normannis ad Petrum Aragonensem*, ed. Ludovico A. MURATORI, in: *RIS*¹ 8 (1726) p. 740–780.