

schenden zu Beginn des 20. Jahrhunderts bisweilen noch konsultiert; weil sie aber als eine Kompilation des 13. Jahrhunderts galt, wurde sie bisher weder als eigenständiger Text ernstgenommen noch in die historiographische Tradition der normannischen Herrschaftszeit eingebettet. Der Aufsatz postuliert dagegen, dass die *Cronica* um die Mitte des 12. Jahrhunderts geschrieben wurde, und arbeitet außerdem heraus, dass sich im Text durchaus eigenständiges Material und wertvolle Bewertungen finden, die auch dazu dienen können, einige Parameter des derzeitigen historischen Diskurses zu reevaluieren.

The Norman conquests in southern Italy and Sicily brought about the foundation of a new kingdom in 1130 and, as a consequence, fundamentally redefined the cultural, political, and religious frontiers of the Mediterranean. Within the past decades, the study of this formative period has been enriched by a plethora of new translations, and critical editions of many sources for these events. However, despite this, modern scholarship has almost entirely overlooked an anonymous chronicle, the *Cronica Roberti Biscardi et fratrum ac Rogerii Comitis Mileti* – also known as the *Historia Sicula* or the *Anonymus Vaticanus*. The *Cronica* charts the Normans' rise to power in southern Italy, their conquest of Muslim Sicily, and concludes with Roger II's campaigns in North Africa. It was frequently consulted by historians up until the early-twentieth century, however, in the modern period it has fallen from scholarly favour and often dismissed as a derivative thirteenth-century work. Thus, it has seldom been considered within historiographical debate. This article seeks to demonstrate how such neglect is undeserved: not only does a close textual analysis indicate that the *Cronica* was composed in mid-twelfth century Sicily, but also suggests that it can offer new evidence which can redefine the parameters of current scholarly discourse.