

## Textual Narrative and Continuation

All versions of the *Cronica* begin with an account of the origins of the Hauteville kin-group in Normandy. Here, the *Cronica* recalls how the “noble” (*nobilis*) and pious Tancred de Hauteville raised his sons and dubbed them as knights, before they elected to leave Normandy for Apulia, despite their love for their *patria*<sup>20</sup>. The text then traces the early exploits of the Normans in southern Italy and Sicily under their leaders William ‘Iron Arm’ (r. as duke and master of Italy, and count of all the Normans in Apulia and Calabria 1042–1046), Drogo (r. as duke and master of Italy, and count of all the Normans in Apulia and Calabria 1046–1051)<sup>21</sup>, and Humphrey (r. as count of Apulia and Calabria 1051–1057) by recalling their mercenary careers for the princes of Capua and Salerno, their participation in the ill-fated Maniakes expedition and, finally, their establishment of strongholds on the mainland around Melfi. Here, the anonymous author stressed that the Normans were God-sent deliverers from the chaos of Byzantine rule<sup>22</sup>, and “Muslim wickedness” (*Sarracenicæ pravitatis*)<sup>23</sup>. True to form, their successors, Robert Guiscard (r. as duke of Apulia, Calabria, and Sicily 1059–1085) and Roger I (r. as count of Sicily 1071–1101), waged war against “pagan darkness” (*pagana caligo*) in Sicily<sup>24</sup>. Robert Guiscard was regarded as the “glory of the Norman people”<sup>25</sup>, while following his death at Mileto, Roger I was received by God to sit among the blessed<sup>26</sup>. In all the text’s manuscripts the account of the conquest period is followed by a rare reference to Adelaide del Vasto (r. as regent of Sicily 1101–1112, thereafter queen consort of Je-

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20) V fol. 290r col. II.

21) For a discussion of the title, *dux et magister Italiae comesque Normannorum totius Apuliae et Calabriae*, see Ferdinand CHALANDON, *Histoire de la domination normande en Italie et en Sicile* 1 (1907) p. 110, n. 3.

22) V fol. 290v col. I.

23) V fol. 290r col. I.

24) V fol. 292r col. II.

25) Indeed, the anonymous author dedicated his only piece of verse to Guiscard: *Optimus ille ducum Normanne gloria gentis, / miles milicie decus, exemplum probitatis, / viribus expertus validis, animoque Robertus / Biscardus cunctis animosior atque secundus / nulli* (V fol. 292r col. II).

26) Concerning the death of Roger I, the text notes: *tandem necessaria humane conditionis lege naturalem in ea dissolucionem operante, illam illuxtram animam tanta conlustracione ut meritorum* (N fol. 29v inserts: *agmine insignitam ad desiderata beatorum*) *collegia ante conspectum divine magestatis expirando delegavit* (V fol. 298v col. I).