

rusalem 1112–1117) and the short reign of Simon (r. as count of Sicily 1101–1105) who, so the anonymous author claims, was faced with difficulties in Apulia<sup>27</sup>. Thereafter, they chart the succession of Roger II who would become the *rex Sicilie Tripolis Africe potentissimus*<sup>28</sup>. The medieval manuscripts (V and P) close with a first-person epilogue in which the anonymous author claims that even Cicero would not have been able to sufficiently praise King Roger's virtues<sup>29</sup>.

In V, this self-referential passage is closed by a final exhortation adapted from St. Paul's Epistle to the Galatians: "Truly I say to you, while we have opportunity, let us do good works to all"<sup>30</sup>. Immediately after this, a break of two blank lines separates the text from a version of the so-called *Annales Siculi*. This begins with an account of a semi-legendary Muslim raid on Syracuse in 1027, and stretches up until Charles of Anjou's (r. as king of Sicily 1266–1285) invasion of Sicily in 1265.

All the *Cronica's* early modern manuscripts include a 1,266-word section that extends the narrative from the mid-1100s up until Peter of Aragon's (r. as king of Sicily 1282–1285) conquest of the island. This continuation begins with the death of Count Roger I in 1101 (around fifty years before the last event mentioned in the preceding part of the *Cronica*), and continues up until the Aragonese conquest of the island in 1282. However, the continuation is stylistically distinct from the preceding narrative and has no basis in the medieval manuscript tra-

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27) For Adelaide see n. 57. Concerning the reign of Simon, the text describes how following the death of Roger, *Simon filiorum primogenitus regimem consulatus accepit. Qui per paucos vivens annos graves ab Apulis mutationes/inritaciones (?) sustinuit* (V fol. 298v col. II). Cf. the readings given in V<sup>1</sup> fol. 24v, and N fol. 29v whereby *mutationes/inritaciones* is replaced by *inquietaciones* and *infectiones* respectively.

28) V fol. 298v col. II. As p. 590f.

29) See below p. 587f. The *Cronica's* concluding passage is also found as a continuation to Malaterra's *De rebus gestis* in a fifteenth-century manuscript held in the Bibliothèque municipale de Besançon (MS 675 fol. 98r, hereafter B); in a fourteenth-century manuscript of the Società Siciliana per la Storia Patria in Palermo (MS I B 28 fol. 29v, hereafter Pan), and in a sixteenth-century manuscript from the Biblioteca Comunale in Palermo (MS. Qq. E.165 fols. 137v–138r, hereafter Pan<sup>1</sup>). These passages were adapted by the author of the *Epistola fratris Conradi*, a manuscript copy of which is preserved in Palermo, Biblioteca Comunale, MS. Qq. D.47 fols. 89r–v (hereafter Pan<sup>2</sup>). The author is currently preparing a new critical edition and English translation of the text which will be published in 2024.

30) *Amen dico vobis dum tempus habetis operamini bonum ad omnes* (V fol. 298v col. II). The Middle-French translation ends with the words: *Explicit liber. Deo gratias* (P fol. 212v col. II; Chronique de Robert Viscart [as n. 18] p. 313).