

Fleck, Kozłowski, and others have now provided a solid basis for continued research into the Neapolitan Trecento.

Part 3, on the cult of Saint Louis of Toulouse and the Angevin *beata stirps*, meticulously reassesses Simone Martini's *Saint Louis of Toulouse* altarpiece for Naples's cathedral and its parallels in Assisi (S. Francesco), Florence (S. Croce), and Siena (S. Francesco), masterfully arguing for their origins in the ruling agendas of both Neapolitan and Hungarian Angevins. Norman's conclusion follows these trends into the reign of Giovanna I.

This well-produced volume is richly illustrated in color and black-and-white images of manuscripts, painting, sculpture, and architecture. Many of these will be familiar to students of the Trecento—some only to students of Trecento Naples. Several have been newly and perceptively reinterpreted by Norman. One of the delights of Norman's book is her close rereading of Ambrogio Lorenzetti's *Louis of Toulouse* fresco in S. Francesco, Siena, which she dates to the 1340s (cover, 192, 209–17). In Lorenzetti's historical *ricordanza*, young Robert of Anjou and his younger brothers attend their father, Charles II, who watches pensively as his eldest son and heir, Louis of Toulouse, takes his Franciscan vows before Boniface VIII. Sanctity and devotion foreground family ties, personal ambition, and dynastic anxiety. Here and throughout this volume Norman makes Angevin high politics come alive through the faces and gestures of Sieneese art. Her study will become a touchstone in the ongoing reassessment of Naples's place in Trecento Italy.

Ronald G. Musto, *Italica Press / University of Bristol*
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L'amministrazione del regno di Sicilia: Cancelleria, apparati finanziari e strumenti di governo nel tardo medioevo. Alessandro Silverstri.

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According to a well-established historiographic tradition whose roots go back to the eighteenth century and that emerged out of the contemporary political debate, the history of the kingdom of Sicily was characterized by a substantial degree by institutional continuity from the time of the Norman kingdom to 1812. Scholars of nineteenth- and twentieth-century Sicilian institutions have, by and large, adopted this assumption. In this regard, Alessandro Silverstri's book, which sharply criticizes this approach through a series of studies devoted to the Sicilian administration, is of particular note. Silverstri pays special attention to the Quattrocento, drawing on the results obtained in various fields of late medieval historiography: studies on the administrative, financial, and political structures of the Crown of Aragon; research on the institutional changes that were occurring in the territorial states of the Italian Peninsula at this time; and discussions of the production, registration, and conservation of documents by government

apparatuses. With regard to documents, Silvestri provides a detailed analysis of the various *fonds* housed in the Archivio di Stato di Palermo, which have hitherto been little studied, with the aim of reconstructing the activities of the sovereigns of the house of Trastámara (especially Ferdinand I of Aragon and Alfonso the Magnanimous) in Sicily and their strategies to construct an efficient system of delegated power on the island.

The ascent to the throne of Sicily of Ferdinand I of Antequera (1412), who was also king of Aragon, meant that the island was now part of a broader political entity, which made it necessary to develop tools that could legitimize and give practical effect to the viceroy's government. These figures then began to establish themselves institutionally and became indispensable in the peculiar politics of the composite Aragonese monarchy. The sovereigns' aims were twofold: on the one hand, they needed to coordinate the island's government structure with that of the distant royal court; on the other, it was even more important to set up a system of checks and balances that would prevent an authority endowed with delegated royal power from acting in an uncontrolled manner to the disadvantage of the others. With this aim in mind, the author ushers the reader into the administrative chambers of the palace in Palermo, examining at close hand the officials of the royal chancery, the *protonotario del regno*, the *maestri razionali*, and, above all, the royal secretaries. Silvestri studies their procedures, the changes they experimented with over the course of Alfonso's reign, thanks to a series of rules and orders whose purpose was to regulate action, define spheres for intervention, and resolve conflicts between those overseeing the administration. Of particular importance was the work of the financial offices: the creation of the *conservatore del real patrimonio* is only the most obvious component of a far-reaching reform in the area of collecting and distributing revenues, which involved local officials and led to a drastic change in the way they operated. Of significance were the administrative practices that were adopted and that now required attention to be given to the drafting of documents, to their registration, and to their archiving.

The picture that emerges sheds light on a period of Sicilian history that has so far been neglected by the scholarship, and it presents fifteenth-century Sicily as a vital reservoir of resources destined for Alfonso the Magnanimous's military campaigns in Italy. Offices in Palermo busied themselves not only with transferring money to the king's treasury but also with paying the expenses for the transportation, maintenance, and supply of soldiers, and paying off the king's various debts. This tells us something not only about Sicily's economic capacity but also about the sovereigns' ability to cultivate consent among the island's elite. In spite of the considerable revenue that was extracted, Sicily remained staunchly loyal to the Aragonese dynasty.

This fact is probably also due to the high degree of autonomy the island enjoyed because of its inclusion in the Crown of Aragon, which meant that it could profit from the opportunities of trading over a wide area of the Mediterranean. The only encroachments on Sicily's autonomy were Alfonso the Magnanimous's efforts to centralize—efforts that, in a certain sense, only came to an end after his death. It is

important to note here that the method used to govern Sicily became an internal model for the Aragonese Federation, where, over the course of the latter half of the Quattrocento, individual states acquired greater administrative independence. This was a role that would be preserved during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, inside the Spanish monarchy. Quattrocento Sicily as described by Silvestri proved to be an important testing ground both from the administrative-bureaucratic standpoint and from a purely political perspective.

Nicoletta Bazzano, *Università degli Studi di Cagliari*
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Marriage, the Church, and Its Judges in Renaissance Venice, 1420–1545.
Cecilia Cristellon.

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xviii + 286 pp. \$109.99.

For much of the Middle Ages and the Renaissance period, the canon law of the Latin church bound Western Christendom to its rules for marriage, irrespective of geographic location. However, with the exception of France, which set down specific legal requirements by the twelfth century for determining the validity of a marriage, the form of the rite was left unregulated, sometimes leaving its validity uncertain. The resulting flow of cases for breach of promise or alleged marriage that reached the bishops' tribunals prompted theologians at the Council of Trent in 1563 to establish a prescribed praxis, and Trent thus became a watershed in the history of marital law.

Cecilia Cristellon's study, based on a rigorous survey of the exceptionally rich documentation in the Venetian patriarchal archives, deals primarily with the century leading up to Trent. She has produced an important analysis of the structure and praxis of marital litigation under the jurisdiction of the Patriarchal Court for the period between 1420 and 1545. It is based upon 706 cases of marital conflict, categorized as alleged marriage (270), annulment (133), separation (118), betrothal (10), and no classification (175). In all, 353 males and 337 females were plaintiffs in the cases, with 16 listed as unspecified. Following a thorough survey of the historiography on marital litigation both in Italy and elsewhere in Europe, Cristellon offers students and scholars of marital litigation a history of institutions and laws in two main sections. The first (chapters 2 and 3) concerns the organization of the Venetian ecclesiastical tribunal. It begins with a chapter that details procedures for litigation, describing the composition of the court, the way petitions were formed, how people were cited to appear in court and the consequences of failing to comply, the methods for acquiring proof, and the processes of sentencing and appeals. Witnesses and testimony are the subjects of the following chapter, which outlines deponent selection, their instructions, the way their evidence was