

Hauteville, House of family

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<https://doi.org/10.1093/gao/9781884446054.article.T036942>

Published online: 2003

Updated in this version

updated bibliography, 9 July 2012

Norman dynasty of rulers and patrons. The sons of Tancred of Hauteville served as mercenaries and acquired lands in southern Italy, notably Roger of Hauteville (*reg* 1072–1101), who conquered Sicily. The two most important patrons in the family were (1) Roger II and (2) William II, whose extensive building programmes at Cefalù, Palermo and Monreale reflected the cosmopolitan society over which they ruled.

(1) Roger II, King of Sicily

(*b* Dec 22, 1095; *reg* 28 Sept 1105–54; *d* Palermo, Feb 26, 1154).

The son of Roger de Hauteville and Adelaide of Savona, he succeeded his brother Simon (*reg* 1101–5), but his mother remained regent until 1112. His coronation as king of Sicily in 1130 was performed by the anti-pope Anacletus II (*reg* 1130–38) in return for his support in the papal schism. During the 1120s Roger fought military campaigns to unite the Norman territories in southern Italy with Sicily. In the 1130s he was forced to defend these gains against an alliance of Anacletus's rival Innocent II (*reg* 1130–43), the Holy Roman Emperor Lothar III and some of the mainland barons.

Under Roger, Sicily became a leading maritime power in the Mediterranean and one of the best-governed states in Europe. He ruled over a cosmopolitan society that was a medley of cultures, languages and religions: Normans, Greeks, Italians, Jews and Arabs all contributed to the richness of court culture that flourished in the capital (*see* Palermo, §I). In many practical aspects of his rule, as well as in the language and imagery of his coins and documents, Roger sought to imitate the Byzantine emperors. The outstanding examples of his artistic patronage are the Byzantine mosaics of Cefalù Cathedral (*see* Cefalù §2) and the Cappella Palatina in Palermo (*see* Palermo, §II, 2, (ii)), both of which he founded. In the church of the Martorana in Palermo, built by Roger's Syro-Greek minister George of Antioch, a mosaic panel shows the King in Byzantine robes being crowned by Christ.

(2) William II [the Good], King of Sicily

(*b* 1154; *reg* May 1166–89; *d* Palermo, Nov 18, 1189).

Grandson of (1) Roger II. He was the fourth member of the Norman Hauteville dynasty to rule Sicily, succeeding his father William I (*reg* 1154–66); his mother Margaret of Navarre acted as regent until 1171. In the mid-1170s he signed treaties with Venice and Genoa that granted them lucrative trading privileges and thereby pre-empted their potential support for the hostility of Frederick I, Holy Roman Emperor. In 1177 he married Joan (*d* 1199), daughter of Henry II, King of England.

William's most important piece of ecclesiastical and artistic patronage was the foundation of Monreale Cathedral (1174; *see* Monreale Cathedral, §1), which was designed to rival the rebuilding of Palermo Cathedral by Archbishop Gualtiero Offamilio (*reg* 1169–90), whose pretensions were strenuously opposed by William's chief adviser Matteo di Ajello (*d* 1193). Friendly relations with Rome ensured papal support for the project. The Byzantine mosaics and Romanesque cloister capitals of Monreale were executed during William's reign. In the cathedral, a mosaic panel above the royal throne shows William being crowned directly by Christ; another panel opposite shows the King offering the church to the enthroned Virgin Mary.

In the 1180s William launched a series of attacks on Byzantium and its territories, which came to nothing. He died in 1189, while planning to take part in the Third Crusade; he was buried in Monreale. His failure to produce an heir contributed to the instability that was to bring the period of Norman rule in Sicily to an end.

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External resources

None: Coronation Mantle, 1133-4, Hofburg Schatzkammer (Vienna) [_<http://www.khm.at/system2E.html?/staticE/page480.html>](http://www.khm.at/system2E.html?/staticE/page480.html)

None: Cappella Palatina (Mosaics I), None (Palermo) [_<http://www.ou.edu/class/ahi4263/byzhtml/p07-01.html>](http://www.ou.edu/class/ahi4263/byzhtml/p07-01.html)

None: Cappella Palatina (Mosaics II), None (Palermo) [_<http://www.ou.edu/class/ahi4263/byzhtml/p07-02.html>](http://www.ou.edu/class/ahi4263/byzhtml/p07-02.html)

None: Cathedral (Pantokrator Mosaic), 1148, None (Cefal) [_<http://www.ou.edu/class/ahi4263/byzhtml/p07-05.html>](http://www.ou.edu/class/ahi4263/byzhtml/p07-05.html)

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