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CAMBRIDGE STUDIES IN EARLY MODERN HISTORY

The Continuity of Feudal Power

The Continuity of Feudal Power is an analytic study of a family of the Neapolitan aristocracy during the early modern period, with particular focus on the time of Spanish rule (1503–1707). The Caracciolo marquises of Brienza were a branch of one of the oldest and most powerful clans in the kingdom of Naples, and they numbered among the hundred wealthiest feudal families throughout the early modern period. Professor Astarita reconstructs the family's patrimony, administration, and revenues, its relationship with the rural communities over which it had jurisdiction, its marriage and alliance policies, and the relations between the aristocracy and the monarchical government. His emphasis is on the continuing importance of feudal traditions, institutions, and values both in the definition of the aristocracy's status, and in its success in insuring the persistence of its wealth and power within the kingdom.

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*Edited by Professor J. H. Elliott, University of Oxford,
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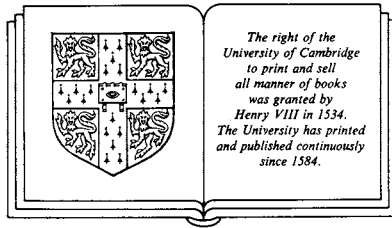
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The Caracciolo di Brienza in Spanish Naples

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CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge
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Melbourne Sydney

Cambridge University Press
 052189316X - The Continuity of Feudal Power: The Caracciolo Di Brienza in Spanish
 Naples - Tommaso Astarita
 Frontmatter/Prelims
[More information](#)

PUBLISHED BY THE PRESS SYNDICATE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE
 The Pitt Building, Trumpington Street, Cambridge, United Kingdom

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS
 The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge CB2 2RU, UK
 40 West 20th Street, New York NY 10011-4211, USA
 477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia
 Ruiz de Alarcón 13, 28014 Madrid, Spain
 Dock House, The Waterfront, Cape Town 8001, South Africa
<http://www.cambridge.org>

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First published 1992
 First paperback edition 2004

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library

Library of Congress cataloguing in publication data

Astarita, Tommaso
 The continuity of feudal power: the Caracciolo di Brienza
 in Spanish Naples / Tommaso Astarita
 p. cm. – (Cambridge studies in early modern history)
 Based on the author's thesis (Ph.D.) – Johns Hopkins University, 1988
 Includes bibliographical references and index
 ISBN 0 521 40474 6 hardback
 1. Naples (Kingdom) – History – Spanish rule, 1442–1707
 2. Caracciolo family. 3. Feudalism – Italy – Naples (Kingdom) – History
 I. Series
 DG848.I.A88 1992
 945'.7 – dc20 91-3024 CIP
 ISBN 0 521 40474 6 hardback
 ISBN 0 521 89316 X paperback

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Acknowledgments

I thank the staff of the Archivio Storico del Banco di Napoli (in particular Eduardo Nappi and Giuseppe Zevola), of the Archivio Segreto Vaticano, and of the Archivio di Stato di Potenza for their assistance. I wish to thank dottoresse Azzinnari, Belli, Esposito, and Nicodemo of the Archivio di Stato di Napoli for their help and patience. I thank Señora Gloria Tejada of the Archivo General de Simancas for her kind assistance in providing me with microfilms. I also have to thank the staff of the Biblioteca Nazionale di Napoli (in particular the Sezioni Manoscritti and Napoletana), of the Milton S. Eisenhower Library of The Johns Hopkins University (in particular the Inter-Library Loan Department), and of the Wright State University and Georgetown University Libraries.

I am grateful to the Department of History of The Johns Hopkins University and to the Charles S. Singleton Center for Italian Studies for generously supporting my doctoral studies, during which I completed most of the research for this book. My thanks also to my readers and editors at Cambridge University Press.

By working in two continents and two cultures one develops debts of gratitude to many people. In Europe I owe thanks to Count Giovanni Caracciolo di Brienza, Alberto Cutillo, Carlo de Conciliis, Antonio Delfino, Filippo Faes, Luigina Mattioli, Giovanna Moracci, Giovanni Muto, Anna Maria Rao, Marco Rapetti, Crispin Robinson, Renato Ruotolo, and Hartwin Spenkuch. In the United States I received the support and assistance, in various ways, of Laurent Cartayrade, Thomas Cole, William Connell, Andy Federer, Alison Games, Julie Hardwick, William Kuhn, Silvana Patriarca, Michael Schaffer, Kathy and Peter Taylor, and Wendy Thompson. On both sides of the Atlantic I have benefited from the help and advice of John Marino and Thomas Willette.

The late Rosa Pannain, the late Olga Staro, Isa Proto Pisani, and Massimo Lojacono encouraged and supported my early interest in history and in teaching. Mario del Treppo, Giuseppe Galasso, and the late Ettore Lepore nurtured and deepened that interest.

My colleagues and friends at Georgetown University have been generous with their support. I am especially indebted to Jim Collins, John McNeill, Howard Spindelov, and Steve Tamari. Many of my students at Wright State and Georgetown have unknowingly helped me write this book by strengthening my

Acknowledgments

love for history and teaching. My professors at Johns Hopkins taught me in their courses and through their example most of what I know about my work. I thank John Baldwin, Richard Kagan, Orest Ranum, and Mack Walker for their kind advice over the years. I am indebted to Elborg and Robert Forster for their warm support. I am deeply grateful to Richard Goldthwaite for his constant encouragement and for the generosity of his supervision of my doctoral work.

I am deeply indebted to Scott Spector for our long discussions and for his example; to John Garrigus for his patient and gracious work on my written English; to Trevor Burnard for our arguments and for his unfailing warmth; to Robert Jenner for his help during the epilogue of this book's story; and to Alessandra Galizzi Kroegel for often saving me from despairing of more than this book. My gratitude for their help is matched only by my gratitude for their friendship. Finally, this study of a Neapolitan family could not have been written without the support of my own Neapolitan family.

Questo libro è dedicato alla cara memoria di mio nonno, Vincenzo Giuliani.

Note on abbreviations and measurements

The following abbreviations have been used:

ACB	Archivio privato Caracciolo di Brienza (in ASN)
AGS	Archivo General de Simancas
ASBN	Archivio Storico del Banco di Napoli
ASCL	<i>Archivio Storico per la Calabria e la Lucania</i>
ASI	<i>Archivio Storico Italiano</i>
ASN	Archivio di Stato di Napoli
ASP	Archivio di Stato di Potenza
ASPN	<i>Archivio Storico per le Province Napoletane</i>
ASV	Archivio Segreto Vaticano
MEFRM	<i>Mélanges de l'École Française de Rome. Moyen Age et Temps Modernes</i>
QS	<i>Quaderni Storici</i>
RSI	<i>Rivista Storica Italiana</i>

The Neapolitan ducat (*ducatò*) was divided into five *tari*, each consisting of twenty *grani*. At times the ducat was divided into ten *carlini*, each worth ten *grani*.

The following measurements were used in early modern Naples:

<i>tomolo</i> (for surfaces)	=	0.33 ha.
<i>tomolo</i> (for capacity)	=	0.55 hl.
<i>soma</i> (for wine)	=	58.16 l.
<i>libbra</i> (pound)	=	0.32 kg.
<i>rotolo</i> (for weights)	=	0.89 kg.
<i>cantaro</i> (for weights)	=	89.09 kg.