

Pierluigi Terenzi, “La guerra dell’Aquila”,
Encyclopedia of the Medieval Chronicle,
R.G. Dunphy ed.
(Brill, Leiden and Boston 2010), 988

La guerra dell'Aquila

ca 1440–1450. Italy. Anonymous vernacular verse chronicle on the siege of L'Aquila, in central Italy in 1423/24. This poem narrates the final step of the first war between Alfonso the Magnanimous and Joan II of Naples. Braccio da Montone, a soldier of fortune who led a part of the Aragonese army, besieged L'Aquila from May 1423 to June 1424. The resistance of the town enabled the arrival of additional support to the Angevin army, that won the last battle, in which Braccio da Montone died. The poem consists of 532 octaves, divided into 11 cantos. This choice reflects the influence of the French and Italian epic poetry, but in this poem we can recognize two other literary traditions: the 14th century town chronicles and the ancient local *laudes* (hymns of praise). In the 18th century the author was identified

as Niccolò Ciminello, a citizen of L'Aquila, but in 1933 VALENTINI proved that this opinion was incorrect, and since then scholars have usually considered the work anonymous. The most ancient manuscript survives in a copy made in the second half of the 15th century, known as *codice Antonelli* (Perugia, Biblioteca Comunale, cod. 3061).

Bibliography

Text: C. DE MATTEIS, *La guerra dell'Aquila*, 1996. Literature: C. DE MATTEIS, *Civiltà letteraria abruzzese*, 2001, 122–32. F. PETRUCCI, “Ciminello Nicola”, *DBI* 25, 566–67. R. VALENTINI, “Del cosidetto Ciminello e del cod. Antonelli nuovamente ritrovato”, in *Convegno storico abruzzese-molisano*, I, 1933, 209–36. *RepFont* 3, 118 [s.v. *Cantari sulla guerra aquilana di Braccio*].

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