Charles of Anjou's conquest of the Sicilian Regno in 1266 transformed relations between France and the kingdom of Sicily. This original study of contact and exchange in the middle ages explores the significance of the many cultural, religious and political exchanges between the two countries, arguing that the links were more diverse and stronger than simply the rulers’ family connections. Jean Dunbabin shows how influence flowed as much from south to north as vice versa, and that France was strongly influenced by the experiences of those who returned after years of fighting in the Regno. As well as considering the experiences of notable crusading families, she sheds new light on the career of Robert II d’Artois, who virtually ruled the Regno for six years before returning to France to remodel the government of Artois. This comparative history of two societies offers an important new perspective on medieval western Europe.

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The French in the Kingdom of Sicily, 1266–1305

Jean Dunbabin
Contents

Acknowledgements vii
List of abbreviations ix
Genealogical tables xi

Introduction 1

Part I Means of communication
1 Routes and journeys 31
2 Meetings, embassies and correspondence 36
3 The movement of money 48

Part II Indirect channels of communication
4 Lesser means of diffusing Angevin influences 59

Part III Settlers in the Regno
5 Robert II d’Artois 101
6 The Dampierres, the comital family of Flanders 120
7 Other French aristocratic families 133
8 Foundations and degrees of French aristocratic commitment to the Angevin regime in the Regno 155
9 The French experience in the Regno 171

Part IV Cultural and political impacts
10 Royal ideology: the saintly family 189
## Contents

11 Religious politics and practices 199  
12 The universities of Naples and Paris 214  
13 Medicine and science 228  
14 Law 235  
15 Administrative practices 250  
16 Navy and army 260  
17 Literature 269

   Epilogue: spurs to remembering 275  
   Conclusion 279  

   Bibliography 281  
   Index 305
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My debt to my parents, among other things for scrimping and saving for my education, was and remains great. This book is especially theirs, because its theme owes much to them. They were devoted servants of the
British Empire. When they retired to Scotland, the home they created around them was full of mementoes of their years in West Africa (the Gold Coast) and Palestine. Their closest friends were people who had shared at least some of their experiences abroad. My mother’s cuisine, otherwise conventionally Highland, was enlivened by the family taste for avocados, aubergines, stuffed courgettes, Jaffa oranges and Turkish coffee, long before these items became commonplace in British kitchens. I drew the conclusion that the environments in which people spend their years of youth and vigour leave a deep and lasting impression on them.

Proper names have proved problematic. I have used French forms for Frenchmen and Italian for Italians. But in order not to prejudice the issue, I have used the English forms for the Angevin rulers and members of their families. I have also used English forms for the titular rulers of Byzantium. With scholars, I have used English forms for those who wrote in Latin, and French forms for those who wrote in French.
Abbreviations

A. de Bouard, Actes et lettres

BEFAR
Bibliothèque de l’École Française d’Athènes et de Rome

CUP

L’état angevin

MGH SS
Monumenta Germaniae Historica Scriptores

MGH SS RG
Monumenta Germaniae Historica Rerum Germanicarum Scriptores

Ordonnances des Roys de France

QFAIAB
Quellen und Forschungen aus Italienischen Archiven und Bibliotheken

RCA
List of abbreviations

Reg. Boniface VIII
Registres de Boniface VIII, 4 vols., ed. G. Digard et al. (Paris: BEFAR, 1884–1921)

Reg. Clément IV
Registres de Clément IV, ed. É. Jordan (Paris: BEFAR, 1893–95)

Reg. Honorius IV
Registres de Honorius IV, ed. M. Prou (Paris: BEFAR, 1898)

Reg. Martin IV
Registres de Martin IV, various editors (Paris: BEFAR, 1901)

Reg. Nicholas IV

RHF
Recueil des historiens des Gaules et de la France

TNA
Genealogical tables
The Courtenay family. This table is simplified to illustrate only the members of the family who played some part in the Regno.
Henry II of Brabant = Maria of Hohenstaufen

Philip = Guillaume de Dampierre

Maria = Adelaide of Burgundy

Mahaud = Robert I d’Artois

Godfrey = (1) Amicie de Courtenay
          (2) Agnès de Bourbon
          (3) Marguerite d’Avesne

Jean I = Philippe III

The Brabant–Artois relationship.
The Montfort family.
This table is simplified to illustrate only those members of the family mentioned in the text.
The Toucy family.