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 marquis 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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The Continuity of Feudal Power

The Caracciolo di Brienza in Spanish Naples

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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
ASCIL Archivio Storico per la Calabria e la Lucania
ASI Archivio Storico Italiano
ASN Archivio di Stato di Napoli
ASP Archivio di Stato di Potenza
ASPN Archivio Storico per le Province Napoletane
AVS Archivio Segreto Vaticano
MEFRM Mélanges de l’Ecole Française de Rome. Moyen Age et Temps Modernes
QS Quaderni Storici
RIS Rivista Storica Italiana

The Neapolitan ducat (ducato) 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:

\[
\begin{align*}
tomolo \text{ (for surfaces)} & = 0.33 \text{ ha.} \\
tomolo \text{ (for capacity)} & = 0.55 \text{ bl.} \\
soma \text{ (for wine)} & = 58.16 \text{ l.} \\
\text{libbra (pound)} & = 0.32 \text{ kg.} \\
rotolo \text{ (for weights)} & = 0.89 \text{ kg.} \\
cantaro \text{ (for weights)} & = 89.09 \text{ kg.}
\end{align*}
\]