PREFACE

None of the principal contemporary narrative sources for the history of the 'Norman' Kingdom of Sicily have hitherto been translated into English. Given the intrinsic interest of the subject, that circumstance would by itself justify the present work. But the *History* of the so-called 'Hugo Falcandus' is also a most important text for students of the classical heritage in the Middle Ages. It is therefore entirely appropriate that this translation and its accompanying material should be the product of a collaboration between a medieval historian and a classicist. As we have discovered while working together, the two disciplines do not always share the same priorities, and there have been a number of animated discussions as to the principles of translation and the type of critical apparatus required. We hope that the results will prove satisfactory both to students of medieval history and to those of classical civilisation. What follows is the product of a true collaboration. The original translation of the main text and the *Letter to Peter* was done by T.E.J.W., as was the section of the introduction on the classical resonances in the *History*, while the rest of the introduction, the translations of the other subsidiary texts, and the notes to all the sources, were the work of G.A.L. But each of us has read, commented upon, and sometimes rewritten, the other's sections. What follows may therefore be seen as fusion rather than jigsaw.

However, scholars do not exist in a vacuum, nor indeed should they; and a number of other people have contributed materially towards the completion of this project. Richard Purslow first commissioned this book, and his successor as the history editor at Manchester University Press, Vanessa Graham, showed exemplary patience with unexpected delays. Dominic Berry, Errico Cuzzo, Horst Enzensberger, Lindy Grant, John McGuckin, Ian Moxon, Alan Murray, Ian Netton, and above all Kathleen Thompson, patiently answered queries on the most arcane subjects: many of their answers have been incorporated in the footnotes. Without Dr Thompson's generous help we should have remained bemused by the complicated kin-grouping of the twelfth-century Counts of Perche. Hubert Houben and Hiroshi Takayama sent gifts of their publications which proved extremely useful both to this work and to other projects as well. The encouragement of Professor Sally Vaughn led to many of the ideas in the introduction being first aired before the Haskins Society conference at Houston in 1995, while discussion with two final-year students at Leeds, Nick Handforth and Danny Hodgson, helped to refine and clarify the section on the authorship of the *History*. At Nottingham, Michael Pucci helped to prepare the final MS. most efficiently. Last, but certainly not least, we are grateful to Diane Milburn and Margaret Hunt-Wiedemann. Among many other ways in which they contributed to this enterprise, D.B.M. drew the maps and proved

herself adept at the repair and refurbishment of ageing Nord processors, while M.H.- W. laboured to improve the translation. However, none of those who have assisted, us should share the authors' responsibility for any defects that remain.

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