Before the Normans
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Before the Normans

Southern Italy in the Ninth and Tenth Centuries

Barbara M. Kreutz

University of Pennsylvania Press
Philadelphia
For I.W.K., of course, and for H.H. and S.H., who made of Rome a magnet, and enriched Apulia.
I may be wrong, but . . . I can find no admirable traits in the people of southern Italy during the long history of Norman-Swabian domination, nothing then to arouse my local pride, no reassuring patriotism, no virtù. For comfort, I must turn instead to the pre-Norman scene with all its diversity and contrasts, when the various peoples came to each other’s aid and joined together for self-protection.

Benedetto Croce, *Storia del Regno di Napoli* (author’s translation)