

Pierluigi Terenzi, “Buccio di Ranallo”,
Encyclopedia of the Medieval Chronicle,
R.G. Dunphy ed.
(Brill, Leiden and Boston 2010), 221

Buccio di Ranallo

ca 1290–1363. Italy. Born in L'Aquila, in central Italy, he probably belonged to a low-noble class of landowners (Mutini). He was the author of the first and most important chronicle of his town, which runs from 1253 (one year before its foundation) to 1362.

The *Cronica* is written in central Italian vernacular verse and consists of 1249 quatrains with 21 sonnets inserted. Buccio began writing after 1355, when new political institutions were being established in his town. The aim of the chronicle is to warn the new government and the citizens about the risks of social and political struggles, and to invite them to achieve the ideals of the *bonum commune* (common good). The author recorded and commented on the various struggles between families and factions, and he also wrote about economic matters and exceptional natural events, such as earthquakes.

The original manuscript did not survive, but we have two important copies from the end of 15th century. The first was made by Alessandro

→ De Ritiis (L'Aquila, Archivio di Stato, Archivio Civico Aquilano, S-72, part 2, fol. 2^r-79^v); the second by → Francesco d'Angeluccio (Parma, Biblioteca Palatina, cod. 77). Buccio di Ranallo also wrote a *Leggenda di Santa Caterina d'Alessandria*, a hagiographical poem on St. Catherine of Alexandria.

Bibliography

Text: C. DE MATTEIS, *Buccio di Ranallo, Cronica*, 2008.

Literature: V. DE BARTHOLOMAEIS, *Cronaca Aquilana rimata*, 1907, VII–LXXI. R. COLAPIETRA, “Buccio dalla cronaca alla storia”, *Rivista storica del Mezzogiorno*, 26 (1991), 23–125. C. DE MATTEIS, *Buccio di Ranallo*, 1990. C. DE MATTEIS, *Civiltà letteraria abruzzese*, 2001, 62–100. C. MUTINI, “La Cronaca Aquilana nella poesia di Buccio di Ranallo”, *Bullettino dell'Istituto storico italiano per il medioevo*, 74 (1962), 175–211. C. MUTINI, “Buccio di Ranallo”, *DBI XIV*, 777–783. *RepFont* 2, 598.

PIERLUIGI TRENZI