

Ta'riḫ Jazīrat Ṣiqilliya. The 'History of the Island of Sicily' also known as 'The Cambridge Chronicle'. Exists in three MSS: Cambridge University Library (Arabic text), Vatican Library in Rome (Greek text), La Biblioth que Nationale in Paris (Greek text) dating probably from the C10th or C11th and covering the events of the years 827-965. Author unknown. Translation Alex Metcalfe (2009).

In the name of God, the merciful, the mercy-giving, from whom I seek help.

The book of the history of the island of Ṣaqalliya from the time the Muslims invaded it. Information about what happened in the wars there, the exchange of rulers and so on.

(The conquest) began in the year 6335 (from 1 September 826 to 31 August 827) from the beginning of the world according to the chroniclers of the R m in their books. On this date, the Muslims came to the Ṣiqilliya half-way through the month of Y l y h (July).

And in the year 6339 (830-1): M n w (Mineo) was taken and the patrician Thawd t was killed.

And in the year 6340 (831-2): B narm (Palermo) was taken.

And in the year 6350 (841-2): locusts fell upon Ṣiqilliya.

And in the year 6353 (844-5): the fortress of M diqa (Modica) was taken.

And in the year 6354 (845-6): the war between the Muslims and the Kharzan t  occurred. 9,000 R m died.

And in the year 6355 (846-7): L.n n h (Lentini) was taken.

And in the year 6356 (847-8): R.gh s (Ragusa) was taken for the first time and there was a serious famine.

And in the year 6362 (853-4): Buth ra (Butera) was taken.

And in the year 6366 (857-8): the ships of 'Al  were taken.

And in the year 6367 (858-9): Qaṣry nih was taken.

And in the year 6368 (859-60): the al-Q.nd.m.tta (from Cappadocia??) landed (or attacked? *nazala*).

And in the year 6372 (863-4): Al-N t s (Noto) was captured.

And in the year 6373 (864-5): four *shaland * boats were taken from the R m in Siraq sa.

And in the year 6374 (865-6): Al-N t s surrendered for the second time.

And in the year 6375 (866-7): R.gh s surrendered for the second time.

And in the year 6378 (869-70): M liṭa (Malta) was taken on 29th of the month of Awsah (August).

And in the year 6380 (871-2): the Muslim army was destroyed at S.larnuh (Salerno).

And in the year 6386 (877-8): Sarq sa (Syracuse) was taken on Wednesday the 21st of the month of M yah (May 878).

And in the year 6387 (878-9): Khr ṣ f was killed.

And in the year 6388 (879-80): the R m took the Muslims ships in a place called Al-Adhah (Ellade?).

And in the year 6389 (881-2): B.rṣ mus was defeated in Ṭabrm n (Taormina).

And in the year 6393 (884-5): al-Bul t  (the Council) offered a ransom payment and set free prisoners of Sarq sa.

And in the year 6395 (886-7): there was the first war between the *jund* and the Berbers.

And in the year 6397 (888-9): the ships of the R m were taken at M l ṣ (Milazzo). 5,000 people were killed and the people of R y h (Reggio di Calabria) fled.

And in the year 6398 (889-90): the Sicilians rose up against the people of Ifr qiya and killed al-Ṭ wl  in the month of M rsha (March).

And in the year 6404 (895-6): there was peace between the Muslims and the R m in the days of Ab  'Al .

And in the year 6406 (897-8): the Berbers rose up against the *jund* and handed over Abū I-Ḥusayn and his sons to Ifrīqiya.

And in the year 6407 (898-9): there was the war in F.ranjām.ghāriqa (*sic!* Possibly two words = 'various factions').

And in the year 6408 (899-900): Abū I-ʿAbbās passed over from Ifrīqiya to Māzar (Mazara) on the 24th of the month of Yūliyyūh (July).

And (167) in the year 6409 (900-1): Abū I-ʿAbbās took Bānarm (Palermo) and there was a great slaughter on 8th of the month of Satabir (September). At the end of the year Rīyūh (Reggio) was taken.

And in the year 6416 (907-8): a great (or 'old') amīr came over from Ifrīqiya in the month of Mayah (May) and mobilised an army with him of Sicilians and the people of Ifrīqiya. He took Ṭabrmīn (Taormina) on the Sunday, the first day of the month of Awsah (August).

And in the year 6417 (908-9): the 'commander of the faithful' (*amīr al-muʿminīn*) ruled over Ifrīqiya. The Sicilians rose up with Ibn Abī I-Fawāris and expelled Ibn Rabāḥ to Ifrīqiya on Sunday, the first day of the month of Abrīl (April).

And in the year 6421 (912-3): ʿImrān the *ṣāhib al-khums* ('lord of the fifth') was killed in Bānarm (Palermo) on the 27th of the month of Janārīyūh (January). On the 18th of the month of Māyah (May) on a Tuesday, (Ibn) Qurhab was made amīr.

And in the year 6422 (913-4): on the 9th of the month of Yūliūh (July) the ships of Ibn Qurhub set out and on the 18th they burned the ships of Ifrīqiya and killed Ibn Abī Khinzīr.

And in the year 6423 (914-5): on the first day of the month of Satabir (September) the ships of Ibn Qurhub set out against the Rūm to a place called Ḥalā...ah and were destroyed in the sea.

And in the year 6424 (915-6): on the 14th of the month of Yūliyyūh (July) on Sunday, the Sicilians deposed (169) Ibn Qurhub and exiled him to Ifrīqiya. He and his son died there. On the 15 Awsah (August) in the same year, Abū Saʿīd al-Ḍayf arrived in Ṣiqilliya with a large army.

And in the year 6425 (916-7): on the 28 Sat.nbr (September) the soldiers and fleet of Ibn Saʿīd entered Bazarm (Palermo) from the sea. On Thursday the 29th of Uktūb.r (October) the Sicilians swore (an agreement) with Ibn ʿAlī and Āw (*sic*) al-Saʿārī against ʿAlī Abī Saʿīd. Bānarm (Palermo) was besieged for six months and salt there reached two carub beans an ounce. On 12th Mārsah (March) a peace accord was granted them and they opened up the city.

And in the year 6426 (917-8): in the month of Sat.nbr (September) the fleet and army returned to Ifrīqiya and the amīr of the town (*al-balad*) was Sālim. At the end of the year ships from Ifrīqiya came and Rayūh (Reggio) was taken by night.

And in the year 6427 (918-9): the ruler (*sulṭān*) of Ifrīqiya raised an army by land and sea advanced to al-Iskanderiyya (Alexandria). At the end of this year there was the truce between Sālim, the amīr of Ṣiqilliya and the people of Ṭabrmīn (Taormina) and other strongholds.

And in the year 6432 (923-4): a ṣaqlabī ('white slave') called by his name of Masʿūd came from Ifrīqiya and took the fortress of Shant Aghātha (Sant'Agata).

And in the year 6433 (924-5): there came the chamberlain (*ḥajīb*) of the amīr of the faithful from (180) Ifrīqiya and took B.r.ṣān.h (Bruzano).

And in the year 6434 (925-6): the *ḥājib* crossed over in person to the place called Awrah (Oria). The people of Qalūriya (Calabria) concluded a peace and they took hostages of whom two were Lāwuh (Leo) bishop of Şiqilliya, and the governor (*wālī*) of Qalūriya.

And in the year 6435 (926-7): there came two shaykhs with Ibn Sālim, and they were al-Balazmī and al-Qalashānī¹ and they imposed financial burdens (*istaghram*) on the people of Şiqilliya.

And in the year 6436 (927-8): a *şaqlabī* ('white slave') came again from Ifrīqiya called Şābir who took Tarantūh (Taranto) on the 19th Awsah (August).

And in the year 6437 (928-9): this *şaqlabī* crossed over to al-Inkabrada (Longobardia) and took many prisoners but did not exercise authority over any city. The people of Qalūriya (Calabria) concluded a peace treaty for one year.

And in the year 6438 (929-30): the *şaqlabī* crossed on his own for a third time to Qalūriya and took the stronghold called Triyūluh (here refers to Termoli) and requisitioned 12,000 prisoners.

And in the year 6440 (931-2): there again came two shaykhs with Ibn Sālim. They were Ibn Salma and Ibn al-Dāya and they imposed great financial burdens (*istaghramā*) on the people of Şiqilliya. In the following year, they went away to Ifrīqiya and (*fa-*) the commander of the faithful (*amīr al-mu'minīn*) was displeased with them.

And in the year 6442 (933-4): on the 3rd Mārsuh (March) the commander of the faithful in Ifrīqiya died, and the news arrived in Şiqilliya on the 25th Awsah (August 934). After him, his son Abū I-Qāsim took control of power. He made for Jan.wa (Genova) and took it. (171) And in that year R.ndāsh, the governor of Tabrmīn was killed before Sālim's palace on the 10th of the month of Mārsuh (March).

And in the year 6443 (934-5): on Sunday the 19th Uktūbr (October) there was a great storm which came down upon the rivers around al-Madīna. People were drowned and many houses collapsed both within the city and outside it.

And in the year 6444 (935-6): on the 11th Yūliyūh (July) there was a great southern wind with the samūm (i.e. hot simoom wind) which scorched the vines and the fruits. There was no harvest in that year.

And in the year 6445 (936-7): on 17th Abrīl (April) the Agrigentans rose up against the amīr Sālim and expelled Ibn 'Imrān from Qal'at al-Ballūṭ and plundered the al-N.rd.bārīn? (الريظون). The amīr dispatched an army of Kutāmīyīn (Kutāma Berbers) and Sicilians against them with some men of Maymūn bin Mūsā's. Appointed as their commander was Abū Daqqāq al-Kutāmī. They set out and pitched their tents(?) in a spot called 'Aşra (unidentified?) and began to lay a tight siege to it. The situation affected the Agrigentans who advanced towards him and engaged in battle on the 24th of the month of Yūliyūh (July 937) on Saturday. The Kutāma factions were defeated and were killed along with their leader, and they captured a number of them. They passed on to Bānarm (Palermo) in order to engage in battle there on the 2nd of the month of Yūliyūh (July) on Sunday. They met in battle at M.şīd bi-l.īs (unidentified). The people of al-Madīna with Maymūn bin Mūsā and Sālim the amīr defeated them. It was a great (172) battle and they pursued them to the mills of M.r.nūh (Marineo?).

And in the year 6446 (937-8): the Sicilians with Ibn al-Sabāya Abī Ṭār rose up against the amīr Sālim on Sunday the 17th of the month of S.tanbir (September) and they met for battle and killed Abū Nuṭār al-Aswad. On Wednesday of the 20th of this month the amīr Sālim killed them in the harbour, slaughtering them like

¹ Meaning 'from Balazma' and 'from Qalashana' in North Africa.

dogs. On Saturday 9th Uktüb.r (October) large numbers of troops (or 'armies' *'asākir kibār*) were stirred up against Sālim, so he went out to them and killed them. This was a great defeat for the Sicilians and they were beseiged in the Càssaro area (al-Qaṣr al-Qadīm). On the thirteenth of this month Khalīl (i.e. Khalīl ibn Ishāq ibn Ward) entered Bānarm (Palermo) with large numbers of troops and began to raze the walls of Bānarm and pull down its gates. When (news of) the matter reached the Agrigentans, they rebelled, so Khalīl mobilised an army of Sicilians and Ifrīqiyans against them. They set out against them with a large force on Friday the 9th of Mārsuh (March) and fighting broke out. The Agrigentans killed Ibn Abī Khinzīr and Sālim's relative (son- or brother-in-law *ṣihr*) 'Alī bin Abī l-Ḥusayn. The rout was against the people of Ifrīqiya. Khalīl beseiged them for eight months but could do nothing against them. In the year that followed, on the 22nd of Uktüb.r (October), Khalīl returned to Bānarm (Palermo) and imposed a financial burden (*istaghram*) on the people of Ṣiqilliya. Then he sent a letter to Ifrīqiya and Wasāmā and Ibn Mudūw fetched troops from there and three strongholds returned to his authority, namely Qal'at Abī Thawr (Caltavuturo), Qal'at al-Sīrāt (Collesano) and Isqalāfīna (Sclafani). After this [...] and took the island of F.q.h and F.q.h was exposed to torture until he died. Then the army advanced to Qal'at al-Ballūṭ (Caltabellotta) waged war against it. There happened in this place a great slaughter. On the 10th (173) of Yūliyūh (July 939) (they concluded a) treaty to remain.

And in the year that followed (939-40), the armies advanced to Iblāṭ.na (Platano) and beseiged it. In the month of Nūnb.r (November) the Agrigentans struck at them during the night and drove them out of Qal'at al-Ballūṭ (Caltabellotta), and captured their tents. In that year Sālim the amīr died in his palace. There was in that period a great famine in al-Madīna (Palermo) and the countryside to the extent that parents ate their children. And in the month of Mārsuh (March 940) Iblāṭ.na (Platano) was taken.

And in the year which followed it (940-41) in the month of Nūnb.r (November) Agrigento was taken. The famine worsened wrecked and left deserted the strongholds of Ṣiqilliya and its countryside. At that time Khalīl sent a large number of prisoners to Ifrīqiya.

And in the year 6450 (941-2) on Friday 10th in the month of S.tanbir (September), Khalīl set out from Ṣiqilliya for Ifrīqiya and left two *mutawallī-s* (deputy governors) in charge of Bāzarm, one of whom was Ibn al-Kūfī and the other was Ibn 'Aṭṭāf. And in that period, robbery and crime increased and the strength with which one ate became weak.

And in the year 6456 (947-8): there arrived from Ifrīqiya an amīr called Ḥasan ibn 'Alī bin Abī l-Ḥusayn who was killed at Jirgant (Agrigento). He restored peace to the land of Ṣiqilliya, brought it under his control, and put it to rights.

And in the year that followed (948-9), the Sicilians joined forces to rebel against him. On Christmas Day (*yawm al-Mīlād*) which was a Monday, he trapped them, got the leaders of the alliance and cut off their hands and feet, then crucified them (*ṣalaba-hum*). Among them were M.r...sh and his comrades. Thereupon, Ṣiqilliya was quiet. (174)

And in the year 6459 (950-1) on Wednesday 2nd Yūliyūh (July) there came to Bānarm (Palermo) a ṣaqlabī from Ifrīqiya called Faraj Muḥaddad with whom there were camels and many land and sea forces. The amīr Ḥasan sent an army of Sicilians and Ifrīqiyans on Saturday on the twelfth of that month to Rayūw (Reggio di Calabria). They found the place deserted and returned to Jarāja (Gerace) and fought a fierce battle there. They were not able to do anything there so concluded a treaty and took hostages from them. They returned

and advanced to Qassāna (Cassano) and fought there but were not able to do anything there. They concluded peace terms there too and took hostages from them.

He returned to Bānarm (Palermo) for winter and in the year that followed (i.e. 951-2) and left the ships at Messīna.

And in the year that followed (i.e. 952-3) forces crossed to Qalūriya and met with Maljān (Malakenos), defeated him and slaughtered his troops. They attacked the inhabitants of R.m.t.s.h, the people of ...ṭr.h and F/Qūq.h. They took many prisoners and sent them to Ifrīqiya. The commander (qā'id) of the fleet who was Abū Maḥall he dispatched to Ifrīqiya in chains. He was crucified in Ifrīqiya.

And in the year 6462 (953-4): Iṣrūb.l.s the monk stayed and concluded a treaty and the troops returned to Ifrīqiya.

And in the year 6464 (955-6), on 9th Awsah (August) there came 'Ammār with a fleet and spent the winter in Bānarm (Palermo). And at the beginning of the season he crossed (**180**) to Qalūriya (Calabria). And in that year, there came to stay Bāsīluh al-Abrūṭūqārbūs (Basilius Protocarebus) who destroyed the mosque of Rayūh (Reggio). He also took Thirma (Termini) and met the amīr Ḥasan in battle at Māzar (Mazara) and killed a group of Muslims.

And in the year 6466 (957-8): Ḥasan crossed back and met his brother 'Ammār. They put to flight Maryān al-sardaghūs (strategot) who was their commander and he took one of the Muslims' ships.

And in the year 6467 (958-9): the fleet was wrecked on its return on the 24th of S.t.nbir (September). Ḥasan fitted out another fleet in that year.

And in the year 6468 (959-60): he took ...f/q.r.h and the Rūm captured Ibn B.ṣlūs and sent him to Quṣṭantīniyya.

And in the year 6469 (960-1): S.f/qr...ṭ came by ransom payment. The Rūm took If/q...h and paid the ransom to the Muslims. Ḥasan returned to Ifrīqiya and took Sicilian notables whom they inducted into the (Ismā'īlī) school (*madhhab*) of the commander of the faithful (*amīr al-mu'minīn*) and...

And in the year 6470 (961-2): in the month of Māyah, Aḥmad ibn Ḥasan mobilised an army of Sicilians and Ifrīqiyans and besieged Ṭabrmīna (Taormina). On the Friday, the qā'id Ibn 'Ammār (**176**) arrived with the army and met with his nephew at Ṭabrmīna.

And in the year 6471 (962-3): in the month of D.j.nb.r (December) on a Friday, Ṭabrmīna was taken. And in the month of Awsah (August) Aḥmad travelled to Ifrīqiya while the qā'id 'Ammār besieged Rīmṭa (Rometta) in the year that followed.

And in the year 6473 (964-5): Ḥasan came with an army of Berbers and spent the winter in (Bānarm) Palermo. Ḥasan died in the month of Nūn.b.r (November). And in that year in the month of Ukt.br. (October) on a Monday, there came down Mānwīl in...[manuscript breaks off at this point]
