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THE MONETARY REFORMS OF WILLIAM II (1166–1189): ORIENTAL AND WESTERN PATTERNS IN NORMAN SICILIAN COINAGE

Lucia Travaini*

Introduction and Summary

A first version of this paper was presented at the Seminar held in Tübingen in 1991, dedicated to *Oriental-occidental relations in monetary circulation, money trade and coin finds*, but further research and new evidence have made it necessary to correct some of the original conclusions. The main argument, however, remains valid: in spite of some increase of oriental elements in the coinage of William II, the monetary economy in the Regno had decisively shifted towards a Western pattern by the end of his reign.¹

*I wish to thank Professor Philip Grierson for reading this paper, and providing his customarily generous and valuable advice: any opinions here expressed, however, are of course my own responsibility.

¹ See now for the whole coinage of the Normans L. Travaini, *La monetazione nell'Italia normanna*, *Nuovi Studi Storici* 28 (Roma 1995), with ample historical background and a listing of all known types, updating the Norman section of R. Spahr, *Le monete siciliane dai bizantini a Carlo I d'Angiò (582–1282)* (Zurich–Graz 1976). A new type of Roger II was published by F. D'Angelo, *Un "minimo di mistura" inedito di re Ruggiero II di Sicilia*, *SM* 46, 1996, 11–13. Cf. also the relevant chapter in P. Grierson and L. Travaini, *Medieval European Coinage*, 14, South Italy, Sicily, Sardinia, with a Catalogue of the Coins in the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge (Cambridge, in the press). For the coin fineness see also L. Travaini, *The fineness of Sicilian taris, and of those of Amalfi and Salerno (11th to 13th centuries)*, in: *The application of scientific methods for investigating coins and coinage (British Museum–Royal Numismatic Society Symposium, London 22–24 Sept. 1994)*, *Metallurgy in Numismatics* 4, in the press.