Contents

3600

Introduction ix

LIVES OF THE MILANESE TYRANTS

Life of Filippo Maria Visconti

1. The origins of the Visconti and their illustrious forebears 2 · 2. Filippo Maria's ancestors 4 · 3. Filippo Maria's grandfather Galeazzo II 4 · 4. Filippo Maria's father Gian Galeazzo 6 · 5. The birth of Filippo Maria and his upbringing 8 · 6. What Gian Galeazzo and his astrologers thought of Filippo Maria 8 · 7. His beginnings as a ruler 10 · 8. Filippo Maria obtains the Duchy of Milan 12 · 9. How Filippo Maria behaved at the beginning of his reign 12 · 10. The deeds of Filippo Maria 14 · 11. The origins of his wars 14 · 12. War against Lodi and Como 16 · 13. War against Cremona, Brescia, and Bergamo 16 · 14. The recovery of Parma 18 · 15. War against Genoa 20 · 16. War against the Swiss 20 · 17. The Florentine War 22 · 18. The first Venetian war 22 · 19. A note on the war with Savoy 24 · 20. The second Venetian war 26 · 21. A new war with Venice and victory over King Alfonso of Aragon 26 · 22. Another war against Genoa 28 · 23. The fourth Venetian war 30 · 24. The fifth Venetian war 32 · 25. The deeds done during his reign 34 · 26. The battles at which Filippo Maria was present 34 · 27. The high regard in which he held his generals 36 · 28. His clever ways of testing the loyalty of his captains and soldiers 38 · 29. The famous military commanders who served under his banners 40 · 30. The devices emblazoned on Filippo's standards 42 · 31. His clemency in war 44 · 32. His

fame 46 · 33. His care in managing the affairs of state 48 · 34. His cleverness in choosing his advisors 50 · 35. How he governed the cities of his realm 52 · 36. His building projects 54 · 37. How he cared for and restored sacred buildings 56 · 38. His marriages and children 56 · 39. How he behaved toward his wives 60 · 40. His devotion to his parents and brothers 62 · 41. The methods he used to probe the minds of his men 66 · 42. His patience with wrongdoers and his way of punishing them 68 · 43. His genius for dissimulating 72 · 44. His taste for a good joke 76 · 45. With what skill he could win friendship even from his enemies 78 · 46. The young men to whom he entrusted the care of his person 82 · 47. The watch kept over his residence and how entry was regulated 84 · 48. The rules whereby officials and dignitaries were admitted to see him 88 · 49. His places of residence near Milan and the waterways he built 90 · 50. His physical appearance and attributes 92 · 51. His clothes and the furnishings of his palace 94 · 52. His favorite foods 96 · 53. His manner of walking and talking 100 · 54. His eating and sleeping habits 102 · 55. The power of his memory and how he kept track of everyone's doings 106 · 56. His physical condition from adolescence onward 108 · 57. His circle of doctors and the extent to which he trusted their advice 110 · 58. His lifelong passion for weapons and horsemanship 114 · 59. The delight he took in caring for his horses, dogs, panthers, and birds 116 · 60. Fowling and hunting 118 · 61. The games he enjoyed playing 120 · 62. His literary studies from childhood and his cunning turns of phrase 122 · 63. How he treated men of letters 126 · 64. The most outstanding men of his court 128 · 65. His observance of religious duties and his way of praying 130 · 66. The fears that beset him during the night and the mounting of the guard 132 · 67. His superstitious nature and his fear of lightning 134 · 68. His respect for astrologers and his observance of the

lunar cycles 138 · 69. The signs that predicted the defeat of his armies 142 · 70. The signs foretelling his end and the hour of his death 144 · 71. His last will and testament and how the Milanese regained their freedom 148

The Deeds of Francesco Sforza 150

Here begins a brief account of the deeds in arms of that most victorious of princes, Francesco Sforza 150 · 1. The preface of Pier Candido 152 · 2. The origins of Francesco Sforza and the fame of his father 152 · 3. The ignorance of those who have written about him 154 · 4. The birth of Francesco Sforza 154 · 5. His brothers and sisters and his education 156 · 6. How Francesco Sforza first acquired the title of count 160 · 7. The marriage of Francesco's father 160 · 8. Honors conferred upon Muzio and his various fortunes 162 · 9. The notable behavior of Muzio's sister and how he was finally freed 164 · 10. Honors bestowed upon Muzio's son, and praise for Foschino Attendolo 166 · 11. Muzio places his son Francesco in command of his army 168 · 12. A notable example of Francesco's good judgment 170 · 13. The memorable deaths of Muzio Attendolo and of Braccio da Montone 172 · 14. Growth of Francesco's military reputation under Pope Martin 174 · 15. Notable things that occurred in the following years 176 · 16. Revolt in Genoese territory and Francesco's skill 178 · 17. Francesco frees Lucca from the Florentines 180 · 18. Francesco leaves Lucca, and what happened next 182 · 19. Francesco is adopted by Filippo Maria through his betrothal to Bianca Maria; his deeds in war 184 · 20. Francesco Sforza seizes the March of Ancona 188 · 21. Pope Eugenius assigns the marquisate of Ancona to Francesco Sforza 190 · 22. Francesco Sforza serves the cause of the Church 192 · 23. The noteworthy clemency and generosity of Filippo Maria Visconti is imitated by Francesco

Sforza 192 · 24. Francesco recovers the city of Bologna for the Church 194 · 25. Francesco Sforza reacts vigorously to suppress a conspiracy, and his defense of Pisa 196 · 26. Francesco frees the city of Verona 198 · 27. Francesco is victorious over the armies of Filippo Maria 202 · 28. The siege of Martinengo and the Offer of peace from Filippo Maria Visconti 204 · 29. Filippo Maria gives Bianca Maria to Francesco Sforza in marriage; Francesco's mixed

fortunes 206 · 30. Filippo Maria unleashes war on Francesco Sforza in Cremona 210 · 31. Filippo Maria signs a new agreement with Francesco Sforza; the death of Filippo Maria 212 · 32. Francesco Sforza occupies Pavia and Piacenza 214 · 33. The Milanese bestow their standards on Francesco Sforza; the naval battle near Cremona 216 · 34. Francesco defeats the Venetians at Caravaggio 220 · 35. Milan plunges into civil turmoil and Francesco Sforza makes peace with

Venice 222 · 36. Francesco Sforza prosecutes war against
Milan 226 · 37. Civil conflict intensifies in Milan and the city makes
peace with Venice 228 · 38. Francesco Sforza is victorious and obtains
Milan 234 · 39. Francesco Sforza shows clemency and kindness toward
all on his entry into Milan 238 · 40. Francesco is victorious in war
against Venice; peace comes to Italy 240

Appendix 249

Note on the Texts and Translations 257

Notes to the Texts 269

Notes to the Translations 271

Bibliography 317

Index 321