

Names of geographic origin from the Kalsa quarter of Palermo, 1480

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Introduction

Sicily has been coveted for its strategic Mediterranean location by the several cultures that ruled it. These cultures include Hellenistic Greece, the Byzantines, the Arabs, Swabia, Aragon and Spain. Kalsa is the old Arabic quarter of Palermo, the capital during the Arab rule of Sicily.

These Sicilian names were collected from Armando Di Pasquale's *Palermo nel 1480. La popolazione del quartiere della Kalsa, Palermo, 1975*. The source is a census of the Kalsa quarter in 1479 and was corrected in 1480. According to Di Pasquale, approximately 40% of the Kalsa population was originally neither Palermitan and nor often even Sicilian. Di Pasquale, p. 2.

To remain faithful to the original text Di Pasquale has almost always omitted punctuation. He capitalized the personal names, surnames, and place names and preserved the initial letters that were already capitalized. He also changed initial 'i' to 'j' when it was followed by a vowel, and changed the final 'j' to 'i'. Lastly, the author added an apostrophe for modern usage to separate joined words in the original text. Di Pasquale, op. cit., p.40, fn. 2.

Medieval scribal Latin was used in the census, e.g., alias, quondam and videlicet (not in this group of names). The recorders also used the preposition 'di' for all patronyms, matronyms, family names and names of geographic origin.

Abbreviations and signs

* = not found in Di Pasquale's place name list

[.] = added for translation

Ar. = Arabic

Bas = de Bascarini, Nicolo. *Descrizione dell Isola di Sicilia*

ca. = circa

cfr. = Compare

Cal. = Region of Calabria

Car = Caracausi, G. *Dizionario Onomastico della Sicilia*.

DdT = *Dizionario di toponomastica. Storia e significato dei nomi geografici italiani*

dim. = diminutive

e.g. = exempli gratia

E. = East

Etn. = ethnic; In this case Sicily

f. = feminine

IF = Morrone, Antonino. *I Feudi* from *Repertorio della feudalità siciliana (1282-1390)*

H = Hicks, A. *Mercator's Place Names of Italy in 1554*

Is. = Island

L. = Latin

loc. = locative, place name, location

N. = North

Poss. = Possibly

Prob. = Probably

s.n. = sub nomine

S. = South

St. = San, Santa

Sp. = Spain

Sic. = Sicily or Sicilian

W. = West

Recording naming practices

Often during the years prior to the census, a toponym, descriptive epithet indicating their origin, or surname was added to the name of head of household. Di Pasquale, op. cit., p. 2.

Name patterns

Three major patterns appear from the census concerning locatives.

The most common pattern is *given + di + locative* (gdl), e.g. Angilu di Xikili.

Next is *given + descriptive* (gx), e.g. Paulu Pisanu. Pisanu could also be a family name.

The last is *given + article + descriptive* (gax), e.g. Joanna la Valenciana.

Type codes

a = article 'la', 'lu' or plural 'li'.

d = di (of or from).

f = family name.

g = given name.

l = locative, place name.

n = nickname marker – alias.

x = descriptive (adjectival) locative byname, e.g. Maltisi.

Name lists

There are three lists: 1) the complete name with gender, type and notes, 2) feminine given names, 3) and masculine given names. The given name list includes frequency numbers.

The complete name list has three sections: Sicilian locatives, locatives on the Italian peninsula, and locatives outside of Sicily and Italy. They are alphabetized by location within each section.

For simplicity I have removed titles and other forms of address. One use of *vidua*, Sicilian for widow, has been retained.

Place names with an asterisk were not found in Di Pasquale's place name list of 187 locatives. Di Pasquale, op. cit., p. 150. In the list he notes other unnamed locations: 30 in Sicily, 18 in southern Italy, and 18 in central Italy. The author doesn't mention which locatives are from outside Sicily and the peninsula; however there are several that are obvious. To the known

locatives I have added 20 in Sicily, and 17 in Italy. Six locatives outside of Sicily and Italy were added.

Sicilian name Gender Type Notes

Sicily

Antona di Alcamu	f	gdl	From Alcamo.
Antoni di Alcamu	m	gdl	From Alcamo.
Lisi di Birindinu*	m	gdl	Car: s.n. Berendino, has a connection with the toponym Birdinu, near Palermo.
Christofaru di Caccavu	m	gdl	From Caccamo.
Muni di Caccavu	m	gdl	From Caccamo.
Garita di Calatagiruni*	f	gdl	From Caltagirone. H:Calatagirone.
Joanni di Calatanixecta*	m	gdl	From Calatanixecta. Modern Caltanissetta.
Andria di Cammarate	m	gdl	Probably modern Cammarata.
Gintili di Cammarata	f	gdl	Modern Cammarata. Shown as Gintili di Cammarata vidua.
Joanni di Cannizaru*	m	gdl	From Cannizaro. Modern Cannizzaro.
Gati di Castrujoanni*	f	gdl	Sicilian name for Enna and prohibited since 1927.
Thomeu Catina*	m	gl	Bas: loc. list. Car: s.n. Catina, dialectal form of Catena, loc. Poss. family name.
Cola la Chabica*	m	gdl	IF: Fief, tower factory, in the territory of Casteltermini.
Caterina di Chifalu	f	gdl	From Chifalu. Modern Cefalu.
Cola di Chifalu	m	gdl	From Chifalu. Modern Cefalu.
Janna di Chifalu	f	gdl	From Chifalu. Modern Cefalu.
Anthoni di Girachi	m	gdl	Girachi. Modern Geraci-Siculo, a commune ending in 1863, was known as Geraci until 1426.
Cola Curtu alias di Chirachi	m	gfndl	Girachi. Modern Geraci-Siculo, a commune ending in 1863, was known as Geraci

			until 1426.
Nardu Fichilignu*	m	gl	Car: s.n. Ficiligno, loc.
Caterina di Furmica*	f	gdl	IF: Formica. Castle and fief in Noto territory.
Agnesa la Girgintana	f	gax	From Girgenti. Modern Agrigento .
Angila di Girgenti	f	gdl	From Girgenti. Modern Agrigento.
Bauduchu di la Licata	m	gdax	From Licata. La Licata is another loc. name.
Joanni di la Licata	m	gdax	From Licata. La Licata is another loc. name.
Janna di Milazu	f	gdl	From Milazo. Modern Milazzo.
Petru di Milazu	m	gdl	From Milazo. Modern Milazzo.
Angilu di Missina	m	gdl	From Missina. Modern Messina.
Antoninu di Missina	m	gdl	From Missina. Modern Messina.
Fluri di Missina	f	gdl	From Missina. Modern Messina.
Janna di Missina	f	gdl	From Missina. Modern Messina.
Mactheu di Missina	m	gdl	From Missina. Modern Messina.
Muni di Missina	m	gdl	From Missina. Modern Messina.
Pasquali di Missina	m	gdl	From Missina. Modern Messina.
Rosa di Missina	f	gdl	From Missina. Modern Messina.
Tarsia di Mannuchu di Missina	f	gdgdl	From Missina. Modern Messina.
Ysmiralda di Missina	f	gdl	From Missina. Modern Messina.
Pina la Missinisa	f	gax	The Messinese (modern).
Jacoba di Muntalbanu	f	gdl	From Montalbanu. Prob. modern Montalbano Elicona.
Violanti di Montalbanu	f	gdl	From Montalbanu. Prob. modern Montalbano Elicona.
Masi Monforti*	m	gl	Poss. family name. From Monforte. Car:s.n. Monforte San Giorgio. DdT:s.n. medieval Monforte, modern Monforte San Giorgio.
Bernardu di Monforti*	m	gdl	From Monforte. Car:s.n. Monforte San Giorgio. DdT:s.n. medieval Monforte, modern Monforte San

Giorgio.			
Antoni di Naru	m	gdl	From Naru. Modern Naro.
Caterina di Naru	f	gdl	From Naru. Modern Naro.
Marina di Nasu	f	gdl	From Nasu. Modern Naso.
Petru di Nasu	m	gdl	From Nasu. Modern Naso.
Bernardu di Nothu*	m	gdl	From Nothu. Modern Noto. H: Noto.
Janna la Nuara*	f	gax	Woman from Nuara. Nuara originally a Sicilian toponym < Ar. nuwwa-r(ah).
Antoni di Pacti	m	gdl	From Pacti. H: Patti.
Benedictu di Pacti	m	gdl	From Pacti. H: Patti.
Cola di Pacti	m	gdl	From Pacti. H: Patti.
Garita di Palermu*	f	gdl	From Palermu, modern Palermo.
Orlandu di Palermu*	m	gdl	From Palermu, modern Palermo.
Mocta di Paterno*	u	ldl	From Paterno, modern Paterno.
Antoni Henrigu di Polizi*	m	ggdl	Polizi is prob. modern Polizzi Generosa near Palermo, Car: s.n. Polizzi.
Philippu di Sanphilippu*	m	gdl	Sanphilippu was a monastery in Messina.
Margarita di Sanctu Stefanu	f	gdl	Either Santo Stefano Quisquina (W.), or S. Stefano di Camastra (E.). Modern Sicilian: Santu Stèfanu.
Antoni di Saragusa*	m	gdl	From Saragusa, modern Siracuse.
Savarinu Spatafora*	m	gl	Poss. family name. IF: s.n. Spatafora, p.537. Holding of land near Licata.
Lisi di Sutera	m	gdl	From Sutera.
Petru di Sutera	m	gdl	From Sutera.
Virardu di Sutera	m	gdl	From Sutera.
Faciu Terranova*	m	gl	Poss. family name. Car: s.n. Terranova. Terranova (Gela) founded in 13 th C. by Frederick of Swabia.
Joanni Terranova*	m	gl	Poss. family name. Car: s.n. Terranova. Terranova (Gela) founded in 13 th C. by Frederick of Swabia..
Diamanti di Trapani	f	gdl	From Trapani.

Franciscu Tabuni alias di Trapani	m	gfndl	alias from Trapani.
Joanni di Trapani	m	gdl	From Trapani.
Antona la Trapanisa	f	gax	The Trapanese. (Trapani)
Becta vidua Trapanisa	f	gxx	Trapanese. (Trapani)
Florenza la Trapanisa	f	gax	The Trapanese. (Trapani)
Andreu Trapanisi	m	gx	Trapanese. (Trapani)
Julianu Traynitu*	m	gx	From Traina.
Florenza di Xacca	f	gdl	From Xacca. Modern Sciacca.
Gaspanu di Xacca	m	gdl	From Xacca. Modern Sciacca.
Joanni di Xacca	m	gdl	From Xacca. Modern Sciacca.
Masi di Xacca	m	gdl	From Xacca. Modern Sciacca.
Minicu di Xacca	m	gdl	From Xacca. Modern Sciacca.
Nardu di Xacca	m	gdl	From Xacca. Modern Sciacca.
Petru di Xacca	m	gdl	From Xacca. Modern Sciacca.
Angilu di Xikili	m	gdl	From Scicli. Modern Scicli.
Nicola di Xikli	m	gdl	From Scicli. Modern Scicli.

Italian peninsula – cities and regions

Virgugnusa di Abruzu*	f	gdl	From the region of Abbruzzo.
Angilu di Astuni*	m	gdl	From Astuni. Car: s.n. Astuni. Ostuni, Apuglia.
Geronimu di Aversa*	m	gdl	From Aversa, Campania
Antona di Bova*	f	gdl	From Bova, Cal.
Sabella la Bova*	f	gax	The Bovanese. Bova, Cal.
Antoni Calabrisi	m	gx	Calabrian.
Joanni Calabrisi	m	gx	Calabrian.
Gati la Calabrisa	f	gax	The Calabrian.
Antoni lu Calabrisi	m	gax	The Calabrian.
Cola Turchu alias lu Calabrisi	m	gxnax	Turk. The Calabrian.

Antoni di Capua*	m	gdl	From Capua, Campania.
Joanni Crapanzanu*	m	gl	From Carpanzano, Cal. Note the a-r switch.
Petru di Crimuna*	m	gdl	From Crimuna. Cremona, Lombardy.
Cesaru di Cusenza	m	gdl	From Cosenza, Cal.
Margarita di Cusenza	f	gdl	From Cosenza, Cal.
Bernardinu di Macteu di Gayta*	m	gdl	From Gayta. Gaeta, Lazio.
Minicu di Gayta*	m	gdl	From Gayta. Gaeta, Lazio.
Nicola Gaytanu*	m	gx	Gaitano. Gaeta, Lazio.
Antoni lu Genuisi	m	gax	The Genuisi; the Genoese
Bartholomeu Genuisi	m	gx	Genuisi; Genoese
Bernardu Genuisi	m	gx	Genuisi; Genoese
Joanni Lombardu	m	gx	Lombard. Poss. family name. Region:Lombardy.
Nicolau Lombardu	m	gx	Lombard. Poss. family name. Region:Lombardy.
Petru Lombardu	m	gx	Lombard. Poss. family name. Region:Lombardy.
Joanni di Comu alias Lumbardu	m	gdlnx	H: Como, loc. in Lombardy. Joanni from Como alias the Lombard. Como could be a given name.
Franciscu di Martorana*	m	gdl	From Martorana. Car:s.n. Martorana. Loc. in Cal.
Angilu Muntiliuni	m	gl	Poss. family name. Monteleone, Campania.
Gaspani di Muntliuni	m	gdl	From Muntiliuni. Monteleone, Campania.
Jurlandu di Muntiliuni	m	gdl	From Muntiliuni. Monteleone, Campania.
Pirruni di Muntiliuni	m	gdl	From Muntiliuni. Monteleone, Campania.
Violanti di Muntiliuni	f	gdl	From Muntiliuni. Monteleone, Campania.
Jannectu Napulitanu*	m	gx	Neapolitan - Man from Naples. Napoli, Campania.
Fridericu di Nicotra	m	gdl	From Nicotra. Modern Nicotera, Cal.
Joanni di Nicotra	m	gdl	From Nicotra. Modern Nicotera, Cal.
Caterina di Padua*	f	gdl	From Padua, Modern Padova, Veneto.
Joanni di Padua*	m	gdl	From Padua. Modern Padova, Veneto.
Joanni Antoni di Petru di Pavia*	m	ggdg dl	From Pavia. Pavia, Lombardy.

Paulu Pisanu*	m	gx	Poss. family name; from Pisa, Tuscany
Petru Pisanu*	m	gx	Poss. family name; from Pisa, Tuscany.
Stefanu di Plachenza*	m	gdl	Cfr. L. Placentia, Modern Piacenza, Emilia-Romagna. DdT, s.n. Piacenza.
Angilu Puglisi.	m	gx	Puglisi; poss. family name. Modern Apuglia.
Macteu Puglisi	m	gx	Puglisi; poss. family name. Modern Apuglia.
Salvaturi di Puglisi	m	gdl	From Puglia. Modern Apuglia.
Caterina di Rigiù	f	gdl	From Reggio, Cal.
Cola di Rigiù	m	gdl	From Reggio, Cal.
Federicu di Rigiù	m	gdl	From Reggio, Cal.
Garita di Rigiù	f	gdl	From Reggio, Cal.
Julianu di Rigiù	m	gdl	From Reggio, Cal.
Janna di Salerno*	f	gdl	From Salerno; Salerno, Campania.
Janna di lu Portu alias di Tarantu	f	gdaxn xdl	alias from Taranto. Taranto, Apuglia.
Barthulumeu Trupianu*	m	gx	From Tropea. Car: s.n. Tropea; in Cal.
Peri di Viterbu*	m	gdl	From Viterbo, Lazio region.

Outside of Sicily and Italy

Jacobu di Aragona	m	gdl	From Aragona, Sp.
Petru di Galvarr aragones	m	gdfx	From Aragon, Sp. 'aragones' not in the list.
Dominicu Burgarinu*	m	gf	Family name. Car: s.n. Bulgari. From ethnic L. Bulgaria, spread with the arrival in Italy of Bulgarians involved in the service of the Lombards as mercenaries or auxiliaries. Bulgarino is a dim.
Marcu Burgarinu*	m	gf	Family name. Car: s.n. Bulgari. From ethnic L. Bulgaria, spread with the arrival in Italy of Bulgarians involved in the service of the Lombards as mercenaries or auxiliaries. Bulgarino is a dim.
Marcu di Caglari	m	gdl	From Cagliari, Sardegna.

lu Catalanoctu	m	ax	Dim. of Catalano. Car: s.n. Catalanotti.
Petru Catalanu	m	gx	The Catalan. Also Petru lu Catalanu.
Petru lu Catalanu	m	gax	The Catalan.
Andria di Chiprianu*	m	gdx	Of the Cypriot.
Antona la Corsa	f	gax	The Corsican.
Tummia la Corsa	f	gax	The Corsican.
Cola lu Corsu	m	gax	The Corsican.
Franciscu lu Corsu	m	gax	The Corsican.
Henricu lu Corsu	m	gax	The Corsican.
Guillelmu Corsu	m	gx	Corsican. Poss. family name.
Julianu Corsu	m	gx	Corsican. Poss. family name.
Liuni Corsu	m	gx	Corsican. Poss. family name.
Nicola Guzu*	m	gl	Prob. Gozo Is., Malta.
Catherina la Greca	f	gax	The Greek.
Garita la Greca	f	gax	The Greek.
Aghesa di la Greca	f	gdax	Of the (f.) Greek.
Cola di li Grechi	m	gdax	Of the Greeks.
Antoni Grecu	m	gx	Greek. Poss. family name.
Cosmanu Grecu	m	gx	Greek. Poss. family name.
Franciscu Grecu	m	gx	Greek. Poss. family name.
Geronimu Inglisi	m	gx	Englishman.
Simuna di Majorca	f	gdl	From Majorca.
Joanni Maltisi	m	gx	Maltese. Poss. family name.
Joanni Mautisi	m	gx	Maltese. Car: s.n.Mautisi, ant. sic. Mauta 'Malta'. Poss. family name.
Cheli Mautisi	m	gx	Maltese. Car: s.n.Mautisi, ant. sic. Mauta 'Malta'. Poss. family name.
Frankinu Mautisi	m	gx	Maltese. Car: s.n.Mautisi, ant. sic. Mauta 'Malta'. Poss. family name.
Cola lu Mautisi	m	gax	The Maltese. Car: s.n.Mautisi, ant. sic. Mauta.

			'Malta'.
Masi lu Mautisi	m	gax	The Maltese. Car: s.n.Mautisi, ant. sic. Mauta Malta'.
Cola di Parisi*	m	gdl	Car: s.n. Parisi. Paris, France.
Ioanna la Ragunisa	f	gax	Etn. 'from Aragon'.
Joanni di Sancta Maura Grecu	m	gdl	Provence Sanctu Maura Grecu on Jonie Is., Greece.
Franciscu Sardu	m	gx	Sardinian. Poss. family name.
Perocta Spagnolu	m	gx	Spaniard. Poss. family name.
Petru Spagnolu mercanti catalanu	m	gx	Spaniard, [of the] Catalan merchants.
Giorgi Surianu*	m	gx	Syriac. Car:s.n. Suriani, from Ar. suriānī 'siriaco'.
Joanni di Turchu	m	gdx	Of the Turk.
Joanni di Marcu alias lu Turchu	m	gdg nax	The Turk.
Garita la Xoza*	f	gax	The Scot. Car: s.n. Scozia.
Joanna la Valenciana	f	gax	The Valencian, Spain.
Joanni lu Valencianu	m	gax	The Valencian, Spain.
Joanni Valencianu	m	gx	Valencia, Spain.

Given names

Shortened forms of given names (apheretics) are italicized with their origin, if known.

Feminine Given Names

Antona

Agnesa

Angila

Becta – Sic. apheretic example - Lisabecta.

Catherina, Caterina

Diamanti

Florenza

Fluri

Gati - Prob. from Agati

Gintili - Gintili is both m. and f.

Jacoba

Joanna, Ioanna, *Janna*

Margarita, *Garita*

Marina

Pina

Rosa

Sabella - Prob. from Ysabella

Simuna

Tarsia - Also a locative in Cal.

Tummia - f. of Thomasi or Thomeu

Violanti

Ysmiralda

Masculine Given Names

Andria

Angilu

Anthoni, Antoni, Antoninu

Barthulumeu

Bauduchu

Benedictu

Bernardu, Bernardinu

Cesaru

Cheli- Prob. from Micheli

Christoforu

Cosmanu

Dominicu

Faciu – Prob. from Bonifacio

Franciscu

Frankinu

Federicu

Fredericu

Gaspanu, Gaspani

Georgi

Geronimu

Guillelmu

Henrigu

Jacobu

Jannectu

Joanni

Julianu

Jurlandu	Pasquali
<i>Lisi</i> - Prob. from Aloisi	Paulu
Liuni	Peri
Macteu, Mactheu	Perocta
Mannuchu	Petru
Marcu	Phillipu
<i>Masi</i> - Prob. from Thomasi	Pirruni
<i>Minicu</i> - Prob. from Dominicu	Salvaturi
<i>Muni</i> - Prob. from Simuni or Salamuni	Thomeu
Nardu – Prob. from Bernardu	Virardu – Prob. var. of Birardu. Car: s.n.
Nicola, Nicolau, <i>Cola</i>	Berardi

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