

Newsletter of the
American Academy of Research Historians of Medieval Spain
November 1999

Executive Board: James W. Brodman, President.
Jill R. Webster, Immediate Past-President.
Clifford R. Backman, Secretary-Treasurer.
James F. Powers, Book-Review Editor.
Larry J. Simon, Program Chair.

President's Message

This has been an interesting and exciting year for AARHMS. In addition to maintaining our usual program of activities at the AHA and Kalamazoo, as ably arranged by Larry Simon and Theresa Vann, the organization received its first external grant to underwrite the establishment of LIBRO: The Library of Iberian Resources Online. This is a website hosted by the University of Central Arkansas that seeks to develop a digital library that will assist in our teaching and find new audiences for our scholarship. For example, because typically our campus has only a single copy of a particular monograph, I have been reluctant to assign individual chapters as readings in course assignments because of logistical difficulties. The Internet should resolve those problems, and also bring this body of work to institutions that have lacked the funds to buy titles in Iberian history. I am particularly eager for feedback on how LIBRO might have facilitated your teaching or student research on your campus. In its first stage LIBRO hopes to offer some fifty titles. Initially these will be from the medieval period but will soon also add those from the early modern era. Some will be texts (like the *lex Visigothorum*) but most will be fairly recent, but out-of-print, university press titles. We hope to intermingle monographs with a few more general histories. Remie Constable, Paul Freedman, Lynn Nelson, Jim Powers, and Ken Wolf form the editorial board. We are open to suggestions for additions to the list. Funds for equipment and the costs of digitizing the texts have been provided by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. By the time this Newsletter reaches you, over a half-dozen titles will be available. Visit LIBRO at: www.libro.uca.edu

The second matter that I would like to raise with you is Academy dues. Historically these have been very modest, but nonetheless they are essential for the survival and well-being of our Association. Financially the past year has not been a good one for us because many members have overlooked this obligation. While Clifford and I are discussing strategies for keeping costs as low as possible, your support of AARHMS is both necessary and appreciated. Consequently, if you have not paid your dues for this year, or for last year, please send a check to Clifford quam primum.

I would like to invite comment concerning a third issue -- whether or not AARHMS should co-host a reception at the AHA meeting. We did so for a number of years with the Medieval Academy and the Haskins Society, and perhaps once with the Society for Spanish and Portuguese Historical Studies. The custom was discontinued on account of the expense of such affairs; the New York Hilton billed the three above-named organizations \$1200.00 and provided only a cash bar and crudités. While AARHMS' liability that year was capped at \$125.00, the experience has made me reluctant to enter into new agreements. There are others in the Academy who feel that this is a mistake, and that the sponsorship of such receptions should be resumed. I would appreciate some feedback from the membership on this issue.

James Brodman
President
[jimb@mail.uca.edu]

Editor's Note

This is the second edition of the Newsletter to be published electronically. As mentioned in the last edition, electronic publishing will now be the norm as one of our cost-saving strategies. When I took over as Secretary-Treasurer one of the innovations I introduced -- and what has seemed to be a welcome one, for most members -- was the inclusion of an up-to-date Membership List, complete with addresses, phone- and FAX numbers, and email addresses. But providing this effectively doubled the expense of producing and mailing the Newsletter; and this, coupled, with the problem of members' tardiness in paying dues, led to the budgetary problem mentioned by Jim Brodman. The last Newsletter contained a Financial Statement, and I will append an updated statement to the end of this edition. I'm happy to report that many more of you responded to our last call for attentiveness in this matter, and while we are not as financially sound as we should ideally be, we are not facing fiscal Armageddon.

As before, a hard-copy version of the Newsletter will be sent to all members who do not possess email addresses. **Hard-copy versions of the updated Membership List will be sent to any member who requests one -- but otherwise will not go into general circulation.** Please submit all requests to me. And as ever, please submit your annual dues as soon as possible. The address is:

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Featured Book Review

Nancy Louise Frey. Pilgrim Stories: On and Off the Road to Santiago (Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, 1998). Pp. xiii, 313.

"Every year thousands of religious and secular pilgrims from more than sixty countries walk and cycle hundreds of miles to Santiago de Compostela, Spain, to re-create a popular medieval pilgrimage (the camino de Santiago, or 'Way of St. James'). Across the fields, villages, and cities of the country's monumental north, this diverse group of pilgrims travel, motivated by everything from spirituality to physical endurance, culture to curiosity." This publisher's blurb, taken from the cover of Frey's book, provides a good, concise description of the pilgrimage which has reached the peak of its popularity and participation in this doble año jacobeo (double jubilee year). Pilgrim Stories is an anthropological study of the modern pilgrimage to Santiago and of the people who undertake it. The book is also a narrative of the author's personal experience as a pilgrim. "I wrote this book," writes Frey in the last chapter, "more from the passion I have for the Camino and the debt I feel toward those along the way who helped me, shared their lives and stories with me [.....] than from fear generated by the "publish or perish" mentality requisite to advance an academic career" [p. 218].

Frey's involvement with the Camino includes an extended experience of several years: first, "my naive attempt to remain the objective observer" [p. 233] during her nine-week pilgrimage as part of a group of Americans; later, a thirteen-month follow-up in which she observed a full year cycle of the pilgrimage;

and finally, two periods in which she served as hospitalera (an attendant dedicated to the care of pilgrims) along the camino francés at Roncesvalles, Belorado, Burgos, and the Hospital de Origo, where "I spent many hours mopping floors [and] discussing techniques for removing hair from showers [.....] all the time amplifying my definition of fieldwork" [p. 233]. Furthermore, as Frey herself states, not only does she not remain the aloof and objective observer engaged in anthropological fieldwork but she finds herself "deeply moved during the experience" and her life "shaken by its influence."

Pilgrim Stories takes a searching look at modern Santiago pilgrims: the different types, their varied motivations, their perception of the route and of themselves, their depth and shallowness, their world full of contradictions, which Frey calls "a realm of competing discourses" [p. 220]. Why do these people, chiefly white, educated, and middle-class, and many of them foreigners in the north of Spain, undertake such "inefficient" means of getting there? What motivates them to start? What is the outcome of their pilgrimage? The reader follows their pilgrims' progress from her initial detached observations at the Obradoiro square of Santiago, where the pilgrims stumble their last painful steps before they kneel for the traditional knock against the entrance column, just inside the Pórtico de la Gloria of Santiago's magnificent cathedral, to the involved relationships which she and the subjects of her study enter into, relationships that she describes with candid detail.

One of the most fascinating and engaging aspects of Frey's investigation is her portrayal of the complex construct that pilgrims create around their experience. Whatever the popular image of the pilgrim may be, Frey shows that the modern Santiago pilgrims are motivated by a variety of forces: religious or spiritual reasons, private vows, personal crises, expiatory needs, physical endurance tests, or a quaint mixture of any or all of the above. Of no less importance and interest is the means of the pilgrimage -- that is, whether by foot, hoof, pedal, or combustion engine. Frey rightly devotes extensive attention to this issue and the pilgrims themselves are most expressive about the degree of "authenticity" which these means convey to each practitioner. At the top of the "authenticity pyramid" is the foot pilgrim, especially one who travels alone and without any other support than that which the Camino infrastructure (quite a sophisticated one, these days) provides. He or she can, and often does, look down on the "decaffeinated pilgrims" [p. 129] and look down of their right to the same compostela (the certificate awarded to those who reach Santiago, having first met a number of requisites -- one of which is the acknowledgment that the pilgrimage was made for religious reasons) that the foot pilgrim receives. The "authentic" pilgrim can develop an "arrogant conviction [.....] a sense of superiority" [p. 167] over the "decaffeinated" upstarts who crowd the road, the naves of the old cathedral, and the long line-ups to give the traditional hug to Santiago himself (in effigy, of course). Like his half-cousin the TNT, or turista-no-turista, a concept ridiculed by the sharp plume Manuel Vicent in his column in El País, the peregrino auténtico feels different from the others and resents the fact that the Camino is too crowded and that its popularity endangers their own personal experience. Vicent's TNT visits Egypt, the Yucatá, Bangkok, or Guanajuato and feels equally resentful of the crowds of "tourists" who have none of his or her own "authentic" reason to be there. The road is indeed "a realm of competing discourses." Philip II of Spain issued a Pragmática in 1590 to deal with the circus-like situation of the pilgrims of his time. This decree forbade anyone, regardless of their level of "pilgrim authenticity," to even wear any distinguishing marks of their undertaking. Unlike Philip, Frey carefully dissects and analyzes today's pilgrimage practices without any judgment of their right to authenticity, and she gives the full-time, part-time, week-end and other pilgrims ample attention.

Contrary to Richard Ford's nineteenth-century pronouncement on the Camino -- "the carcass remains, but the spirit has fled" -- the Santiago pilgrimage at the end of the millenium is a thriving enterprise. Mendizábal's secularization of 1836 put an end to much of the infrastructure that pilgrims had long relied on. The only written guide remained the Codex Calixtinus with the opinionated views of the cantankerous though observant old poitevin Aymeric de Picaud. Today, one hundred and twenty years after the re-discovery of the Apostle's bones, there are a myriad of resources for the Camino, from practical to spiritual guidebooks, from personal narratives of compostela holders to the inevitable websites providing cyberinfo to the putative pilgrim and networked nostalgia to veterans of the Camino. Frey's Pilgrim Stories is a significant contribution to the literature of pilgrimages in general and that of the Camino de Santiago in particular. The candid testimony of the author's personal experience as a pilgrim and hospitalera is an added bonus. The text is well supported by the abundant notes and an excellent bibliography.

I. Recent Publications.

- Backman, Clifford R. "Arnau de Vilanova and the Body at the End of the World," in Last Things: Death and Apocalypse in the Middle Ages, ed. Paul Freedman and Caroline Walker Bynum (Univ. Pennsylvania, 1999) pp. 140-155.
- Brodman, James W. Charity and Welfare: Hospitals and the Poor in Medieval Catalonia (Univ. Pennsylvania, 1998).
- Burns, Robert I., S.J. and Paul E. Chevedden. Negotiating Cultures: Bilingual Surrender Treaties in Muslim-Crusader Spain Under James the Conqueror (Leiden: Brill, 1999).
- Edwards, John. The Spanish Inquisition (Stroud, Gloucestershire: Tempos Publishing, 1999).
- Izbicki, Thomas M. "Salamanca Relectiones in the Fern Nuez Collection," Studia Gratiana 29 (1998), 489-500.
- "Juan de Torquemada's Defense of the Conversos," The Catholic Historical Review 85 (1999), 195-207.
- ed., with Gerald Christianson, An Essay on the Development of Luther's Thought on Justice, Law, and Society, by F. Edward Cranz (Mifflintown, PA: Sigler Press, 1999).
- Tolan, John. "Un cadavre mutilé: le déchirement polémique de Mahomet," Le Moyen Âge 104 (1998), 53-72.
- Peter the Venerable on the 'Diabolical Heresy of the Saracens'," in The Devil, Heresy, and Witchcraft in the Middle Ages: Essays in Honor of Jeffrey B. Russell, ed. Alberto Ferreiro (Leiden: Brill, 1998) pp. 345-367.
- "Rhetoric, Polemics, and the Art of Hostile Biography: Portraying Muhammad in Thirteenth-Century Christian Spain," in Pensamiento hispano medieval: Homenaje a Horacio Santiago Otero, ed. José Maria Soto Rábanos (Madrid: CSIC, 1998) pp. 1497-1511.
- "Alphonse X le Sage, roi des trois religions," Wodan: Greifswalder Beiträge zum Mittelalter 73 (1998), 123-136.

II. Current Research Projects.

- Backman, Clifford R. Biography of James II of Aragon-Catalonia.
- Cook, Weston F., Jr. Late medieval and early modern Morocco.
- Elliott, Therese Martin. Now finishing dissertation on the architectural history and patronage of San Isidoro de León in the 11th and 12th centuries.
- Harris, Julie. Work on Spanish haggadot, and issues of reconquest and convivencia.

Miller, Howard. Currently writing his dissertation on "Mozarabic Law and Legal Practice: Toledo, 1085-1300" at Yale University.

Tolan, John. Book entitled Saracens: Islam in the European Imagination, 622-1583.

III. Grants, Fellowships, or Awards Recently Won.

Elliott, Therese Martin. Mellon Predoctoral Fellowship (1998-1999).

Holub, Norman. Recently appointed as the Scott Rudolph Distinguished Chair of Intercultural Learning and International Studies at Dowling College.

Miller, Howard. Fulbright Scholarship to Spain (1999-2000).

Tolan, John. ACLS Fellowship (1999-2000) in support of book Saracens: Islam in the European Imagination (q.v.).

IV. Conference Papers Recently Delivered.

Backman, Clifford R. "What Did It Mean to be the 'Admiral of the Church'?" Spanish and Portuguese Historical Studies Meeting (Jan. 1998).

----- "The Two Italies and the Three (Maybe Four) Sicilies." Medieval Academy of America (April 1999).

----- "Arnald of Vilanova and Prophetic History." At the annual New England Medieval Association conference, this year on "Prophets and Prophecy in the Middle Ages." Boston University (Dec. 1999).

Elliott, Therese Martin. "The Use of Islamic Decorating Motifs in Romanesque Architecture." Conference on "The Culture and Society of Medieval Spain: Christian, Muslim, and Jewish Perspectives" at Georgetown University (Nov. 1999).

Miller, Howard. "Mozarabic Wills from the Archives of Toledo." Kalamazoo, 1999.

V. Upcoming Events // General News.

The University of Miami will host a symposium on "Postcolonial Moves: Medieval, Renaissance, and Baroque Studies" on 24-25 February 2000. For further information, contact Professor Michelle R. Warren (Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures, University of Miami) at mrw@miami.edu or Professor Patricia Clare Ingham (Department of English, Lehigh University) at pci2@lehigh.edu

The XVII International Congress on the History of the Crown of Aragon will be held in Barcelona and Lérida, 7-12 September 2000. This year's topic: "The Urban World in the Crown of Aragon from 1137 Onwards." Information is available online at: congressos@sacu.ub.es

The XXII annual conference on Mediterranean Studies will be held in July 2000 at Istanbul and Tunis. Contact Professor Norman Holub for further details.

On 22-23 November 1999 an evening lecture and faculty workshop on the society and culture of medieval Spain took place at Georgetown University. Prof. Jane Gerber began the affair with a keynote address entitled "Convivencia Revisited: Sepharad Recalled."

* * * * * Special Notice * * * * *

The AScribe wire service posted a lengthy article last month on the archival discovery of two Muslim-Crusader treaties from thirteenth-century Spain, as edited and analyzed by Robert I. Burns, S.J. and Paul E. Chevedden. Their results are published in their Negotiating Cultures book itemized above. The full text of the AScribe article is available at the following website:

www.ascribe-news.com/cgi-pub/showrel.pl?fname+1999-11/19991116.145925

Here's an excerpt:

"Two UCLA medieval scholars working in the Royal Archives in Barcelona have identified two unique Muslim-Crusader treaties dating from the wars between Islam and Christendom the only Christian-Islamic surrender treaties from the crusader period to survive in their original interlinear bilingual form The first treaty -- the surrender of the city of Játiva to King James in 1244 -- had mysteriously disappeared during the Middle Ages. In 1991, archivist Alberto Torra recovered it in the archives of the realms of Aragon-Catalonia in Barcelona among "problem" manuscripts that had not been deciphered. The director of the Royal Archives, Rafael Conde y Delgado de Molina, alerted Burns and Chevedden about its discovery, and the UCLA scholars edited the text and minutely reconstructed its context. The second treaty -- the surrender of a Muslim warrior-ruler called al-Azraq to King James and his son in 1245 -- was known mostly to local historians and as an isolated oddity until Burns and Chevedden recently created a critical edition of it with commentary."

Financial Statement: 1999

The Academy maintains two working funds: the Managing Fund and the Burns Bursary. Membership dues are paid into the Managing Fund and are used to finance the production of the Academy's Newsletter, general mailings, and expenses associated with our Annual Meeting. The Burns Bursary is a separate fund -- augmented only by incidental gifts -- devoted to extraordinary expenses, most especially subventions made to the Academy's graduate student-members who are travelling to academic conferences.

I. The Managing Fund.

Balance as of 1 January 1999	1498.77	
Membership Dues Received	514.00	
Anonymous Gift	400.00	
Interest Earned	<u>9.89</u>	
SUBTOTAL OF REVENUES		2432.55
Newsletter Production	362.50	
Supplies and Postage	169.00	
Expenditures for 1999 Annual Meeting	<u>150.00</u>	
SUBTOTAL OF EXPENDITURES		<u>731.50</u>
NEW BALANCE		1701.05

II. The Burns Bursary.

Balance as of 1 January 1999	6312.64	
Gifts Received	0.00	
Interest Earned	<u>110.68</u>	
SUBTOTAL OF REVENUES		6423.32
Graduate Student Subventions	750.00	
Miscellaneous	<u>55.00</u>	
SUBTOTAL OF EXPENDITURES		<u>805.00</u>
NEW BALANCE		5618.32