

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF RESEARCH HISTORIANS OF MEDIEVAL SPAIN

N E W S L E T T E R

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Colleagues,

The editor of the Newsletter suggested that I might wish to address a letter to all members of the Academy in this issue, perhaps on the theory that the president should have some visible function. I will admit to being skeptical at first over what I might usefully say to you but it finally did occur to me that I might take one tentative initiative.

The past practice of the Academy, as you may or may not know, has been to appoint its program chairpersons at the business meetings following the sessions at Kalamazoo or the AHA for those respective programs of the following year. At this point it seems to me that such a system puts an enormous strain on the organizer who had been left essentially on his or her own and with a very short time in which to work since programs for both meetings must be printed well in advance. Certainly no organizer has had the opportunity to canvas the membership generally for ideas and suggestions.

What I am suggesting now, as an interim device, is that each of you consider sending to me your proposals for a paper or a complete session beginning with the meeting of the AHA in 1984 and the Medieval Conference in 1985. I will try to organize and coordinate your several suggestions and to get them into a variety of proposed panels so that the program chairpersons will have both materials and options by the time of their appointment.

After some experience with such responses and suggestions as you make, it may develop that this function is properly vested elsewhere. We may opt for a new, elected committee on programs for some stated period. At present, however, I should like to get us started quickly in a direction which will encourage an even wider range of programs and membership participation than we have had heretofore.

I would ask you to respond to this initiative with imagination and generosity. The central function of the Academy is the mutual exchange of knowledge out of the fund of our several researches.

Sincerely,
Bernard F. Reilly
President, AARHMS

SAN FRANCISCO MEETING (December 28, 1983)

The AARHMS session, held in conjunction with the meeting of the American Historical Association, will convene at 9:30 a.m. in Parlor E of the Sheraton-Palace Hotel.

"Revolutions, Evolutions, Doctors and Lawyers: Flux in Medieval Iberian Society," John C. Shideler (Consulting Historian, Spokane) presiding.

"The Interaction of Portuguese and Leonese Law as Seen in the Evolution of the Military Service Requirement during the Twelfth and Thirteenth Centuries," James F. Powers (College of the Holy Cross).

"Doctors and Patients in Aragon/Catalonia," Michael McVaugh (University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill).

"King Peter and His Uncles: A Tithe Dispute," Kristine T. Utterback (University of Toronto).

Participants are reminded to send brief resumes of their presentations for inclusion in the tenth anniversary issue of the Newsletter.

KALAMAZOO MEETING (May 8, 1983)

In a session entitled "The Reign of James I of Aragon, 1240-76," chaired by Benjamin E. Taggie (Central Michigan University), the following papers were presented:

"The King Who Would be Sovereign: James I and the Rebels of Aragon, 1240-76," Jane C. Wilmap (UCLA)

James I (1213-1276), king of Aragon, had a stormy relationship with his nobles. The struggle between king and baron in Aragon ultimately expanded into one of the great constitutional struggles of European medieval history. James' conflict with his recalcitrant nobles was primarily jurisdictional--the central question involved the power to make decisions and implement policy in the kingdom of Aragon. James, bolstered by Roman legal principles of rulership, argued that, as sovereign, he was the sole authority in all jurisdictional matters. Aragon's barons claimed jurisdictional authority on the basis of customary law and feudal tradition. James' use of Roman law in attempting to control his barons reflects a trans-European trend towards the Romanization of customary law, a trend which would eventually result in the triumph of the former.

Attempting to tame his unruly nobles, James pursued a policy of limiting or denying their power in regions which had been either customarily Aragonese or which had been conquered by them. The barons, infuriated by this policy of disenfranchisement, responded with violence. Over half of James sixty-three year reign was scarred by intermittent eruptions of armed conflict between the lords of Aragon, and the king who would be sovereign.

Nascent Aragonese historiography has not yet explored this violent, intensely important period. My dissertation, entitled "Dragonsteeth: The Aragonese Barons and James I of Aragon (1240-1276)", represents the first systematic analysis of the constitutional developments and struggles of James' reign, which culminated in 1285 in the establishment of the Articles of the Union (Spain's "Magna Carta"). The proposed paper examines the formative period of baronial revolt through an analysis of approximately two hundred hitherto unpublished documents from the royal registers of the Archives of the Crown of Aragon in Barcelona.

"James I and the Jews of Arago-Catalonia: Royal 'Policy' or Pragmatic Politics?"
Leila Berner (GCLA)

During the reign of James I 'the Conqueror,' (1213-1276), ruler of the federated Realms of Aragon, his Jewish subjects were sometimes taxed reasonably, often enjoyed royal protection and were granted relative community autonomy. At other times, the Hebrew population of James' lands was taxed very heavily, fell victim to anti-Jewish decrees and suffered the imposition of royal whim and will in the administration of its communities. The apparent inconsistency of royal behavior towards the Jews of Arago-Catalonia provokes several important questions: Did James have a Jewish "policy"? Did he base his decisions on a pre-conceived approach to his Hebrew subjects? Or were James' actions based on *ad hoc* circumstances? Did his attitude towards his Jews change with his shifting fortunes as monarch? A central question is whether or not the notion of "policy" was conceptually real for James. Is the modern idea of the creation of policy applicable to the political conditions which James encountered? A close study of James' relationship with his Jews suggests some answers to these questions. It will be shown that James' rule was predominantly pragmatic. If indeed he followed any "policy" at all, it was based less on ideological or religious considerations and more on his assessment of practical realities.

This paper is part of a Ph. D. dissertation entitled, The Jews of Barcelona During the Reign of Juame I, 'el Conqueridor,' 1213-1276, which is based on a thorough examination of approximately 1,500 documents culled from the rich collections of the royal registers for James' reign at the Archives of the Crown of Aragon in Barcelona. These documents reveal important and detailed information regarding hundreds of individual Jews and provide highly valuable data concerning scores of Jewish communities in all parts of James' realms.

CALLS FOR PAPERS

Fifth Medieval Forum, April 13-14, 1984, Plymouth State College. This meeting will celebrate the 700th anniversary of the death of Alfonso X, el Sabio. The organizers welcome contributions on all aspects of Alfonsine subjects, whether specialized or of general interest. For further information, please write: Professor Manuel Marquez-Sterling, Director of the Medieval Studies Council, Plymouth State College, Plymouth, NH 03264.

"La Riforma Grégoriana e l'Europe," an international congress to be held at Salerno, May, 1985. Requests for information as well as the titles of proposed contributions should be sent prior to October 31, 1983, to: Professor Dr. Alfons Stickler, Biblioteca Aspotolica Vaticana, 00120 Citta del Vaticano.

Fourth Biennial New College Conference of Medieval-Renaissance Studies, March 9-10, 1984, Sarasota, Florida. The organizers invite proposals on all subjects that pertain to Europe or the Mediterranean, A.D. 1000-1500; there is an especial interest in urban studies, courtly literature and drama. Abstracts should be sent before December 1 to: Professor Lee D. Snyder, New College USA, 5700 North Tamiami Trail, Sarasota, Florida 33580.

The eighth Mediterranean Conference is planned for July 5-7, 1984 at the University of Helsinki. Interested participants are asked to contact Professor Norman Holub, Dowling College, Oakdale (Long Island), NY 11769.

NEWS FROM THE MEMBERSHIP

Thomas M. Izbicki of the Institute of Medieval Canon Law at the University of California (Berkeley) has recently published "A Bolognese Consilium on Portuguese Politics," in Diritto e Potere nella Storia Europea (Florence, 1982), 313-319.

Sister Karen Kennelly has recently been selected as Province Director of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet.

Larry J. Simon, a graduate student at UCLA, is preparing under the direction of Robert I. Burns, S.J. a dissertation entitled: "The Conquest and Resettlement of the Kingdom of Majorca, 1229-1276: A Study from the Crown of Aragon Archives." He has received a Fulbright-Hayes/Spanish Government grant and a Del Amo Endowment Dissertation Fellowship.

David Raizman is preparing a work entitled "El Cristo de la Luz(Toledo)," for the Corpus of Romanesque Mural Painting in Spain which is being sponsored by the University of Barcelona.

Norman Holub of Dowling College has recently published "The Archival Contributions of Francisco Perez i Ferrer" in Seminario de Soler (Edition Especial, 1983).

Charles B. Faulhaber of the University of California (Berkeley) has published: Medieval Manuscripts in the Library of the Hispanic Society of America. Part I: Religious, Legal, Scientific, Historical, and Literary Manuscripts, 2 volumes (New York: Hispanic Society of America, 1983); and with John J. Nitti, Angel Gomez Moreno, Brian Dutton and David Mackenzie (editors), Bibliography of Old Spanish Texts, 3rd edition (Madison: Hispanic Seminary of Medieval Studies, 1983).

GEORGETOWN COLLECTION OF IBERIAN MANUSCRIPTS

The Georgetown University collection of medieval and early modern Iberian manuscripts consists of 243 administrative and legal documents principally from Vic, Catalonia, and vicinity. The manuscripts date from 1261 to 1690. Although the great majority of the documents are composed in medieval Latin, fifteen of them, chiefly testaments of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, are written in Catalan. Most of the manuscripts are in a relatively good state of preservation. The collection comprises a variety of representative transactions from the period, including (from secular sources) bills of sale, receipts, marriage contracts, establishments, testaments, oaths of fealty, and (from ecclesiastical sources) collations to benefices, arrangements for chantry masses, collections of tithes, and other transactions. Fewer in number are royal decisions and concessions. Most of the documents concern the administration of the castle of Montorroell, located in the parish of Sant Boi de Lluçanès some sixteen kilometers from Vic. The manuscripts delineate clearly the ownership of the castle from as early as 1319 to the late sixteenth century. Especially well represented are records from the period 1371 to about 1500, when Montorroell came to be established firmly under the control of the Sala family. Though less prevalent, the manuscripts from the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries provide an ample survey of Montorroell's ownership prior to its acquisition by the Sala family. Despite its importance, the collection had remained unnoticed until a brief description was published in

the DeRicci Census (vol. II, p. 1150) in 1937. After that time, however, the documents returned to private hands and passed into obscurity. Today, after a loss of about seventy manuscripts in 1931, the collection consists of 289 documents, located in the following institutions: Georgetown University (243 mss), the Edward L. Doheny Memorial Library in Carmarillo, California (6mss), and the Smithsonian Institution (Museum of American History; Division of Graphic Arts) (40 mss). Little is known about the castle of Montorroell, making the Georgetown Collection a potentially important source for chronicling its history. A handlist of all known manuscripts is in press (expected publication December 1983), and a further, more detailed study is planned. For more information, write: (Mr.) Joseph J. Gwara, c/o Department of Spanish, Georgetown University, Washington, D.C. 20057.

ANNUAL DUES

Members are reminded that the Academy dues for 1983 are now past due. They remain at the very modest level established ten years ago of \$3.00. A check in this amount (or, if more convenient, for \$6.00 to cover both 1983 and 1984) should be remitted to: Professor Lynn Nelson, Secretary/Treasurer AARHMS Department of History, 3001 Wescoe Hall, University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS 66045.

OTHER NOTICES

The International Military Encyclopedia, a projected fifty-volume work of reference that seeks to emphasize the interrelationships of military affairs with their economic, social, cultural and political contexts, is interested in contacting potential contributors. Inquiries should be addressed to: John Sloan, P.O.Box 1109, Springfield, VA 22151.

For those visiting Spain, a list of current exhibitions at the museums and galleries of Madrid can be obtained from the Sala de Exposiciones, Paseo de la Castellana, 51, Madrid.

TO: James W. Brodman, Editor
AARHMS Newsletter
Department of History
University of Central Arkansas
Conway, AR 72032

FROM: _____

Dues Enclosed: _____ \$3.00 (1983) _____ \$6.00 (1983 and 1984)

SUBJECT: Contributions for the April 1984 edition of the Newsletter

Recent Publications:

Research in Progress:

Announcements of Sessions, Meetings, Lectures, etc.:

New Positions:

Grants, Awards, and Honors:

Comments and Suggestions: