

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF RESEARCH HISTORIANS OF MEDIEVAL SPAIN

NEWSLETTER

Volume 10, No. 2

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ON THE ACADEMY'S FIRST DECADE

Dear Colleagues:

Nostalgia rather than megalomania motivates this second general letter in two successive Newsletters. Someone was unkind enough to remind me that the Academy is just ten years old. The thought that so much time has vanished since Father Burns assembled a little group of enthusiasts in a splendidly appointed lounge of the University of San Francisco is vaguely surprising and a little unsettling.

Does it seem impossibly naive to report that it seems to this observer that the Academy has succeeded with all the facility of a good idea? I do not mean to scant the efforts of officers, editors, or those who have arranged our programs. But a little publicity for our brainchild produced an almost immediate membership of almost a hundred members and a group of active members of something like fifty. If that number seems about right for a fairly specialized association, then the Academy would appear to have met a generally recognized need from its inception.

That need, of course, is our mutual hunger for a knowledgeable audience. Though I have done nothing so pedestrian as actually count them, I would estimate that in ten years we have sponsored or inspired on the order of thirty-five panels or roughly ninety-five scholarly papers on medieval Iberia. Now there is simply no way to gauge the effects of that sort of mutual stimulation. My own personal experience is that my awareness has been enhanced, my horizons broadened, and on occasion even my scholarly humility has been revived. As a result, I am happy with what we have done without being tempted to measure the result too closely.

In a different if no less serious regard, it is pleasant to recall those whom the Academy has been able to assist to their first serious scholarly exposure and it is sad to remember the promising neophytes seemingly lost to the field by the sub-zero temperatures of the academic marketplace over these ten years. Also, one thinks fondly of the camaraderie, the banter, the leisurely meals, and the occasional libation which smoothed away the frazzle of strange rooms, large crowds, late planes, and absolutely incomprehensible points of view.

All told my considered reaction would be -- otra, por favor!

Sincerely,
Bernard F. Reilly,
President, AARHMS

Robert I. Burns, S.J., the founder of the Academy, offered the following remarks concerning the progress of the AARHMS during its first decade: "I am impressed by our numbers (respectable, when compared to other specialized groups), their quality, and the programs that we have consistently presented. There is still nothing to compete with the association. The North American Catalan Society leans heavily to letters, and the Society for Spanish and Portuguese Historical Studies is heavily into post-medieval and modern history. Our Alfonso-Jaume Congress recently marked a mature stage both in the field and in the association.

Its appearance as a book, jointly with Princeton University Press and the Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies at U.C.L.A., will make that progress more visible this year. Joan Connelly Ullman, in her 'Spanish History in the American University: Statistics and Considerations' (SSPHS Bulletin, 8(1983): 10-21) draws a somber picture of contraction and decline from 1970 and especially from 1975, whether in book publication, number of earned doctorates, or other indices. The opposite seems true of our medieval field in that time, due I think to our being in the wider context of the boom in medievalism which shows no sign of slackening. We are not Spanish medievalists, a subdivision of Hispanism, but medievalists with a Spanish orientation. The audience and context is quite different. I would like to see statistics on our books during these same last ten years, from 1973-1983 or 1975-1985, with the fine contributions by Bisson, Shideler, Freedman, O'Callaghan, Nader, Reilly and others, not to mention the excellent series of articles, and the works in process, and the graduate students coming up over the horizon. A geography of our people would also be interesting; we have lodged in universities from Arkansas, Boston, and Berkeley to the farther reaches of the alphabet. And most of the contributors are young, as young is reckoned in our decrepit profession of history, with their best work before them."

SAN FRANCISCO MEETING (December 26, 1983)

The program, entitled "Revolutions, Evolutions, Doctors and Lawyers: Flux in Medieval Iberian Society," was organized and chaired by John C. Shideler. His report of the session follows:

The December 1983 AARHMS session held in San Francisco was very well attended, with every chair in the room occupied, despite competition from two AHA-organized sessions on medieval topics. Four papers were read:

Dr. Allan Harris Cutler, Los Angeles, "The Revolutionary Messianism of the Ninth-Century Martyrs' Movement." Dr. Harris's paper, drawn from a chapter of a projected two-volume study on Christian missions to the Muslims to the end of the First Crusade, explored the question of the motivations that inspired the followers of St. Eulogius of Cordova and Paulus Alvarus. He argued that the ninth-century martyrs' movement "was not a collection of a-political extreme ascetics, but a cohesive and powerful missionary, political-military, and Messianic movement." He concluded his paper with a call for an expanded, comparative treatment of other (and especially, synchronous) martyrs' movements as a means for understanding the Spanish example.

Professor James F. Powers, College of the Holy Cross, "The Interaction of Portuguese and Leonese Municipal Law As Seen in the Evolution of the Military Service Requirement During the Twelfth Century." Professor Powers explored the origins and filiation of twelfth-century municipal law codes in Portugal. This research led him to conclude that the continuity in frontier military customs that he had already observed in the east between Castile and Aragon also extended to the western regions that became Portugal. He also raised the possibility that Portuguese legal tradition derived from the Leonese precedents, and suggested that this meant that the institutions were both workable and pragmatic.

Professor Michael McVaugh, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, "Doctors and Patients in the Kingdom of Aragon, 1285-1335." Professor McVaugh discussed the phenomenon called "Medicalization," or the number of practicing physicians per capita, in light of his research in the Crown of Aragon. His study found a much higher number for Catalonia and Valencia than had been established by other scholars for

regions of France, though this may be attributable to better documentation south of the Pyrenees. Professor McVaugh's work also identified the early fourteenth century as a turning point in the establishment of medical certification in the Crown of Aragon. Henceforth secular and ecclesiastical authorities licensed physicians who had received university training in medicine, and attempted to limit the medical practice of non-academics. Because he is establishing a biographical dictionary of physicians in the Crown of Aragon for the period 1200-1500, Professor McVaugh would be grateful for any references that other members of the Academy may be able to supply.

Miss Kristine T. Utterback, Centre of Medieval Studies, University of Toronto, "King Peter and His Uncles, A Tithe Dispute." In the course of her research on the episocapl finances of Barcelona in the fourteenth century, Miss Utterback discovered a series of records in the bishops' registers concerning a dispute between uncles of King Peter (III-IV) over tithes ostensibly levied for a crusade, but in fact assigned by the king first to one member of his family, then to another. The competition for these resources led to a dispute that provided a flurry of employment opportunities for Barcelona lawyers. The paper presented a glimpse into the sometimes fractious nature of domestic court life, and raised interesting questions about the complicity of ecclesiastical officials with secular schemes to divert funds from designated purposes.

Due to the absence of the Academy's officers, no business meeting was conducted.

KALAMAZOO MEETING (May 12, 1984)

Lynn H. Nelson has organized and will chair a session entitled "Studies in Medieval Spanish History." Presenting papers are James F. Powers of the College of the Holy Cross ("Justice on the Medieval Spanish Frontier") and Bernard F. Reilly of Villanova University ("Military Realities of the Eleventh-Century Spanish Reconquista"). A report of this session will appear in the next issue of the Newsletter. The annual BUSINESS MEETING of the Academy will be convened at 5 p.m. in Room 1040, i.e., immediately at the conclusion of the formal session.

OTHER CONFERENCES

A session entitled "Raids and Ransoming in Medieval Spain" was organized for the meeting of the Mid-America Medieval Association on March 3, 1984. Papers were presented by two Academy members: Lynn H. Nelson (University of Kansas), "The Impact of Almanzor's Raids on Christian Spain," and James W. Brodman (University of Central Arkansas), "Captives and Ransomers on the Medieval Spanish Frontier."

A session to commemorate the 900 anniversary of the reconquest of Toledo has been organized for the meeting of the American Catholic Historical Association in December of 1984. Joseph O'Callaghan of Fordham University will preside and Robert I. Burns, S.J., of U.C.L.A. will comment. The program follows: "The Reconquest of Toledo by Alfonso VI of Leon-Castile in 1085," Bernard Reilly of Villanova University; "The Jewish Community in Mozarabic Toledo," Norman Roth of the University of Wisconsin at Madison; and "The Art and Architecture of Toledo in the Eleventh Century," David Raizman of Western Illinois University.

A session devoted to Alfonso X has been organized for the Fifth Medieval Forum of Plymouth State College. Entitled "Policy, Legislation and Didacticism," the session will include these papers: "Alfonso X on Recreation and its Legislation," Robert A. MacDonald, University of Richmond; "Alfonso X's Municipal Frontier Policy:

"The Quest for Uniformity," James F. Powers, College of the Holy Cross; and "Christian Didacticism in the General Estoria of Alfonso X," Julio Burunat, St. Thomas Aquinas College.

The Instituto de Historia "Jeronimo Zurita" of the Concejo Superior de Investigaciones Cientificas, in association with several other organizations, is sponsoring a congress entitled "Alfonso X el Sabio: Vida, Obra, Epoca," that is being held from March 29 to April 5, 1984. Sessions will be held at Toledo, Ciudad Real, Murcia, Granada and Sevilla.

The Committee on International Historical Activities of the American Historical Association has been organizing American participation at the Stuttgart World Congress of Historical Sciences, to be held from August 25 to September 1, 1985. While the official delegation has already been chosen, the AHA deems it important that as large a delegation of U.S. historians as possible attend this congress. Some 130 historians from the U.S. attended the 1980 Bucharest Congress.

A panel entitled "Literature and the City in Medieval Spain" has been organized for the meeting of the Society for Spanish and Portuguese Historical Studies on April 7, 1984 at the University of Indiana. The program includes: Norman Roth of the University of Wisconsin at Madison, "The Jewish Community of Medieval Seville;" Clara Estow of the University of Massachusetts at Boston, "The Role of the Castilian Cities in Financing the Castilian-Aragonese Wars (1356-1366);" and Benjamin Taggie of Central Michigan University, "Geoffrey Chaucer and 'O noble, o worthy Petro, glorie of Spayne'." Presiding will be James W. Brodman of the University of Central Arkansas.

REVIEW

Miguel Angel Ladero Quesada, El siglo XV en Castilla: Fuentes de renta y política fiscal, Barcelona: Ariel, 1982.

By examining important questions and offering persuasive interpretations based on exhaustive archival research, Miguel Angel Ladero Quesada has compiled an admirable record as an historian of late medieval and early modern Castile. Among his many books the two most famous are Granada: Historia de un país islámico (1967) and La hacienda real de Castilla en el siglo XV (1973), and he has written extensively on Andalusian local history. The present work is a collection of seven articles on aspects of fiscal history written between 1974 and 1981 and published in various journals and collections not easily available in the United States.

The first two articles are explanatory and interpretive and describe the sources of royal income and expenses and the crown's fiscal policies, the first covering 1252-1405 and the second the fifteenth century. In the quantitative article, "Para una imagen de Castilla (1429-1504)," Ladero Quesada describes the principal sources of royal income for sixteen local zones grouped into six regions. He then provides figures for royal income, showing that crown revenue was 595,885 gold doblas in 1429. Using the income of that year as a base (index 100), he shows that the index fell to 95 in 1451, to 77 in 1465, and to 69 in 1482. By 1493 it stood again at 100 and by 1504 it had risen to 124.

In the fourth article, Ladero Quesada analyses the efforts of Enrique IV to fix prices by means of the tasa of 1462. This extensive list of prices is useful for economic historians, but, like so many of that king's initiatives, it did him no real good. Ladero Quesada argues that the king's policy provoked "a financial and

commercial crisis that unfavorably affected some [sources] of his income . . ." and produced discontent among "all the social sectors that had any weight in political life. . ." (p. 123) He also considers that Enrique IV's tasa had more to do with producing the open revolt against him than any of the factors commonly cited.

One of the perennial questions of late medieval Castilian history is the relative importance of Jews as fiscal agents and tax collectors, and in the fifth article Ladero Quesada uses his knowledge of the fiscal sources to confront it and to conclude that Jews hardly ever served as royal fiscal officials. They did act as tax farmers, but even in tax farming they never held anything approaching a monopoly. Between 1440 and 1469 Jews farmed approximately 10.9 percent of the total crown revenue, and their share fluctuated violently from each biennium to the next, from a low point of 0.13 percent in 1446-47 to a high point of 25 percent in 1453-54.

The sixth article is more restricted in scope and contains an analysis of the sources of income for Pedro and Alvaro de Stúñiga, successive counts of Plasencia, in that city between 1454 and 1488. Their income fell into three categories: land rents, seigneurial dues, and the royal taxes they controlled.

Finally, Ladero Quesada studies ecclesiastical income in Castile. He describes the sources of income for the Castilian church and offers global figures for the income of each diocese in the years 1430, 1482, and 1494. He then concludes with more specific figures for the archdiocese of Seville.

This is an important book for scholars of late medieval and early modern Spain. Taken together, the carefully done individual studies offer a series of useful contributions, particularly in the explicit and implicit challenges to the received wisdom about crucial aspects of Castilian history. Studies such as these are vital for a revised history of Castile because they provide quantitative bases which allow the traditional assertions and assumptions to be tested and strengthened, modified, or rejected.

William D. Phillips, Jr.
San Diego State University

NOTES FROM THE MEMBERSHIP

Robert I. BURNS, S.J., of the U.C.L.A. History Department has just published Muslims, Christians, and Jews in the Crusader Kingdom of Valencia (Cambridge University Press, 1984), pp. xx, 363, 13 illustrations, maps. Carrying forward the themes of his previous books, it concerns thirteenth-century Mediterranean Spain, where an alien Christian minority confronted a conquered Muslim majority and an unusually large Jewish population. Previously untapped archival sources, especially the paper registers of King Jaime the Conqueror, reveal the tensions and interaction between the three religious societies. New approaches and methodologies illumine the unique nature of this pluri-ethnic community. He is slated to receive honorary doctorates in the spring of 1984 from the University of Valencia and from Fordham University.

Anthony J. CÁRDENAS was elected a council member of the Medieval Association of the Midwest and received for the fall semester of 1983 a CIES (Fulbright) Grant to Spain. His "A Survey of Scholarship on the Scientific Treatises of Alfonso X" was published in La Corónica 11 (1983): 231-247.

Benjamin R. GAMPEL is now Visiting Assistant Professor at the University of Maryland.

Norman HOLUB organized and co-directed the Mediterranean VII Conference held at Soller, Majorca in August, 1983. He is currently organizing the Mediterranean VIII Conference to be held at Florence, Italy, in the summer of 1985. The theme is the Renaissance in the Italian Peninsula and the Islands. Paper suggestions can be sent to him at Dowling College, Oakdale, New York 11769.

Teofilo F. RUIZ has received a fellowship from the National Endowment for the Humanities and is currently a fellow at the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton University. His "Una nota sobre la estructura y relaciones fiscales del Burgos bajomedieval," has been published in En la España Medieval, II, 387-398; his "Une monarchie sans sacre," is forthcoming in the Annales E.S.C.

Connie L. SCARBOROUGH is now an Assistant Professor of Spanish at Denison University and has published her "Novel Iconographic Devices in the Cantigas de Santa Maria: Cantiga 113" in the 1982 Mountain Interstate Foreign Language Conference Proceedings.

John C. SHIDLER, a Consulting Historian in Spokane, Washington, has published A Medieval Catalan Noble Family: The Moncadas, 1000-1230 (University of California Press, 1983) 225 pages. This is volume 20 of the "Publications of the UCLA Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies."

J. Lee SHNEIDMAN, of Adelphi University, and Conalee LEVINE-SCHNEIDMAN have published "The Albigensian Crusade" in Psychodynamic Perspectives on Religion, Sect and Cult, ed. David Halperin, M.D. (Littleton, Massachusetts, 1983), 45-58.

Alan M. STAHL of the American Numismatic Society has received a grant from the Gladys K. Delmas Foundation for work on Venetian coinage. His The Venetian Tornesello: A Medieval Colonial Coinage is forthcoming in 1984.

Jill R. WEBSTER of St. Michael's College (Toronto) has been appointed assistant Chairman for Portuguese Studies. Her "Fra Francesc Eiximenis i Fra Tomàs Alsina com a pacificadors de brogits i escàndols al convent de Barcelona a l'any 1382" appeared in Estudios Franciscanas 84(1983): 339-350; her "Franciscanismo de la reina de Aragón, Doña María de Luna (1396-1406)," was published in Archivo Ibero-Americano 42 (1982): 81-123. Forthcoming in the spring of 1984 from the Institute d'Estudis Gironins is Chartularium Conventus Fratrum Minorum Gerundense.

NOTICES

Horacio Santiago-Otero, Director of the Instituto Francisco Suarez of the C.S.I.C., announces the projected publication of the Nomenclátor de autores medievales españoles. This will consist of a series of biobibliographies of medieval Hispanic writers in the area of spirituality. The first volume, currently in press, is entitled Biblioteca bíblica ibérica medieval and has been edited by Klaus Reinhardt and Sr. Santiago-Otero. Other projected titles include: Biblioteca franciscana ibérica medieval, Biblioteca canonística ibérica medieval, Biblioteca de autores medievales de lógica hispano-portugueses, and Autores medievales hispano-portugueses del clero secular.

Under the agreement of Friendship, Defense and Cooperation between the United States and Spain there are a number of modest travel grants, designed primarily for persons planning or carrying out research activities that are in the planning stage. Awards are, according to the 1984-1985 program, announced four times each year. For

information, write Dr. Thomas Middleton, Deputy Director, Commission for Educational Exchange between the United States and Spain, Cartagena, 83-85, 3 a Plata, Madrid, 28.

Noticero Alfonsí, a Spanish Newsletter attempting to form a multidisciplinary and international nexus for scholars interested in Alfonso X, is available for US \$3.00 for individuals and US \$5.00 for institutions from Anthony Cárdenas, Wichita State University, Wichita, KS 67208.

Maestro Bruno, padre de monjes, a biography of the founder of the Carthusians, has been published by the Biblioteca de Autores Cristianos and is currently available.

Dues for 1984 in the amount of \$3.00 may be sent to Lynn H. Nelson, Secretary/
Treasurer AARHMS, Department of History, University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS 66045.

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

FROM: _____

Dues Enclosed: _____ \$3.00 (1984)

SUBJECT: Contributions for the October, 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: