

Kalamazoo Meeting

"Islam in the Crown of Aragon" was the subject of a session held under Academy auspices at the Twenty-Second International Congress of Medieval Studies on May 8, 1987. Donald Kagay chaired the event; commentary was provided by Robert I. Burns, S.J. Summaries of the papers follow:

1. "Almohad Prince and Mudejar Convert: New Documentation on Abū Zayd," by Robert I. Burns, S.J., University of California, Los Angeles

The last Almohad wali of Islamic Valencia was a tragic figure. He presided over two decades of turmoil and catastrophe for the Almohad cause, and was the last ruling prince-of-the-blood in al-Andalus when revolt finally drove him into alliance with the Christians. His loss of ruling title during the subsequent crusade, and the date and manner of his transfer to Christianity are still obscure. He died a baron of the realms, two of his children born Christian and a third converted, with a number of Almohad relatives joining him in the Crown of Aragon. The documentation gathered by Roque Chabás, Ambrosio Huici, and recently Emilio Molina López and M.T. Barceló Torres is well known. More of the essential (rather than contextual) documentation remains to be gleaned. Four examples of the kinds of documents available are transcribed and analyzed here. An early privilege from Abu Zayd as baron of Alpuente in May 1236 has survived only by a series of confirmations, of which only the record by each king validating it plus a notarized copy of the original, survives as a "transumpt" in the registers of Pere the Ceremonious in 1336. More such transumpt in much later reigns can probably be found.

The second document is a land grant by Abu Zayd, recorded in a later document of King James I (1265). Among other uses, it helps us date Abu Zayd's demise. A 1258 consolidation of debt glimpses an episode in the financial and jurisdictional life of the convert-baron. Most important, however, is the re-discovery of Abu Zayd's letter from Pope Urban IV hailing his and his son's conversion. Our previous copy came from the sixteenth-century chronicler Diago from an original at Segorbe now lost; it had no validation but did have suspicious elements in its transcription. The present copy, from the Arxiu de la Corona d'Aragó, is a

fully notarized version of 1319 from the Segorbe original. Our edition notes all variants between this and Diago's unofficial copy. Analyzed, the pope's letter adds important information. (Complete version of this paper will be published in Sharq al-Andalus: Estudios árabes.)

2. "Bilingual Arabic-Christian Treaties: The Case of al-Azarq in Spain," by Paul E. Chevedden, California State University, Northridge

Among the many surrender treaties concluded between Muslims and Christians in the Mediterranean region throughout the crusader period, only a single bilingual treaty survives in its original parchment form. This document, which records the surrender of a local Muslim ruler, al-Azraq, in the southern reaches of Valencia to Jaume I and Prince Alfonso in 1245, is also a rare treasure for Spain and Jaume's Valencian crusade, for it is the only treaty in the original Arabic to have survived from this king's reign. Beyond its rarity, this document holds wider significance for the crusade of Jaume and his account of it, as well as for the whole genre of Christian-Islamic surrender treaties. It reveals the hidden course of the last major campaign of the Valencian crusade and explains how the very instrument designed to end the crusade failed so disastrously in achieving its purpose. It clarifies why Jaume's crusade did not end and why three more decades of warfare were to ensue before the final pacification of Valencia. These and other issues have been examined in Burns' Muslims, Christians and Jews in the Crusader Kingdom of Valencia.

This paper examines the relevance of this document for Christian-Islamic surrender treaties. The two texts of the treaty, while roughly similar in content, are remarkably different in tone and spirit. It is argued that this is due to the fact that the two texts, both drawn up by Alfonso's chancery, were written for different audiences; the terms of agreement in each were formulated in the context in which they were to be understood by the two contracting parties. In medieval bilingual treaties, discrepancies, both major and minor, are not uncommon. The variable nature of the drafting process itself, subject to the fluctuating levels of competence of the individual negotiators and scribes recruited to draw up such agreements, insured that unintentional discrepancies would occur in bilingual treaty documents of the medieval period.

3. "The Transport of Muslim Slaves Through Valencia in the Early Reign of Alfonso the Magnanimous, 1421-1440," by Paul Padilla, University of California, Los Angeles

This paper, through an examination of the Maestre Racional's entries concerning slave transport through the

Kingdom of Valencia, seeks to lay the basis for a preliminary study on slavery in early fifteenth-century Valencia, and thereby add further to our knowledge of the slave trade in the Mediterranean world. Slaves came to Valencia through trade and the capture of Muslims; their utilization was normally as domestics or artisans. Little effort was made toward their conversion to Christianity; most retained Arabic names. Freedom was possible through a work agreement, ransom or gratuitous manumission; freed Valencian slaves were probably assimilated into the Mudejar community. The Maestre Racional records through tax records the entry of slaves into Valencia. Entries show registration of these slaves for the following years: 1421 (18), 1422 (18), 1423 (9), 1430 (5), 1432 (11). Most of these were the booty of war, some were listed as being black, a few were women.

Future Sessions

1. American Historical Association, Washington, D.C. The Academy session is scheduled for Monday, December 28, 1987 from 2:30-4:30 p.m. in the Roosevelt Room of the Sheraton Washington. The Academy's annual business meeting will follow. (Note: American Airlines is offering special fares from many cities to Washington, valid from December 26 to December 30, with a seven-day advance reservation. For information call: 1-800-433-1790, asking for AHA Star file no. S.13564). The session, entitled "Charity and Piety in Medieval Society", will be chaired by James F. Powers; Robert I. Burns, S.J. will comment. Papers include "Manifestations of Popular Piety in the Realms of Aragon" by Jill R. Webster, and "The Origins of Hospitallerism in Medieval Catalunya" by James W. Brodman.

2. Donald Kagay has organized a session entitled "Foral and Customary Law of the Iberian States in the Middle Ages" for the Twenty-Third International Congress on Medieval Studies, May, 1988. Presentations are planned by Teresa Vann, Nina Melechen and Donald Kagay.

Calls for Papers

1. The 1988 meeting of the Academy, held in conjunction with the American Historical Association, will convene in Cincinnati, Ohio. The final AHA deadline for the submission of panels is February 15, 1988. Members with proposals should submit these to James F. Powers (College of the Holy Cross, Worcester, MA) or James W. Brodman at or before the December, 1987 meeting of the Academy.

2. The Pacific Coast Branch of the American Historical Association will hold its 1988 meeting at San Francisco State University. Proposals for papers should be submitted prior

to December 15, 1987 to Jess Flemion, Program Chair, PCB, Department of History, San Diego State University, San Diego, CA 92182.

3. The Eleventh Mediterranean Conference will be held in Budapest during the summer of 1988. For information, contact Norman Holub, Dowling College, Oakdale, NY 11769.

4. The Sixth Conference on Medieval-Renaissance Studies solicits papers on European and Mediterranean topics prior to 1600. Brief abstracts should be sent before December 1, 1987 to Prof. L.D. Snyder, New College of South Florida, 5700 North Tamiami Trail, Sarasota, Florida 34243-2197.

Announcements

The Council for International Exchange of Scholars announces the opening of competition for the Spain Research Fellowships, 1988-89. Awarded for a period from three to ten months with travel and a monthly expense allowance, these grants require U.S. citizenship and Spanish proficiency. Application deadline is January 1, 1988. Information can be obtained from Robert Burnett, Spain Research Fellowships, CIES, 11 Dupont Circle NY, Suite 300, Washington, D.C. 20036 (202-939-5414).

New Members

The Academy wishes to welcome as new members: Joseph Snow of the University of Georgia, Ana María Gómez-Bravo of the University of California, Berkeley, and Isabel Angeles O'Connor of Los Angeles.

News from the Membership

Robert I. BURNS, S.J. is co-author of The Sephardim: A Cultural Journey from Spain to the Pacific Coast, ed. Rabbi Joshua Stampfer (Portland, Oregon: Institute for Judaic Studies, 1987), containing seven commissioned studies on Spain's medieval and renaissance Jewish communities and their dispersion to the eastern Mediterranean and North America. He has also published "La conquesta de València: la dimensió mariana," in Món i misteri de la Festa d'Elx, 2 vols. (Valencia: Generalitat Valenciana, 1986). He has also been appointed to the Advisory Board of the Catalan Review: International Journal of Catalan Culture, and presented a paper in Cairo, Egypt in January, 1987 under the auspices of Beirut's Centre d'Études pour la Monde Arabe Moderne.

Jerry R. CRADDOCK (University of California, Berkeley) has published The Legislative Works of Alfonso X, el Sabio: A Critical Bibliography, Research Checklists and Bibliog-

raphies, 45 (London: Grant and Cutler, 1986).

Nancy Joe DYER (Texas A&M University) is preparing a bibliography and critical edition of Fr. Goribio de Benanente's Historia de la Indias.

Alberto FERREIRO (Seattle Pacific University) has published "The Sueves in the Chronica of John of Biclaro," Latomus: Revue d'etudes Latines 46 (1987): 201-203 and has in press The Visigoths in Gaul and Spain, A.D. 418-711: A Bibliography (Leiden: E.J. Brill). He continues at Seattle Pacific as Visiting Assistant Professor and has presented a paper in March 1987 at the Medieval Association of the Pacific.

J.N. HILLGARTH (University of Toronto) has published Christianity and Paganism, 350-750: The Conversion of Western Europe (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1986); "Isidore of Seville, St. (ca. 560-636)," Dictionary of the Middle Ages 6 (New York, 1985), 563-66; and "Lull, Ramon," ibid., 7 (New York, 1986), 685-87.

Thomas M. Izbicki (Wichita State University) has published "A tract on the plague falsely attributed to Juan de Mella," Homenaje a Pedro Sainz Rodriguez (Madrid, 1986), 3: 367-72; he continues work on Juan de Torquemada, A Defense of Papal Power (a translation of Oratio synodalis de primatu, ed. E. Candal). He has received grants from the N.E.H. and the American Philosophical Society and has been appointed as Historical and Political Studies Librarian at Wichita State.

Sister Karen KENNELLY looks forward to returning to Spanish medieval and colonial studies once her current projects on Catholic women in America are concluded.

Archibald R. LEWIS has published European Naval and Maritime History, 300-1500 (Bloomington: University of Indiana Press, 1986), and has been elected as second Vice-President of the Medieval Academy of America and as Vice-President of the Maritime History Commission.

Michael MCVAUGH (University of North Carolina) has published "The Births of the Children of Jaime II," Medievalia 6 (1986): 7-16.

J.T. SNOW (University of Georgia) has published "Current Status of Cantigas Studies," in Studies in The "Cantigas de Santa Maria: Art, Music, and Poetry, ed. Keller, Katz, Armistead and Snow (Madison: HMS, 1987), 475-86; and "San Ildefonso a través de mil años de literatura española," Anales Toledanos 18 (1984 [1986]), 19-43. A monograph detailing the literary and historical Alfonso X in the Cantigas de Santa Maria is in progress. Professor Snow served as a visiting

professor during 1987 at the Arizona Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies and at the University of Chicago and recently has delivered papers at the MLA, Arizona State and Buenos Aires. He is organizing a session for Kalamazoo in 1988 entitled "Iberian Laughter: Parody, Irony and Bawdy."

Larry J. SIMON has delivered papers at the American Academy of Religion meeting, at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, and at the Crown of Aragon Congress on the Balearics. He received a three-month "borsa d'estudi" from the Institut d'Estudis Catalans for archival research at Barcelona and Palma during the summer of 1987 concerning the Majorcan church in the thirteenth century.

Benjamin F. Taggie, former editor of this Newsletter, has been appointed as Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Central Missouri State University.

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Subject: Contributions for April, 1988 Newsletter

Recent Publications:

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Comments and Suggestions: