The American Academy of Research Historians of Medieval Spain
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NEWSLETTER

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KALAMAZOO CONFERENCE (MAY, 1990)

The following papers were presented on May 13, 1990 at the Academy’s session at the International Congress on Medieval Studies. Theresa Vann, its organizer, reports that the session was well-received and the discussion useful. She regrets the relegation of the AARHMS session to Sunday morning when many who wanted to attend were prevented from doing so by the exigencies of airline scheduling.

Theresa Earenfight (Fordham University), "The Urban Oligarchy of Barcelona during the Lieutenancy of Maria of Castile"

Because of his ambitions in Naples and problems with Crown territories in the Mediterranean, Alfonso V of Aragon (1416-1458) was absent frequently and for prolonged periods of time from his peninsular realms. Thus, Alfonso appointed his wife, Maria of Castile, to serve as lieutenant of Catalonia from 1421-36 and 1438-45. Traditionally, the lieutenant was subordinate to the governor, but during the 15th century the governorship fell vacant and the lieutenancy gained considerable power, especially in the regional and municipal representative assemblies.

Published evidence from the Cortes of Aragon and Archives of the city of Barcelona and the Crown of Aragon indicates that Maria was the first woman to convocate the Cortes de Aragón (1423) and she routinely convened the Diputacio del General of Catalonia. After the capture of Alfonso in 1435, Maria ruled Catalonia virtually alone. This was the first time a king's lieutenant was granted such sweeping authority for an extended period.

This critical period in the history of Catalonia was marked by social unrest, political strife and economic decline. Maria’s efforts to rule Catalonia were particularly hampered by the actions of the Biga faction, the landed magnates and urban oligarchs of Barcelona who attempted to assert themselves as the legitimate representatives of Catalonia against both the royal prerogative and a rival faction, the Busca, itself composed of merchants, lesser nobles, knights and townspeople. The strength of the oligarchy forced Maria to abandon the long-standing royal alliance with the merchants. An examination of the political dynamics at this significant moment in Catalan history can provide invaluable insight into the problems encountered during the absence of direct rule by the king, in addition to illuminating the mechanics of urban government in Barcelona and the office of lieutenant.

Theresa Vann (Fordham University): "The Town Council of Toledo During the Minority of Alfonso VIII"

During Alfonso VIII’s minority (1158-1169), the Leonese occupied the city of Toledo and diverted its revenues towards the Leonese crown. Also, sometime during Alfonso's minority, the town council of Toledo was reorganized. After the minority, new officials gained prominence, and former officials bore new titles. This juxtaposition of events suggests that politics played a major role in the formal development of the city, but few historians have studied this relationship in any detail.
Recently some have suggested that the fuero of the city, initially believed to have been granted in 1118, was either compiled or granted in 1166. This suggestion, which has not gained widespread acceptance, is based on textual examination of a thirteenth-century copy of a lost original, which places the combination of the fueros of the Mozarabs, Castilians and Franks of Toledo within the events of the royal minority. While the city's uncertain political allegiance during this period affected its foral development and enhanced the stature of Mozarab officials within the municipality, better evidence for this stance is found in the attestations made by municipal officials to royal documents before and after the minority. This paper determines the sequence of events in Toledo during the minority and the nature of the reorganization, which brought the Mozarab officials to new prominence, to demonstrate the connection between the events and the fuero.

NEW YORK MEETING

The annual convention of the American Historical Association will be held in New York (Hilton and Sheraton Center Hotels) between December 27 and 30, 1990. The Academy's annual meeting will occupy its traditional slot on the afternoon of December 28. Three activities are planned: the academic session, the annual business meeting, and a reception that the Academy is co-sponsoring along with the Haskins Society and the Medieval Academy of America. Discount airfares are available from American Airlines (1-800-433-1790, star file # S.04D0BD); hotel reservations at the Hilton, Sheraton or Grand Hyatt may be made through: AHA Housing Bureau, Two Columbus Circle, New York, NY 10019 (Fax: 212-245-3943). The following academic session is planned:

The 800th Anniversary of a Landmark Charter in Spanish Urban History: A Commemoration

Chair: Heath Dillard

James F. Powers, "The Significance of the Forum Conche in Iberian and European Municipal Law"

James W. Brodman, "Exceptis militibus et sanctis: Restrictions upon Ecclesiastical Ownership of Land in the Foral Legislation of Medieval Castile and Valencia"

Theresa M. Vann, "The Influence of the Fuero of Cuenca on Cuenca"

Commentator: Joseph F. O'Callaghan

REVIEW


This is a massive compilation of more than 9,000 bibliographical entries. Ferreiro has defined the scope of his task very widely, going beyond the strict definition of the theoretical ethnic unity imposed by the term "Visigoths". Thus, he includes a section on the Sueves for which there are subsections on Martin of Braga and Orosius. He also offers 200 entries for
Sidonius Appolinarius whose association with the Visigoths was largely that of victim or complainant. A section entitled "Other Peoples" gives information about Jews, Vandals, Basques, and others who came into contact with the Visigoths.

The majority of the entries concern church history and patristics, reflecting the emphasis of what has been published. The largest single section is that devoted to Isidore of Seville which dwarfs those concerning Social History or Law. Both the number and diverse origins of the entries is impressive. Ferreiro has used newspapers, small local archival publications, excursionist journals, Eastern European publications, and other difficult or obscure sources. Ferreiro benefited not only from the large national and university libraries but from private collections, notably the materials assembled by Professor Jacques Fontaine, the leading student of Isidore and his era.

This book is useful for the specialist in Visigothic studies, but it is also important for those of us who only occasionally look at the early history of Spain and who need some orientation about the literature in basic topics. The arrangement is logical and an index of subjects and authors is provided. Professor Ferreiro is to be congratulated on an impressive accomplishment.

Paul Freedman
Vanderbilt University

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Professor James Powers of the Nominating Committee reports the following candidates for the offices of President and Secretary/Treasurer for 1991-92: President, Paul Freedman (Vanderbilt University) and Jill R. Webster (University of Toronto); Secretary/Treasurer, A.J. Cardenas (University of New Mexico), Dwayne Carpenter (Columbia University) and Donald Kagay (Texas Medieval Association). The Nominating Committee regrets its inability to consider several worthy candidates who are not members of the Academy. A ballot is included at the end of the Newsletter; members are asked to return it to Professor Powers by December 10, 1990. Results will be announced at the New York meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Comitatus: A Journal of Medieval and Renaissance Studies is now accepting submissions for volume 22 (1991). The journal, featuring articles written by graduate students or by those within the first three years of having received the Ph.D., welcomes specialized essays, translations, critical reviews of recent publications and annotated bibliographies. Manuscripts should not exceed 25-30 pages in length and should follow the Chicago Manual of Style. A cover letter containing a one paragraph abstract and information on authorial affiliation and degree status should accompany the manuscript. A guideline for contributors is available on request. The deadline for submission is January 31, 1991. All correspondence should be addressed to: Comitatus, University of California at Los Angeles, Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, 212 Royce Hall, Los Angeles, CA 90024-1485; telephone: 213-206-3113.

The Twelfth Medieval Forum is scheduled for the campus of Plymouth State College, April 19-20, 1991. Proposals for papers may be submitted prior to December 14 to: Professor Manuel Marquez-Sterling, Medieval Studies Council, Plymouth State College, Plymouth NH 03264.

The Mid-America Medieval Association’s 15th Anniversary Meeting will occur in Kansas City on February 23, 1991. Proposals for papers and abstracts should be sent by December 15 to: Dr. James Falls, Department of History, 203 Cockefair Hall, University of Missouri, Kansas City, MO 64112.
The Society for Spanish and Portuguese Historical Studies will convene its 1991 meeting in Millersville, Pennsylvania (April 12-14). Suggestions for entire panels or individual papers (with 100-word synopsis) should be sent by November 15 to: Professor William Monter, Department of History, Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois 60208.

The SSPHS will award a prize this year for the best first article on an Iberian topic that appeared in print between January 1987 and December 1989. One copy of the article should be sent to each of the following: Mary E. Perry, University of California, 405 Hilgard, 212 Royce Hall, Los Angeles CA 90024-1485; Heath Dillard, 1601 Third Avenue, Apt. 18-F, New York NY 10128; and Adrian Shubert, University of York, 4700 Keele Street, North York, Ontario, Canada, M3J 1P3.

The Medieval Association of the Pacific will host its 25th Anniversary Conference at UC Davis, March 1-3, 1991. Abstracts for proposed papers may be submitted until November 1 to Kevin P. Roddy, Medieval Studies, University of California, Davis, California 95616.

NOTES FROM THE MEMBERSHIP


Thomas N. Bisson has been awarded the 1989 Charles Homer Haskins Medal by the Medieval Academy of America for his Fiscal Accounts of Catalonia Under the Early Count-Kings, 1151-1213, 2 vols. (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1984).


Jerrilynn D. Dodds has been appointed Associate Professor in the School of Architecture at the City College of New York. She is collaborating with Vivian Mann in the preparation of an exhibit, "Convivenica," that will open at the Jewish Museum in 1992.

Alberto Ferreiro has been promoted to Associate Professor at Seattle Pacific University. He is currently working on a study of Jerome's commentary on Priscillanism in his letter to Ctesiphon.

Lorna Jury Gladstone has been appointed by President Bush as Special Assistant to the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Higher Education Programs in the U.S. Department of Education.


J.N. Hillgarth was elected Scribe of the Fellows of the Medieval Academy of America at its April, 1990 meeting. He is also serving as chairman of the AHA Committee for the "Premio del Rey" prize.

Norman Holub is seeking participants for the Mediterranean XIV Conference in Istanbul (July, 1991) and for Mediterranean XV at Palma de Mallorca (summer, 1992). He can be reached at Dowling College, Oakdale NY 11769.


Archibald Lewis, a distinguished member of the Academy who died in February, 1990, was honored posthumously at the Kalamazoo Conference in May, where three sessions entitled "Medieval Frontiers and Beyond" were dedicated to him.

Robert A. MacDonald has reported the publication of his: Text and Concordance of Espéculo. Alfonso X. el Sabio, MS. 10.123. Biblioteca Nacional de Madrid (Madison: Hispanic Seminary of Medieval Studies, 1989); and Espéculo. Texto jurídico atribuido al Rey de Castilla Don Alfonso X. el Sabio. Edición, introducción y aparato crítico (Madison: Hispanic Seminary of Medieval Studies, 1990). He continues to prepare an edition of the other juridical works attributed to Alfonso X.


Milagros Rivera has recently published *Textos y Espacios de Mujeres. Europa. siglos IV–XV* (Barcelona: Icaria, 1990). She is currently in charge of a project entitled, DUODA: A Data Base for the History of Women in Catalonia in the Medieval and Modern Periods sponsored by CUH-DIF (Centre Universitari d'Història de les Dones i Investigacions Feministes).

Connie Scarborough is Associate Director of the NEH Summer Institute "Alfonso el Sabio, Contributions to Medieval Language, Literature, and Culture" that was held at the University of Kentucky, June 11–July 20, 1990.

Joseph T. Snow has received promotion to Professor of Spanish/Portuguese Language and Literature at the University of Georgia. Recent publications include: "La iconografía de tres Celestinas tempranas (Burgos 1499; Sevilla 1518; Valencia 1514): unas observaciones," *Dicen de Cuadernos de Filología Hispánica*, no. 6 (1987[1990]): 255–277; and "Alfonso X, Troubadour. The Fact and the Fiction," in *Emperor of Culture*, ed. R. I. Burns, S.J. (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1990): 124–140. He is currently working on a research bibliography (volume 2) for the poetry of Alfonso X. He has been elected to Phi Beta Delta and received travel grant to attend the III Jornadas de Literatura Medieval Española meeting in Buenos Aires (August, 1990).


Thomas J. Walsh, who joins the Academy as a new member, is chairman of the Spanish Department at Georgetown University. His research concerns relations between Latin and vernacular in early medieval Spain, and the evolution of consonants in Late Latin/Early Hispano-Romance. Recent publications include "Spanish Historical Linguistics: Advances in the 1980s," *Hispania* 73 (1990): 177–200.

Jill R. Webster has published "The Carmelites in Lunei and Montpellier," *Carmelus* (1989): 145–65; "The Early Catalan Mendicants in Sardina," *Biblioteca francescana sarda* (1988): 5–18; and "El desconocido convento de Puigcerdà – su fundación y desarrollo," *Archivo Ibero-Americano* (1989): 167–94. She is working on two monographs: one traces the history of the Franciscan House at Puigcerdà from 1320 to 1600; the other, entitled *The Hermits Friars*, discusses the dichotomy between the contemplative life and the scholarly life within the Carmelite community of the Crown of Aragon from the late 13th to the late 15th centuries. Other work centers on the contributions made by the friars to painting and architecture within the Crown of Aragon. Professor Webster is serving on the American Historical Association's Committee on the "Premio del Rey" prize.
The American Academy of Research Historians of Medieval Spain
Membership Survey

Name:

Dues are enclosed for 1990 ($4.00):__________________________
Check if new address:______________________________

CONTRIBUTIONS FOR APRIL, 1991 NEWSLETTER

Recent Publications (use reverse side if necessary):

Research in Progress:

Appointments, Promotions, Grants, Awards, Honors, etc.:

Comments:

Suggestions for new members:

Please return by March 15, 1991 to:
James W. Brodman (AARHMS)
Department of History
University of Central Arkansas
Conway, Arkansas 72032
BALLOT

The American Academy of Research Historians of Medieval Spain
Election of Officers, 1991-92

President

Paul Freedman (Vanderbilt University)
Jill R. Webster (University of Toronto)

Secretary/Treasurer

A.J. Cardenas (University of New Mexico)
Dwayne Carpenter (Columbia University)
Donald Kagay (Texas Medieval Association)

Please return by December 10, 1990 to:

Professor James F. Powers (AARHMS)
Department of History
College of the Holy Cross
Worcester, MA 01610