

Academic Programs Currently in Preparation.

The Academy will present a program in Atlanta, in conjunction with the annual meeting of the AHA, on Monday, Dec. 29, 1975 at 9:30 AM. We are informed by the Chairman, Professor James F. Powers of Holy Cross, Worcester, that the papers will be the following:

Lynn H. Nelson, U. of Kansas, "Orosius' Commentary on the Fall of Roman Spain."

E. R. Daniel, U. of Kentucky, "Arnan de Vilanova and the Angel Pope."

Clara Estow, U. of Massachusetts, "The Diary of a Lady of the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Centuries."

The panel will be followed by a business meeting of the Academy, the subjects of which are given elsewhere in this issue.

The Academy will also present a program in Kalamazoo, in conjunction with the annual meeting of The Conference on Medieval Studies at Western Michigan University, on Tuesday, May 4, 1976 at 3 PM. There will be a business meeting following that panel as well. The program itself is currently being organized by the Acting-Secretary of the Academy with the gracious cooperation of Professor Otto Gründler, Associate Director of The Medieval Institute at Western Michigan.

In the short, but developing, history of the Academy it is becoming customary to present programs each year on these two occasions. Members are encouraged to contact the Acting-Secretary early about proposals either for papers or for complete panels at such times. The mechanics of such events require considerable lead time.

Recent Academic Programs

The Academy presented a panel at the Conference on Medieval Studies at Western Michigan University in May, 1975. The papers presented were as listed in the March, 1975 edition of the Newsletter.

The Acting-Secretary, believing it to be newsworthy and virtually a model for possible regional meetings elsewhere, has taken the liberty to include almost verbatim the Report of the New England Circle of AARHMS for 1974-75 which follows:

The group first became active when its members were invited by Archibald Lewis to deliver papers at the first session of the new New England Medieval Conference to be held at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst on November 2, 1974. The conference devoted its entire day to Medieval Iberia. The papers were oriented toward bibliography and research problems, and three of our members delivered papers to an audience of 120-150 New England medievalists. James F. Powers dealt with the Peninsula from ca. 1020 to 1250 A. D., J. N. Hillgarth covered the period 1250-1500, and Thomas Glick

discussed the sociological sub-structures of the Muslim and Jewish minorities in Christian Spain in the central and later middle ages. The papers were well received and a lively discussion period followed. Members were also able to publicize the goals and activities of AARHMS to this wide regional audience. At this point, the papers are being readied for publication by the Conference.

On Sunday, February 2, at the house of J. N. Hillgarth in Belmont, Mass., the regional group met to hear papers by Madelin Fletcher (Wellesley College) on the Almohads and their literature from the twelfth through the fourteenth centuries, Thomas Glick (Boston University) on a commentary concerning recent articles in the journal Al-Andaluz dealing with new insights into the manner of the Muslim conquest of Spain and their social structure there, and Thomas Boswell (then graduate student, Harvard University, now entering the faculty of Yale University) on the impact of the fourteenth-century wars of Aragon and Castile upon the Jewish minorities in the frontier zone. Commentary, discussion and an almuerzo followed.

On Sunday, April 13, a second session was held in Belmont, this time to hear an extended paper by Yosef Hayim Yerushalmi of Harvard University entitled, "The Lisbon Massacre of 1506 and the Royal Image in the Shehet Yehudah of Solomon ibn Verga," a study of the alliance between Spanish and Portuguese Jewry and the Crown and of the Jewish perception of that relationship. Discussion swept Western and Central Europe in the later middle ages, centering on why the Jews saw medieval monarchy as their best protection and why that perception turned out to be tragically false. Again the session closed with a discussion and an almuerzo.

Interorganizational Relationships

The Academy has begun an exchange of information and Newsletters with the Society for Spanish and Portuguese Historical Studies at the instance of Professor Joan Connolly Ullman of the University of Washington, editor of its Newsletter.

More recently, a similar arrangement has been reached with the American Society for Hispanic Art Historical Studies through their Executive Secretary, Professor Thomas F. Reese of the University of Texas, Austin. Subsequent Newsletters will, hopefully, afford members of some notice of the projected activities of both Societies.

By direction of the business meeting of last May, the Acting-Secretary is actively corresponding with Mack Thompson, Executive Director of the American Historical Association. Formal application for affiliated status with the AHA will be made shortly after the appearance of this Newsletter.

Organizational Notes

The Academy continues to grow in membership, largely, it seems to the Acting-Secretary, as a result of the caliber of the programs it has been able to sponsor. The new membership list, now in preparation, will approximate eighty members.

This relatively healthy growth in numbers makes more pressing the speedy adoption of a constitution and a provision of a full array of officers. The business meeting of last May approved the following

amendments to the draft constitution:

Article I, purpose - "The purpose of the American Academy of Research Historians on Medieval Spain, a non-profit educational organization, is to promote research on Medieval Iberia."

By-Laws, Article I

"The President and the Secretary-Treasurer shall be elected by a simple majority of the members in good standing by a mail ballot, counted prior to the annual meeting."

By-Laws, Article III

"Dues of the Academy shall be \$3.00 per calendar year."

The business meeting in Atlanta needs to consider the addition of a procedure for nominations and probably should entertain, as well, a further modification of the By-Laws, Article I to provide that a simple majority of members actually voting will suffice to elect officers.

The Acting-Secretary also intends to suggest to the Atlanta meeting that the time has perhaps come to establish a separate editor of this Newsletter. Members with a taste for reporting in a low key and some access to the necessary facilities are invited to nominate themselves to the Acting-Secretary.

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