

NEWSLETTER  
AMERICAN ACADEMY OF RESEARCH HISTORIANS ON MEDIEVAL SPAIN

---

No. 7:2

April 1981

---

I. Semi-Annual Meeting (December 28-29, 1980):

A. Business Meeting (December 28):

The customary business meeting followed the first of the two sessions presented by the Academy as part of the annual meeting of the American Historical Association in December, 1980, in Washington, D. C. At the request of the President, who had a simultaneous meeting elsewhere, the Secretary-Treasurer presided. The minutes of the meeting of May, 1980 in Kalamazoo were duly approved. The report of the Nomination and Election Committee was then submitted. Five persons were nominated for the office of President and three for Secretary-Treasurer. Twenty-five members cast ballots and Professors Joseph O'Callaghan and Bernard F. Reilly respectively were elected to these posts. Discussion then turned to the Newsletter. Eight different new names had been suggested which were submitted to the meeting but none of them seemed to strike the fancy of the group. There was some sentiment voiced in favor of simply continuing to call it the Newsletter. Finally, the meeting decided to refer the matter to the joint consideration of the President and the Secretary-Treasurer. Professor James Brodman, Editor, announced the deadline for the spring issue would be March 20th. A report on the "Spain in Europe" Symposium followed whose content is detailed elsewhere in this issue. The program for the May, 1981, meeting at the Medieval Conference in Kalamazoo was also announced. The next item of business was the organization of the program for the AHA meeting in Los Angeles in December of 1981. The determination was to try to secure a program chairman from California if possible. The Secretary-Treasurer also reported on the poll conducted the previous winter. Of the eighty members who paid dues at that time, thirty-three reported that they were also members of the American Historical Association. Since our membership is comprised not only of historians but also of people in literature and in art history, the meeting felt that the cross membership disclosed was a healthy one and, as such, should be reported to the appropriate officer of the AHA.

B. Report of the Secretary-Treasurer for 1980:

Financial reports are indeed a gross index to almost anything but I am happy to report, nonetheless, that our bank balance at the close of 1980 stood at \$593.14 as compared to our balance at close of 1979 of \$480.20. In a small way that fact reflects the rise in our membership to 105 for our income is derived solely from dues.

In a somewhat larger and more important respect, however, both of these indices reflect the increased activity of the Academy during 1981. We continued our regular practice of sponsoring scholarly panels in conjunction with the Congress of Medieval Studies meeting at Kalamazoo in the spring and with the meeting of the American Historical Association in Washington, D. C. in mid-winter as has been reported in this Newsletter. However, we also took two new initiatives.

On the authorization of the business meeting of December, 1979, we had printed some 1,000 brochures describing in brief the purposes and activities of the Academy. The brochures were distributed at both Kalamazoo and Washington, D. C. in modest numbers and on other occasions as the opportunity offered. The printing costs were \$132.50 and about 800 of the stock remain but, so far as your Secretary can determine, roughly six new memberships have resulted from this sedate form of advertising.

The second initiative was the organization of a symposium on "Spain in Europe" held in New York City in October, 1980. This event attracted roughly forty participants, some from places as distant as Spain, Switzerland, and California. The Academy was able to enlist the interest and support of The Hispanic Society of America, The American Numismatic Society, Fordham University, and Columbia University in this venture and it is to be expected that the associations so formed will be beneficial for future relationships, both of the Academy and of its members. Expenses incurred in this regard ran to \$424.26 but the registration fee produced income of \$510. Rather more important, the event itself seems to have prompted nine new memberships. Once again, the moral seems clear that the health of the Academy is a direct reflex of our scholarly activity energetically pursued.

Finally, the poll taken on the occasion of the collection of the 1980 dues revealed that 33 of the 80 dues-paying members were members as well of the American Historical Association.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bernard F. Reilly  
Secretary-Treasurer

C. Papers:

For the first time in its history, the Academy sponsored two sessions at this joint meeting with the American Historical Association.

Session 1: The Kingdom of Valencia: Mudejars, Mendicants and Mercedarians (Presiding: James F. Powers, College of the Holy Cross)

- a) Rev. Robert I. Burns, S.J. (University of California, Los Angeles), "Castles and Battle Lines in the Mudejar Revolt of 1276."
- b) Jill Webster (University of Toronto), "Debts and Duties: Aspects of Mendicant Life in Medieval Valencia"

Although few documents referring to the medieval Valencian Franciscan House are extant, they are interesting because of the close relation-

ship they reveal between the friars and the Moslems. Dating from the 1230s the records show that a number of donations were made by the King, in the wills of the wealthy and of special interest, in 1303 by Bartolomea de Moros who is described as a servant or slave of the friars.

The apocas in the Archivo del Reino de Valencia refer to debts incurred and repaid by installments. The most famous cases are those concerning Fra Francesc Examenis and Fra Pere of Aragon, both of whom achieved their measure of fame. Also of interest is the fact that by the end of the fourteenth century most of the friars were engaged in teaching the Holy Scriptures or Theology, depending on the level for which the classes were destined.

A long repetitive document gives an account of conflicts between the mendicant orders and the clergy. Its main importance lies in the very full information it provides regarding the occupants of the religious houses in Valencia at the end of the fourteenth century. The four orders mentioned are the Dominicans, Franciscans, Augustinians and Carmelites and among those referred to by name are Francesc Examenis and Vicent Ferrer.

The Hospital of St. Mary, known as the Hospital of the Beguins, seems to have been a centre of heretical views, although it was originally run by the Third Order of St. Francis. Thus, Valencia was no different from other areas and shared the unorthodox approaches characteristic of Vilafranca del Panades earlier in the fourteenth century. A pattern emerges of medieval Franciscan life but the few extant documents only touch the fringes of a fascinating study and it is to be hoped that subsequent research will uncover more contemporary records.

- c) James W. Brodman (University of Central Arkansas), "Rents and Ransoming: The Valencian Patrimony of the Order of Merced"

This survey of the patrimony amassed by the redemptionist Order of Merced in post-conquest Valencia seeks to shed light on the extent of the Order's holdings, the identity of its patrons, and its own ability to manage these holdings. The documentation derives from a scattering of parchments extant in the AHN, and numerous others found in 18th century copy-books and now preserved at the ACA. This somewhat fragmentary record reveals a domain whose core consisted of several small royal repartimiento grants, substantially augmented by gifts of assorted urban and rural properties from several aristocrats as well as commoners. In the second half of the thirteenth-century, Merced sought through purchase to round out its holdings, which had now developed three foci: Valencia City, Jativa and Murviedro. Its success in attracting a continual string of donations appears related to the Order's willingness to provide the spiritual services demanded by thirteenth-century benefactors: prayers, chantries, burial in the habit, hospitality, etc. While such was far removed from Merced's characteristic charitable work, it appears to have provided an income sufficient to support the Order's administration, finance patrimonial extensions and presumably support the work of ransoming.

Session 2: Crime and Criminals in Castile and Catalonia (Presiding: Bernard Reilly, Villanova University)

- a) Heath Dillard (Institute for Historical Research), "Female Criminals in Medieval Castile Towns"
- b) John Shideler (University of California, Berkeley), "Crime and Coercion: The Political Tactics of the Thirteenth-Century Lords of Vic"

## II. Forthcoming Meetings:

- A. Sixteenth International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, Michigan, May 9, 1981 (9:30 a.m., Room III-313):

Spanish Society in the High and Late Middle Ages (Presiding: Karen Kennelly, C.S.J., College of St. Catherine)

- a) Helen Nader (Indiana University), "Social Mobility and Political Revolt in Late Medieval Castile"
- b) Norman Roth (University of Wisconsin, Madison), "Perceptions of Jews and Albigensians in Late Medieval Castile"
- c) Benjamin R. Gampel (Columbia University), "Iron Furnace or New Homeland: Castilian and Aragonese Jewish Exiles in Navarre (1492-1498)"

- B. Tentative Program for Joint Meeting with AHA, San Francisco, December, 1981

Military and Religious Orders of the Iberian Peninsula (Presiding: Paul Freedman, Vanderbilt University)

- a) John Dagenais (University of Illinois), "Ramon Lull on the Road: The Problem of the Marginal Orders"
- b) E. Randolph Daniel (University of Kentucky), "Joachim and Joachimism in the Iberian Peninsula: The Present State of Research"
- c) Joseph O'Callaghan (Fordham University), "The Order of Calatrava and its Territorial Expansion"

COMMENT: Thomas N. Bisson (University of California, Berkeley)

## III. Meetings of Interest:

- A. The Worlds of Alfonso the Learned and Jaume the Conqueror: Intellect and Force in the Middle Ages, The UCLA Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies (April 2-4, 1981)

The sessions are entitled: "The Economic and Social Structures of Mediterranean and Meseta Spain," "Political and Legal Accomplishments of Castile-Leon and Arago-Catalonia," "Warrior-Crusader or Learned Patron?," "Resonances: The Impact of the Work of Each King on Literary

Tradition," "Society: Letters, Arts, and Judeo-Islamic Elements," and "Herencias: estructuras y detalles." Copies of the papers may be ordered at a cost of \$12.00 from: Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, University of California, 405 Hilgard, Los Angeles, California 90024.

- B. The Second Medieval Forum, Plymouth State College (April 24-25, 1981). The major address at this meeting will be given by the AARHM's President, Joseph O'Callaghan. Registration information can be obtained from: Herbert R. Otto, Plymouth State College, Plymouth, New Hampshire 03264.
- C. Mediterranean VI Conference, Italo-Latin American Institute (E.U.R.), Rome, Italy (July 1-3, 1981). For information, please contact: Norman Holub, Director, Dowling College, Oakdale, New York 11769.
- D. Society for Spanish and Portuguese Historical Studies, Toronto (April 24-25, 1981)

#### IV. Grants:

The deadline for Cooperative Research Grants sponsored by the Spanish Joint Committee for Educational and Cultural Affairs is May 9, 1981. Applications are available from: Secretaria Ejecutiva of the U.S.-Spanish Joint Committee for Educational and Cultural Affairs, Calle Cartagena, 83-85, 3a, Madrid 28 Spain.

#### V. Bibliography:

The first fascicle of the Diplomatari de la Catedral de Vic, Segles IX-X has recently been published. A total of five fascicles will be issued within the next two years that will comprise, when completed, a transcription of every document from the archives of the cathedral of Vic from the ninth and tenth centuries. The first fascicle begins with a document from 879 and includes 160 transcriptions.

This posthumous work of Mons. Eduard Junyent has been edited by Ramon Ordeig, Antoni Pladevall and others in keeping with modern norms of diplomatic. The records preserved in the cathedral of Vic are unusually rich for this early period of peninsular history and the Diplomatari will be a major primary source.

The cost of the first fascicle is \$8.25 (which includes postage). Orders and inquiries may be directed to:

Patronat d'Estudis Ausonencs  
Biblioteca Episcopal  
Carrer de Santa Maria, 1  
Vic (Barcelona) Spain

Further information may be had from Paul Freedman, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee 37235.

VI. Notices:

- A. Dues for 1981 are currently due. Please send \$3.00 to: Professor Bernard Reilly, Department of History, Villanova University, Villanova, Pennsylvania 19085.
- B. The Newsletter seeks to be a clearing house of information for those of us interested in medieval Spanish studies. The editor, welcomes the submission of recently published research, grant information and news of meetings for inclusion in the Newsletter. If there is sufficient interest, reviews of current monographs are a possibility. Information for the Newsletter should reach the editor by March 20 and September 20 for prompt inclusion. Please address: James W. Brodman, Department of History, University of Central Arkansas, Conway, AR 72032.
- C. Incorrect addresses cost the Academy additional postage charges each year. Please send changes of address to either Professors Reilly or Brodman.