

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF RESEARCH HISTORIANS OF MEDIEVAL SPAIN

NEWSLETTER

Volume 9: 2

April, 1983

WASHINGTON MEETING (December 28, 1982)

Report of the Business Meeting

The American Academy of Research Historians of Medieval Spain held its semi-annual Business Meeting on Tuesday, December 28, 1982, in Washington, D.C. The meeting followed the panel sponsored by the Academy at the AHA meeting and the Secretary-Treasurer presided, due to the unavoidable absence of the outgoing President.

The meeting received the report of the Secretary-Treasurer as it is printed elsewhere in this issue of the Newsletter. Professor James Brodman, as the Election Committee of the Academy, then reported on the 1982 elections. Professors Bernard F. Reilly of Villanova University and Lynn H. Nelson of the University of Kansas were declared elected as the new President and Secretary-Treasurer respectively of the Academy for 1983 and 1984.

Discussion followed on two topics. One of these was the occasional practice in the past of publishing short reviews in the Newsletter of Spanish works on Spanish medieval history. It was generally agreed that the practice was useful to the membership since such works very often do not find their way into the reviews of American journals. The meeting agreed to continue and even enlarge the practice, to the extent feasible, and charged the editor of the Newsletter to advertise the practice in the spring Newsletter and to canvass interest in the post of a special, reviews Editor if that seemed desirable to him.

The second matter for discussion dealt with the present status of the series of translations of Visigothic conciliar texts which had been undertaken by the late editor of Classical Folia. No one seemed entirely clear as to the number of translations authorized or even printed in that journal before its discontinuance but all agreed that the project had been a worthy one. The meeting authorized the new President to gather further information on the matter with a view to encourage the publication of such translations as had not yet seen the light of day by any and all possible means. (Bernard F. Reilly)

Report of the Secretary-Treasurer

As of January 1, 1983, the American Academy of Research Historians of Medieval Spain enjoyed a bank balance of \$957.52 representing its total financial assets. There was, at that time, one bill outstanding for \$40.00, being the cost of programs printed for the meeting in Washington, D.C. in conjunction with the AHA.

The membership as of the same date had swollen to one hundred and twenty-seven but the Secretary cautions the euphoric that the payment of dues is the

sturdiest index of health. In calendar 1982 some ninety-three members duly performed that fiscal rite.

During the past year the Academy acquired seven new members. So far as one can tell, three of these were personally recruited by present ones and the other four were so taken by the caliber of our panels that they were moved to join our ranks.

As is its custom the Academy sponsored two panels during the year, as reported in the Newsletter. One was held in May in conjunction with the Seventeenth International Congress on Medieval Studies at Kalamazoo and the other in December with the meeting of the AHA.

Respectfully submitted,
Bernard F. Reilly, Secretary-Treasurer

Panel: The Western Mediterranean Crescent: Catalonia and Languedoc in the Central Middle Ages, James F. Powers presiding, Bernard F. Reilly commentator.

"Sant Martí of Perpignan: A Thirteenth-Century Mercedarian House," James W. Brodman (University of Central Arkansas)

The Mercedarian Order, the ransoming brotherhood established by Pere Nolasc at the time of Jaume I's invasion of Majorca, came to Perpignan, seat of the county of Roussillon, and from there to the rest of the Occitan, at the end of the Valencian Wars, and for the purpose of developing an exploitable patrimony and of preaching the cause of captives. Seemingly flush with cash, the first preceptors were able to purchase the church of Sant Martí and several dozen urban and suburban parcels that in turn provided a firm if modest economic foundation upon which to build the house. That Perpignan happened to be entrusted to a powerful ex-master, Guillem de Bas, and shortly thereafter to his kinsman Berenguer, gave this house unusual access to the Order's funds and this certainly accounts for its rapid development. That these two kinsmen-preceptors, lacking adequate supervision, appear to have played loosely with these new economic resources gives us an explanation for the decision of the new "reform" master to promulgate in 1272 the first written constitutions of the Mercedarian Order. After a somewhat frenetic first fifteen years, however, this house receded into obscurity, perhaps because only exceptional events occasion archival deposits. But, to judge from the scattering of post-1270 documents, Sant Martí remained an important regional center of the Mercedarian Order, the administrator of a now relatively static domain, and eventually an early proponent of an end to laic power within the Order's hierarchy.

"Southern France or Valencia at Mid-Thirteenth Century: Last Chance for a Choice by Jaume the Conqueror," Robert I. Burns, S.J. (University of California, Los Angeles)

"The Papacy as the Leader of Southern French and Catalan Society, 900-1417," Archibald R. Lewis (University of Massachusetts, Amherst)

BOOK REVIEWS

As the result of a discussion at the 1982 business meeting, the Academy has decided to begin, on a regular but limited basis, the publication of book reviews in this Newsletter. The criteria for the selection of books to be reviewed are these: the book must be new or recent, be a significant study, document collection or work of reference, and pertain to the subject of medieval Spain. Special consideration will be given to books published in Spanish and which are not ordinarily reviewed in North America. Because the Academy is not currently the recipient of newly published books, it must ask that members volunteer reviews for books contained in their own collections. Members who wish to submit a review of a book that falls within the above guidelines may do so by sending it to the editor of the Newsletter, Professor James W. Brodman. These may be sent at any time, but for inclusion in the current issue they should ordinarily be received one month prior to the publication dates of October 1 and April 1. Limitations of space require that reviews be limited to no more than 500 words.

DUES

Dues for calendar 1983 remain at last year's level of \$3.00. The membership is requested to mail this amount as promptly as possible to the Secretary-Treasurer, Professor Lynn H. Nelson.

DIRECTORY OF OFFICERS

The current officers of the Academy and the editor of the Newsletter may be reached as follows:

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KALAMAZOO MEETING

The Academy is sponsoring a session at the XVIII International Congress on Medieval Studies that is held at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo. The panel is scheduled for 3:30 p.m. on Saturday, May 7, 1983 (Room 202). Contrary to what is printed in the Kalamazoo program, the short business meeting will be convened immediately following the session on May 7, and not held separately on May 5. The program follows:

Studies in Medieval Spanish History (Session 213), Thomas M. Izbicki (University of California, Berkeley), presiding

"The Idea of Empire in Late Medieval Spain," Joseph O'Callaghan (Fordham University)

"Unsacred Monarchy: The Kings of Castile in the Late Middle Ages," Teofilo F. Ruiz (Brooklyn College, City University of New York)

"Settlers from Ena and Baon: Episodes in the Early Aragonese Reconquest," Lynn H. Nelson (University of Kansas)

Also of interest is the following session organized by members of the Academy:

The Reign of James I of Aragon: 1240-1276 (Session 238--May 8, 10 a.m., Room 203), Benjamin F. Taggie (Central Michigan University) presiding

"The King Who Would Be Sovereign: James I and the Rebels of Aragon, 1240-1276," Jane C. Wilman (University of California, Los Angeles)

"James I and the Jews of Arago-Catalonia: Royal 'Policy' or Pragmatic Politics?" Leila Berner (University of California, Los Angeles)

NOTE: Panelists are encouraged to send brief summaries of their papers for inclusion in the subsequent edition of the Newsletter.

ARCHIVAL NOTES

There has been some discussion concerning the utility of printing in the Newsletter articles pertaining to the contents and conditions of Spanish and Portuguese local archives. Members who wish to pursue this idea or who wish to offer an article about an archive in which they have expertise are encouraged to contact the Newsletter's editor.

NOTES

Society for Spanish and Portuguese Historical Studies: Various members of the Academy have organized a session, entitled "Medieval Social History in Spanish Town and Countryside," for the annual meeting of the SSPHS that is being held at Boston College on April 22-24. The papers include: "The Women of Medieval Burgos," by Teofilo Ruiz of Brooklyn College; "Games People Played: The Use of Leisure Time in Urban Castile of the Later Middle Ages," by Clara Estow

of the University of Massachusetts (Boston); and "Catalan Jurists and the Origins of Serfdom, 1200-1700," by Paul Freedman of Vanderbilt University. Presiding and commenting will be Heath Dillard of Barnard College.

The Fourth Medieval Forum: This event, also held on April 22-23, will feature five sessions devoted to Hispanic studies. Details may be obtained by writing: Medieval Studies, Rounds Hall, Plymouth State College, Plymouth, NH 03264.

Noticiero Alfonso: This newsletter intended for those working on or interested in the medieval legacy of Alfonso X, el Sabio, published its first number on November 21, 1982. It includes a comprehensive listing of scholarly works on Alfonso X that were completed between 1980 and 1982. Individual subscriptions are \$3.00 (\$5.00 for institutions) and can be obtained by writing: Anthony Cardenas, Editor, Noticiero Alfonso, Romance Languages, Wichita State University, Wichita, KS 67208.

Membership Notes: The Newsletter always welcomes information concerning the publications, research and activities of the membership. A form is provided on the reverse side of this page for this purpose.

REMEMBER 1983 DUES.

To: James W. Brodman, Editor
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From: _____

Subject: Contributions for the October, 1983 edition of the Newsletter

Recent Publications:

Research in Progress:

Announcements of sessions, meetings, lectures, etc.:

New Positions:

Grants, Awards and Honors:

Comments and Suggestions: