

NEWSLETTER

THE ACADEMY OF AMERICAN RESEARCH HISTORIANS ON MEDIEVAL SPAIN

No. 4:1

October, 1977

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS CURRENTLY IN PREPARATION

The Academy will present the following program at the AHA in Dallas, Texas on December 29th. The meeting will be held in the Vista Room, South Terrace of the Fairmont from 9:30-11:30.

Title of Session: "The Reconquista: Expansion, Violence, and Adolescence in the Medieval Ibero-Christian Kingdoms."

Lawrence J. McCrank, Chairperson, CLIS, University of Maryland

Papers: "Rape, Abduction, and Elopement in Reconquista Castile."
Heath Dillard, Institute for Research in Virginia, University of Virginia.

"Another Hundred Year's War: An overview of the struggle between Catalonia and Liguria for Sardinia."
Carl J. Post, University of Kentucky.

*"An Unsuccessful Attempt at Urban Organization in Twelfth Century Catalonia." Paul Freedman, University of California, Berkeley.

The Academy will also present the following program at the 13th Conference on Medieval Studies in Kalamazoo, Michigan. The conference will be from May 4-7th, 1978. The day and time of the program has not yet been determined.

Benjamin F. Taggie, Chairperson, Central Michigan University

Papers: "The Eleventh Century Barcelona Church Careers of Ramon, Berenguer and Bernat de Montcada." John C. Shideler, Berkeley, California.

"Church-State Relations in the Leonese Regnum-Imperium, at the Time of the Gregorian Reform (1050-1135)." John Frank Stephens, State University of New York at Binghamton.

"Fernan Gonzalez, First Count of Castile: The Man and the Legend."
Manuel Marquez-Sterling, Plymouth State College.

CALL FOR PAPERS

The Academy will be presenting programs at both the AHA in 1978 and Kalamazoo in May, 1979. Though these dates are in the distant future, the AHA program for December, 1978 will have to be prepared by early 1978. Any individual interested in participating by reading a paper, proposing an entire panel, or organizing one of the

*Note that the paper of Paul Freedman replaces that of Ruth Gover which was announced in the spring Newsletter.

above programs should submit their proposals to either Professors Bernard F. Reilly or Benjamin F. Taggie.

The Ninth Annual Conference of the Society for Spanish and Portuguese Historical Studies will be held at the Newberry Library in Chicago on March 31 - April 1, 1978. Proposals for complete sessions, individual papers, workshops, roundtables, or any other type of presentation, along with a brief abstract, should be sent to the Chairman of the Program Committee, Professor Ellen G. Friedman, Department of History, University of Kentucky, Lexington, Kentucky 40506, before November 15, 1977. She would welcome suggestions from persons in all fields concerned with the Iberian past.

The Thirteenth Conference on Medieval Studies at Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, will have a special session on "Hebrew Secular Literature and Poetry in Medieval Spain." The dates for this year's conference are May 4-7. Papers are urgently needed for this session. Abstracts, not more than one page in length and double spaced, should be submitted in duplicate to: Professor Norman Roth, Department of Hebrew & Semitic Studies, University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin, 53706. As he must prepare the final program by November 30, time is of the essence.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-TREASURER AND THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 7, 1977 MEETING

Report:

If the preferred focus of this Academy is the decently detailed document, it ought perhaps to provide for the employment of future generations of scholars by the modest production of further documentation. Accordingly, we may report that as of this date, some fifty-eight of our members have paid dues for 1977, resulting in a bank balance of \$352.25. In addition, fifty-two members have returned the survey which accompanied the request for dues. The resultant data permits some, more precise, self-definition of this group whose real existence has been doubted, reportedly, by assorted scoffers.

Based on the survey, it may be confidently asserted that the major interest of forty of the members is history, medieval Spanish literature is that of ten others, and art or art history is the penchant of two members. Based on the latest membership list, and the admittedly imperfect geographical sense of the Secretary-Treasurer, the largest number of members, twenty-four, are located in the Middle Atlantic States. The remaining members in the continental United States are to be found in the "Old South" (nineteen), the northern Midwest (twelve), New England (eleven), the West Coast (ten), the southern Midwest (four), the Great Plains (four), and the sovereign state of Texas (one). Further members are to be found in Canada (two), Spain (four) and Israel (one).

If publication be the criteria, the Academy seems to be flourishing. Members responding to the survey listed eighty-seven publications since January of 1974. Other activities of the membership such as reading papers, book reviewing and archive trotting are not reported on herein but the survey gives evidence of much vigor. Also the membership seems to be developing nicely if one were to judge by the number of books and articles "in press," "in progress" and out for consideration represented in the survey.

At this point, the Secretary-Treasurer hopes to assemble, from the survey, a list of archives familiar to various of the members. If the agreement of this meeting and the editor of the Newsletter can be obtained, he would hope to have such a list

published in the latter together with an invitation to interested scholars or potential scholars to write for the particular names of members who could advise them concerning the archive in which they might want to work. All of us, one expects, are familiar with the problems of poorly cataloged contents, difficult conditions of access and even local lodging, which complicate the job of research in all too many of the Spanish archives. For these reasons, it would seem that the Academy can offer a real service insofar as it can put scholars in touch with other scholars whose knowledge of one or the other archive may save time and inconvenience.

The other purpose for which the survey was instituted have not been forgotten but will be pursued sedately as time and opportunity permit.

Minutes:

The meeting heard the report of the Secretary-Treasurer and approved, in particular, the proposal to publish a list of the Spanish archives familiar to various members of the Academy in a future edition of the Newsletter. That list would be derived from the 1977 Survey of the membership.

The question was raised from the floor concerning the possibility, at some future meeting, of the presentation of a paper or papers in Spanish. The consensus was that, while such a practice might raise some problems for guests of the Academy, such a possibility should be maintained and the matter would rest in the good judgment of each program chairman.

On the initiative of its editor, the question of a more substantial Newsletter was raised. After some discussion, the members felt that some expansion would be useful but that the decision whether to increase the number of issues or, alternatively, the size of each issue was best left to the editor himself.

Professor McCrank, chairman for the Academy program in Dallas in 1977, reported that the American Historical Association pleads inability to list the Academy's presentation in the official program. Proper dismay was expressed and Professor McCrank was authorized to employ a flyer to the membership to fill the gap but the matter of a proper listing will be pursued.

Professor McCrank also reported the active curiosity of the Cultural Attache of the Spanish Embassy about the Academy, its activities and its purpose. The Secretary-Treasurer was instructed to make a variety of materials available to Professor McCrank for transmission to the attache.

The President of the Academy broached the subject of the possible affiliation of the Academy with the Committee on Centers and Regional Associations (CARA) of the Medieval Academy of America. Some uncertainty was expressed by the members as to the exact nature of the activities and purposes of CARA and what might be the substance of such affiliation. It was agreed that further information would be sought.

Respectfully submitted,
Bernard F. Reilly, Secretary-Treasurer

PROGRAMS OF RELATED INTEREST

The College of Fine and Applied Arts at The University of Texas at San Antonio announces the establishment of the Research Center for the Arts, under the direction

of Jacinto Quirarte, Dean of the College of Fine and Applied Arts. Judith Berg Sobré (art history) and Michael Fink (musicology) are faculty associates connected with the Center, and Elizabeth Hill Boone (art history) is research associate.

The Center's activities encompass the visual and performing arts (studio art, architecture, and music), art and architectural history, art criticism, and musicology. A primary focus of the Center is on the latter disciplines with special reference to the study of Iberian and Interamerican arts.

Among the goals of the Center are to provide assistance to faculty, students, and other persons interested in pursuing research and further studies, and to make available general information on the arts of Spain, Portugal, and the Americas. In the next several years the Center will compile and disseminate information on current research, scholars working in the field, sources of funding for research, university programs awarding degrees for the study of these arts, and learned societies that have sponsored symposia, papers, or publications concerning these arts. At a future date the Center will compile bibliographies dealing with Iberian and Interamerican arts and will identify those private and public collections in which these arts are represented.

A major goal of the Center is the identification of those areas in the study of Iberian and Interamerican art and music in which further research is needed. To this end, the Center plans to organize a series of conferences that will establish the states of disciplines of art history and musicology in relation to the study of these areas and that will focus on particular issues pertaining to Iberia and Interamerica.

Inquiries concerning the Research Center for the Arts may be addressed to: Elizabeth Boone, Research Associate, Research Center for the Arts, College of Fine and Applied Arts, The University of Texas at San Antonio, San Antonio, Texas 78285.

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What follows is a brief report on three papers given by members of the Academy at the Second Mid-Atlantic States Conference on Patristic, Medieval, and Renaissance Studies held at Villanova University on September 30 and October 1, 1977. Although the Academy did not formally sponsor a program, its three members read at a single panel. Since the Secretary-Treasurer happened to chairing that panel, he is in a position to make the following report. (The leisure enjoyed by chairmen is notorious.)

Professor H. Tracy Sturcken of Penn State University treated "Five Days in October, 1319: The Unconsummated Marriage of the Infante Jaime of Aragón and Leonor of Castile." His general thesis was that James II of Aragón's conduct in the affair was marked much less by helplessness and surprise and much more by "realpolitik" and calculation than has ordinarily been credited.

For two years before the event, the letters of James to the Infante indicate how seriously the former took the resolve of his son not to marry. They also display a series of changes of tone as the king increasingly realized his inability to effect the necessary change. But the increased importance of the match to Castile, after the military disaster in Granada in June, 1319 which cost the lives of the sons of Maria de Molina, gave James no room to manuever. Enlisting both religious and social pressure he was able to force the Infante into the marriage ceremony itself only to have his son abruptly abandon his bride and family after the mass.

In the attempts of James II to avoid impossible complications in his relations with Castile in the aftermath, Professor Sturcken cataloged his delaying tactics in

the return of the person of the Infanta Leonor. The choice by the father of the Hospitallers as a religious order for the Infante, a choice again dictated by the need for a speedy resolution, rather than the Cistercians who were preferred by his son, was given a role in the subsequent moral collapse of the latter.

A second paper on "The Wealthy Classes and the Friars Minor in Thirteenth Century Aragón" was read by Professor Jill R. Webster of Erindale College of the University of Toronto. It reported on her investigations of the subject in Barcelona, Gerona and Vich.

At Barcelona, the cathedral archives has a large collection of original wills of the 13th century. The earliest of these is dated 1226 and contains the first reference to the Friars Minor in Aragón. Notarial manuals, however, are not extant for Barcelona until quite late in the century and then are only fragmentary. Prosographical analysis of the wills indicates substantial mercantile patronage of the Franciscans from an early date.

In Gerona, the collection of Franciscan documents is very strong for the 13th century. The earliest of these, from 1224, only indirectly concerns the order since the house was not yet established. The documents largely concern the relationships of that very substantial convent with the community. The success of those relationships is partially indicated by the ability of the Franciscans to secure property in the then heart of the business district adequate for the construction of such an establishment.

The Vich archives are unique in that the foundation document of the convent there is still extant. Notarial records suggest the same pattern of marked support for the Franciscans by the wealthy merchant classes. All in all, such records seem to go far in explaining the rapidity with which the Franciscans reached a rough parity with the Dominicans in Aragón.

In the final paper Professor Lawrence J. McCrank of the University of Maryland dealt with "Norman Crusaders in the Catalan Reconquista: The Principality of Tarragona." During the early twelfth century, both Count Raymond Berenguer III of Barcelona and Archbishop Oleguer found themselves unable to effectively reclaim Tarragona from Muslim power. Both turned to the adventurer-warrior Robert Burdet in an attempt to draw Norman resources and manpower into the area.

As a semi-autonomous prince, Robert was willing enough to try and opened a major offensive in 1128-1129. By 1130-1131 he was able to add papal approbation to that of count and archbishop. By 1134 he was strong enough to be courted as an ally by Alfonso I of Aragón. During this early period Robert also benefited from the residence of Archbishop Oleguer in Barcelona rather than in Tarragona.

However, Robert, married to the Catalan Iñes himself, found it necessary to encourage Catalan immigration into the principality and, by 1147-1148, to allow the Tortosan highlands to pass into the hands of Catalan nobles. In 1143, Alfonso II of Aragón and Barcelona consolidated his power by securing papal assent that the boundaries of the Metropolitan of Tarragona should coincide with those of his possessions. In 1146, he secured the election of Bernard Tort as archbishop and the latter took up residence in Tarragona.

Robert Burdet adopted the permanent style of "count" in 1148 and agreed to rule according to Catalan law. The new archbishop in the following year claimed the right to rule one-fifth of the territory of Tarragona himself directly, and to share equally in the rule of the remainder. Robert resisted, of course, but in a series of legal battles drawn into the courts of his overlord eventually found himself reduced to effective authority in but one-third of his county.

NEWS ITEMS

According to the AARHMS constitution, the business meeting at Kalamazoo in May, 1978 will nominate candidates to run for the office of President and Secretary-Treasurer. The spring Newsletter (that is providing that it is out before the Kalamazoo meeting) will contain an official nomination form for those who will not be attending the meeting but wish to submit a nomination. (The position of editor of the Newsletter is not an elective one, but the incumbent would consider an early retirement if another covets the position.)

In the AHA Newsletter of March, 1977 Professor Charles Gibson, President of the AHA and a member of AARHMS wrote the following article regarding affiliated societies of the AHA. In his article, Professor Gibson proposes questions regarding the existence of organizations such as AARHMS.

GIBSON DISCUSSES AFFILIATED SOCIETIES

By processes of internal division, new creation, or spin-off, our historical societies continue to increase in number. The examples I know best are in the Hispanic and Hispanic American fields, where the Academy of American Research Historians on Medieval Spain has recently come into being alongside the existing Society for Spanish and Portuguese Historical Studies, and where the Conference on Latin American History has recently undergone subdivision into six regional committees, each with its officers and members. Similar developments have taken place in other fields. The specialized and regional historical groups and subgroups in the United States have become legion.

It is a situation that has some advantages. Meeting with friends and colleagues in one's own locality, and confining one's attention to specialists in one's own field may come as welcome contrasts to the hurly-burly of the large annual convention. The smaller groups are noted for their intimacy and camaraderies. Their meetings, if separate from the AHA convention, are likely to be closer to home, held in less expensive hotels, with lower registration fees, for shorter periods, and at more convenient times of the year. Their atmosphere is less hectic. They lack the competition, the stridency, the noise in the lobby, the slave market features, the cumulative fatigue of the AHA.

Moreover the specialized societies are very useful to the national association. They foster historical study in every region. They propose topics and furnish speakers for program sessions. They provide access to organizations, experts, reviewers, and whole memberships in particular fields. If they meet together with the association, the whole convention benefits. By vote of the Council in 1974, the association may grant "affiliated" status to those groups that fulfill the specified criteria: elected officers, identifiable membership, a newsletter or the equivalent (AHA Newsletter, vol. 12, no. 8). By the beginning of the present year, sixty distinct units had requested and received such status.

But there are some corresponding disadvantages, and the officers of the association are puzzled as to how to handle them. The most evident problems may be classified as pragmatic rather than intellectual. At the level of research, learning, and intellectualism generally, relations between the association and the affiliated societies appear to be everything that they should be. But as the proliferation advances we confront the question of limit. Sixty seems already to be a large number of societies for any association to affiliate with. The criteria for affiliation have been applied with some leniency. The association does not gain when one of the smaller groups makes the decision to meet separately, for not all the group's members will be able to attend both meetings, and there will be a temptation to attend only the smaller one. This means reduced registration fees at the annual AHA convention, a matter of small consequence for our budget. Still more serious is the matter of membership itself. As dues and costs of living mount, members inevitably reassess the merits of maintaining their membership in both the larger and the smaller group, and again it may

well be the AHA that takes second place. We have indeed lost some members in recent years. It is true that we have gained other members and that we remain a very large organization. The losses nevertheless are much regretted, and we feel that the process is not yet at an end.

The whole matter is an aspect of a much more pervasive problem. It is not just our historical societies that subdivide and increase in number. History itself does so. For several generations professional encouragement has been given to ever greater specialization. We see it in the books we write, the journals we edit, and the classes we teach. John Hope Franklin tells us of the (hypothetical?) historian who declined to review a book on the history of California citrus crops because his specialty was Florida grapefruit history (Franklin, "The Complete Historian," The Journal of the Great Lakes History Conference, Vol. 1, No. 1, 1976). Nor is this tendency confined to the discipline of history. We live in age of subdivision when many things are coming apart and not being put back together. These are perhaps not the most propitious times for a comprehensive, covering institution such as the AHA. The long term solution, if it comes, may well be at the intellectual level after all. It may involve nothing less than the reversal of the tendency toward specialization, the return--again to cite John Hope Franklin--to the ideal of the "complete historian," and an awareness of a new relationship between the whole and its parts.

The following is Professor Reilly's reply to that article:

Dear Professor Gibson:

I recently read your article on Affiliated Societies of the Association in the AHA Newsletter and I hope that you are not getting too much abuse as a result of it. One does wonder, occasionally, about the future of comprehensive, scholarly societies as each of us burrows deeper into our own specialty; keeping ahead, keeping up, keeping entertained.

Still, as I am sure you know, the annual meeting of the AHA can be a pretty pointless place to be for someone not a historian of the United States or one of the mainstream modern European countries. Did anyone in the office ever do a statistical tabulation of the types of papers read since, say, 1945?

Please understand that I am not being defensive. Let me simply cite the rather short experience of The American Academy of Research Historians on Medieval Spain. We meet ordinarily twice a year: in the Spring in conjunction with The Medieval Conference at Kalamazoo, in Winter at the AHA. Over the past four years, my own rough estimate is that we have likely drawn some dozen or so people to attend the AHA meeting than would otherwise have done so simply because they have something to do there and someone to talk to. Without being in the least critical of past program committees of the AHA, it may be that, given the very size of the Association, the Affiliated Society is a more flexible and discriminating agency for the determination of "where the action is" in an era (epoch?) of specialization.

If something of a case can be made for this argument, then perhaps the AHA ought to think rather more about ways to integrate and encourage them. But please realize that AARHMS, at least, has no current complaints about the controversy, and even cordiality, with which the staff and officers of the AHA have treated it in its brief history. Reading your article, I was simply moved to wonder whether we indeed confront "the question of limit" or whether we again confront "the question of structure".

Personally, I am grateful to you for having moved me to thought.

Sincerely,

Bernard J. Reilly, Secretary/Treasurer, AARHMS

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Comments from Professor Gibson would be welcome in the Spring Newsletter.

The president of AARHMS, Father Robert I. Burns informs us that the National Endowment for the Humanities is again supporting his year's archival research and editing, with a grant of over \$40,000. In April 1977, Father Burns supervised the setting up of his Institute of Medieval Mediterranean Spain, with its specialized library and manuscripts. Those wishing further information should contact Father Burns, C/O the Department of History, UCLA, Los Angeles, California 90024.

Any information related to membership or dues should be directed to the Secretary-Treasurer, Bernard F. Reilly, Villanova University, Villanova, Pennsylvania 19085. All members wishing to include information in the Spring Newsletter should send their material to Benjamin F. Taggie, Central Michigan University, Mt. Pleasant, Michigan 48859.