

## NEWSLETTER

THE ACADEMY OF AMERICAN RESEARCH HISTORIANS ON MEDIEVAL SPAIN

No. 4:2

May, 1978

### NOMINATION OF OFFICERS

According to the constitution and by-laws of AARHMS, the two officers of the Academy, the President and Secretary-Treasurer, are to be nominated at the Spring meeting every second year. As there were less than a dozen members present for the Spring business meeting it was determined that nominations would be solicited by a mail ballot. Since the editor is not a candidate for either office, the task of mailing nominating and election ballots was generously granted to him. Consequently, included with this NEWSLETTER is a nominating ballot and a self-addressed return envelope (you will have to use your own stamp). June 15th will be the deadline for nominations. These two offices have been ably filled the past two years by Father R. I. Burns and Professor Bernard Reilly. Father Burns has expressed his wishes not to be re-elected. Professor Reilly has indicated that with the proper persuasion (a mandate of some form) he would consider a second term as Secretary-Treasurer. I would add that the office of Secretary-Treasurer carries with it considerable work.

#### Art. III Procedures

Sect. 1 "The duties of the President shall be to preside at the Annual Business Meeting, to approve applications for Regional Circles, to appoint an acting Secretary-Treasurer as necessary, and to interpret this constitution should the need arise."

Sect. 2 "The duties of the Secretary-Treasurer shall be to maintain a record of membership and of the Annual Meeting, in concert with the President to arrange for the Annual Meeting and notify the members of it, to coordinate such other meetings of the full Academy as shall be held, to receive dues and make disbursements, to handle necessary correspondence and newsletters and to furnish an account of his stewardship at each Annual Meeting."

I will, of course, contact all nominees to obtain their approval before including their names on the election ballots which will be mailed shortly after June 15th.

### ACADEMIC PROGRAMS CURRENTLY IN PREPARATION

The Academy will present the following program at the AHA in San Francisco, California, in December, 1978. The time, date, and room have not yet been arranged.

Title of Session: Alfonso X (The Wise) King of Castile: Cultural, Juridical And Political Considerations

Chairman of Session: Manuel Marquez-Sterling, Chairman/Social Science Department, Plymouth State College of the University of New Hampshire, Plymouth, N.H.

Participants: 1. Professor Roger Tinnell, Plymouth State College of the University of New Hampshire.

Paper: "Instruments, Instrumentalists and Instrumentation in Las Cantigas de Santa Maria."

2. Professor Robert A. McDonald, University of Richmond, Richmond, Virginia.

Paper: "Some considerations in Editing Alfonsine Juridical Texts."

3. Professor Joseph F. O'Callaghan, Fordham University, New York.

Paper: "Alfonso X, Infante Sancho, the Cortes and the Hermandades."

As of this time no definite program has been selected for the Kalamazoo meeting in May, 1979. Professor Mary-Anne Vetterling of Northeastern University has made a tentative proposal to organize a program on 'Women in Medieval Spanish History.' Anyone interested in participating in such a program might contact myself, Professor Reilly, or Professor Vetterling. The Academy would also welcome additional suggestions for the Kalamazoo meeting. It might also be noted that, although it is in the distant future, the session for the December, 1979 AHA meeting will have to be prepared and submitted within the next eight months. Suggestions, anyone!

#### REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-TREASURER DECEMBER, 1977

The Academy continues to grow at a demure pace. Three new members have joined our ranks since my report of May, 1977, and total membership now stands at ninety-six. At the suggestion of a member, the International Centre of Medieval Art at The Cloisters in New York has been added to our mailing list, bringing to six the number of societies with whom we exchange news on a more or less regular basis.

Our present funds on hand amounts to \$316.55, with the full expenses of this meeting not yet entirely covered perhaps. A total of sixty-nine members have paid Academy dues for the year 1977 to date. Demands on our resources are not very great but the question of what constitutes membership in good standing remains an open one and one which the spring meeting should consider, especially in relationship to the balloting for officers due in the second half of this year. A dues notice will be sent for 1978 in the interim.

The Academy has presented its usual two programs this year, one at Kalamazoo and here again today. A virtual third program was held at Villanova University in the past fall when three members presented papers at that institution's Patristic, Medieval and Renaissance Conference. Professor Benjamin Taggie of Central Michigan University is organizing our program for The Medieval Conference at Kalamazoo. For our meeting with the AHA next December Professor Manuel Marquez-Sterling of Plymouth State College, New Hampshire is attempting to put together a panel on Alfonso el Sabio.

As you will recall from the October, 1977 Newsletter, the American Historical Association has been pondering the role of its Affiliated Societies, of which the Academy is one. That process continues. President-elect William J. Bouwsma of the AHA recently solicited a further statement of views from the officers of such societies and both your President and Secretary-Treasurer have responded. Perhaps despite that fact both of us were invited to the reception following the Presidential address last night.

As to more "in house" activities, the Secretary-Treasurer is compiling a list of archives familiar to the various members of the Academy for publication, hopefully, in the next Newsletter. Interested parties will be asked to contact the Secretary-Treasurer for referral to knowledgeable members. As you know, such activity was contemplated and approved when the Academy authorized the survey of members' activities last year.

The Secretary-Treasurer would also like to suggest to this meeting that the Academy consider the wisdom of a special program in 1980. That year will mark the 900th anniversary of the official adoption of the Roman rite in León-Castile. Together with

the appointment of Bernard of Salvatet as the abbot of Sahagún it would seem to be an appropriate occasion for examining many of the largely unsolved problems concerning the roles of papal, Cluniac, French and native influences in the events of the late eleventh century. The Secretary-Treasurer is considering an approach to The Hispanic Society of New York about the possibility of joint sponsorship. He would welcome expression of opinion as to the desirability and feasibility of such an undertaking, both the program itself and the joint--or multiple--sponsorship of it.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bernard F. Reilly, Secretary-Treasurer

JOINT MEETING WITH THE AHA IN DALLAS, TEXAS, DECEMBER, 1977

Two papers were presented at the Academy's session in Dallas the past December. Heath Dillard of the Institute for Research in Virginia dealt with "Rape, Abduction, and Elopement in Reconquista Castile" in the period roughly bounded by the years 1050 to 1150. She illustrated from the fueros of this period both the continuity of the legal provisions of the Fuero Juzgo regarding such incidents and the modification of that tradition necessitated by the imperatives of the progressive repopulation of conquered land and the continuance of a frontier situation.

The Fuero Juzgo provided for the loss of one-half of the offenders property as a penalty for abduction and, when aggravated by rape, flogging and the loss of all property. Subsequent marriage of the two was forbidden. If, in fact, the abduction and rape were merely formal and the woman was party to the arrangement, the family had the option to simply recognize the factual marriage and, if so disposed, to disinherit the woman involved. This general tradition may be discerned in later fueros.

However, as early as the mid-ninth century local law discriminated between offenses committed within the community as those committed elsewhere. This development continues and the fueros of Alfonso I of Aragón and that of Sepúlveda allow the reception of an abductor and his companion and their protection against their pursuers. The choice is left to the community. Fueros of Alfonso VII, such as those of Oreja and Ocana, added legal provision for a parley of the families involved which might result in a peaceful settlement. The development was not entirely uniform, of course, and fueros of the Cuenca family did not contain such a provision. The conclusion of the paper directed attention to the traditional protection that the law gave to the familiarly-arranged marriage and the property rights of the family necessarily involved in it. But the extraordinary need for population growth effectively limited those guarantees to offenses between residents in the same community while they actively protected such offenders seeking refuge from elsewhere against legal remedy.

Paul Freedman of the University of California at Berkeley presented a paper entitled "An Unsuccessful Attempt at Urban Organization in Twelfth-Century Catalonia." It was based primarily on a contemporary, original but undated parchment of the Archive of the Crown of Aragón which describes a revolt of the men of Vich against their bishop, an event datable in terms of internal evidence to the period 1175-1185.

There is prior evidence of some urban organization at Vich for 1138 when the market right of the townsmen was defended and in 1148 when Ramón Berengar promised not to levy evil taxes. "Probi Homines" are sometimes visible before 1175 at Vich although no such terminology is used in the document itself.

The bishop of Vich, who held paramount but not sole authority in the town, charged that the revolt began with the refusal of his subjects to give surety of their obedience.

The defendants alleged that their actions were designed rather for the better protection of the town. Such actions clearly included the mutual swearing of oaths, the election of consuls and even the setting up of private jails. The judges, drawn from the cathedral chapter derived the episcopal rights from royal grants and borrow, in their vocabulary and precedents, the language of Roman law, especially the Digest. It was pointed out that, though the law was upheld by the court, the punishments were light and that some eighteen "probi humines" can be found negotiating with the bishop of Vich a little later in the century.

Professor Lynn Nelson of the University of Kansas commented on the papers and provoked a lively, subsequent discussion. A third paper planned by Carl J. Post of the University of Kentucky was unfortunately unable to be given.

A short business meeting approved a session to be arranged by Professor Marquez-Sterling of Plymouth State College, New Hampshire on Alfonso el Sabio for next years meeting of the AHA and a possible special meeting for 1980. The point and theme of such a session is made in the Report of the Secretary-Treasurer which the meeting had heard and which is given elsewhere in this Newsletter.

#### SPECIAL REPORT

In the winter and spring of 1977, the Academy conducted a survey of its members, in part to discover with what archives they were familiar or had used. What follows is a list of those archives intended to be of some use to researchers in the field. Interested scholars or organizations should contact the Secretary-Treasurer, Professor Bernard F. Reilly, Department of History, Villanova University, Villanova, PA 19085, for referral to individual members familiar with particular archives.

The listing is made available as a service and is not intended to replace bibliographical guides or archival catalogs. It is intended, at least primarily, to offer friendly assistance in the necessary business of determining hours and seasons of access, identifying local people and archivists who may be helpful, supplying general guidance as to type of materials available and even, in some smaller places, of furnishing some idea as to possibilities or difficulties of lodging.

(The divisions below are pragmatic ones lodged, perhaps unfortunately, in the thought of the Secretary-Treasurer and represent no conscious attempt to sort out the regional identity or preferences of the inhabitants of Iberia.)

#### Andalusia - Granada

Archive of the Alhambra

\_\_\_\_\_ Municipality

\_\_\_\_\_ Notarial College

\_\_\_\_\_ Royal Chancery

Seville--Archivo de la Casa ducal de Medinaceli

#### Castile, Old and New

Astorga - Cathedral Archive

Burgos - Cathedral Archive

- Archive of the Consulado
- Municipal Archive
- Covarrubias - Church Archive
- El Escorial
- Guadalajara - Provincial Archive
- León
  - Cathedral Archive
  - Diocesan Archive
  - Archive of San Isidoro
- Madrid
  - Archivo Histórico Nacional
  - Archivo Histórico de Protocolos
  - Instituto de Valencia de D. Juan
  - Library of the Duke of Alba
  - Library of Lázaro-Galdiano
  - Library of Bartolomé March
  - Library of the Royal Palace
  - National Library
  - Royal Academy of History
- Palencia - Cathedral Archive
- Salamanca
  - Cathedral Archive
  - University Library
- Segovia
  - Cathedral Archive
  - Municipal Archive
  - Provincial Archive
- Sigüenaa - Cathedral Archive
- Silos - Monastic Archive
- Simancas - Archivo General
- Soria - Casa de Cultura
- Toledo - Cathedral Archive
- Valladolid - Archive of the Province and the University

Catalonia and Valencia

- Ametla - local archive
- Arenys de Mar - local archive
- Balguer - local archive
- Banyoles - local archive
- Barcelona
  - Archivo de la Corona de Aragón
  - Biblioteca Central de Catalunya
  - Cathedral Archive
  - Diocesan Archive
  - Municipal Archive
  - Provincial Archive, Franciscan Order
  - Sant Pere de les Puelles
  - Biblioteca de Palau
  - Biblioteca de la Real Academia de Buenas Letras
  - Biblioteca del Seminario Diocesano
- Berga - parish archives
- Besalú - local archive
- Gerona
  - Cathedral Archive
  - Diocesan Archive
  - Biblioteca Provincial
- Granollers - local archive
- Montserrat - monastic archive
- Olot - local archive
- Palma - Archivo Histórico de Mallorca
- Perelada - Biblioteca de

Sentmenat - local archive  
Tarragona - Biblioteca Diocesano  
- Biblioteca Provincial  
Terrassa - local archive  
Urgell - Cathedral Archive  
Valencia - Archivo de Reino de  
Vich - Cathedral Archive  
- Diocesan Archive  
Zaragoza - Municipal Archive

Galicia, Asturias, Basque

Castro Urdiales - local archive  
La Coruna - Archivo del Reino de Galicia  
Laredo - local archive  
Orense - Cathedral Archive  
- Provincial Archive  
San Vincente de la Barquera - local archive  
Santander - Archivo Municipal  
- Archivo Provincial  
- Biblioteca Menéndez Pelayo  
Túy - Cathedral Archive

South French Departmental Archives

Marseille (Bouches du Rhone)  
Montpellier (Hérault)  
Perpignan (Pyrénées-Orientales)  
Toulouse (Haute-Garonne)

U.S. - Collection of The Hispanic Society

(Additions and corrections will be gratefully received.)

THE CONTINUING SAGA OF THE AHA AND AFFILIATED SOCIETIES

In the Fall NEWSLETTER the issue of the AHA and affiliated societies was discussed in considerable detail. The Fall issue included the comments of Professor Charles Gibson, who at the time was president of the AHA. The NEWSLETTER also included Bernie Reilly's reply to Gibson's article.

Since the publishing of the Fall NEWSLETTER, the matter of affiliated societies has continued to be one of considerable controversy. Following are the comments of the Academy's president, Father Robert Burns to the new president of the AHA, William J. Bouwsma.

"Dear Professor Bouwsma:

Your letter of September 27 raises important points. I've delayed my response, hoping that business would slow down sufficiently to allow a properly reasoned and expressed reply. But I'm afraid a hurried and briefer note will have to serve. Our Secretary-Treasurer of the American Academy of Research Historians on Medieval Spain did send a response, but I would like to add my own ideas.

I have been very active in the more specialized groups (recently president of the American Catholic Historical Association, currently president of the Academy just named, serving on the executive council of the Medieval Academy, the Medieval Association of the Pacific, the Society for Spanish and Portuguese Historical Studies, and other such bodies, and currently helping to organize the national body on Catalan letters and history, as well as serving on the program arrangements for the coming West Coast meeting of the American Society of Church History). I have found, as so many of us have experienced, that here is the true locus of scholarly fellowship--a rigorous professionalism, immediate and human interaction, accessibility of both new and old practitioners, and a really community involvement without "hidden" politics.

The American Historical Association I have not neglected, and I never miss a meeting. But it is too huge and hollow: no center holds it together, no bonds unite across the specialties. In effect it is an organization which assumes that history began, or began to be interesting, within the last few hundred years. I realize that noble efforts are being made to redress the balance, but the stamp of contemporaneity still lies heavy on the organization. If I make this point, it is not to complain but to hope that you as president may further push our unwieldy national body toward some centrality among historians, to make a Copernican revolution by which the special groups will orbit a warm and nourishing central sun.

The problem of course is how to achieve this. Your own suggestion, that the specialized groups be disciplined into choosing larger horizons for their topics, or made to join in collaboration with one or other fellow-group, or urged to accept an outsider as commentator, has merit. But it seems to me to miss the main problem of all: that it is the central association which is deficient. Tinkering with the lively specialized groups is as likely to drive them away as to attract them, and in any case could only alleviate symptoms.

I suggest rather that we take a page from the successful International Congresses of the Historical Sciences (I do hope I got that title right!). They pose general questions at the very heart of the main program; broad topics like Nomadism, Minorities, Colonies and the like, or Family and Kin, Revolt, Play could bring together every sort of specialist across the spectrum. If we abandon the "medieval", "19th century," "Latin American" and similar traditional categories for AHA conventions (which, after all, have always amounted to inchoate specialist clusterings), and restructure the annual program around topics which are relevant to all times and places, the AHA would at a stroke achieve centrality. The specialist groups would continue, but now as organic parts of the main body, since they would be drawn into a broad-ranging participation inside the AHA itself, supplying participants and audience.

Perhaps, as with the International body, some chronological segmentation might still be necessary; but it would be secondary under such a topical scheme. One practical problem would be the professor who has a paper or thesis-chapter and is seeking an audience to impose it upon: the stress on writing on a set theme, within one's expertise, might frighten away the non-adventurous.

If any of the above is useful, it will have been worth the time I could ill-afford for dashing it down. If it seems impracticable or even incoherent, lay it all to rest in some handy drawer. You are on the right track, in sensing that we are in a moment of transition as an organization, and that this offers both crises (increasing fragmentation?) and great opportunities (that Copernican restructuring?).

Sincerely,

Robert I. Burns, S.J."

ANNOUNCEMENTS

On Saturday, January 14, at the Mid-Year Convocation of Loyola University of Chicago, Father Robert I. Burns, S.J., delivered the Commencement Address and received the degree of Doctor of Letters, honoris causa.

Professor Norman Roth of the University of Wisconsin, Madison, has been awarded the Elliott Prize of the Medieval Academy of America for his article "The Jews and the Muslim Conquest of Spain" (Jewish Social Studies 37, Spring 1976, pp. 145-158). The award was made at the annual meeting of the Academy at Yale on April 15.

Professor Norman Holub of Dowling College is completing the organization of the Mediterranean III Conference to be held in Barcelona, Spain, July 31 - August 2, 1978. Mediterranean III will emphasize recent research in Iberia and other lands of the Mediterranean basin. Catalan and Balearic Studies will constitute one session and a broader and more comprehensive Mediterranean session will form the remainder of the program. Several members of AARHMS will be presenting papers at Mediterranean III.

The co-organizer of Mediterranean III is Professor Pedro Voltes Bou, Director of the Institute de Historia de Barcelona and Chairman of the Department of History of the University of Barcelona. In addition to Dowling College, the Conference is being co-sponsored by the Institute Municipal de Historia, the Pueblo Espanol Association, the Del Mar Foundation (Washington D.C.) and the Academy of Research Historians on Medieval Spain. The Ayuntamiento of Barcelona will serve as host for the conference.

There are still a limited number of copies of Mediterranean II Malta available for sale. The volume of the proceedings, Contributions to Mediterranean Studies, ed. Mario Vassalo (Malta Univ. Press, 1977) can be ordered through the U.S. distributor, Dowling College. Please have your acquisitions librarian send a check (\$34.00) or order made out to Dowling College, Oakdale, N.Y. 11769. Attention: Professor Norman Holub, History. Contributions contains 23 articles on recent Mediterranean research with an emphasis on Iberian and Maltese studies.

Have a good summer and don't forget to return your nomination ballot.

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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 Fall NEWSLETTER should send their material to Benjamin F. Taggie, Central Michigan University, Mt. Pleasant, Michigan 48859.