

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF RESEARCH HISTORIANS OF MEDIEVAL SPAIN

NEWSLETTER

Volume 9: 1 October, 1982

KALAMAZOO MEETING (May 8, 1982)

Report of the Secretary-Treasurer

It is my pleasure to report that the American Academy of Research Historians of Medieval Spain has negotiated the past year with both solvency and success. Both nouns must be understood, of course, within the relatively modest framework of our continuing operations.

As to solvency, our bank balance as of May 4, 1982 stood at \$943.41 as against a balance of \$759.59 on May 4, 1981. To date, some sixty-eight members have paid their dues for calendar year 1982 and checks continue to be received as the result of a second notice sent out within the past two weeks.

Our success may be variously measured and recorded for "success" is a slippery word. One index certainly is our ability to continue to attract new members. This May, membership stands at an all time high of 122. The net increase of sixteen members is doubtless ultimately beyond the possibility of adequate historical explanation but at least the occasion of the increase may be discerned. The Academy continues to present a program twice a year in conjunction with both the Medieval Conference and that of the American Historical Association. In addition it is sometimes associated with special scholarly meetings and on all of these occasions the brochure of the Academy is made available. I can therefore tell you that seven new members made use of the application contained therein to join after the AHA meeting in December, 1981 and ten new members did the same after the special conference on James I and Alfonso X at UCLA in May, 1981. The latter was not explicitly an Academy function of course but many of our members figured prominently in its proceedings. Whether the excellence of our panels or the excellence of our brochure tells more heavily in these individual decisions is perhaps matter for research.

In any case, we will continue our practice in both respects. At this point, Professor James F. Powers of the College of the Holy Cross (Worcester) has already organized a panel for the AHA meeting in Washington, D.C. in December of this year. Our president, Professor Joseph O'Callaghan, has asked me to try to find someone to organize a panel, or possibly panels, for this particular conference in spring, 1983.

Professor O'Callaghan also asked me to announce that he has appointed Professor James W. Brodman of the University of Central Arkansas to manage the nominations and election of a President and a Secretary-Treasurer of the Academy. As of this moment then, any member is free to make nominations to Professor Brodman, provided that the consent of the nominee has been secured.

Respectfully submitted,

Bernard F. Reilly

"The Chronicles of Pero López de Ayala: A Literary Form of History,"  
by Heanon M. Wilkins and Constance L. Wilkins

In addition to the historical value of the chronicles of Pedro I, Enrique II, Juan I and Enrique III, Pero López de Ayala's narratives are also representative examples of the language and literature of late fourteenth and early fifteenth-century Spain. Ayala was an eyewitness and an active participant in many of the events he chronicled. Like his contemporary, French historian Froissart, Ayala believes that historical truth can only be assured by use of eyewitnesses, whereas Lopes, their Portuguese counterpart, insists that the document is a far superior source. Even though Ayala states in his prologue the intention to rely upon eyewitnesses, it is apparent that he relies on and cites a considerable number of documents, a tendency which increases in the chronicles of Juan I and Enrique III when, as chancellor, Ayala has direct access to this data.

As Ayala believes in the moral-didactic function of history, he is very aware of his noble audience, who will learn from his report and from his interpretation of history. Discussed in the paper are some of the means by which Ayala interests and convinces his audience, including formulaic devices, exclamations, brief quotations, speeches and letters. Fictional materials and episodes are also discussed and two dramatized scenes are analyzed. It is clear that within a certain inflexibility stemming from the events themselves, the author's point of view, intent and rhetorical mode have combined to produce a literary form whose aesthetic dimensions make it as valuable for its literary aspect as for its contribution to definitive history.

#### CENTRO NACIONAL DE CONSERVACION Y MICROFILMACION DOCUMENTAL Y BIBLIOGRAFICA

In mid-winter of last year the Secretary-Treasurer received the latest "Inventario" of holdings from the Centro. This fortuitous event then suggested that it might be useful to publicize the existence and holdings of this less than universally known institution to such members of the Academy as might still be either unaware of it or unfamiliar with the extent of its holdings.

Since 1954 the Centro has been more or less actively microfilming medieval manuscripts and archival materials scattered in the various local, private, and ecclesiastical archives of Spain. The results of that effort have been printed in three "Inventarios" which correspond roughly to three distinct campaigns carried out as funds became available to them. The first and largest of these was printed by the Dirección General de Archivos y Bibliotecas in 1970 and describes materials filmed between 1954 and 1964. The second, published in 1975, resumed the materials gathered through 1964 and 1974. The third, and the inspiration of this report, was published in 1981 and covered additional resources filmed between 1975 and 1979.

The procedures followed in this process seem sometimes to have been eclectic and other times to have been almost superfluous but anyone familiar with the idiosyncrasies of Spanish archives will be sympathetic as well as grateful for the very solid if uneven results. The films, as noted before, are composed of medieval manuscripts of literary character but also of chartularies, legal, and

scientific codexes, and there are as well large collections of archival documents.

The 1954-1964 campaign resulted in the photographing for instance of manuscripts, including some early modern ones, at the Real Academia de la Historia, of a variety of materials at the Archivo Histórico Nacional itself, and of some of the outstanding manuscripts of the Biblioteca Nacional. All of these materials were already fairly accessible to anyone who visited Madrid. But is also gathered in some manuscripts of Spanish origin in the Morgan Library and The Hispanic Society of New York, some from the British Museum, the Bibliothèque Nationale, and even a ninth-century Origen from the Bibliothèque de la Ville in Lyons.

In Spain beyond the capital again there are materials from relatively accessible places like the Archivo de la Corona de Aragón in Barcelona and the cathedral and university archives and library in Salamanca. But the great virtue of the collection, from the point of view of this reporter, is that it includes masses of materials from such difficult places of access or such remote places as the cathedral archives of Burgos, Burgo de Osma, León, Lugo, Oviedo, Sigüenza, and Zamora.

The "Inventario" for the period 1964-1974 shows a much more restricted activity and harvest. Most notable among the acquisitions of that period are materials from the cathedrals of Huesca, Jaca, Segovia, Urgel, and Vich. Places as various as Avila, Paris, the Canaries, and Santo Domingo de Silos are also represented by some films however.

The third campaign, between 1975 and 1979, reflects more vigor and a notable and welcome tightening of standards. For example, many of the earlier films from the cathedrals of Burgo de Osma and León were so poorly done that sections of them were simple illegible. These have been newly photographed with much improved results. In addition, the Archivo de la Diputación in Burgos was covered as were the Archivo Condes de Luna, all in León. In addition, work was done at such places as the Archivo del Reino de Mallorca and more manuscripts were photographed in the cathedral of Segovia.

All in all the result is impressive. It is by no means complete however. Outstanding collections remain to be done and hopefully will be. Very few of the materials, for instance, in the cathedral archive of Toledo have been copied and in 1981 the hours there for scholars to work were limited to 11 AM to 1 PM daily. The copious materials in the cathedral archive at Orense remain untouched and that archive is open only by appointment. The very strong collection in the archive of the realm of Galicia at La Coruña is uncopied and, while available to scholars on the scene, requires a formidable journey from Madrid however pleasant.

With these caveats, however, one must recognize that the Centro has amassed a collection, housed in the Archivo Histórico Nacional in Madrid, that considerably simplifies the work and travels of the Hispanic medievalist. Even better, in my experience they are most efficient and obliging in the making of copies of their films which can be obtained without even leaving one's campus. In fact if one has a relatively limited project and a precise idea of what is required for it, ordering by airmail is the best way to do it. I regret to report that as of 1981 the microfilm readers at the Archivo Histórico Nacional are only two in number

and have all the infirmities associated with advanced old age.

--Bernard F. Reilly

## NUEVAS FUENTES PARA LA HISTORIA DE CASTILLA

Professor Juan José García González, Director of the Department of Medieval History, of the Colegio Universitario de Burgos announces this series to be edited by his department. Consisting of 24 volumes of approximately 400 pages each, this collection will print in extenso (up to the year 1400) or calendar (for those between 1400 and 1550) documents from these sources: The Monastery of San Juan de Burgos (1091-1550), the Cathedral of Burgos (825-1550), the Monastery of San Salvador de Oña (1285-1550), the Cathedral of Palencia (1037-1550), the Monastery of Las Huelgas de Burgos (1179-1550), the Monastery of Santa Maria de Aguilar de Campoo (1169-1550), the Monastery of San Zoilo de Carrión (1047-1550), the Monastery of Santa Maria de Rioseco (1147-1550), the medieval hospitals of Burgos (1085-1550). Professor García would appreciate hearing from those members of the Academy who are interested in this project and who would find its materials to be of value in their work.

## CALLS FOR PAPERS

### AARHMS Sessions:

- 1) The session to be sponsored at the May, 1983 meeting of the Medieval Conference at Kalamazoo is being organized by: Thomas M. Izbicki, Institute of Medieval Canon Law, School of Law (Boalt Hall), University of California, Berkeley, California 94720.
- 2) The 1983 meeting with the American Historical Association, to be held at San Francisco, is being organized by John C. Shideler, Department of History, Gonzaga University, Spokane, Washington 99258. Professor Shideler includes in his call the observation that most sessions sponsored by the Academy in past years have dealt with Castile and Catalonia between the twelfth and fourteenth centuries. He believes that other areas like Visigothic Spain, post-conquest Spain (to c. 1000), Muslim Spain and North Africa have been underrepresented. While he remains open to themes from the "traditional areas," he welcomes suggestions from these other areas.

### NON-AARHMS PROGRAMS

- 1) Professor Norman Holub of Dowling College (Oakdale, Long Island, NY 11769) announces the Mediterranean VII Conference, to be held at Soller (Majorca) between July 19 and 21, 1983. The major theme will be Mallorcan history, culture and archeology.
- 2) The Society for Spanish and Portuguese Historical Studies announces its Fourteenth Annual Meeting, to be held at Boston College, April 22-24, 1983. Proposals for papers or for full sessions should be sent before October 31,

1982 to: Professor James F. Powers, Chairman, SSPHS Program Committee, Department of History, College of the Holy Cross, Worcester MA 01610. Proposals should be accompanied by a brief abstract of the papers and/or sessions and a c.v. for each participant.

#### WASHINGTON MEETING (December 28, 1982)

"The Western Mediterranean Crescent: Catalonia and Languedoc in the Central Middle Ages," Council Room, Shoreham Hotel, 9:30-11:30 a.m., Professor James F. Powers (College of the Holy Cross) presiding.

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

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

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

#### REPORT ON THE ELECTION OF NEW OFFICERS

The following individuals have been nominated by members of the Academy:

for President of the Academy--	Professor Bernard F. Reilly (Villanova University)
	Professor James F. Powers (College of the Holy Cross)
	Professor Jill Webster (University of Toronto)
for Secretary/Treasurer--	Professor Lynn Nelson (University of Kansas)
	Professor T.F. Ruiz (City University of New York)

Members of the Academy are invited to vote, using the ballot included elsewhere in the NEWSLETTER, for one individual for each office. Terms will commence January 1, 1983 and run for two years.

--James W. Brodman

(The following abstract is of a paper also presented at the 1982 Kalamazoo meeting.)

"The Portrait of Alfonso VI in Jimenez de Rada's De Rebus Hispaniae," by Bernard F. Reilly

The first business of the paper was to establish the approximate dates of Jiménez de Rada's composition of his chronicle. Since the author himself said that he finished it on March 31, 1243, and since much of the De Rebus is simply derived from Lucas of Túy's Chronicon Mundi, finished about 1238, the conclusion was that Jiménez de Rada was actively writing in the relatively brief period between 1240 and March, 1243.

The sources employed for the De Rebus were then taken up. The argument was that the account of Alfonso VI's reign in Lucas of Túy's Chronicon Mundi was basic in terms of both organization and information for the former, supplying roughly forty percent of its lines in almost simply recopying. Into this framework, Jimenez de Rada interpolated portions from two other major sources. One of these was a vita or gesta of the first Archbishop of Toledo after the reconquest of 1085, Bernard of Sauvetot (1086-1125). Nineteen percent of the lines of the De Rebus may be credited to such a lost work. The argument was also made for Jiménez de Rada's use of a now lost Cantar de Alfonso VI, to which were attributed another thirty-two percent of his lines.

Three smaller portions of the De Rebus were formed by a brief account of the downfall of Alfonso's younger brother, King García of Galicia, a paraphrase of the charter of Alfonso VI to Toledo of December 18, 1086, and by the text of a bull of Pope Gelasius II of March 25, 1118. The latter two might already have appeared in the vita of Archbishop Bernard.

Finally, the argument was made that Jiménez de Rada's generally favorable portrait of Alfonso VI represented his own predilections. The evidence for this assertion was based on some alterations he made to the text of Lucas of Tuy, which latter source has survived independently, and on his choice not to use the Cantar of Sancho II or the Cantar de mio Cid, both of which he would likely have known and which presented a much less favorable picture of Alfonso VI.

## JOURNAL OF HISPANIC PHILOLOGY

The editors of the Journal of Hispanic Philology invite members of the Academy to submit for consideration manuscripts in the areas of historical writing and intellectual history. They are particularly sensitive to scholarship which does not "fit" any existing vehicle for publication, such as Latin letters. The Journal's scope encompasses the entire Iberian Peninsula; current books are reviewed. Please follow the MLA style. The address is: Department of Modern Languages and Linguistics, Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida 32306.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REVIEWS

Members are reminded that the Newsletter is interested in receiving notices of their current publications and will consider reviews for significant books not likely to be reviewed in the large journals.

## B A L L O T

American Academy of Research Historians of Medieval Spain

## PRESIDENT:

JAMES F. POWERS           [ ]

BERNARD F. REILLY       [ ]

JILL WEBSTER             [ ]

## SECRETARY/TREASURER:

LYNN NELSON             [ ]

T.F. RUIZ                [ ]

Please return this ballot by November 23, 1982 to:

Professor James W. Brodman  
Department of History  
University of Central Arkansas  
Conway, Arkansas 72032