

## REVIEWS

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**Jaume I, 2011. *Jaume I. Commemoració del VIII centenari del naixement de Jaume I, Volum 1, El poder reial i les institucions. La política internacional. La família reial i la política successòria. La figura de Jaume I. El món cultural i artístic*, M.T. Ferrer i Malloll (ed.), Barcelona, Institut d'Estudis Catalans, Fons Noguera, 938 p. ISBN: 978-84-9965-086-9**

**Jaume I, 2013. *Jaume I. Commemoració del VIII centenari del naixement de Jaume I, Volum 2, L'economia rural. L'articulació urbana. Les institucions eclesiàstiques. L'expansió territorial. El comerç*, M.T. Ferrer i Malloll (ed.), Barcelona, Institut d'Estudis Catalans, Fons Noguera, 885 p. ISBN: 978-84-9965-158-3**

Between 2008 and 2010 the History and Archaeology Section of the Institute of Catalan Studies (IEC) organized various events in commemoration of two kings of Aragon. In 2008, on the occasion of the eighth centenary of the birth of King James I, the IEC organized several congresses in different locations within the former territories of the Crown of Aragon: in Barcelona, at IEC's building, in collaboration with the European Institute of the Mediterranean; in Lleida, at the Institut d'Estudis Ilerdencs; in Majorca, in collaboration with the Consell and with the support of the European Institute of the Mediterranean; in Gandia, together with the CEIC Alfons el Vell de Gandia; and in Girona, at the University, with the support of the Ministry of Public Works of the Generalitat. Moreover, the Institution Fernando el Católico hosted another event in Zaragoza in coordination with the IEC, in order to avoid covering the same topics.

In 2010, the IEC organized a congress in commemoration of the sixth centenary of the death of King Martin the Humane, who died without male issue, the interregnum and the Compromise of Caspe.

The proceedings of the congresses on King James I were published between 2011 and 2013, and those of the congress on King Martin the Humane has recently been published. The publication of the proceedings of the congresses on King James I was due in 2013, but a small delay in order to finish the annotations on the *Crònica de Pere el Cerimoniós* suddenly turned into a great delay, for in Summer 2013 I was diagnosed an illness that eventually required surgery and a long treatment that continues to this day. An illness that deprived me of the courage to keep on working on the proceedings during this time.

The contributions to the congresses on King James I, except those presented at the congress in Zaragoza, which were published by the Institution Fernando el Católico, make up two big volumes. The simultaneous publication of the two volumes allowed us to organize the contributions by

theme, in contrast with the more local interests of each particular congress, e.g. the conquest of Majorca in Palma, or the conquest of the Kingdom of Valencia in Gandia.

We could not arrange the contributions according to their specific theme, so we opted for large thematic topics. One of them is the royal power and the administrative and representative institutions during the reign of James I, which includes the powers of the king, the government of the territory, the chancery, law, justice, army or the *Corts*. Other thematic blocks are foreign policy, the perception of King James I in his day and later centuries, the cultural, artistic and scientific milieu, language and literature, etc. The second volume includes the blocks related to rural economy, urban development, ecclesiastical institutions, territorial expansion, i.e. the conquests of Majorca and the Kingdom of Valencia, and trade, which experienced a significant growth during the reign of this monarch. These two volumes offer an in-depth knowledge of the different aspects of the reign of James I, the most important king of the medieval Crown of Aragon, whose territory doubled in size due to his conquests. I hope the knowledge gathered in these volumes will be useful for future generations, as it was that derived from the first congress devoted to this monarch in 1908.

MARIA TERESA FERRER I MALLOL

**SALES CARBONELL, Jordina (2012). *Las construcciones cristianas de la «Tarraconensis» durante la Antigüedad Tardía: topografía, arqueología e historia*, Barcelona: Publicacions i Edicions de la Universitat de Barcelona. 463 págs. ISBN: 978-84-475-3608-5.**

By the end of 2012, hardly a year after the defence of her doctoral dissertation (Universitat de Barcelona) entitled *Edilicia cristiana hispana en la Antigüedad Tardía: la Tarraconensis— which is available online since 2011* (<http://www.tdx.cat/handle/10803/22699>)—Dr. Jordina Sales published the monograph that is the subject of this review. Her work has improved our understanding of paleo-christian archaeology in late antique Tarraconensis, and, consequently, has renewed the historiographic picture and has introduced new methodologies of analysis that are starting to be adopted by the Spanish academic community.

For a long time, the position of the fourth- and fifth-century Hispania within the European historiography was accurately described by the phrase coined by Charles Pietri: “la España del silencio” (the silent Spain). The documentary and architectural evidence necessary to understand construction during the fourth and fifth centuries were scarce, and attention was focused on a few well-known urban settlements—e.g. Merida—and monumental remains—such as the walls of Lugo and Barcelona.

The situation changed when a series of meritorious works—based both in archaeological and documentary evidence—were published which shed new light on a period perceived as “dark”; the first of these works is the pioneering state-of-the-art analysis carried out by Pere de Palol ([1967], *Arqueología cristiana de la España romana: siglos IV al VI*, Madrid-Valladolid: CSIC). Despite the many discoveries that occurred after its publication, Palol’s book is still an essential reference, for it opened the way to the studies on paleo-Christian archaeology in the Iberian peninsula, and also because it lists around fifty paleo-Christian buildings. The book under review covers a broader chronological range and analyses every Christian building remains between 313 and 711, thus significantly increasing the number of cases—257 just in the late imperial Tarraconensis, plus those with poor access and several others known only from historical documents: villages transformed into monasteries (no. 258 of the list) and examples of rock architecture (no. 259). It is worth noting the study of fifteen episcopal sites: *Auca* (Oca), *Ausona* (Vic), *Barcino* (Barcelona), *Caesaraugusta* (Zaragoza), *Calagurris* (Calahorra), *Dertosa* (Tortosa), *Egara* (Terrassa), *Empuria* (Empúries), *Gerunda* (Girona), *Ilerda* (Lleida), *Oscá* (Huesca), *Pompaelo* (Pamplona), *Turiasso* (Tarazona), *Tarraco* (Tarragona) y *Vrgellum* (La Seu d’Urgell).

As the author claims in page 33, this work aims at making an inventory of Christian buildings by retrieving, sifting and sorting data related to each of the Christian churches in the Tarraconensis, regardless of the origin of the evidence (documentary evidence, archaeological evidence, or both). To this end, the author has assembled a wealth of data from different sources, a gathering characterized by the fragmentary nature of the documents and also by the fragility, geographical dispersion and ‘capacity for camouflage’ of the archaeological remains.

In order to facilitate information retrieval and use, the author has classified the data on the basis of current geographical regions: Aragón (pp. 83-109), Asturias (pp. 110), Cantabria (pp. 111-116), Castilla-León (pp. 117-137), Catalonia (pp. 138-326), La Rioja (pp. 327-353), Navarra (pp. 354-357), País Vasco (pp. 358-366), Comunitat Valenciana (pp. 367-368), and Principality of Andorra (pp. 80-82). For each region, information is organized by provinces, and then by municipalities in alphabetical order (including the Latin name of the site if known). Each municipality consists of a record with the following fields: a) documents (late antiquity sources and analyses); b) identifiable archaeological elements; and c) interpretation and assessment. Therefore, this work’s structure and methodology put it at the same level as those pieces that were also pioneering works in their respective countries: Krautheimer, R. *et alii* (1937-1977), *Corpus basilicarum Christianarum Romae. Le basiliche cristiane antiche di Roma (saec. IV-IX)*, Città del Vaticano: Pontificio Istituto di Archeologia Cristiana, 5 vol.; Gauthier, N. *et alii* (1986-2002), *Topographie chrétienne des cités de la Gaule*, Paris: Boccard, 12 vol.; Duval, N. (1995-...), *Les premiers monuments chrétiens de la France*, Paris: Boccard.

The present volume is key to understand the dynamics of the process of Christianization, as well as the episcopal strategies to Christianize both the urban nuclei and the surrounding *ager*. This is the reason why the author not only takes into consideration those archaeological sites related to episcopal sees—including *suburbia*—but also non-episcopal nuclei and rural areas. The main result of this extensively documented compendium is the fact that current archaeological information can be understood in the light of a new interpretative framework, which has been used by the author to detect a set of indications—making use of repetitions. This is very much in line with the methodology that Agustín Azkárate has dubbed “cultura de los indicios” (culture of evidence) or “arqueología indiciaria” (evidential archaeology) (prologue to Iñaki García [2002], *Arqueología y poblamiento en Bizkaia, siglos VI-XII*, Bilbao: Diputación Foral de Bizkaia).

Among the main arguments that have allowed the author to detect potential Christian buildings we can highlight: 1) toponymy and Late Antiquity dedications (e.g. Martín, Cugat, Helena, Eulalia, Cecilia, Sadurní, Anastasia, Amancio, etc.); 2) the presence of a Late Antiquity necropolis next to a early medieval church; 3) the pre-existence of Late Antiquity villa; 4) the presence of funerary materials outside the city walls or in rural areas; 5) the existence of burials of clergy; 6) the presence of Late Antiquity necropolises inside the *pomoerium*; 7) isolation of architectural structures from the forum (particularly so if Christianity arrived in the area in the third or fourth centuries); 8) a Romanesque church built over Roman baths, pagan temples or in the forum area; 9) the presence of Late Antiquity materials that have been reused; and 10) mentions to a “very old church” in historical documents related to Early Medieval buildings. The different degrees of reliability of the evidence has led the author to classify each of the sites of the catalogue according to a hierarchy (p.78): a) reliable or very reliable proofs of Christian constructions have no mark; b) very likely indications of Christian buildings are marked with an asterisk; c) likely evidence are marked with two asterisks; and d) probable constructions are marked with three asterisks. This methodology has allowed the author to identify Late Antiquity churches that were not known, and its success supports her (original and suggestive) claim (p.163) about the existence of an amphitheatre in the vicinity of the present basilica of Santa Maria del Mar—built over a former Late Antiquity factory. This possibility is just outlined in the text, but it has been extensively explored in Sales, J. (2011), “Santa María de las Arenas, Santa María del Mar y el anfiteatro romano de Barcelona”, *Revista de Arqueología de Ponent*, 21, pp. 61-73.

To sum up, Dr. Sales’s pioneering monograph presents an extraordinary research tool of great utility for those interested in delving further in all matters related to Christian constructions in Late Antiquity Tarraconensis. Actually, her methodology and catalogue structure have already been proposed as models for future inventories of the rest of provinces of Late Antiquity Hispania (see Ripoll, G. et al. [2012], “La arquitectura religiosa hispánica del siglo IV al X y el proyecto del *Corpus architecturae religiosae Europae-CARE-Hispania*”, *Hortus Artium Medievalium*, 18/1, pp. 45-73, particularly pp. 45-49, 55 and 62).

CARLES BUENACASA PÉREZ

**Fuentes, 2010. Fuentes para el estudio del negocio fiscal y financiero en los Reinos hispánicos (siglos XIV-XVI), A. Collantes de Terán Sánchez (ed.), Madrid, Ministerio de Economía y Hacienda, Instituto de Estudios Fiscales, Universidad de Málaga – Red Arca Comunis, ISBN: 978-84-8008-330-0**

**Dinero, 2011. El dinero de Dios. Iglesia y fiscalidad en el Occidente medieval (siglos XIII-XV), D. Menjot y M. Sánchez Martínez (eds.), Madrid, Ministerio de Economía y Hacienda, Instituto de Estudios Fiscales, Universidad de Málaga – Red Arca Comunis, ISBN: 978-84-8008-339-3**

**Ámbitos, 2011. Los ámbitos de la fiscalidad: fronteras, territorio y percepción de tributos en los Imperios ibéricos (siglos XV-XVIII), L. Salas Almela (ed.), Madrid, Ministerio de Economía y Hacienda, Instituto de Estudios Fiscales, Universidad de Málaga – Red Arca Comunis, ISBN: 978-84-8008-343-0**

**Busca, 2012. En busca de Zaqueo: Los recaudadores de impuestos en las épocas medieval y moderna, A. Galán Sánchez y E. García Fernández (eds.), Madrid, Ministerio de Economía y Hacienda, Instituto de Estudios Fiscales, Universidad de Málaga – Red Arca Comunis, ISBN: 978-84-8008-352-2**

**Haciendas, 2012. Las Haciendas medievales en el País Vasco y La Rioja. Textos para su estudio, F.J. Goicolea Julián, y E. García Fernández (eds.), Madrid, Ministerio de Economía y Hacienda, Instituto de Estudios Fiscales, Universidad de Málaga – Red Arca Comunis, ISBN: 978-84-8008-351-5**

**Tesoreros, 2012. Tesoreros, “arrendadores” y financieros en los reinos hispánicos: la Corona de Castilla y el Reino de Navarra (siglos XIV- XVII), E. García Fernández, y I. Vítóres Casado (eds.), Madrid, Ministerio de Economía y Hacienda, Instituto de Estudios Fiscales, Universidad de Málaga – Red Arca Comunis, ISBN: 978-84-8008-357-7**

**Alimento, 2013. El alimento del Estado y la salud de la “Res Publica”: orígenes, estructura y desarrollo del gasto público en Europa, A. Galán Sánchez, y J.M. Carretero Zamora, J. M.(eds.), Madrid, Ministerio de Economía y Hacienda, Instituto de Estudios Fiscales, Universidad de Málaga – Red Arca Comunis, ISBN: 978-84-8008-366-9**

**Agentes, 2014. Agentes de los sistemas fiscales en Andalucía y los reinos hispánicos (siglos XIII-XVIII): un modelo comparativo, M. Borrero, J. Carrasco, R. Peinado (eds), Madrid, Ministerio de Economía y Hacienda, Instituto de Estudios Fiscales, Universidad de Málaga – Red Arca Comunis, ISBN 978-84-8008-375-1**



This text reviews all publications to date of the Arca Communis Network and the Instituto de Estudios Fiscales. The Arca Communis Network consists of several research projects from different universities and institutions. The topic of all projects revolves around taxation in the different Iberian kingdoms in the 13th-18th centuries. Since its inception, the network (born in 2008 and based in the University of Malaga) has aimed at disseminating the results of its seminars and scientific meetings, which are at the origin of the eight publications under review.

If we consider the topic of the different volumes we can see that many of them have their focus on the financial agents. “En busca de Zaqueo: los recaudadores de impuestos en las épocas medieval y moderna” (2012) puts the emphasis on tax collectors: those at the service of the king, the Church, lords or councils. Moreover, the numerous contributions stress the role of the structures of financial businesses, linking them—in some cases—to commercial structures and/or familial strategies. In a similar manner, “Tesoreros, arrendadores y financieros en los reinos hispánicos: la corona de Castilla y el reino de Navarra (siglos XIV- XVII)” (2012) reflects on the role of the agents involved in the royal and municipal administration of the Crown of Castile and the Kingdom of Navarre. The contributions to this volume also deal with tax management and its relation to power. The last published volume, “Agentes de los sistemas fiscales de Andalucía y el resto de reinos hispanos” (2014), offers a similar analysis but this time focused on the modern and contemporary periods in the regions of Andalusia, Murcia, Majorca and Aragon. Some of its central points are the tax structure and public debt.

In two of the volumes the attention is shifted from the financial agents to the financial businesses and public treasury. “Fuentes para el estudio del negocio fiscal y financiero en los reinos hispánicos. Siglos XIV-XVI” (2010) addresses different topics such as the extraordinary subsidies granted by the Cortes of Castile, indirect taxes or credit. “Las Haciendas medievales en el País Vasco y La Rioja. Textos para su estudio” (2012) introduces an extensive collection of documents about the municipal and royal treasuries of the Basque Country and La Rioja. Several scholars participated in the edition of this volume, which presents a wide variety of historical sources. It is also worth noting the comprehensive introduction that precedes the documentary appendix; an introduction that emphasizes the difference between the documents generated by two fundamental domains: the royal sphere and the municipal sphere.

The last big topic of the volumes published by the Arca Communis Network concerns institutional relations. “El dinero de Dios. Iglesia y fiscalidad en el Occidente medieval (siglos XIII- XV)” (2011) addresses the relations between Church and the different organs of power. Within this context, it is particularly relevant the tax theory. Published also in 2011, “Los ámbitos de la fiscalidad: fronteras, territorio y percepción de tributos en los Imperios ibéricos (siglos XV-XVIII)” analyses the articulation of various tax forms in different societies that share a common trait: they are located in borderlands. The volume ranges over a wide chronological and geographic

scope: from the Iberian kingdoms in the transition to the Modern period to New Spain in the 18th century. Finally, “El alimento del Estado y la salud de la *Res Publica*: orígenes, estructura y desarrollo del gasto público en Europa” (2013) tackles the question of public expenditure and its repercussions in the construction of the modern state. The volume also reflects on the idea of ‘common good’ in Medieval and Modern Europe from the perspective of political and legal history, and analyses the articulation of the tax narrative around tax justification.

To sum up, these volumes are the result of the scientific meetings organized by the Arca Communis Network, as well as proof of the synergies generated within the network, which are key in a complex economic context such as the one we live in.

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**Martí, 2015. *Martí l’Humà. El darrer rei de la dinastia de Barcelona (1396-1410). L’Interregne i el Compromís de Casp*, M.T. Ferrer i Malloll (ed.), Barcelona Institut d’Estudis Catalans, Fons Noguera/ Deputazione di Storia Patria per la Sardegna, 962 p.**

This volume features the contributions to the congress held in May 2010. It also contains several sections of studies preceded by a foreword by the president of the Institute and an initial chapter (by M.T. Ferrer) on Martin of Aragon when he was an *infant*—he was the second son of King Pere the Ceremonious—dealing mainly with the development of his patrimony. Martin was Governor-General of the kingdoms on behalf of his brother King John I of Aragon, and in 1392 he began the conquest of Sicily in order to restore Queen Mary of Sicily—his daughter in law, married to his son Martin the Younger—to her throne. One of the sections of the volume is devoted to the government, the *corts* of each kingdom, and its corresponding *Generalitat*, an institution that was born during the reign of Pere the Ceremonious (M.T. Ferrer, E. Sarasa and R. Muñoz). During the reign of Martin of Aragon the government was hindered by a conflict between different factions (F. Sabaté). This section is also devoted to the administration of justice (T. de Montagut).

Another section is devoted to the royal patrimony, taxation and debt, for wars during the reign of King Pere the Ceremonious had diminished the royal patrimony (E. Guinot). Power consolidation in the central Mediterranean basin is also discussed in this volume: the defence of Sardinia against a revolt led by the Arborea family (L. D’Arienzo), the conquest and pacification of the kingdom of Sicily (H. Bresc and S. Fodale). C. Vela analyses the foreign policy of King Martin and P. Bertran the effects of the Western Schism. Regarding society, B. Catlos analyses the multi-ethnic composition of the kingdoms, and J. Hernando analyses religious life during the reign of Martin of Aragon. The economic aspects of Martin’s reign are studied by G. Feliu, who focuses on rural and urban production, E. Soldani, who concentrates in international trade, M.D.

López, who addresses the question of domestic trade, and also by D. Duran, who examines the consulates of the sea and the *consulats d'ultramar* as well as the defence of the maritime space. X. Barral and M. Serrano tackle with different artistic aspects, while M. Raufast focuses on the ceremonial aspects of Martin's reign. S. Claramunt studies the creation of the *Estudi General de Medicina* in Barcelona.

A third section revolves around King Martin's family: his two wives, Maria de Luna and Margarida de Prades (N. Silleras) and Blanca de Navarra—the wife of his son Martin the Younger—who becomes in charge of the regiment of the Island of Sicily after the sudden death of her husband in 1409, during an expedition to Sardinia (L. Sciascia). J. Mutgé performs a detailed analysis of the royal family, starting from the progeny of James II of Aragon in order to shed new light on the rights to succession after the death of King Martin without male issue in 1410.

J. Sobrequés, M. Barceló, R. Narbona and J.D. Garrido study the interregnum period that ended with the Compromise of Caspe, which led to the enthronement of the Castilian dynasty of Trastámara, changes in the ideology of the government, and, eventually, the dynastic union with Castile. A. Furió analyses the Compromise of Caspe through a historiographical survey. An appendix at the end of the volume lists all the ledgers, chronicles and chronicons that mention King Martin of Aragon, for, unlike his predecessors, he does not have his own chronicle.

Martin of Aragon was not as important as James I of Aragon, but his annexation of Sicily to the Crown of Aragon, after the demise of his son Martin the Younger, is a significant event. However, Martin lacks the energy necessary to bring to and end the conflicts between factions that disrupted his reign, and also to adequately plan the succession to the throne after the death of his son.

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