
REVIEWS

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BADIA, Lola; CIFUENTES, Lluís; SALICRÚ I LLUCH, Roser (eds.), 2019. *La vida marítima a la Mediterrània Medieval: Fonts Històriques i literàries*. Rubí: Publicacions de l'Abadia de Montserrat-MMB, (Textos i Estudis de Cultura Catalana, 232).

This monograph brings together various studies that are the result of the second interdisciplinary seminar held on 16 and 17 June 2016 at the Maritime Museum of Barcelona, entitled “The sea, navigation and maritime life in the medieval Mediterranean: chronological, narrative and poetic testimonies”. The volume edited by Lola Badia, Lluís Cifuentes and Roser Salicrú i Lluch comprises the sixteen most significant contributions of the seminar.

The first of the contributions in this volume, that of Eduardo Aznar Vallejo, is devoted to offering us a vision of the oceanic voyages of the Venetian merchant Alvise Ca da Mosto. The author analyses the accounts of the merchant's voyages to the costs of what is known as Senegambia. Aznar contextualises the author with two key words, Mediterranean and merchant, and shows clearly how his commercial vision is reflected in his accounts. But Aznar also studies how the author is interested, and so he writes, in an unknown reality, foreign to his own, which he shows an interest in showing and explaining by undertaking a whole series of comparisons.

Rafael Beltran analyses the maritime campaigns of the navigator Pero Niño. His research focuses particularly on the first third of the 15th century and outlines a biography of the central figure of his work.

Michel Bochaca devotes his study to the analysis of the journal of Captain Lucas di Masso and his voyages to Flanders and Portugal. The author focus on two very specific examples in the sources and brings us to a double experience of sailing, that of its protagonists and that of the occasional travellers.

Miriam and Lluís Cabré analyse manuscript 759 of the Biblioteca Universitària de Barcelona, dated at the end of the 14th century. The authors focus on the linguistic, cultural and historical aspects of a 600-line poem composed in couplets.

Fifthly, Gabriel Ensenyat Pujol shows us how Ramon Llull, in his various works, manifests abundant knowledge of navigation. G. Ensenyat describes how Ramon Llull emphasises the importance and value of the seaman and seafaring in a way that no other European tractadist had done before.

Francesca Español embarks on a journey through the sea and spirituality. Focusing mainly on the *Cantigas* of Alfonso X, Español analyses a whole list of miracles and wonders related to the naval world and navigation. It shows how people who sailed found spiritual refuge in times of peril. It is worth highlighting the images within the article, which are very illustrative and makes it easy for the reader to understand the argument.

Christine Gadrat-Ourfelli's contribution brings us to a different reality from that described in the rest of articles. Her research draws us into the perspective of those individuals who lived far from the sea, but must cross it. C. Gadrat-Ourfelli shows how Ludolf de Sudheim and Felix Fabri saw a space completely alien to them, but that at the same time aroused their curiosity.

Francesc J. Gómez's study on the importance of classical sources in Ausiàs March's maritime metaphors is closer to the research on the prose of Joan Roís de Corella. Although the study is very well structured, it would have appreciated a short paragraph as a conclusion for the reader who is less familiar with the subject.

Raúl González Arévalo's research focuses on the analysis of city chronicles, diaries and travel memoirs of late medieval Florence. As the author says, these sources allow us to see how the enterprise of the state galleys was an exceptional event in the late medieval Mediterranean. The author stresses its importance as an important merchant navy constituted and organised by a powerful inland city. The study highlights the disregard of some type of sources that provide more information for the study of this merchant navy and present details that are missing in the official sources.

David Guixeras and Sadurní Martí analyse two specific aspects in the work of the prolific Franciscan monk Francesc Eiximenis. Specifically, they deal with strategy in naval warfare and the importance and value of maritime trade. The first part, which focuses on naval warfare, corresponds to the analysis of chapters 333-337. Eiximenis presents two scenarios, an Atlantic and a Mediterranean setting, and describes the naval typologies of both areas. Both authors show how F. Eiximenis provides various tips for naval warfare based on different ancient scholars. Secondly, the authors focus on trade and its importance for Eiximenis. They emphasise how the municipal power should have a higher regard for merchants than military and religious figures.

As for the volume's eleventh contribution, Roberta Morosini shows how Boccaccio was no stranger to seafaring cultural traditions, although none of them reflected the author's contemporary tensions, since they were drawn from Greek and Roman sources. Furthermore, R. Morosini shows very well how in the *De Mulieribus* the sea is a spatial extension of the city. Morosini explains how the story focuses on the voyage of various legendary women and goddesses and how, unlike in the Decameron, those who cross the Mediterranean freely choose to do so in order to escape from danger.

As far as chronistics is concerned, firstly, we find the study by Antonio Musarra, which focuses on the analysis of the so-called *Annales Ianuenses* and other Genoese sources from the 12th

century. The author's main intention is to show how, for the Genoese, the constant presence of the Mediterranean made it the measure of all things. In this sense, far from representing the Mediterranean as a simple geographical space, A. Musarra shows how these sources set sail to describe civilisations and make them accessible to the readers.

Secondly, Veronica Orazi studies various naval battles described in Ramon Muntaner's chronicle. She highlights how Ramon Muntaner's narrative style does not necessarily correspond to the historical truth. In short, V. Orazi focuses on Ramon Muntaner's narrative technique for describing naval and land battles. The most outstanding feature of his study is the conceptual contribution he makes to the description of the battles: Muntaner seems to be more faithful –in a detailed and technical way– when describing naval battles, rather than land battles, where the influence of epic literature or courtly and chivalric traditions seems to bias his accounts.

In this regard, Marta Peracaula and Xavier Renedo present a case study on the battle of Nicotera (1282), a confrontation between Peter III of Aragon and Charles of Anjou, in the context of the Sicilian Vespers. The battle of Nicotera was a widely documented event that generated a great deal of literature. However, as the authors point out, it has had different versions and interpretations that do not always match. A comparative analysis of Desclot's and Muntaner's narratives shows that in some points Muntaner's information is true, while Desclot offers a similar version but with erroneous information.

Josep Pujol Gómez focuses on the metaphor of navigation in the mythological prose of Joan Roís de Corella. He shows how some metaphors have a very ancient origin. As in the case of Francesc J. Gómez's work, we would have appreciated a concluding paragraph.

The last article of this monograph is a most interesting contribution by Marcel Pujol i Hamelink, who presents a journey through the evolution of naval technology using the *Grans Cròniques Catalanes* (Great Catalan Chronicles) as a source: from the addition of the *terçol* [third oarsman] in the galleys, to the evolution of ships, and the first use of gunpowder artillery in naval warfare. Moreover, the author illustrates his study with a series of images that will help the reader less familiar with the subject.

Finally, this collective monograph ends with a general overview in the form of conclusions by Marina Montesano. Her contribution is the perfect coda and provides a wrap-up to the volume. The description of the works compiled in this volume has sought to highlight the importance of an ambitious proposal. The only downside is that the summaries of each work are not at the beginning but at the end of it, after the bibliography. The contributions of the authors show the existing links between some fundamental subjects here presented and provide the reader different points of view to approach both similar and very different phenomena.

POL JUNYENT MOLINS
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LLOPIS AGELÁN, Enrique / RUIZ GARCÍA, Elisa, 2019. *El monasterio de Guadalupe y la Inquisición*. Madrid: Ediciones Complutense.

El monasterio de Guadalupe y la Inquisición analyses the historical precedents and consequences of the establishment of a inquisitorial tribunal in the monastery of Guadalupe in 1485, and studies in depth the inquisitorial process within it.

The book is divided into two complementary parts, written by two authors. The first part, written by Enrique Llopis, summarises the political, economic and social development of the monastery since the Marian sanctuary of Guadalupe passed into the hands of the Order of Saint Jerome in 1389. The author analyses the causes and consequences of the establishment of two inquisitorial tribunals in Guadalupe, one in the Puebla de Guadalupe, initially agreed, and the other developed within the monastery.

The inquisition carried out at the Hieronymite monastery in 1485 is the main theme of the book, which examines the precedents throughout a practically uninterrupted century and the consequences up to the following nine decades. The aim is therefore to contextualise the inquisitions of 1485 and to try to determine the changes in the historical course of the monastery brought about by the courts.

This was one of the first tribunals of the Holy Office. Enrique Llopis presents a long-range perspective, tracing the most important fundamental questions from 1389 to 1485, the date of the establishment of the inquisitorial tribunal. He wants to understand what leads to the establishment of an inquisitorial tribunal within the monastery, and analyses in depth the historical trajectory of the economic success of the monastery of Guadalupe at the hands of the Hieronymite monks, and the internal and external dissidences and conflicts in the hundred years preceding the Inquisition in Guadalupe. For the author, there are fundamental issues that date back even before 1389, and that have to do with the very identity and origins of the Order of Saint Jerome.

The study covers the period up to 1561. The author examines the consequences that the actions of the Holy Office and the application of the concept of *limpieza de sangre* [blood purity] in the Hieronymite Order –sanctioned by means of the brief *Inteleximus* by Alexander VI, 1495– had on the development of the monastery of Guadalupe. For Enrique Llopis, the Inquisition introduced an important discontinuity in the demography and in the economic, political, social and religious history of Guadalupe and of the Hieronymite monastery there established. Guadalupe was at that time the most popular Marian sanctuary on the Iberian Peninsula and the Spanish monastery with the greatest wealth and patrimony.

The second part, written by Elisa Ruiz, provides a detailed study on the origin and nature of the Order of Saint Jerome based on the extant corpus of regulations and documents. For the author, these sources allow us to know what was the initial project conceived by the founders, and the hybrid nature – between the eremitic life and the coenobitic and monastic life – of the institution from its beginning.

Next, the author focuses on the analysis of the inquisitorial process within the monastery, creating, in her own words, an “anatomy”, and offers a palaeographical and critical edition of two unpublished sources: the *Códice del Perpetuo Socorro* and the sentence of Fray Diego de Marchena. The analysis of this material, due to its content and the fact that it was unpublished, provides the scientific community and the general public with texts that allow to reconstruct the anatomy of a dramatic inquisitorial process. Based on the historical contextualisation of Enrique Llopis, and other scientific bibliography, the main objective of Elisa Ruiz is to study the primary sources.

It is a fascinating reading, and a rigorous research work. The history of a little-known and unusual inquisitorial process, which took place inside the most important monastery of Castile in the 15th century, an important place of pilgrimage, but also an economic, religious and political centre. In the inquisitorial process, 27 friars were tried on suspicion of Judaizing, of continuing to practise Jewish rituals despite being Christian converts.

This is a book published in late 2019, and based on the research carried out by Enrique Llopis for his doctoral thesis –between 1974 and 1979. Although the thesis focuses on the second half of the 18th century and the first third of the 19th century, the researcher was very interested in the two inquisitions that took place in Guadalupe in 1484 and 1485 because they are the first two inquisitorial processes, and also due to the harshness of the sentences in the case of the one carried out among the lay citizens of the town and the fact that a friar of the monastery, Diego de Marchena, was the first regular religious to be released to the secular arm by the royal or modern Spanish Inquisition. Later, Fra Diego de Marchena was burnt at the stake. During the writing of his doctoral thesis, many questions arose about the events of 1485, which the author describes as “spectacular”. Who made the decision to establish an inquisitorial tribunal in Guadalupe? When the tribunal arrived in the Puebla de Guadalupe at the end of 1484, was there already an agreed plan to carry out an inquisition within the Hieronymite community? What were the consequences of the confirmation and dissemination, both outside and inside the community, of the Judaizing practices of the converts on the image of the friars and the Order, and on the subsequent development of the monastery? The author had no answers to these questions at the time, but the research carried out in the following decades, the re-examination of the documentation and the detailed edition, by Elisa Ruiz, of the codex containing the friars’ testimonies before the Inquisition, have allowed the publication of this book.

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SALICRÚ I LLUCH, Roser (ed.), 2019. *Tripulacions i vaixells a la Mediterrània Medieval: Fonts i perspectives comparades des de la Corona d'Aragó*. Rubí: Publicacions de l'Abadia de Montserrat-MMB, (Textos i Estudis de Cultura Catalana, 231).

This collective volume, edited by Roser Salicrú i Lluch, researcher at the Institució Milà i Fontanals-CSIC, brings together a set of 17 contributions, mainly from the seminar held on 25 and 26 September 2014 at the Maritime Museum of Barcelona, entitled “Crews and Ships in the Medieval Mediterranean: Sources and Comparative Perspectives from the Crown of Aragon”, but other works have been also included.

As for the works that make up the volume, the first is that of Enrico Basso. Despite the studies by M. Bochaca and A. Musarra, Enrico Basso points out that there are few specific studies on the crews in the context of Genoa and Liguria between the 12th and 15th centuries. It is worth highlighting the efforts of the author to systematise the sources and his will to carry out a thorough analysis of the documentation.

The contribution of José V. Cabezuelo Pliego focuses on the naval campaign of 1359, and in the context of the War of the Two Peters. He makes a very detailed analysis of the armament aboard the galleys. The author describes a rich source of historical data where a very detailed account is given of all the equipment, weapons, other materials and supplies for a fleet of around twenty ships. This contribution once again demonstrates the richness of the sources preserved in the archives of the ancient Crown of Aragon.

Gemma T. Colesanti takes us, across the western Mediterranean, to the Kingdom of Naples. Her study exposes a rich and unpublished collection of various unpublished sources in order to study the Neapolitan estates and the seafaring activity of the Kingdom of Naples in the Catalan-Aragonese period. In this sense, and following other researchers, she stresses the problem of the dispersion of the sources, an ever-present issue. In short, the contribution stands out for dealing with an unpublished set of documents for the study of private armies in a period that has been relatively little studied, the early years of the Catalan-Aragonese domination of the Kingdom of Naples.

Andrés Díaz Borràs offers a more panoramic view of Valencian sources than previous contributions. The author deals with a large amount of data of great interest for research on maritime history, but focuses on the debate between the sources, research and the maritime world in medieval Valencia. With a more personal touch, the author questions the research carried out up to the present day and describes a series of proposals that open the doors to future research, focused, as the author states, on maritime Valencia.

The articles by José Miguel Escribano Páez and Raúl González Arévalo focus on the 16th-century Spain and Florence, thus providing a counterpoint to Catalan-Aragonese sources. Escribano highlights the lack of quality research on the navies and seafarers during the Spanish imperial period. R. González Arévalo focuses on the sources to analyse the crews of the Florentine merchant galleys of the late Middle Ages. The author highlights the lack of sources to carry out a systematic study, as the extant sources refer mostly to high-ranking officers within the Florentine seafaring community as a whole. This is why he stresses the importance of the unofficial records and puts the focus on some of them, the journal of Luca di Masso de Albizzi, the *Quadernuccio of Luigi Vettori* and the Chronicle of Benedetto Dei, in order to study the aforementioned crews, what information can be obtained and also to explain the limits of the documentation.

David Igual analyses the so-called *Manifest de mar*, a Valencian source from the second half of the 15th century that is well-known among scholars in the field. This source is also a fiscal record of various royal taxes levied in Valencia on imported maritime trade. It is worth noting points 3 and 4 of the study, where the author explains how the source deserves to be considered in combination with other fonts, as shown in the analysis of the Italian galleys that were brought to the city of Valencia between 1451 and 1491.

Antonio Musarra shows us, first of all, the great interest of the collection of the Antico Comune –which is part of the Archivio di Stati di Genova– for research on maritime expeditions in the late Middle Ages. The author focuses on describing one of those records, specifically the one referring to the journey of the galley Sant’Antonio to Alexandria, Cyprus and the Syrian-Palestinian coast. Musarra describes the magnificent source, which brings us closer to archival research. The author shows how a systematic research of this source could lead to a research of great potential for the study of the Genoese navy and, in general, the different Mediterranean late medieval fleets.

Angela Orlandi’s work is based on sources from the Datini Archive in Prato. She looks into specific aspects of merchant ships, carrying out a comprehensive analysis of them: from construction to end. The data, however sparse, allow the author to show different moments in the life of these vessels.

Mario Orsi focuses entirely on the oarsmen of the galleys that took part in the Sardinian campaigns of 1353 and 1354. Orsi aims to show how the difficulties in assembling these crews gave rise to a whole set of documents aimed at their effective management.

Antonio Ortega Villoslada stresses the importance of the ecclesiastical archive of Mallorca. The author shows how these records have been overlooked with regards to the maritime world.

Marcel Pujol Hamelink's study focus on shipbuilding in the Crown of Aragon. Pujol takes us on a journey through the figure of the shipbuilder, the hierarchy of the trade, the art of building boats. But he also describes the trade of ship-caulkers and finally, he analyses the figure of the boatswain, i.e. expert in navigation.

Alberto Reche Ontillera analyses two galleys commanded by the Vice-Admiral of Catalonia, Guillem Morey. Ontillera makes a brief historical reconstruction of his expedition, reflecting on the forms of navigation and its terms. The study includes a record of the most important documents for his research.

Research on the composition of the crews and life on board medieval ships and galleys has become a research topic of growing interest in international maritime historiography and, in particular, in that devoted to the Crown of Aragon in the last twenty years. In this regard, the research by Roser Salicrú i Lluch focuses on the *llibres d'acordament*, i.e. the records of crew recruitment. She aims to show that these sources are exclusive of the archives of the Crown of Aragon, and seeks to give them the importance they deserve. She gives various examples of *llibres d'acordament*, and concludes with a proposal for future research based on this extraordinary source.

Pinuccia F. Simbula takes us to the *Drassanes* [Shipyard] of Barcelona in the times of Ferdinand II of Aragon. The author provides a relatively sequential look at the processes involved in the construction of galleys in a period of transition. Simbula highlights how the ledgers show the solutions adopted for the management of the arsenal, the acquisition of the different materials used to build the ships, and the close relationship between the city and the shipyard. In fact, this last point opens a debate on the impact of the shipbuilding industry on the economy of Barcelona and its hinterland.

Meikel Soberón talks about the *dret d'ancoratge* (anchorage rights), an indirect tax levied on the port of Barcelona, which was royal property and taxed maritime transport according to the tonnage of the vessels. On the basis of the extant ledgers of the anchorage collector, Soberón shows how the wide range of ships arriving in Barcelona can be globally examined.

Finally, Juan Leonardo Soler Milla closes the present volume with his research on shipmasters. Soler's work focuses on a specific social group closely related to navigation and the maritime world. He systematically analyses the role of shipmaster in order to x-ray these individuals in the context of Valencian and Mediterranean trade.

To conclude, I would like to point out that the content of the different works that make up this volume allows us to see how the Crown of Aragon is a key player in the Medieval Mediterranean.

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BALOSSINO, Simone i RAO, Riccardo (eds), 2020. *Ai margini del mondo comunale: Sedi del potere collettivo e palazzi pubblici dalle Alpi al Mediterraneo*. Firenze: All’Insegna del Giglio.

In dealing with the process of institutionalisation of civic power seen during the late Middle Ages in Western Europe, historiography has elevated to the status of paradigm the cases of the Tuscan and Lombard communes, which in the 12th and 13th centuries achieved an unusual political autonomy that enabled them to undertake truly impressive urban planning and building interventions. The most emblematic buildings were their cathedrals, in which the deliberate search for functionality associated with the need for a meeting place, and the custody of symbols and writings was often combined with a desire for representativeness that could be related to a desire to reaffirm power.

One of the issues associated with the paradigm status of these examples from central-northern Italy is that scholars pay little attention to the cases of cities in other regions that, for various reasons, do not fit the model of political autonomy of these communities. The book compiled by Balossino and Rao aims to examine this ‘impure’ historical reality, and do so from the very title of the volume, where they ask what happens at the edges of the paradigm in order to question it. They study the signs of communal power in areas where the succession of stages of emancipation of civic power differed in quality, intensity, rhythm or order.

The urban cases considered in the volume belong to the territories of Lombardy and Tuscany. The Alps from east to west are divided into Western Provence (Balossino and Guyonnet), Piedmont (Longhi and Rao), the Verona-Treviso area and the cities of the southeastern Alps (Varanini), Friuli (Faini and Scarton) and Istria (Canzian). Subsequently, the Mediterranean territories of Italian origin, both peninsular and insular, are included: the Papal States (Delzant), the Kingdom of Naples (Terenzi), Sardinia (Tanzini) and Corsica (Marchi).

As the editors state in the introduction, the historiography on late medieval cities of the margins (not so prominent cities) often shows signs of neglect, localism and superficiality. In addition, we also find a tendency to neglect communal buildings in areas where attention has been focused on the enterprises of a different type of prominent power, be it monarchic or papal. On the other hand, the poor preservation of the civic governmental structures of these cities is another obvious obstacle when it comes to vindicate them.

However, different authors are unanimous in arguing that the power of civic identity and collective institutions does not diminish in contexts where urban power was less autonomous and more linked to higher-ranking powers (the Angevin or Aragonese monarchies, religious structures such as the patriarchate of Aquileia or the papacy, or even republics such as Venice

or Genoa). Consequently, in these contexts of shared power, the seat of communal government retained its relevance and its function, which included providing meeting places, the custody of writings, and the dispensation of justice, as well as an obvious symbolic role. In some cases (such as the Kingdom of Naples or Corsica) there is evidence of sharing of spaces between the different powers. Several authors even postulate the use of public buildings as a means of political affirmation of this higher power, such as, for example, the Venetian power in Friuli and Istria, the Genoese in Corsica or the Catalan-Aragonese in Sardinia.

Although the chronology varies to a greater or lesser extent from that of the Lombard and Tuscan periods, there seems to be a fairly similar succession of stages. From the gathering of urban institutions in public open spaces or in religious buildings at the beginning, they moved on to the possession of their own buildings as seats for these institutions. In the majority of cases, this seat was not a palace erected *ex-novo* but rather houses that had been repurposed. However, around 1400, in those cases where the communal power was more permanent, it was generally decided to build a new building or a structure that unified the different spaces, thus providing the civic community with a palace with a symbolic and even urban function, as a centre of urban development.

The aforementioned historiographical paradigm attributes to each of the two areas of study a very specific typological model of Communal Palace: in Lombardy, the *broletto* (an open loggia), and in Tuscany, the *palazzo*, a closed and fortified space. Several authors take this distinction well into account, detecting the prevalence of the *broletto* form especially in areas close to the Lombardy (Piedmont, the old Verona area, Friuli and Istria), either through direct influence or through a Lombard ruler, and the prevalence of the *palazzo* forms in other regions (other areas of Istria, the Papal States or the Kingdom of Naples). However, they warn that this dichotomy should be approached with caution: firstly, the over-restoration of public palaces in an attempt to conform to one of the models has often distorted the remains and contributed to erroneous interpretations. Moreover, some authors go further and challenge the paradigm head-on, insofar as it presupposes the existence of an original and ideal project for municipal buildings that does not add up to its construction over time through the aggregation of different elements. The palaces are continuously modified constructions around a pre-existing nuclei that have similarities in the sense that they share common elements capable of adapting to the changing function of the spaces (external staircases and balconies, galleries, large meeting rooms, open spaces with arcades) and that are observable in all the regions of interest.

In the different articles (especially those focused on Western Piedmont, Friuli, the Papal States and Corsica) there is often an interesting feature related to the location of the town house in front of a relatively large square that would be the natural continuation of the space of the lower porticoed level, an obvious sign of its urban centrality.

To conclude, it is also worth noting that the volume does a wonderful job of linking the different evolutionary stages of these palaces and questioning the paradigmatic typological dichotomy that has conditioned historiography regarding the construction of the seat of collective power. The most controversial issue that runs through the whole volume, however, and which leads to an interesting debate, is the role of supra-regional power structures in the process of communal institutionalisation. In his conclusion, Giuliano Milani refers to the “very rarely spontaneous and fully political nature of the intervention in the municipal building” and questions whether they are in fact “projections of a desire for local self-government”. However, it could be argued that the involvement of supra-regional authorities in public building should be seen as an episode in the institutionalisation of a long-standing and certainly widespread civic power in Europe in the late Middle Ages, and that this involvement became evident in cities all over the world regardless of the political form of their territory. One of the great contributions of the volume is that almost all the analysed cases show a connivance or sharing of political space between the different powers. This feature allows for the analysis of the communal reality beyond the complete autonomy of the commune, and must be considered as a solution to face the self-management of the conflicts associated with the strong urban development of the period. The construction of the seat of collective power meant the consolidation of this pre-existing and spontaneous communal power.

It would be of great interest to carry out a similar analysis for the civic power in the Crown of Aragon, an area where urban identity acquired an undeniable power in the late Middle Ages, and which is characterised, both in practice and in political theory, by the robustness of the pact between the monarchy and the civic communities. Moreover, we find evident cases of communal seats of power with very similar characteristics to those analysed in this volume.

PAU VIVES XIOL

BOLÒS, Jordi; HURTADO, Víctor, 2020. *Poder, paisatge i societat a la Catalunya carolíngia. L'organització d'un país dins l'Europa de Carlemany*. Barcelona: Rafael Dalmau, editor.

Jordi Bolòs, professor at the University of Lleida, is a reference in Catalonia as regards the study of the landscape, the configuration of the territory and the Carolingian period, a fact that is backed up by an extensive bibliography. On the other hand, Víctor Hurtado is one of the main experts in historical cartography in Catalonia, with numerous publications of great informative and scientific interest.

The *Atles del Comtat de Barcelona (801-993)* was published in 2018. It is the last volume of the *Atles de la Catalunya Carolíngia*, and the culmination of more than twenty years of research and mapping of the Catalan landscape and territory in the 9th and 10th centuries. However, in 2020

the authors decided to publish a new book in which they present a brief and accurate review of the results of their research.

The present book provides an overview of the Catalan counties at the moment of their configuration, and it is divided into five parts, the same as the aforementioned Atlases, which the authors quote on many occasions. The first part provides a context for the conquest of Narbonne by Pepin the Short at the end of the 10th century, and where internal and external conflicts with Al-Andalus are addressed. The second one examines the organization of the Catalan counties, from the largest divisions –the counties themselves and the bishoprics– to the smallest ones –valleys and *castells termenats* [castles with their own jurisdiction]– and finally the organization of the population into towns, hamlets, *masos* (farm houses) and houses, and cities.

The third part presents the economic structure of the counties. The authors go beyond the study of agriculture and livestock farming, and that of the forests and small flour mills, and rather provide new perspectives on an economy that is more active and dynamic than one might expect. In this regard, they show a very incipient presence of markets and long-distance trade, the Catalan counties being a transit area (Chapter 6).

The fourth part is a review of the society of the time, with a discussion of the differences between those who were loyal to the king and those who were loyal to the counts, and the importance of the peasants and the peasant communities. The authors also show how the study of the dedications of the churches can provide information about the moment of their creation. Although interesting, these studies need to be expanded.

The fifth and last part, entitled “An interdisciplinary research”, argues for the use of toponymy to study population patterns. They do so by studying pre-Roman, Roman, Arab, Berber and Germanic toponyms. Finally, they also study different anthroponyms that can provide information on connections between territories.

The methodology applied throughout the book is the same that was used to produce the atlases. Although the book is short in length, it is certainly an important source as it represents the culminating point and the conclusions of the atlases of the Carolingian Catalonia. It is, all in all, an essential and introductory book for the study of this period.

POL DOMINGO PALAU

VINYOLES VIDAL, Teresa, 2020. *Usos amorosos de las mujeres en la época medieval*. Madrid: Catarata.

The author of this research needs no introduction. In her latest work, Teresa Vinyoles aims to contribute to the female genealogy of history.

Her work draws on sources from old and new research with the purpose of deepening in the understanding of the history of emotions. The renowned historian insists on reminding the reader that the history of women is the history of life and that, beyond social and economic factors, it is the history of relations.

Vinyoles presents a huge wealth of documents useful and necessary for us to learn about the history of women in the Middle Ages. Contrary to the opinion of traditional male historiography, according to which the silence of women is the only female source that has come down to us, Teresa Vinyoles draws on notarial, literary, judicial, epistolary, medical and theological sources, among others. Thus, the author stresses, once again, the need to work with a historiography that takes the singularity of being a woman as its starting point. In other words, and in the author's words, beyond the man as a measure, the historian seeks the singularity of the female experience through medieval sources.

It is precisely her knowledge of this historical experience, acquired over years of research and investigation, that once again shows that history is not straightforward. Vinyoles alludes to the knowledge of medieval women's bodies while she talks about the eroticism of chivalric romance and the legal proceedings against some women for licentious behaviour.

The author mentions studies such as those of Perarnau and Green, and talks about the magical power of the word in the female mouth, and its healing effects. Healers and everyday spells are also part of this work, with a clear reference to the research of Montserrat Cabré.

The works of Tròtula de Salern and Hildegard of Bingen serve Vinyoles to make a political leap and introduce the *Querella de les Dones*, in what was a hostile time for females. However, through this non-linear history, the author recovers her old study on Estefania Carrós i de Mur (2004), carried out jointly with Mireia Comas, in order to shed light on a historical scenario blighted by growing misogyny. The case of Estefania, an unmarried teacher who settled in Barcelona in the 15th century, is also a pretext for rethinking the prejudices that historiography presents about the education of women throughout the Middle Ages.

Love is, without doubt, one of the crosscutting themes of Teresa Vinyoles' last book, a love that the author shows to be present in the medieval sources. This love is a spiritual love, free and



unmediated, like that of the beguines and mystics. It is also an earthly love, between women and between men and women, as illustrated mostly in the epistolary sources. It is, at the same time, motherly love, like that which Dhuoda shows for her son, who has been taken away from her.

Finally, there is a golden thread that binds and runs through this last work by Teresa Vinyoles. This is, precisely, the writing of a history of women that emerges from the study of women's freedom and not from their patriarchal misery.

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