ANALYTIC SUMMARY

ABSTRACT: By the end of the Middle Ages, a number of treatises were written which scholars have regarded as true proposals for an *ideal city*. This paper focuses on Rodrigo Sánchez de Arévalo's *Suma de la Política*. After breaking down the main components of his *ideal city* into three major sections (the physical environment, the social body and the practice of sound government), the paper argues that, under pretext of founding a city and far from considering the latter from the architectural and formal point of view, the Segovia-born churchman saw it as an expresion of a given social and political order. This he did by resorting to a conservative and *moral* conception of politics while accepting such urban-planning, social and political foundations as were prevalent in the society in which he lived. In this way, Sánchez de Arévalo's discourse goes beyond the purely urban setting and becomes a vindication of the monarchic form of government. The latter is thus presented as the custodian of the commonwealth as well as an ideal system which –it is concluded– each social and political actor redirects and uses in the service of his particular goals and interests.

Keywords: Rodrigo Sánchez de Arévalo. *Suma de la Política*. Ideal city. Medieval political theory. Commonwealth.

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Jara Fuente, José Antonio
With much Affection and Goodwill to Serve the Community: The Notion «Common Good» from an Urban Perspective. The City of Cuenca in the Fifteenth Century
Stud. hist., H.ª mediev., 28, 2010, pp. 55-82

ABSTRACT: For the common good. The definition of the notion «common good» constitutes, not only but especially in the urban arena, one of the most relevant political mechanisms. In this case, these instruments directed to achieve two specific goals: in the first place, identifying what the notion «common good» could be or represent in each case; in the second place, formulating and reformulating the relationships woven not only inside the town but also outside it, taking the notion «common good» as an ideological referent used by a specific town, by each town, by all the cities and towns of the kingdom.

Thus, the aim of this paper is to analyse, on the one hand, the way in which the urban world faced its own definition of what the notion «common good» was or should be; and, on the other hand, the way in which towns, in their relationships with other socio-political agents (and specifically the monarchy) manipulated this definition pursuing two main objectives: first, to shape the extent of those relationships; and second, to mould the form in which these relationships had to link towns and other agents, relativising the extent of the towns' subjection to the latters through the affection of the satisfaction of the towns' common good to the content of these relationships. To this end, I will use the city of Cuenca, in the fifteenth century, as a case study.

Keywords: Crown of Castile. Monarchy. Towns. Cuenca. Fifteenth Century. Service. Common Good.

Monsalvo Antón, José M.ª
The Image of Early Medieval Cities and Regions of the Kingdom of Leon and Castile in the General Chronicles (from Sampiro to the *Estoria de España*)
Stud. hist., H.ª mediev., 28, 2010, pp. 83-123

ABSTRACT: The aim of this article is to characterize the image that the general chronicles of the 12th to 13th centuries offer regarding the historic past of Leon and Castile corresponding approximately to the 10th century, the time of the Leonese monarchy and the Earldom of Castile, with special emphasis on the image of cities and regions. The chronicles from Sampiro to Alfonso X are analysed in relation to Galicia, Asturias, Leon, Burgos, Castile and neighbouring regions. Emphasis is placed on deciphering the discourse regarding what is «urban», on understanding the cultural construction of certain symbolic places and the retrospective rewriting of the political geography of past times as well as on pondering the prejudices of «Leonists»

and «Castellanists», the ideological orientation of the authors, the changes in language and the incorporation of new narrative materials to the chronicles.

Narbona Vizcaíno, Rafael
Is Life a Dream? Echoes of Society, Gender and Customs Criticism in Early Renaissance (14th-16th Centuries) Catalan Literature

ABSTRACT: The literature produced in late medieval urban society can approach the cultural ideology that said gender relations between men and women. The topics, recriminations or the claims expressed in male poems and compositions foreshadow the sociological and demographic complexities, while useful to understand the construction of values in the collective imagination.

Sánchez Pardo, José Carlos
Territorial Strategies of a Monastic Power in Medieval Galicia: Celanova (10th-12th Centuries)

ABSTRACT: In this paper we will try to study a traditional topic in Spanish medieval historiography, as monastic domains are, from the less-known perspective of spatial strategies, facilitated by the Geographic Information Systems recent expansion. In this way, through the case of the Galician Monastery of Celanova between 10th and 12th Centuries, we can see the complexity existing behind the location planning of such a power center and the variety and flexibility of tactics used in its growing process. All this not only emphasizes the well-known high degree of spatial knowledge of the aristocratic powers between Early and Central Middle Ages, but also reveals the importance that those groups gave to the territorial strategies related to the previous settlement structure and the role that these strategies played in the Northwest of Iberian Peninsula feudalization process.

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González Arce, José Damián
The Genoese Consulate of Sevilla (13ᵗʰ-15ᵗʰ Centuries): Jurisdictional Issues, trade and Tax

ABSTRACT: This paper reviews the functioning of the Consulate Genoese of Seville between the 13ᵗʰ and 15ᵗʰ Centuries, from the privileges granted by the kings of Castile and other documents that contain news about the same activity. First we study the jurisdiction of the consulate and the judicial powers of the consuls. They are then described the business activities of the Ligurian colony under the consulate, and other aspects related to trade such as insurance and transport. Finally, taxes on the Genoese and their goods.

Keywords: Consulate. Genoa. Seville. Jurisdiction. Trade. Taxes.

Díaz Gil, Fernando
The Alcantara Order and La Serena Zone (1234-1259). The Territorial Shaping of the Alcantara Domain vis-á-vis other Church Institutions

ABSTRACT: In just twenty-five years, between 1234 and 1259, the military Alcantara Order conquered the huge area of La Serena, in eastern Extremadura, for the kingdom of Castile. Despite of the conquest's relative ease, the actual domination of that space would carry different strains with other institutions that would take decades to solve, finally configurating a great territorial lordship which would last until the 19ᵗʰ century.

Keywords: Reconquista. Repopulation. La Serena. Alcantara Order. Territorial organization.

Martín Romera, M.ª Ángeles
New Perspectives in the Study of Medieval Societies: The Social Network Analysis

ABSTRACT: Social Network Analysis has experienced a boom in the last decades among scientists of different areas. Nevertheless, it has not had the same success among historians, especially in the field of medievalism. The article exposes how this methodology

can help historical research beside the problems of adapting it to this discipline. With this purpose, it presents a revision of the works of medieval history that have applied the Social Network Analysis. The aim is to state the achievements, the limitations and the potential that this path of study represents for History in general and, especially, for the Middle Ages.

Keywords: Social Network Analysis. Middle Ages. Historiography. Methodology.

Kirchner, Helena
On the Archaeology of Early Medieval Villages
Stud. hist., H.ª mediev., 28, 2010, pp. 243-253

ABSTRACT: The Spanish Medieval Archaeology has recently joined the historical and archaeological debate on the question of rise of networks settlements after the collapse of the late Roman State in the West. Historians like P. Toubert, R. Fossier and J. Chapelot coined the terms *incastellamento* and *encellulement* to allude generally to the formation of such a wide new political and landscape reality. This article pretends to be a critical consideration on the achievements reached by medieval archaeologists in trying to document the case. But inevitably the weak points of their practice and the explanations offered are also stated. The recent publication of the book *The archaeology of Early Medieval Villages in Europe*, edited by J. A. Quirós came timely to fill up a void in Spanish Medieval archaeology. I is around this book that my considerations evolve.

Keywords: Medieval archaeology, Early Medieval villages. Peasant communities.