

## Summaries of articles

### ***Unsacred Monarchy : the Kings of Castile in the Late Middle Ages***

T. F. RUIZ

*The sacral and thaumaturgical monarchy of England and France, characterized by ritual crowning and anointing with holy oil, has long been a familiar model of medieval kingship. This article examines how, from the mid-twelfth century, the Castilian and Spanish rulers, with a few exceptions, rejected the traditional emblems of power and authority in use elsewhere in the medieval West. Never did the kings of Castile claim seriously to have the power to heal the sick; nor did their birth, ascent to the throne, dying and burial enjoy any of the elaborate rituals associated with royalty in England or France. Instead the kings of Castile signaled their ascent to power with rituals and symbols of marked popular and martial flavor. Several tentative explanations can be advanced for the development of unsacred monarchy in Castile. Among them the most important were: the military character of the society, the pragmatic nature of its religious beliefs, and the influence of Islamic models of political authority.*

### ***The Rise of Catalonia : Identity, Power, Ideology in a Twelfth-Century Society***

Th. N. BISSON

*Although Catalonia has often been described as having originated in the ninth century, the achievement of a proto-national identity in that country was an event of the twelfth century. It was connected with the dynastic acquisitions and conquests of Counts Ramon Berenguer III (c. 1093-1131) and Ramon Berenguer IV (1131-1162). They not only created a new frontier at the expense of the Moors, but also forged the ties with Provence and Aragon which obliged the monastic custodians of old comital tradition to reconceive their past in terms of the primacy of Barcelona. Expressed in the Deeds of the Counts of Barcelona, this ideology bears traces of anti-Capetian sentiment. The cohesion of those henceforth called "Catalans", no longer merely matters of language and external perception, was greatly reinforced in the reign of Alfons I (1162-1196), when for the first time institutions of justice and finance were imposed in an aggregate of counties called "Catalonia".*

### ***The "Myth" of Arthur : Kingship and Ideology***

K. HOLZERMAYR

*Through a detailed analysis of Beroul's Roman de Tristan, the present study criticizes the now classical conception that treats Arthurian romance of the 12th and 13th century as an "ideal representation" or "mirror" of feudal kingship and chivalric ideology.*

*The interpretation of the structural particularities of this text leads to the discovery of an independent esthetic discourse in which political views escaping from the so-called "dominant doctrine" take shape; at the same time the relationship of the king and his chivalry in the romances of Chrétien de Troyes appears in the light of an opening of the feudal model of kingship that prefigures the absolute power of the Prince.*

***Le Play and the Pyrenean Stem-Family :  
Politics, Law and Social Science***

L. ASSIER-ANDRIEU

*The expression famille-souche (stem-family) coined by Frederic Le Play should be understood in the context of its period. As a sociologist and politician Le Play would nor have made a peasant family from the Pyrénées the paradigm for the stem-family, nor would he have made this peasant family the model for a plan of social reform promoted by the Second Empire, or made the devolution of land inheritance a fundamental principle of social order had his work not coincided with a specific contradiction in legal terms between the Languedoc area and French society as a whole. Bearing in mind the original setting of the concept as well as the basic doctrine of Le Play, this article attempts to examine the ethnographic, political and juridical reasons for the dominant role of the inheritance system in the formation of family and social structures in Leplayian sociology.*

***Family Structure in the Domain of "the Stem-Family" :  
the case of Esparros***

A. FAUVE-CHAMOUX

*The village of Esparros set against the Pyrénées, held a particular position in the region, and the wealth of its archives makes it an area conducive to family reconstitution and the differential study of households according to their size and the value of their inheritance. By systematically comparing the census and the family registration records it is possible to identify with precision kinship connections and to trace their mobility and the strategies of matrimonial exchange.*

*The analysis of the family cycle shows the importance of demography in understanding the appearance (or non-appearance) of the stem-family.*

***The Ager and the Villa : Structure of Land and Population  
in the Mâconnais Area at the End of the Early Middle Ages***

F. BANGE

*As the archives of the Cluny abbey have been preserved, southern Burgundy represents a favoured region for the study of the rural world at the end of the early Middle Ages. A fine analysis of the material organization of the population is made possible by the great number of sources and their specific concentration in a small area, the region of Mâconnais. A serial analysis of more than 2000 private deeds between the years 900 and 1050 provide both the basis for a description of the physical characteristics of the soil (nature and morphology of the land, road networks) and demonstrate the clear division of space into basic units called the villae grouped together within agri. These two territorial structures, whose origin and character are open to discussion, represent the basis of man's spatial perception at the beginning of the 10th century. The abundance of available documents permits a limited reconstruction of their*

*make-up. Finally, their decline can be observed throughout the 10th century when they were progressively to be replaced by a new form of settlement organization based on the village and the parish of the Later Middle Ages.*

***A Monastery in the Barter Economic System :  
Transportation to the St-Germain-des-Prés Abbey***

J.-P. DEVROEY

*For the last forty years, research has demonstrated the important and active role of several monasteries in the economic system of the IXth century.*

*As a rule, the Carolingian barter economic system appears closely linked with rural life. Technologically, the food surplus was circulated by means of peasant inland carriage, and structurally, by the tight network of rural market places and the flourishing local and regional trade, as opposed to the much discussed large scale trade.*

*They may even be called symbiotic, considering the part taken by food products, e.g. cereals and wine, within the short, medium and long distance trade.*

*The study of St-Germain-des-Prés abbey also highlights the leading role of the Carolingian "State" within the barter economic system.*

***The Achievements of a Traditional Agriculture : the Flemish  
Countryside from the Thirteenth to the Eighteenth Century***

M.-J. TITS-DIEUAIDE

*At the end of the eighteenth century, Flemish agriculture was celebrated for its excellence. High yields, no fallow and a large variety of crops marked off the countryside of Flanders from most other parts of Western Europe. It was all the more remarkable as the Flemish soil was either poor or not easy to cultivate. How did Flemish agriculture manage to be so successful in spite of such mediocre soil conditions? It must be said that no Agricultural Revolution took place in Flanders; on the contrary, there has been a long and slow evolution towards a more and more intensive agriculture. Indeed, intensification began during the thirteenth century, as soon as there was no more land left for reclaiming.*

*This long evolution is not easy to trace, precisely because it was a slow process. It is nevertheless possible to present a chronology concerning the spreading of new crops (among others: flax, clover and potato). One can also show that the three years rotation was progressively changed into longer (up to 11 years) and more complex rotations.*

*Flemish peasants were convinced that their rather poor ground could and should be improved by hard work and all possible fertilizers: at length, their efforts were highly profitable to the land.*

*Several conditions were favourable to the development of Flemish agriculture: the density of the population, the existence of large cities, which were outlets for agricultural produces and for the linen domestic industry. Two factors had probably an even greater importance: since the Middle Ages, Flemish peasants had been relatively free to choose the crops and the methods best suited to their lands and to their interests; on the other hand, landowners were far-seeing enough not to abuse their farmers, and to consider them more as associates than as dependents.*