

INSTRUMENTA STUDIORUM*

III INTERNATIONAL COLLOQUIUM «HISTORIAN AND POWER
IN MEDIEVAL EUROPE»: MOSCOW, SEPTEMBER 23–26, 2024

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The III International Colloquium, organized within the framework of the project “Historian and Power, Historian in Power,” was held from September 23 to 26, 2024 at the Institute of Social Sciences of the Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration.

This year the colloquium was dedicated to the anniversaries of two prominent contemporary medievalists—the 75th anniversary of Vladimir Ivanovich Mazhuga (St. Petersburg) and the 70th anniversary of Leonardo Ramon Funes (Buenos Aires). Despite all the differences in the areas of their scientific interests, they are united by their attention to the manuscript tradition of the Middle Ages, medieval manuscripts’ creation process, their codicology, palaeography, archaeographic features and publication. That is why the participants spoke on the medieval historian’s craft, creative workshop etc.

Along with Russian medieval historians, prominent medievalists from Spain, Argentina, France, Great Britain and Brazil participated in the colloquium. During the seminar, these medievalists shared the results of their research and their experience, which is extremely important for future specialists—students of the RANEPА and RSUH, who also took part in the colloquium as listeners.

The colloquium was opened by VLADIMIR MAZHUGA (St. Petersburg Institute of History, Russian Academy of Sciences, St. Petersburg) with the paper *The Ideas of Bartolo da Sassoferrato (1313–1357) and Judicial Practice in Italy in the Second Half of the 14th Century*. The main source of the research was the codex with a copy of Bartolo Sassoferrato’s commentary on the *Digestum Novum*, completed in its main part in June 1370 in Bologna. The codex contains many glosses and drawings left by one of its copyists. These glosses and marginalia not only give us a concrete idea of how Bartolo’s ideas were taken up by his younger contemporaries and lawyers, but also

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of the practical application of his ideas in the courts, their high relevance in the society of the period under consideration.

The first day of the colloquium was concluded by OLEG AUROV (Institute for Social Sciences, RANEPa) with a paper entitled *Visigothic “Symphony” and the Problem of Its Continuity in Asturias and Leon in the 8th – Early 11th Centuries*. Professor Aurov revealed the features of the relationship between the councils and the legislative activity of the Visigothic kings and also spoke about its continuity in the Asturias-Leonese epoch. This political conciliarity was manifested not only in the fact that the kings convened councils and attended their first sessions, but also in other gestures and rhetorical formulas that represented this “symphonic” unity of royal power and the Church.

The papers presented *on the second day* of the colloquium were devoted to various topics, mainly concerning the medieval history of Spain and France. The first to speak that day were RICARDO PICHEL (National University of Distance Education (UNED), Madrid) and CARMEN BENITEZ GUERRERO (University of Seville), whose topics were as follows: *Around the Fuero of Baeza and Its Paratexts. (I): Textual and Manuscript Tradition* and *Around the Fuero of Baeza and Its Paratexts. (II): Historiographic Notes and Urban Elites*. Both papers presented the results of a study of the manuscript of one of the monuments of medieval Spanish foral law — the *Fuero of Baeza*, stored in the Arsenal Library in Paris (Bibliothèque d’Arsenal. Ms. 8331). ANASTASIA NACHARKINA (Russian State University for the Humanities, Moscow) presented the paper *The Story of Alexander the Great in the “General History” of Alfonso X the Wise: Towards the Problem of Sources*, dedicated to the problem of the authorship of this text. She stressed that this monument is a single work created based on the Latin translation of the Greek Romance about Alexander, completed by Leo of Naples in the 10th century under the title *History of the Battles of Alexander the Great (Historia de preliis Alexandri Magni)*, and supplemented by previously known works dedicated to Alexander the Great (*Libro de Alexandre* (1178 – c. 1250), *Alexandreis* by Walter of Chatillon, etc.). Professor MANUEL HIJANO (Durham University, UK) spoke about *The Tale of the Seven Infantes de Lara in the “Chronicle of 1344”* and focused attention on the role of epic texts as sources of medieval chronicles. Since the original text of the epic tale of the seven infantes de Lara has not survived, we know nothing about it save the mentions in *History of Spain* of Alfonso X the Wise and in later narrative tradition. Written in Galician-Portuguese, the *Chronicle of 1344* is one of the main sources describing this period, which gives special

significance to its content. NINA SPICHENKO (ISS RANEPА, Moscow) in her paper *Representation of Imperial Power in Roman Spain on the Example of Terminus Augustales*, touched upon themes of Spanish history that are chronologically far removed from the 14th century. Her work dealt with the role of boundary markers and inscriptions associated with the name of Octavian Augustus and his immediate successors, established by Roman governors and their representatives in the 1st century AD when delimiting the lands of Spanish communities. MIKHAIL BIRKIN (ISS RANEPА, Moscow) spoke about the *Christian Civitas in the Decrees of the Toledo Councils of the Late 6th–7th Centuries*. According to his conclusions, the role of Christian communities as successors to the tradition of the ancient civil community (*civitas*), among other things, is also manifested at the level of the conceptual system of law of the Visigothic kingdom, reflected both in the laws of the Visigothic code (*Liber Iudiciorum*) and in the council canons. ELENA MAREY (High School of Economics, Moscow) in the paper *The Power of the Abbot in the Visigothic Monastery* touched upon the main organizational aspects of the management of monastic communities in the era of the Kingdom of Toledo. NIKITA FEDONNIKOV (ISS RANEPА, Moscow) made his presentation on the *Biography of Hincmar of Reims Through the Prism of His Historical and Political Works*. The researcher showed how Hincmar himself, in the pages of his writings, comprehends the events of his life, the political reality surrounding him and his role in it, and how these reflections influenced his political and social ideas.

The paper presented by ESTEBAN AUGUSTO GREIF (University of Buenos Aires, National Scientific and Technical Research Council (CONICET)), *Jacques de Vitry, Muslims and Christians in the “History of the East,”* was dedicated to the figure of Jacques (Jacob) de Vitry (1165/1170–1240), a French canon, chronicler and propagandist of the idea of the Crusades. During his presentation, the Argentine medievalist examined the range of possible sources that Jacques de Vitry could have used not only to create his *Oriental History* (the first of two books that make up the *Jerusalem History*), written in the East after the siege of Damietta during the Fifth Crusade, but also to describe the history of the Arab conquest of the territory of Palestine. DMITRY STAROSTIN (Institute of History, St. Petersburg State University), continuing the theme of the relationship between history and propaganda, dedicated his report to the topic *Astronomy, History, Propaganda: Problems of the Church Calendar and the Legitimation of Royal Power in the 13th Century*. OLGA TOGOEVA (Institute of General History of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow) described her research *Philippe de Mezieres*

vs. Jean Gerson: Disputes about the Right of the Last Confession in the French Kingdom at the End of the 14th Century. She outlined the problem of using medieval images of legal subjects and their relationship with the accompanying text. NATALIA BOLDYREVA (Institute of World History, Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow) spoke about a completely different era with unsimilar subjects, but also related to the problem of *instrumenta studiorum*. Her presentation *Girald of Cambrai in the Posolsky Prikaz (Chapters on the British Isles in the “Mercator Cosmography”)* was dedicated to the translations of Latin historical and geographical works carried out in Russia in the 16th century.

The session on *the third day of the colloquium* was opened by CÉLINE MARTIN (University of Bordeaux-Montaigne, Bordeaux) with the paper *Isidore of Seville and Suinthila*. The researcher focused on the figure of Isidore of Seville and his interrelations with the Visigoth king Suinthila (621–631), with whom he had a trusting relationship. Next, JUAN SOTA FERNÁNDEZ MARCOS (High School of Economics, Moscow) presented a paper on the topic: *Once Again About the “Humillissimus Scriptor”: The Officium of the Virgin Mary by Juan Gil de Zamora for Alfonso X*. He dedicated his research to the *Officium of the Virgin Mary*—a work that was written by special order of the Wise King. Speakers from Argentina JUAN HECTÓR FUENTES and ERIKA N. JANIN (National Scientific and Technical Research Council (CONICET), Buenos Aires) presented a paper entitled “*How to Put Your Hand on the Fire*”: *Gestures of Anger and Fear in the Age of Alfonso XI of Castile*, which was devoted to a topic widely researched at present, related to the history of emotions. At the beginning of the presentation, the scientists outlined the hypothesis according to which, in the 14th century, emotions, as socially and politically codified elements, were used to construct exemplary (positively assessed in society) and negative models of behaviour. The motif of the relationship between literary text and the realities of social, political and cultural history was continued in the brilliant presentation *Historiography in Verse and the Propaganda of the Monarchy: the Case of Juan de Barba’s “Consolatoria de Castilla”* by CYNTHIA HAMLIN (National Scientific and Technical Research Council (CONICET), University of Buenos Aires). She analyzed the apologetic and propagandistic basis of the poem *Consolatoria de Castilla*, which tells about the period of the reign of the Catholic Kings of Spain Isabella and Ferdinand from their accession to the throne until the capture of Malaga (1484). The next speaker, MANUEL ABELEDO (National Scientific and Technical Research Council (CONICET), Buenos Aires), also spoke about the relationship

between literature and history during the Late Middle Ages. His paper treated the topic *Sentimental Fiction and Reprobatio Amoris: The Problem of the Way There and Back at the Moment of Reflection in Possible Literature about Love*. During his presentation, the medievalist noted that the problem of “proof of love” (*reprobatio amoris*) is not to find out what position is embedded in texts about love and passion, but to understand whether they encourage their readers to ask themselves this question. The topic of the manuscript heritage of the Middle Ages was presented by the paper of the Argentine researcher OLGA SOLEDAD BOHDZIEVICH (National Scientific and Technical Research Council (CONICET), Buenos Aires) *The Oldest Manuscripts of the Works of Juan Gil de Zamora: The First Data of the Study of the “Book of Jesus and Mary” (Liber Ihesu et Marie)*. OLGA PISNICHENKO (Federal University of Roraima, Boa Vista) in her paper *Revenge with a Pen: Don Juan Manuel and His Historical Truth*, analyzed the role of historical aspects in the works of Infante Don Juan Manuel (1282–1348?), an outstanding political figure and writer of the Castilian Renaissance. The next speaker, MAXIMILIANO SOLER (National Scientific and Technical Research Council (CONICET), Buenos Aires), dedicated his paper to one of the classic problems of the history of medieval historiography: *Post-Alfonsine Historiography and Historiographic Discrepancies: “Historia hasta 1288 dialogada” and the Affirmation of the Subjectivity of the Aristocracy*. His colleague PABLO ENRIQUE SARACINO (National Scientific and Technical Research Council (CONICET), Buenos Aires) presented a paper entitled *Riurga, Padilla and Other Falsifiers: Falsification of the Past in the Shadow of Humanism*. He examined the purpose for which sources were falsified in various historical works, the founder of which can be considered Annius of Viterbo with his work *Commentaries on the Works of Various Authors Discussing Antiquity (Commentaria super opera auctorum diversorum de antiquitatibus loquentium)* (15th century).

On the final day of the seminar, various problems of the relationship between medieval literature and historiography comprised the arguments of the presentations of GEORGINA OLIVETTO (University of Buenos Aires) *The Politics of Friendship and Political Friendship* and MARIO ANTONIO COSSÍO OLAVIDE (University of Salamanca) *The Cultural Model of the Era of Sancho IV (On the Example of the Royal Chancellery)*. The latter, essentially for the first time, posed the problem of the unity of the literary heritage of the era of King Sancho IV of Castile and Leon (1282/1284–1295) in the same vein in which it is customary to speak about the literary heritage of his great father, Alfonso X the Wise. In contrast to his colleagues, DANIEL PANATERI

(National Scientific and Technical Research Council (CONICET), Buenos Aires) presented a paper mysteriously titled *History of His Spain*, within the frame of which he spoke about Spanish medieval studies of the second third of the 20th century, primarily in light of the “great debate” between Claudio Sánchez-Albornoz (1893–1984) and Américo Castro (1885–1972). The discussion of the origins of Spanish civilization, which was the focus of the participants in the “great debate,” was examined in the paper taking into account the positions expressed by other significant Spanish medievalists and thinkers of the same time, including Ramón Menéndez Pidal (1869–1968) and Miguel de Unamuno (1864–1936).

LEONARDO RAMÓN FUNES (National Scientific and Technical Research Council (CONICET), Buenos Aires) concluded the seminar with the presentation *How Fiction Helps Us Understand History: Fiction about Political Events in Castilian Chronicles of the Late Middle Ages*. Reflecting on the problem posed in the paper’s title, the medievalist scholar concluded that the work of medieval chroniclers is not to distinguish between the historical and the fictional, but to develop it at the intersection of history and fiction. The speaker noted that for chroniclers, fiction is just another path, as true as any other, to achieving the truth.

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