

SUMMARIES OF PAPERS

Catalan liberals, Catalan history and the origins of the Renaixença

The much-quoted view of Pella i Forgas that between 1820 and 1823, "al só del himne (de Riego) s'enteraren algunas de las llibertats catalanas que no moriren l'any 1714, ni ab tot un siccle de despotisme", has too often been taken to mean that the liberalism of the first half of the nineteenth century in Catalunya was in principle opposed to any expression of Catalan individuality, hostile to Catalan tradition and wedded to a doctrinaire concept of centralisation. In fact, the 1812 Constitution was far from being just an instrument of centralisation. It introduced sufficient provincial and municipal autonomy to allow an influential group of Catalan liberals to represent its implementation as being a continuation of the liberal tradition of Catalan history. Definite attempts were made, both between 1820 and 1823 and between 1835 and 1843, to popularise this view. A study of this group of liberal propagandists thus adds support to Victor Balaguer's view of the origin of the Renaixença.

D.A. Barrass

A 15th-century Aragonese poem in the Huntingdon Collection

An as yet uncatalogued MS from the private collection of Archer Huntingdon, located in the Hispanic Society of New York, contains a long poem of over 200 quintillas in Aragonese dialect by the royal chronicler of Ferdinand the Catholic, Gauberte Fabricio de Vagad. This monk of the monastery of Santa Fe lived in the latter half of the 15th century, and is known chiefly for his Crónica de Aragón, Zaragoza, 1499, P. Hurus.

This MS is a late 16th-century copy of a lost original, entitled Linea de los reyes de Aragón, dedicated to Fernando Abarca de Bolea y Galloz, mayordomo mayor of Charles of Viana. Besides being a poetic genealogy of the kings of Aragon, it is also a eulogy of the House of Bolea.

The paper will consist of an outline of the author and his work, a description of the MS, an analysis of its content and its relation to the Crónica.

R.B. Tate