

Religion and Civil Society Project

The Symbolic Space of Royalty: the Court of the Heir

A study of the court of Prince John (1478-1497), conducted by Álvaro Fernandez Cordova. Its interest lies in the fact that it's a political and educational space carefully designed to ensure dynastic continuity. Its embryonic nature allows us to learn the genesis of the leading government agencies, the ambiguous use of royal signs and the construction of an emerging propaganda technique which acquired a particular sophistication during the time of Prince John (1478-1497), heir to the Catholic Kings.

This research will specifically address: (1) the analysis of the principal signs of power (2), its gradual integration into the ceremonial monarchy (3) the formation of its educational and cultural court hosting Spanish and Italian humanists and intellectuals of great stature, from Antonio de Nébrija, Pedro Mártir de Anglería or Juan del Encina to others not as well known, such as Pietro Montis, Gonzalo de Ayora or Fernando de Manzanares and (4) to offer an evolutionary explanation of the image of the prince, identifying the propagandistic elements which appeared on the scene from the time of his birth in 1478 until the eulogistic and funeral apotheosis aroused by his unexpected death in 1497 (5), reconstruct the funerals held in Milan, Brussels, Rome and Sicily, as well as the (6) rich yet unknown panegyric literature composed outside of Spain, especially the unpublished *Oratio de obitu Iohannis Hispaniae principis ad Senatum apostolicum*, elaborated by the humanist from Volterra Tommaso Inghirami for Roman funerals.

This research will be carried out in the existing specific collection at the General Archive of Simancas (Valladolid), Institute of Valencia de Don Juan (Madrid), Archive of the Corona de Aragón (Barcelona).