
1.2 Uses of natural resources in the Kingdom of Valencia in the middle ages (thirteenth to fifteenth centuries) Room 104

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Traditionally, the historiography has analysed the peasant economy from the perspective of subsistence and cereal agriculture. At the same time, it has insisted on the restriction of access to the forest imposed by lords in the Western Europe. All this has generated a monolithic vision of rural society focused on production and consumption of cereals without considering natural resources destined for alimentation and other daily and industrial uses. In spite of that, recently, this conception has been rectified. Studies in all Europe have demonstrated the diversification of the peasant diet and the existence of different uses of natural resources, even the appearance of rural industries.

Therefore, this session expects to analyse the uses of natural resources in the kingdom of Valencia during later middle ages. On the one hand, the exploitation of meadows, marsh lands and forests became an essential part of economic strategies of peasantry. On the other hand, the extraction of wood and salt generated industrial activities in different Valencian towns and an active market controlled by the king and lords. Finally, the importance of flocks produced a strong transformation of the agrarian landscape with the delimitation of grazing areas and the proliferation of routes for seasonal migration of livestock. Thus, the case of the kingdom of Valencia becomes a suitable scene in order to study the uses of natural resources in the Mediterranean area, to analyse the consequences of these uses in medieval society and to make a start on elaborating this to establish a comparison with other European territories.

1.21 Frederic Aparisi Romero – The purpose of forest and marshy lands in the Valencian Country (thirteenth to fifteenth centuries)

Traditionally, forest has been considered by European historiography as a complement for the peasant economy, where families could obtain fuel, materials for building, forage, and wild products. The limited access that lords established shows the importance and the possibilities that the forest offered. Apart from forests, marsh lands and meadows must be considered as spaces of secondary resources for the peasantry in the Valencian country. Combining different types of sources allows us to study the regularisation of these spaces, what kind of activities and how they were practised (hunting, fishing, collection and so on) and who could gain access to these areas. Furthermore, we must consider whether the purpose of these activities was autoconsumption or for the local market. Of course, these strategies did not have the same requirements but both of them implied a complement to the peasant economy. As a consequence, not only poor but also middle and even rich peasant families were present in these areas collecting woods and stones, hunting, fishing or pasturing.

1.22 Vicent Baydal Sala and Ferran Esquilache Martí – Production, trade and use of salt in the kingdom of Valencia in the middle ages (thirteenth to fifteenth centuries)

Salt, as is well known, is an essential product for human nutrition. In the West has been traditionally used in preparing foods such as bread or cheese and for conservation in the long term, as in the case of salted meat or fish. In addition, it is also essential for cattle feeding and in certain industries like leather tanning. Therefore, salt has been one of the most basic products for societies and also one that has been controlled the most by political powers throughout history.

That is why we want to focus this paper on several aspects of production, trade and use of salt in the kingdom of Valencia during the middle ages, as at present it is an unknown matter with just a couple of particular studies. Thus, through research into legislative documents, medieval cookbooks, local archives and other kinds of archival sources concerning salt works management, we will try to make a detailed overview of the forms of monopoly, extraction, sale, transport and use of salt in the Valencian territory between the thirteenth and fifteenth centuries

1.23 Vicent Royo Pérez – The incidence of livestock in the organisation of the agrarian landscape in the village of Culla (fifteenth to seventeenth centuries)

After the conquest of thirteenth century, an agrarian reorganisation transformed the kingdom of Valencia due to the introduction of feudal concepts by Christian troops. This is a process that the Valencian historiography has studied in the large *hortes* (irrigated areas) that surround the cities of the kingdom. As a result, we know well the criteria of organisation of the territory and its transformations in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries. However, the unirrigated landscape has not been studied yet, although the alterations were marked in the thirteenth and even striking in the fourteenth and fifteenth.

So, with this paper we attempt to make a first approximation to the criteria of organisation of a mountain landscape as Culla, in the fifteenth to seventeenth centuries. Through the different types of sources, not only archaeological but also written we try the distribution of the different growing areas and use for grazing in order to articulate the territory and to define the characteristics of an agrarian landscape in the Valencian North.

Harca is a non-official research group focused on the medieval history of the Valencian country. We combine our personal research with this common project where we try to put together our experiences. **Frederic Aparisi Romero** (Universitat de Valencia) studies rural elites in the kingdom of Valencia during the fifteenth centuries. **Vicent Baydal Sala** (Centro Superior de Investigaciones Científicas-IMF Barcelona) is focused on the royal tax system and the relations king-kingdom in the Crown of Aragon in the thirteenth centuries. **Ferran Esquilache Martí** (Universitat de Valencia) works on the making of hydraulic systems and the Horta of Valencia between twelfth and fifteenth centuries. **Ivan Martínez Araque** (Universitat de Valencia) works on artisans in the small towns of the Valencian Country in the thirteenth–fifteenth centuries. Finally, **Vicent Royo Pérez** (Universitat de Valencia) studies the kinds of litigation and judgement in the Valencian countryside in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries. **Visit us at www.Harca.org**.