

RICHARD KINKADE. *Dawn of a Dynasty: The Life and Times of Infante Manuel of Castile*. Toronto: U of Toronto P, 2020. 516 pp.

With *Dawn of a Dynasty: The Life and Times of Infante Manuel of Castile*, Richard Kinkade has contributed a biography that has been missing for decades, since Infante Manuel's life story has always been overshadowed by his renowned brother, King Alfonso X. Although the book is a history of the "life and times of Infante Manuel," it also offers new information and perspectives on the reign of the Wise King. Furthermore, Kinkade's book is a welcome addition for scholars of thirteenth-century European diplomacy, as the life of Infante Manuel touches not only all the kingdoms of the Peninsula, but many of the most influential royal houses of Europe and the Papacy. Finally, *Dawn of a Dynasty* provides new information, with copious documentary evidence, for the legendary origins of the House of Trastámara.

The book takes a chronological approach to the life of Don Manuel in eight chapters, plus an "Epilogue" that rehearses the most significant events chronicled in the book and highlights the fortunes of Don Manuel's descendants. Kinkade's meticulous attention to scholarly detail is documented in over one hundred pages of endnotes, a bibliography organized according to sources, and a complete index of names. Furthermore, *Dawn of a Dynasty* contains valuable primary sources in its "Documentary Appendix," with over sixty transcriptions of chancery letters, charters, bills of sale, orders of land grants, and Don Manuel's last will and testament. The author also supplements his biography with thirty-five illustrations.

Kinkade opens Chapter 1, "The Early Years: 1234-52," by introducing the Infante's son, Don Juan Manuel, and author of the *Libro de las armas*, which famously recounts the story of Don Manuel's birth to begin tracing the myths that rebrand the monarchy at the beginning of the Trastámara Dynasty. More particularly, Kinkade reviews the legend of Queen Beatrice's dream of her youngest son's messianic destiny, which would contrast with her premonition of Alfonso's spiritual disinheritance and demise. The author concludes that Juan Manuel's allusion to these legends in the *Libro de las armas* would have been easily identified by his readers, and that by the end of the fourteenth century these same legends surrounding the birth of Don Manuel would be revived to legitimize "the rise of an original dynasty that would commence with the birth of his great grandson, Juan II" (5). Returning to the life of Don Manuel, Chapter 1 follows his fortunes from the youngest cadet of Fernando III, with no inheritance to support his ambition, to the loyal confidant and ambassador of his brother, King Alfonso X, whom he would defend and serve for most his life. As Kinkade follows Don

Manuel's rise at court, in "The Royal Court in Seville: 1252-59" (Chapter 2), he also documents his political alliance with the king of Aragon, arranged through marriage to the king's daughter, Constanza, and the beginnings of what would be known as the "Tierra de Don Manuel," Don Manuel's demesne, or *señorío*, carved out of the kingdom of Murcia, conquered by his brother Alfonso in 1243.

Chapter 3, "The Papal Curia in Anagni: 1259-60," begins the saga of Alfonso's quest for the crown of Holy Roman Emperor, and the indispensable role his brother served as the King's ambassador. The tragedy of Alfonso's imperial ambition, and the role Don Manuel played in it, is briefly interrupted in "Dominion in Murcia and the 'Tierra de Don Manuel': 1260-72" (Chapter 4), which begins with the vicissitudes of Don Manuel's lands and his dealings with the king of Aragon but ends with the more familiar history of Alfonso X and his rebellious sons. Kinkade picks up where he left off in Chapter 3, returning in "Revolt of the Nobles and Last Pretence of Empire: 1272-75" (Chapter 5), with the confirmation of Rudolf of Hapsburg by Pope Gregory X at the Council of Lyon in 1274.

"The House of Savoy: 1275" (Chapter 6) documents the dates of birth, marriages, and alliances of the counts of Savoy, who, according to Kinkade, played "a rather minor role in the politics of Europe" (173). Nevertheless, this chapter sheds light on the significance of Don Manuel's marriage to Beatrice Contesson; a union that would tie Don Manuel, his descendants, and the Spanish monarchy to the House of Savoy for centuries. As the author concludes in his epilogue, few Spaniards knew in the nineteenth century that Amadeo I, King of Spain from 1871-73, was the direct descendant of Don Manuel's father-in-law (298).

The next two chapters conclude the parallel lives of Don Manuel and Alfonso X. Chapter 7, "Problems of Succession: 1276-82," chronicles the history of Fernando de la Cerda and his children. They would entangle Alfonso's affairs further with the King of France, and with his own wife, Queen Violante, who defended the rights of her grandchildren while Don Manuel, Alfonso, and his son Sancho formed, as Kinkade argues, a "ruling triumvirate in Castile" before Alfonso's final deposition and Sancho's rebellion (232).

In the last chapter of the lives of these two brothers, "The Rebellion of 1282-84" (Chapter 8), Kinkade speculates about the thinking, and the personal character, behind Don Manuel's decision to back Infante Sancho's claim to the throne. The chapter continues to follow the early reign of Sancho IV, his marriage to his cousin, Doña María de Molina, and his alliance with Don Manuel and the powerful Haro family before concluding with a close reading of Don Manuel's last will and testament.

An ancillary argument in Kinkade's biography deals with the critical representation of Don Manuel, as sketchy as it is, in many of the most important histories of Alfonso's reign. Kinkade does not often need to correct the historical record in his book, although he does bring to bear many new pieces of documentary evidence to solve unanswered questions about his subjects and their whereabouts. He is concerned, however, with correcting the view of Don Manuel as another treacherous courtier who betrayed his brother to protect and promote his own political ambitions. The image that emerges from Kinkade's book shows that Don Manuel was an effective advocate and bureaucrat who successfully promoted his brother's capricious, even delusional agendas, channeling Alfonso's energies until his brother's recklessness forced his hand, leading him to abandon his brother at the end of his reign.

As a biography of Don Manuel, Kinkade's book is groundbreaking, and it will be an invaluable resource for specialists. It also makes an important contribution to the rich critical bibliography on the life of Alfonso X, "El Sabio." Finally, as a history of Spain, *Dawn of a Dynasty* is recommended to audiences studying late medieval monarchy as it concentrates on the diplomatic relations, travels, councils, marriages, rebellions, and court intrigue that circumscribed all the kingdoms of the Peninsula within the larger context of European and Mediterranean history.

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ANA MARÍA LAGUNA AND JOHN BEUSTERIEN, EDS. *Goodbye Eros: Recasting Forms and Norms of Love in the Age of Cervantes*. Toronto: U of Toronto P, 2020. 281 pp.

This is a fascinating collection of essays whose proposal is clear from the outset: "This volume ... explores how Golden Age letters rose to the challenge of revamping, recreating, and reflecting on the foundational amatory forms and norms that flourished on the Spanish literary scene" (4). Throughout the 11 essays, introduced by the editors in "Eros in the Age of Cervantes," the book has as its purpose to provide "multiple and multifaceted answers" to address the master metaphor of love (4). The contributors excel in doing exactly that, as each essay focuses on an important text from the time, but within a contemporary and relevant framework that allows the reader to explore "new discursive paths and the reconfiguration of old formulaic venues" (5). Canonic authors such as Cervantes, Góngora, Hurtado de Mendoza, Lope de Vega, and Quevedo as