Proposal for the 3rd MMHN Conference

Luis Alberto Anaya Hernández - Universidad de Las Palmas de Gran Canaria

The Controversy with respect to the Trinitarian and Mercedarian Redemptions of Captives in the Maghreb

This paper is an analysis of the mechanics of the redemption of captives, held in Maghreb, by these two religious orders by outlining how the latter were organised, what kinds of economic income they possessed and how they worked. This study draws mainly upon the sixty books of genealogical records consulted together with the existing documentation of the Inquisition in the Canary Islands. Furthermore, an analysis is made of the relationships produced between captives and redeemers, not always as idyllic as one would have expected, since the desperation of the prisoners and their anxiety to be freed produced serious compromises, at times, for the friars. Finally, we will broach the criticism wagered at the redeemers, based on the belief that the payments made for the freedom of the prisoners motivated the corsairs of North Africa to make more captures and, thus, money in exchange for the release of their captives. This was the reason which motivated the proposal to suspend the redemption payments and devote the money rather to forming a fleet which could arrest Berber corsairs and use them by way of ransom for the freedom of the Spanish captives.
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Luis Alberto Anaya Hernández is professor of Modern History in the University of Las Palmas de Gran Canary.

Publications include Judeoconversos e Inquisición en Canarias (1402-1605). Moros en la costa. Dos siglos de corsarismo berberisco en las Islas Canarias (1569-1749) VI Premio Internacional Millares Carlo. With other authors: Antigüedades y Ordenanzas de la isla de El Hierro de el escribano Bartolomé García de El Castillo; La Guerra civil en Canarias.

Chapter of books: “Las peculiaridades de los moriscos canarios”. “Los moriscos de Canarias : de los intentos de expulsión a la integración”. “El Tribunal del Santo Oficio de la Inquisición de Canarias”.

Articles: “ Los aborígenes canarios y los estatutos de limpieza”. “Un guanche ante la Inquisición”. “El papel de los judeoconversos canarios en la fundación de la comunidad judia inglesa y en el comercio anglo-canario”.