

# Abstracts

## **IRENE REGINATO, *Priest John and Nubia/Ethiopia in the Catalan Version of the Milione***

The Catalan version (K) of Marco Polo's *Devisement du Monde* or *Milione* mentions Priest John in a passage that does not appear in any other version of Marco's text, connecting the legendary monarch to the African countries of Ethiopia and Nubia, and illustrating the early 14th C *translatio* of John's seat from Asia to Africa. After having summarized his role in the *Milione*, Reginato connects Priest John's relocation to the medieval confusion between India and Ethiopia and between Ethiopia and Nubia (with a foray into cartography), and analyses it in the light of the historical context of 14th-C Europe.

## **REBECA SWANSON, *The Literary World of Roda d'Isàvena, a Small Pyrenean See***

Roda d'Isàvena is a small border see in the heart of the Pyrenees that played a crucial role in the exchange of knowledge between southern French and northern Spanish territories during the 10th and the 12th C. This article surveys the extant manuscripts of chronicles, poetry, historiography and hagiography produced in Roda d'Isàvena and analyses them as the expression of the economical and political concerns in this diocese.

## **XAVIER RENEDO, *The Good Death of the Kings of Aragon, According to Ramon Muntaner***

Taking Ramon Muntaner's chronicle as a starting point, this article examines the passages that describe the deaths of the Aragonese kings. Renedo concludes that there is a set pattern to describe 'good deaths', that is those following the set ritual, which are opposed to sudden deaths. The range of elements involved in a good death are analysed and accompanied with the account of the death of Phillip III of France and the comparison with analogue passages in King James I of Aragon's *Llibre dels fets*, in Bernat Desclot's chronicle and in Joinville's *Vie de saint Louis*.

## **MARICARMEN GÓMEZ MUNTANÉ, *The Mystery Play of Elx, the Song of the Sybil and the Problems Involved in Preserving UNESCO Oral Heritage***

Two items belonging to Catalan musical heritage have recently been included in the Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity: the *Mystery Play of Elx* (2001) and the *Song of the Sybil* (2010). They are exceptional pieces, which have had the good fortune to have been continuously performed for centuries, and therefore present conservation problems, as do all ancient monuments. Preserving them is a delicate matter, which requires a consensual agreement from all parties involved.

## **ORIOL CASADEVALL, *Musician Angels, a Witness of Musical Life in 15thC Castelló***

Performers of medieval music rely on a range of sources to aid their reconstruction of medieval sound, iconography being extraordinarily informative in that sense. This article focuses on the wide collection of instruments played by the musician angels in the altarpiece of Basilica of Saint Mary at Castelló d'Empúries. Representations such as this are a privileged source to approach the study of medieval instruments, some of which would not be known solely from either documentation or extant pieces.

## **FRANCESC VICENS, *Ramon Llull and Music: the Illuminated Doctor's Contribution to Medieval Musical Literature***

This article analyses Ramon Llull's references to music within their literary context. Llull's vast opus refers to music both as part of his scientific interest and of his moralizing scope, becoming in either case a tool for his missionary intent. From this survey of passages referring to musical issues, Vicens defines Llull's contribution to medieval music and highlights the later developments of some of these elements.