

Corporate Representation in Leon and Castile During the Thirteenth Century

Horacio de la Costa, S.J.

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The Article explores the existence of corporate proctorial representation in 13th century Leon and Castile. It first presents the argument of Professor Gaines Post that only a loose kind of representation existed before 1305 since it was only at this time that written mandates authorizing *procuradors* to represent their towns and villages before the king can be traced. The Author, however, posits that while *omes bonos*, *personeros* and *mandaderos* did not have formal authority of representation, they nonetheless performed the same functions as *procuradors*. To prove such, he pointed out certain indicia of this authority: that these agents travel to the courts in behalf of the town or village council; that their travelling expenses are answered by the council; and that they play a minor consultative part at the king's court.

The Author also believes that further research into the origins of medieval Spanish institutions will yield clearer evidence of the existence of corporate representation before 1305. Lastly, he concludes that the depth of influence of native Castilian institutions and customary laws on corporate representation, as opposed to that of Roman and canon law, merits a separate study.