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SABINE PANZRAM and LAURENT CALLEGARIN, EDS.

Entre civitas y madīna: el mundo de las ciudades en la Península Ibérica y en el Norte de África (siglos IV-IX).

(Collection de la Casa de Velázquez.) xvi, 393 pp. Madrid: Casa de Velázquez, 2018. 49 €. ISBN: 9788490962169

This volume originated in the workshop held on 22-24 October 2015, a collaboration between the Casa de Velázquez Madrid and Toletum, an interdisciplinary research network for research on the Iberian Peninsula in antiquity. The latter was co-founded in 2010 by Panzram in collaboration with Markus Trunk, a specialist in classical archaeology at the University of Trier, in response to recent decades' new archaeological discoveries that offer important new perspectives on the cities of the western Mediterranean.

Entre civitas y madīna proceeds from perspective rooted in studies of the ancient world, in keeping with the research focus of its editors. Panzram (Department of History, University of Hamburg) is a specialist in the Roman Empire and Late Antiquity with a focus on Iberia, Callegarin (Casa de Velázquez, Madrid), is a specialist on the pre-Roman and Roman periods, specializing in the territories from Southern Gaul to West North Africa via the Iberian world. While the Toletum network's research is focused on the period leading up to the early eighth-century Islamic conquests of Iberia and North Africa, they advocate for an interdisciplinary approach that crosses traditional periodizations as well as disciplinary divisions. The current volume illustrates such an approach, with essays contributed by specialists in antiquity, late antiquity, and the medieval period, and which bridge confessional divides as well as those that have long separated the study of ancient and medieval Iberia and North of Africa.

The stated aim of the volume is to examine the significance of the cities of Iberia and North Africa from the 4th to the 9th centuries, from current perspectives on late antique cities emerging from the new archaeological evidence. An introductory essay by the volume editors, and an essay by Hugh Kennedy reflecting upon his now-classic 1985 "From Polis to Madina" essay, thirty years on, open the volume. The whole is concluded by Patrice Cressier's essay on the genesis of Islamic cities in the western Maghrib. The main body of the work is divided into two major parts, the first focused on the Iberian Peninsula, the second on North Africa. Each of these two major sections is further subdivided, with framing/overview essays, a series of case studies, and finally essays that take a thematic focus.

For the Iberian Peninsula section, Javier Arce first discusses the transition from pagan to Christian cities in Hispania of the 4th-6th centuries, followed by Sonia Gutiérrez Lloret's overview of 20 years of archaeological research on urban transitions from the late antique to the medieval Islamic period. Four case studies follow: on Augusta Emerita between the 1st-9th centuries (Miguel Alba Calzado); Carthago Spartaria in the 5th century (Jaime Vizcaíno Sánchez); the Straits of Gibraltar as a mediating space of connection between Iberian and North African cities (Darío Bernal Casasola); and finally one on Umayyad Cordoba, focused on the suburb of Shaqunda in the mid-8th to early 9th centuries (María Teresa Casal García). The thematic essays that conclude the Iberian section begin with an examination of numismatic evidence, examining coins issued from Late Antiquity through to the Umayyad conquest (Ruth Pliego and Tawfiq Ibrahim). This is followed by an essay on topic of knowledge of Christian topography of the 7th – 9th centuries (Francisco José Moreno Martín),

and a final thematic essay on the Islamization of the Andalusí urban landscape based on burial customs (Christophe Eger).

For the North Africa section, Françoise Baratte surveys recent historiography on its cities between late antiquity and Arab conquest, followed by Corisande Fenwick's discussion of the emergence of early Islamic cities. Case studies here are provided on the cities of Amedara and Theveste (present-day Haïdra, Tunisia and Tébessa, Algeria respectively) by Elsa Rocca and Fathi Béjaoui; on the island of Jerba between the 5th-9th centuries (Elizabeth Fentress); and finally on urban life and craft activities in late antiquity (Ridha Ghaddhab). The thematic essays here focus on late antique urban décor and public spaces, statues and urban culture (Lennart Gilhaus), and the role of Catholic bishops in geopolitics following the Vandal conquests.

This volume's integrated approach transgresses longstanding binaries that have hampered the study of the region, dividing them according to categories such as European/African, ancient/medieval, Christian/Muslim. This complements other scholarly efforts that have arisen over the last decade, such as the Spain-North Africa Project (SNAP), founded (like the Toletum Network) in 2010 by an interdisciplinary group of American scholars of the medieval and early modern periods, with the aim of encouraging studies of the region that could "span the more general divide between scholars of pre-modern Europe and of the Islamic world" and which has so far resulted in three publications: *A Forgotten Empire: The Spanish North African Borderlands* (published in 2011 as a special issue of the *Journal of Spanish Culture*); *Spanning the Strait: Studies in Unity in the Western Mediterranean* (published in 2013 as a special offprint of *Medieval Encounters*); and *Facets of Exchange between North Africa and the Iberian Peninsula* (published in 2014 as a special issue of *The Journal of North African Studies*).

Entre Civitas y Madina is thus a welcome addition to scholarship, one which draws attention to the value of integrated perspectives on Iberia and North Africa (for example Amira Bennison's *The Articulation of Power in Medieval Iberia and the Maghrib* (British Academy, 2014) and which underscores the significance of the region to other recent critical reassessments of the ancient and medieval Mediterranean and its western shores, for instance *The Aghlabids and Their Neighbours: Art and Material Culture in Ninth-Century North Africa* (Brill, 2017) and the brand new and complementary volume, edited by one of the co-editors of the current volume, titled *The Power of Cities: The Iberian Peninsula from Late Antiquity to the Early Modern Period* (Brill, 2019).

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