

PREFACE

The study of the medieval history of Spain in the English-speaking world has taken enormous strides over the last generation or so. In the mid-1960s, when the elder of these two collaborators embarked upon research for a doctorate, there were scarcely any reputable scholarly works to be had; by the year 2000 the list of them is ample and steadily growing. But the publication of surveys and monographs, of articles and editions, has not been matched – at least as regards the central medieval period between the tenth and thirteenth centuries – by comparable publication of extended translations from the original sources. It is in an attempt to take some modest steps towards redressing this imbalance that we have translated the four texts contained within this book. Together they constitute the principal narrative sources for Leonese–Castilian history in the century and a half between *c.* 1000 and *c.* 1150.

We have worked from the following editions:

- 1 *Historia Silense*, eds J. Pérez de Urbel and A. González Ruiz-Zorrilla (Madrid, 1959).
- 2 *Chronicon Regum Legionensium* by Bishop Pelayo of Oviedo, under the title *Crónica del Obispo Don Pelayo*, ed. B. Sánchez Alonso (Madrid, 1924).
- 3 *Historia Roderici vel Gesta Roderici Campidocti*, ed. E. Falque Rey, in *Chronica Hispana saeculi XII*, Corpus Christianorum, Continuatio Mediaevalis, vol. 71 (Turnhout, 1990), pp. 47–98.
- 4 *Chronica Adefonsi Imperatoris*, ed. A. Maya Sánchez, in the same volume of *Chronica Hispana saeculi XII*, pp. 149–248; together with the associated verses on the Almería campaign of 1147 edited in the same volume by J. Gil at pp. 255–67.

The introductions to these editions furnish details of the surviving manuscripts, previous editions and so forth. No English translation of any of these texts has been published before in its entirety. Brief extracts from 1, 3 and 4 have been translated in Colin Smith's *Christians and Moors in Spain*, vol. I (Warminster, 1988). Modern Spanish translations have been published as follows:

- 1 (a) M. Gómez-Moreno, *Introducción a la Historia Silense* (Madrid, 1921), pp. lxiii–cxxxvi.
(b) J. E. Casariego, *Crónicas de los Reinos de Asturias y León* (Madrid, 1985), pp. 110–58.
- 2 Casariego, as above, pp. 172–81.
- 3 E. Falque Rey, “Traducción de la “*Historia Roderici*””, *Boletín de la Institución Fernán González* 62 (1983), pp. 343–75.
- 4 M. Pérez González, *Crónica del Emperador Alfonso VII* (León, 1997).

We divided responsibility for the introductions, translations and notes between us, to Richard Fletcher falling the *Historia Silense* and the *Historia Roderici* and to Simon Barton the *Chronicon Regum Legionensium* and the *Chronica Adefonsi Imperatoris*. Each of us submitted his draft work to the other for criticism, on the understanding that absolute candour was required of the critic, absolute humility in the criticised. In the resultant shuffling of papers, the muted buzzings and pings of faxes and emails, extending over some two years or more, we hope that we have improved upon our first hesitant drafts. To our surprise and pleasure we found that harmonious co-operation was never once threatened by even the suspicion of a cross word so much as meditated, let alone uttered. Of the ancillary portions of the work, to which we applied the same routines, Richard Fletcher drafted the general introduction, Simon Barton the bibliography, map and genealogical table.

We are indebted to many colleagues and friends to whom we have turned, and never in vain, for advice, help or information. Specifically we wish to put on record our gratitude to Martin Brett, Roger Collins, Emma Falque, Christopher Holdsworth, John Keegan, Peter Linehan, Raymond McCluskey, Marcelo Martínez Pastor, Maurilio Pérez González, Bernard Reilly, María José de Vega Alonso, Geoff West, John Williams, John Wreglesworth and Roger Wright. A special word of thanks is due to Jinty Nelson, the series adviser, both for her enthusiastic encouragement of our project and for her constructive critique of our efforts; also to Louise Edwards and Vanessa Graham and their colleagues at Manchester University Press in watching over the progress of this book from its outset to its completion.

The dedication is the expression of a different sort of debt. Barrie Dobson has been a colleague, mentor and friend of us both over many years. In dedicating this book to him in the year of his retirement we register our gratitude.

Simon Barton
Richard Fletcher