

desperate to return home, filed dozens of appeals with the Inquisition tribunals that had sentenced them. By the same token, if the rural environment were truly alien, as Tausiet claims (159), then a sentence of exile for a city dweller should have been that much more frightening. Finally, Tausiet argues that inside city walls, witchcraft accusations became merely an offensive expression (159), without any real social consequences, but it is exactly the nexus between defamation and accusation that Alison Rowlands, for example, has found crucial for understanding witchcraft in early modern Rothenburg, and sources from the kingdom of Navarre in northern Spain reveal the same link. Despite such queries, however, *Urban Magic in Early Modern Spain* will introduce a vigorous scholarly voice to a wider audience.

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**La casa de Borgoña: La casa del Rey de España.** Edited by *José Eloy Hortal Muñoz* and *Félix Labrador Arroyo*. *Avisos de Flandes*, volume 14. Louvain: Leuven University Press, 2014. Pp. 573. €49.50.

Thanks to a recent proliferation of international and multidisciplinary research groups, the Spanish court has become the subject of an array of publications that have substantially deepened current understandings of its administrative structure. The volume under review focuses on the house of Burgundy, or the *casa de Borgoña*, the principal royal house among the conglomerate of royal houses that composed the Spanish court. Arriving in Spain with the first Burgundy-Habsburg king of Castile, Philip I, in 1506, it survived the dynasty that introduced it well into the eighteenth century. In spite of the Habsburg's explicit recognition of Castile as their principal kingdom, the *casa de Borgoña* eventually subsumed the rest of the royal houses, most notably the Castilian. This ambitious collection of essays offers important insights into the strategies the Habsburgs employed to rule a multinational political conglomerate. It also presents fresh perspectives on the policies the Bourbons adopted during the early period of their rule.

Rather than focusing on rituals associated with the display of royal power, the approach in this collection is politico-institutional. The nineteen chapters are devoted to analyzing the evolution of the house of Burgundy, its constitutive parts (chapel, stables, chamber, house, and royal guards), and its cultural influence outside Spain. Although part of this history is already well known, the volume still has much to offer that is new. The process of Hispanicization (perhaps a better term would be "Castilianization"), experienced after Philip II (r. 1556–98) established the court permanently in Madrid in 1561, is much better understood thanks to the essays' in-depth discussion of the individual sections within the house. Of particular importance are the four chapters dedicated to the chapel, in which the amalgamation of Castilian and Burgundian offices can be most clearly seen. In spite of becoming Spanish, the *casa de Borgoña* retained its individual and, most important, its conspicuously foreign identity. The Habsburgs' predilection for the royal house most closely identified with the dynasty carried significant political implications. Habsburg rulers consistently prioritized dynastic interests in their court, as they did with foreign-policy matters, often to the consternation of the ruling elites, particularly, but not limited to, those of Castilian stock. The preference of one organizational structure over the other (i.e., Burgundian over Castilian) had more mundane, albeit not less significant, ramifications. The two offices most readily associated with the house of Burgundy, the *contralor* and *grefier*, for

example, possessed substantial financial and administrative power. Their ability to control the distribution of food rations and emoluments, coupled with their extensive autonomy, contributed to the development of corruption.

The Habsburg court system proved to be an extremely effective political tool. It promoted loyalty within a widely diverse sociopolitical constituency. By the seventeenth century, however, the court had become an administrative giant in dire need of reform, an issue effectively discussed in several chapters, particularly that of J. Martínez Millán. Attempts to reduce personnel, control spending, and eliminate fraud, taken up in earnest during the reign of Philip IV (r. 1621–65), enjoyed little, if any, success. F. Labrador Arroyo demonstrates that these efforts were not completely lost. The *junta de etiquetas*, a three-member committee in charge of investigating the situation, produced the first set of ordinances regulating the house, imposing order in the realm of ceremony. As a result of this endeavor, the house of Burgundy gained administrative jurisdiction over the other royal houses, which by the end of the century existed only in name. In one of the most important contributions, M. Luzzi Traficante documented the modest reforms implemented during the rule of the last Habsburg king of Spain, Carlos II (r. 1665–1700), thus suggesting more continuities during the dynastic transition from Habsburg to Bourbon than previous scholarship has allowed. The Bourbons set out to clean, trim, and unify the system as soon as they rose to power, although they faced the same difficulties as did their predecessors. Only after half a century of unsuccessful attempts were they able, in 1749, to eliminate permanently the house of Burgundy, which was reborn as *la casa del Rey de España*, or the house of the king of Spain. The complete collapse of the Habsburg system of multiple royal houses came in 1761, when the royal houses of the king *and* the queen were united into one. Thus, the fate of the royal houses is intimately connected to the birth of the modern Spanish state.

As the subtitle of this volume indicates, the house of Burgundy was associated mainly with the king's household. The queen's household was the principal Castilian royal house. Royal women played a critical role in disseminating Spanish-Burgundian traditions into other courts. Catalina Michaela of Austria (r. 1585–97), for example, the youngest daughter of Philip II, brought the Spanish-Burgundian traditions to the Duchy of Savoy with a great degree of success. Through her daughters, they trickled into some of the smaller Italian courts, such as those of Modena and Mantua. Anne of Austria (r. 1615–43) and Maria Theresa of Austria (r. 1660–83) likewise introduced Spanish rituals and offices into France. Their influence, however, was more limited than that of their ancestor in Savoy. Two other seventeenth-century infantas, Empress Maria Anna of Austria (r. 1631–46) and Empress Margarita of Austria (r. 1666–73), had substantial influence on the imperial court, even though they did so under very different financial and political circumstances. According to L. Oliván Santaliestra, Habsburg women departed from their native Spain with specific instructions that urged them to promote Spanish-Burgundian courtly traditions, known as simply Spanish in foreign courts. Protecting, perpetuating, and exporting all symbols associated with the *casa de Borgoña* was evidently of the utmost importance to the Spanish Habsburgs.

This group of international scholars has managed to present highly technical material in a digestible form. Sometimes, however, the major conclusions are left up to the reader to discern. Nonetheless, this longitudinal view of the house of Burgundy highlights the significance of one of the most complex early modern institutions: the court.

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