

CONNECTIONS WITH THE PAST: MIDDLE AGES IN COLOMBIAN HISTORY JOURNALS

LUIS MANUEL PÉREZ ZAMBRANO
UNIVERSIDAD DEL ATLÁNTICO
COLOMBIA

Date of receipt: 25th of October, 2016

Final date of acceptance: 20th of February, 2017

ABSTRACT

This article is an overview of all the issues related to Middle Ages addressed by Colombian historians. The main goal of this article is to show how Middle Ages has been object of study and research in Colombia. We have based this summary in the articles and reviews published in local history journals in Colombia. In this way, we could understand how Middle Ages has been an issue of great concern among national historians who have shown great interest in such a rich topic, and who have proposed significant ideas to the study of this specific time of human development in the world's history.¹

KEYWORDS

Historiography, World History, Middle Ages, Colombian Historians.

CAPITALIA VERBA

Historiographia, Historia Mundi, Medium Aevum, Historici Columbiae.

1. Introduction

Middle Ages has had its own place in Colombian historiography, as evidenced in articles and reviews published in national history journals. However, the recent generations of historians have the perception that this topic has never been addressed in the country, and still today it does not seem to be an interesting one for research in the country. This is partly due to the consolidation of the discipline at a national level, which is the result of the emergence of new schools, departments, journals and local history books. Nevertheless, the concern for deeper research arose, at a national, regional and local levels. Now, as studies on the immediate surrounding were consolidated, the interest in universal history was abandoned, to the extent that the importance of Middle Ages as an object of research and study is no longer discussed.

This article shows the contribution of Colombia to the study of the Middle Ages. First, figures on medieval historiography are revealed in some local history journals² and we indicate their proportion in the scientific production of the country. Then, a list of the articles on this subject is described as well as the topics addressed in each of them. Finally, we will present a brief description of the books, reviews and journals where these articles were published, and some general considerations will be shown to support the mentioned contributions.

2. Historiography of Middle Ages in Colombian history journals

Before the sixties, in Colombia, those who were interested in history could opt for a Philosophy and Literature degree at the *Universidad Nacional de Colombia*, where you could choose an emphasis on history, in fifth semester.³ It was in 1963 that the first History program was created at *Universidad del Valle* (Colombia)⁴ and then, in 1966, the Department of Studies on History at the *Universidad Nacional de Colombia*. Since then, the training process of the very first historians in Colombia began. Together with this experience and with the desire to *consolidar*

1. This article is part of the project *El desarrollo historiográfico de la Edad Media: una mirada desde Colombia*, presented as a research project to obtain the title of “Master in Middle Ages European Identity” at the University of Lleida (Spain). It was funded by the University of Atlántico (Colombia) under the framework of Institutional Program for Masters and Doctorate Studies, call 2014.

2. The journals included in this research are part of the *Índice Bibliográfico Nacional* (“National Bibliographic Index”), IBN-Publindex 2014-1, where scientific publications in Colombia are categorized. Servicio Permanente de Indexación de Revistas Especializadas de Ciencia, Tecnología e Innovación (CTI) Colombianas. “Índice Bibliográfico Nacional –IBN Publindex I Actualización 2014”. Índice Bibliográfico Nacional-Publindex. 30 January 2015. Colciencias. 16 July 2015 <<http://publindex.colciencias.gov.co:8084/publindex/EnIbnPublindex/resultados.do>>.

3. Jaramillo, Jaime. “El Anuario de Historia Social y de la Cultura: sus orígenes y desarrollo”. *Anuario Colombiano de Historia Social y de la Cultura*, 30 (2003): 9.

4. Montenegro, Augusto. “Veinticinco años de la carrera de Historia”. *Memoria y Sociedad*, 1 (1995): 10.



la disciplina –as Archila⁵ says– the Colombian *Anuario Colombiano de Historia Social y de la Cultura* was designed, which was the first history journal that emerged in the university world in Colombia; it was the second journal after the *Boletín de Historia y Antigüedades*⁶ published by the Colombian Academy of History. The main purpose of this Yearbook –known later as ACHSC– was to communicate the results of researches carried out by the newly created Department of History, and to follow in the footsteps of *Annales d'Économé, Société et Civilisations*, directed by Lucien Febvre and Marc Bloch.⁷

According to the National Bibliographic Index –IBN Publindex,⁸ there are 15 scientific journals indexed in Colombia, corresponding to 2.77% of the total of the country's scientific journals, that is, 542. Most of these publications on history emerged when the first departments of history were created in Colombian universities. We can say that the growth of the departments and journals contributed to the professionalization of history as a profession itself; it is with good reason that López says that journals are *lugares privilegiados del debate historiográfico*.⁹ Concerning the professionalization of history as a profession itself, Archila argues that:

*En la historia colombiana y en general en la global, un paso clave para la consolidación de la disciplina de la historia fue la profesionalización del oficio que dejó atrás al tradicional historiador que dedicaba los tiempos libres que le dejaban su profesión –por lo común, abogado, político, militar o religioso–, para incursionar en el pasado sin mayor rigor teórico o metodológico. Pero era necesaria la formación de investigadores de tiempo completo y no solo de docentes.*¹⁰

5. “consolidate the discipline”. Archila, Mauricio. “El Anuario Colombiano de Historia Social y de la Cultura, una joven revista histórica que cumple 50 años”. *Anuario Colombiano de Historia Social y de la Cultura*, 40/1 (2013): 33.

6. For this study, we will not consider this bulletin because scientific history journals in Colombia were the space for a new historiographic school of thought. This new school emerged as opposed to the traditional one, widely disseminated by the history academies submerged in patriotism and empiricism. As father Lee said, according to König, cited by Archila: *los miembros de aquellas academias fungían como ‘caballeros andantes de patriotismo’* (“the members of those academies served as ‘wanderer knights of patriotism”). Archila, Mauricio. “El Anuario Colombiano de Historia Social y de la Cultura...”: 34.

7. Jaramillo, Jaime. “El Anuario de Historia Social y de la Cultura...”: 9.

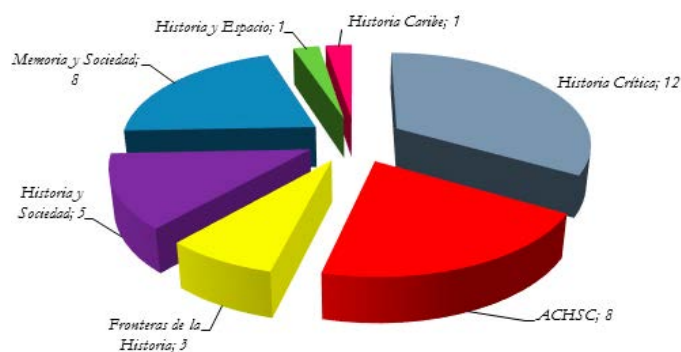
8. Servicio Permanente de Indexación de Revistas Especializadas de Ciencia, Tecnología e Innovación (CTI) Colombianas. “Índice Bibliográfico Nacional –IBN Publindex II Actualización 2014”. Índice Bibliográfico Nacional-Publindex. 30 January 2015. Colciencias. 16 July 2015
<<http://publindex.colciencias.gov.co:8084/publindex/EnIbnPublindex/resultados.do>>.

9. “privileged places of the historiographic debate”. López Forero, Abel Ignacio. *Europa. Temas, debates y libros*. Bogotá: Estudio Gráfico, 2013: 9.

10. “In Colombian history, –and in global history, in general– a key step for the consolidation of history as a discipline was its professionalization that left the traditional historians behind, those who dedicated some of the limited free time they had within their own profession –usually lawyers, politicians, soldiers or religious leaders– to study the past without greater theoretical or methodological rigor. However, it was necessary to train full-time researchers and not just teachers”. Archila, Mauricio. “El Anuario Colombiano de Historia Social y de la Cultura...”: 33.



At the beginning, universal issues played a key role in journals. Those were the first topics covered in articles and reviews. Hence, Medieval History was present in 19 articles and 18 reviews, and in 7 out of 15 history journals (see graph 1). Now, the professionalization of the role of historians, which allowed the consolidation of microhistory and marked a path to a historical approach at a national, regional and local level, completely changed that panorama. Indeed, the study of themes of universal nature in history disappeared, along with the growth of historical research in the country.¹¹



GRAPH 1. SCIENTIFIC PRODUCTION OF ARTICLES ON MEDIEVAL HISTORY IN COLOMBIAN HISTORY JOURNALS. GRAPH CREATED BY THE AUTHOR (JUNE 2015)

The articles and reviews are published in *Anuario Colombiano de Historia Social y de la Cultura*; *Historia Crítica*; *Historia y Espacio*; *Fronteras de la Historia*; *Historia y Sociedad*; *Memoria y Sociedad*; and *Historia Caribe*. This can have several explanations, as mentioned in the journal, and one of them is the lack of *discriminaciones de escuela o criterios interpretativos [...] a historiadores nacionales o extranjeros*¹² –in the case of the journal *Anuario*,– in which the only standard indicated by its founder Jaime Jaramillo is *seriedad y el rigor que debe caracterizar al difícil oficio de comprender*

11. The growth of national historiography was boosted by the new postgraduate experience that emerged in the country, as Archila points out in referring to the publication of articles in the *Anuario*: [...] *en cambio se ve la creciente participación de estudiantes de posgrado –primero de la Maestría en Historia, desde los años ochenta, y luego del Doctorado en Historia, desde mediados de los años noventa- y aun de recién egresados de la carrera, reinaugurada a comienzos de la década del noventa* (“[...] on the other hand we can see the participation of graduate students –first those studying a Master’s Degree in History, since the eighties, and then those following a Doctorate in History, since the mid-nineties– and even bachelor graduates of History, which reopened as a profession at the beginning of the nineties”). Archila, Mauricio. “El Anuario Colombiano de Historia Social y de la Cultura...”: 37.

12. “school critical discrimination or interpretative criteria [...] to national or foreign historians”. Jaramillo, Jaime. “El Anuario de Historia Social y de la Cultura...”: 10.



y escribir la historia.¹³ Another explanation can be that this journal was the primary means of communication of this movement called New History,¹⁴ influenced by sociology, economy and historiographic trends consolidated in Europe and United States.¹⁵

In the case of *Historia Crítica*, where we found most of the texts that support this research, we can say that this was the concept proposed by a *comunidad académica independiente*,¹⁶ whose main purpose was to be:

[...] el medio de divulgación amplio que presente los resultados de investigaciones, análisis historiográficos y reflexiones de los profesores del Departamento [de Historia], así como de colaboradores de otras universidades nacionales e internacionales. La revista contiene escritos sobre temas relacionados con la disciplina histórica, así como también con diversos períodos vistos a través de diferentes enfoques historiográficos.¹⁷

In the case of the journal *Historia y Sociedad*, there was a great concern about the dissemination of academic production by both national and international historians.¹⁸ The journal *Memoria y Sociedad*, from their part, sought to *avanzar en la propuesta comunicativa y consolidar los lazos del equipo profesoral con la comunidad colombiana e internacional*.¹⁹ There are, though, several reasons that lead us to understand that the primary object was to support the consolidation of the discipline from a more analytical, broader and universal perspective.

Considering all the ideas above mentioned, the presence of medieval content in these journals is not surprising. However, some of these publications have a clear emphasis in regional, local or thematic interest. The journal *Fronteras de la Historia*

13. "seriousness and rigour that characterizes the arduous job of understanding and writing history". Jaramillo, Jaime. "El Anuario de Historia Social y de la Cultura...": 10.

14. The Movement New History of Colombia collected the experiences *de la Escuela de Annales como de la 'New Economic History' y de la historiografía marxista* ("from the school Annales as well as from the *New Economic History* and Marx's historiography"). Montenegro, Augusto. "Veinticinco años de la carrera de historia...": 9.

15. Montenegro, Augusto. "Veinticinco años de la carrera de historia...": 9.

16. "independent academic community". "Introducción: cincuenta números de *Historia Crítica*". *Historia Crítica*, 50 (2013): 7.

17. "[...] an extensive means of communication that shows the results of research, historiographic analysis and considerations of professors of the Department [of History], as well as collaborators from other national and international universities. This journal contains articles about history, as well as different periods of time as seen by different historiographic approaches". García, Daniel. "Presentación". *Historia Crítica*, 1 (1989): 3.

18. Acevedo, Rubén Darío. "Las revista de Historia y la Historia". *Universidad Nacional de Colombia*. 10 August 2015 <<http://www.revistas.unal.edu.co/index.php/achsc/article/view/47250/48493>> (Conference presented at the "Encuentro Internacional: El Papel de las Revistas de Historia en la consolidación de la disciplina en Iberoamérica- 50 años del *Anuario Colombiano de Historia Social y de la Cultura*", celebrated from August 21 to 23, 2013 in Bogotá).

19. "take steps forward to a communicative proposal and consolidate the connections between the team of professors and the Colombian and international communities". Flórez, Alberto G. "Presentación". *Memoria y Sociedad*, 1/1 (1995): 5.



showcased a special interest in communicating the results of researches about colonial history in Colombia and Latin America.²⁰ In turn, the journal *Historia y Espacio* tried to be an answer from the part of the *historiadores del suroccidente colombiano que no resistían más historias nacionales, en las que se incluía esta región sin ver sus particularidades*.²¹ Another regional experience is that of the journal *Historia Caribe*, intended as the *órgano de expresión de todos los investigadores de la historia local regional, sin contar la tendencia historiográfica a la cual pertenezca el autor o autores de los artículos*.²²

Nevertheless, the regional or local emphasis did not affect the publication of works related to other spatial and temporary realities. The Medieval History will constitute 1% of the themes published in scientific Colombian history journals. We can see, thus, that despite the common idea that sufficient research has been made on Middle Ages or regardless how distant this time seem from us, it has been present in national publications.

3. Medieval history articles in Colombian historiography

There are several records of content related to Middle Ages found in historiographic material produced out of the European sphere. In the Colombian context, we find an article from Vargas,²³ which consisted in identifying texts about history of Europe in the journal *Historia Crítica*. As for the theme of Middle Ages, several research from other countries has been found, as the one from Ríos Saloma²⁴ in Mexico, Fernandes²⁵ in Brasil,

20. Gamboa, Jorge Augusto. "La historiografía colonial en Colombia y Latinoamérica". *Universidad Nacional de Colombia*. 10 August 2015 <<http://www.revistas.unal.edu.co/index.php/achsc/article/view/46993/48306>> (Conference presented at the "Encuentro Internacional: El Papel de las Revistas de Historia en la consolidación de la disciplina en Iberoamérica- 50 años del *Anuario Colombiano de Historia Social y de la Cultura*", celebrated from August 21 to 23, 2013 in Bogota).

21. "Colombian southwestern historians that could not accept the national historic narrative that excluded their region and overlooked their particular characteristics". Echeverry, Antonio José. "Historia y Espacio: Una mirada desde las regiones". *Anuario Colombiano de Historia Social y de la Cultura*, 40/1 (2013): 342.

22. "means of expression of all researchers of local and regional history, regardless their historiographic style of the authors". Alarcón, Luis; Conde, Jorge. "Historia Caribe: Desarrollo, aportes y desafíos de un proyecto editorial en construcción". *Anuario Colombiano de Historia Social y de la Cultura*, 40/1 (2013): 367.

23. Vargas, Martín Eduardo. "La historia europea en la revista *Historia Crítica*". *Historia Crítica*, 25 (2003): 79-97.

24. Ríos, Martín F. "La historia medieval en México: estado de la cuestión". *Imago Temporis. Medium Aevum*, 4 (2010): 437-457.

25. Fernandes, Fátima Regina. "Les défis de l'historiographie médiévale au Brésil au Début du XXIe Siècle". *Imago Temporis. Medium Aevum*, 6 (2012): 407-419.



Corral Lafuente²⁶ and Navarro²⁷ in Spain and Rojas, in Chile.²⁸ In these studies, we can see evidences of historiographic content with regards Middle Ages in each of those countries. This is the main purpose of this study, indeed, in the case of Colombia. Table 1 shows articles on Middle Ages published in history journals indexed in Colombia.

Table 1. Articles on Middle Ages published in Colombian history journals until June 2015 (by date of publication)

Article	Journal	No.	Year
"Sobre las motivaciones económicas y espirituales de la expansión europea (siglo XV)"	<i>Historia Crítica</i>	6	1992
"Mujeres y familia en la Edad Media. Estudio Bibliográfico"	<i>Historia Crítica</i>	16	1998
"Pedro Abelardo y los Estudios Superiores en la Francia del siglo XII"	<i>Historia Crítica</i>	16	1998
"Inquisición ¿Auge o Crisis? Realmente "otra" Inquisición"	<i>ACHSC</i>	26	1999
"¿Cómo pensar la libertad a finales del siglo XI? El caso de Anselmo de Canterbury"	<i>Historia Crítica</i>	18	1999
"Historiografía anglosajona e Historia de España: percepción de Judíos y Conversos"	<i>Fronteras de la Historia</i>	4	1999
"Los hombres de Dios en el nuevo reino: cura y fraile doctrinero en Tunja y Santafé"	<i>Historia Crítica</i>	19	2000
"Disidencia y poder en la Edad Media: la historia de los Cátaros"	<i>Historia Crítica</i>	20	2000
"La cruz y la espada: filosofía de la guerra en Francisco de Vitoria"	<i>Historia Crítica</i>	22	2001
"Una peligrosa tentación. La controversia religiosa sobre el chocolate en la España de los siglos XVI al XIX"	<i>Historia y Sociedad</i>	8	2002

26. Corral, José Luis. "La historia medieval en España: una reflexión a comienzos de siglo XXI". *Imago Temporis. Medium Aevum*, 3 (2009): 408-417.

27. Navarro, German. "¿Quién es quién en el medievalismo español?". *Imago Temporis. Medium Aevum*, 2 (2008): 299-308.

28. Rojas, Luis. "Los estudios medievales en Chile: reseña de su formación y publicaciones". *Imago Temporis. Medium Aevum*, 9 (2015): 360-376.



“El Concilio de Trento y las iglesias de la América española: la problemática de su falta de representación”	<i>Fronteras de la Historia</i>	7	2002
“La historia europea en la revista <i>Historia Crítica</i> ”	<i>Historia Crítica</i>	25	2003
“Conflictos mayores y concepciones de la historia: los casos de Agustín de Hipona, Bartolomé de las Casas e Immanuel Kant”	<i>Historia Crítica</i>	27	2004
“Hic sunt canibales: El canibalismo del Nuevo Mundo en el imaginario europeo”	<i>ACHSC</i>	32	2005
“Las humanistas como ‘universitas’ en el Medioevo”	<i>Historia y Sociedad</i>	11	2005
“Franciscanos, tras ideales utópicos.”	<i>Historia y Espacio</i>	28	2007
“Política, heterodoxia e Inquisición.”	<i>Historia y Sociedad</i>	22	2012
“Un pedazo de la vida: los senderos de un medievalista europeo para el siglo XXI”	<i>Historia Crítica</i>	54	2014
“Froissart, Villani y la escritura histórica en la Baja Edad Media: Entre la Antropología y la Historia”	<i>Historia y Sociedad</i>	28	2015

Table 1 shows the different topics covered by these articles that can be categorized by subject as follows:

1. Church, religion and beliefs
2. Ideas and medieval institutions
3. Analysis and reviews on Medieval History documents
4. Relationship between medieval and colonial history
5. Characters from Middle Ages
6. Inquisition
7. History of University
8. History of women in Middle Ages
9. Academic texts for teaching from Middle Ages

Some articles can fall into more than one of these categories, as they are flexible; on the contrary, there is movement from one category to another. Now, comments on form and content on these works, as well as an extensive analysis will be object of eventual research. For now, we only aim at making an initial general approach to Middle Ages, as seen in these Colombian History journals.



Table 2. Articles found in each topic in Colombian history journals until December 2016

Article/Title	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
“Sobre las motivaciones económicas y espirituales de la expansión europea (siglo XV)”									
“Mujeres y familia en la Edad Media. Estudio Bibliográfico”									
“Pedro Abelardo on Higher Education in France during the 12 th Century”									
“Inquisición ¿Auge o Crisis? Realmente “otra” Inquisición”									
“¿Cómo pensar la libertad a finales del siglo XI? El caso de Anselmo de Canterbury”									
“Historiografía anglosajona e Historia de España: percepción de Judíos y Conversos”									
“Los hombres de Dios en el nuevo reino: cura y fraile doctrinero en Tunja y Santafé”									
“Disidencia y poder en la Edad Media: la historia de los Cátaros”									
“La cruz y la espada: filosofía de la guerra en Francisco de Vitoria”									
“Una peligrosa tentación. La controversia religiosa sobre el chocolate en la España de los siglos XVI al XIX”									
“El Concilio de Trento y las iglesias de la América española: la problemática de su falta de representación”									
“La historia europea en la revista Historia Crítica”									
“Conflictos mayores y concepciones de la historia: los casos de Agustín de Hipona, Bartolomé de las Casas e Immanuel Kant”									
“Hic sunt canibales: El canibalismo del Nuevo Mundo en el imaginario europeo”									
“Las humanistas como universitas en el Medioevo”									
“Franciscanos, tras ideales utópicos”									



“Política, heterodoxia e Inquisición”									
“Froissart, Villani y la escritura histórica en la Baja Edad Media: Entre la Antropología y la Historia”									
“Un pedazo de la vida: los senderos de un medievalista europeo para el siglo XXI”									

The first theme comprises 12 articles on Church, religion and beliefs (see table 2). In these articles, topics such as religious motives for the European expansion in America are addressed,²⁹ as well as the ideal role of women and families during the Middle Ages.³⁰ Within this theme, we can also include articles about inquisition, heresy and the Jews; but the quality and rigor of these articles led them to fall in their own category. It is important to note that even though these articles were published a long time ago, the validity of their analysis and conclusions remain.

The second theme has 10 articles that are related to medieval concepts and institutions. In each of these texts different medieval ideals and conceptions are presented, and some of them serve as reference for today's institutions. Different themes are developed in these articles, as motives for trips³¹ and evangelization processes in America.³² Furthermore, there is also the analysis of the perspective from several medieval characters such as Anselm of Canterbury³³ and Peter Abelard.³⁴

Finally, there are articles dedicated to describe the creation of the University³⁵ and Inquisition.³⁶ In general, all those articles are good contributions if we compare them with different other articles of equal development, and they offer a clear explanation as well.

The commentary and review on medieval books or documents have been of interest to several Colombian historians. There are five articles in this third theme,

29. López Forero, Abel Ignacio. “Sobre las motivaciones económicas y espirituales de la expansión europea (siglo XV)”. *Historia Crítica*, 6 (1992): 59-79.

30. López, Abel Ignacio. “Mujeres y Familia en la Edad Media. Estudio Bibliográfico”. *Historia Crítica*, 16 (1998): 99-115.

31. López Forero, Abel Ignacio. “Sobre las motivaciones...”: 59-79.

32. Vignolo, Paolo. “‘Hic sunt canibales’: El canibalismo del Nuevo Mundo en el imaginario europeo (1492-1729)”. *Anuario Colombiano de Historia Social y de la Cultura*, 32 (2005): 151-188; López Rodríguez, Mercedes. “Los hombres de Dios en el nuevo reino: cura y fraile doctrinero en Tunja y Santafé”. *Historia Crítica*, 19 (2000): 129-158.

33. Castañeda, Felipe. “¿Cómo pensar la libertad a finales del siglo XI? El caso de Anselmo de Canterbury”. *Historia Crítica*, 18 (1999): 101-117.

34. Miranda, Néstor. “Pedro Abelardo y los Estudios Superiores en la Francia del siglo XII”. *Historia Crítica*, 16 (1998): 117-125

35. Soto, Gonzalo. “Las ‘humanistas’ como ‘universitas’ en el medievo”. *Historia y Sociedad*, 11 (2005): 59-80.

36. Ceballos, Diana Luz. “Política, heterodoxia e Inquisición”. *Historia y Sociedad*, 22 (2012): 51-72.



as well as essays dedicated to the analysis of medieval chronicles of Froissart and Vallini,³⁷ and the books of Anne Brenon and Jesus Mestre on the Cathars.³⁸ In this section, there are two historiographical balances, one dedicated to the texts of European history in the journal *Historia Crítica*,³⁹ and another on the perception of the Jews and their conversion as evidenced in Anglo-Saxon and Spanish historiographies.⁴⁰ In essence, the authors were concerned with studying medieval texts recognized in their time, with the purpose of explaining the ideas and debates that they developed. On the other hand, all this allows us to see how the reading of books about the Middle Ages occupied the interest of professional historians at the beginning of their studies, and this had an eventual influence in their academic career.

The fourth theme has five articles dedicated to the influence of the medieval world in the first centuries of history in America. This ongoing concern helps us understand the historic processes between the medieval and colonial history, which is a current debate, as Baschet says:

*En este sentido, 1492 no es la línea divisoria entre dos épocas tan ajenas una de la otra como el día de la noche, sino más bien el punto de articulación de dos empresas extrañamente parecidas, el punto de unión de dos momentos históricos dotados de profunda unidad. [...] Entonces resulta necesario reconocer que el corte tradicionalmente admitido entre Edad Media y Tiempos Modernos tiene que volver a pensarse con el mayor detenimiento, y que la Conquista hunde sus raíces en la historia medieval de Occidente.*⁴¹

These texts show the relevance and the need to advance such works, where these points of connection between Europe and America, certainly still pending, are studied.

The fifth theme has four articles, and different medieval characters are studied in them, like Augustine of Hippo and Bartolomé de las Casas and their conceptions on history.⁴² In another article, the ideas of Anselm of Canterbury on freedom during

37. Ospina, Sergio. "Froissart, Villani y la escritura histórica en la Baja Edad Media: Entre la Antropología y la Historia". *Historia y Sociedad*, 28 (2015): 47-77.

38. See: López, Abel Ignacio. "Mujeres y Familia...": 99-115; López Forero, Abel Ignacio. "Disidencia y poder en la Edad Media: la historia de los cataros". *Historia Crítica*, 20 (2001): 113-142.

39. Vargas, Martín Eduardo. "La historia de europea en la revista 'Historia Crítica'". *Historia Crítica*, 25 (2003): 79-97.

40. Contreras, Jaime. "Historiografía anglosajona e historia de España: percepción de judíos y conversos". *Fronteras de la Historia*, 4 (1999): 179-193.

41. "In this sense, 1492 is not the dividing line between two ages that are far from each other as the day from the night, but rather the point of articulation of two strangely similar enterprises, the point of union of two historical moments endowed with profound unity. [...] It is therefore necessary to recognize that the separation traditionally accepted between the Middle Ages and Modern Times must be carefully considered again, and that the Conquest has its roots in the medieval history of the West". Baschet, Jérôme. *La civilización feudal. Europa del año mil a la colonización de América*. Mexico: Fondo de Cultura Económica, 2009: 24.

42. Castañeda, Felipe. "Conflictos mayores y concepciones de la historia: los casos de Agustín de Hipona, Bartolomé de las Casas e Immanuel Kant". *Historia Crítica*, 27 (2004): 91-110.



the 11th Century are analyzed,⁴³ and finally we find the works about Peter Abelard⁴⁴ and the reviews to the text on the philosophy of the war of Vitoria.⁴⁵ Each one of these writings allows readers to know those relevant elements in the life of the characters, their influence and contribution of their works in the medieval world.

In the sixth theme, we find two studies on Inquisition that have been mentioned earlier. The first of them deals with the emergence and political control exercised by the secular power from its early beginning.⁴⁶ The second responds to the author's question as to whether the constitutional order of the Castilian and Aragonese kingdoms determined their rise or the possible institutional crisis.⁴⁷ Both studies allow a clear and updated approach on the Inquisition and its development, if they are placed within the state of the current debate nowadays.

The latest theme with fewer articles, is the seventh, and it is about the history of the university⁴⁸ and comprises two texts. In these texts, different aspects are clearly exposed as well as the main ideas that marked its origin and its eventual consolidation. The eighth theme is a paperwork on the history of women,⁴⁹ where the author reviews the daily life of women and their relationship with the family in the Middle Ages. The ninth and last theme is an academic text about teaching in the Middle Ages.⁵⁰ We conclude with an article by Ruiz-Domènec,⁵¹ who recounts his experiences as a historian dedicated to the Middle Ages, being the last of all the articles as it does not fall in any of the previous themes.

4. Reviews on Medieval History books

In the third part, we will see reviews on Medieval History books published in Colombian history journals (table 3), which are the evidence of Colombian historians' interest in medieval topics and authors.

43. Castañeda, Felipe. "¿Cómo pensar la libertad...": 101-117.

44. Miranda, Néstor. "Pedro Abelardo y los Estudios...": 117-125.

45. Castañeda, Felipe. "La cruz y la espada: filosofía de la guerra en Francisco de Vitoria". *Historia Crítica*, 22 (2001): 27-50.

46. Ceballos, Diana Luz. "Política, heterodoxia e Inquisición...": 51-72.

47. Contreras, Jaime. "Inquisición: ¿auge o crisis? Realmente 'otra' Inquisición". *Anuario Colombiano de Historia Social y de la Cultura*, 26 (1999): 286-332.

48. Soto, Gonzalo. "Las 'humanistas'...": 59-80; Miranda, Néstor. "Pedro Abelardo y los Estudios...": 117-125.

49. López, Abel Ignacio. "Mujeres y Familia...": 99-115

50. Miranda, Néstor. "Pedro Abelardo y los Estudios...": 117-125.

51. Ruiz-Domènec, José Enrique. "Un pedazo de la vida: los senderos de un medievalista europeo para el siglo XXI". *Historia Crítica*, 54 (2014): 125-141.



Table 3. Book reviews published in history journals in Colombia until June 2015 (categorized by the journal in which it is published)

Review/Title	Journal	Year
Abel Ignacio López Forero, <i>Europa en la época del descubrimiento. Comercio y expansión Ibérica hacia ultramar 1450-1550.</i>	<i>ACHSC</i>	1998
Jacques Heers. <i>Esclavos y sirvientes en las sociedades mediterráneas durante la Edad Media</i>	<i>Historia Caribe</i>	1999
Abel Ignacio López Forero, <i>Europa en la época del descubrimiento. Comercio y expansión Ibérica hacia ultramar 1450-1550</i>	<i>Historia y Sociedad</i>	1999
Herlihy, David, <i>The Black Death and the Transformation of the West.</i> Edited with an Introduction by Samuel K. Cohn, Jr., Cambridge, Harvard University Press, 1997, 117 p.	<i>ACHSC</i>	2000
Spiegel, Gabrielle. <i>The past as text The Theory and Practice of Medieval Historiography.</i> Baltimore, Johns Hopkins Paperback edition, 1999, 298p	<i>ACHSC</i>	2000
Rubín, Miri (Editor). <i>The Work of Jacques Le Goff and the Challenges of Medieval History,</i> Rochester, N. Y., Boydell Press, 1997, p. 262. Revel, Jacques, Schmitt, Jean-Claude (editeurs). <i>L'ogre Historien. Autour Jacques Le Goff,</i> Paris, Gallimard, 1998, p. 353.	<i>ACHSC</i>	2001
Andrea Del Col. <i>Domenico Scandella Known as Menocchio: His Trials Before the Inquisition, 1583-1599.</i> Translated by John and Anne C. Tedeschi. Tempe, Ar.: <i>Medieval and Renaissance Texts & Studies,</i> 1997. 173	<i>Fronteras de la Historia</i>	2001
Geary, Patrick, <i>The Myth of Nations. The Medieval Origins of Europe,</i> Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2002, pp. 199.	<i>ACHSC</i>	2002
Fernández-Armesto, Felipe. 1492. <i>El nacimiento de la modernidad</i> [The birth of modernity]. Bogotá: Mondadori, colección Debate, 2010, 371 pp.	<i>Memoria y sociedad</i>	2011



Muchembled, Robert. <i>Une histoire de la violence. De la fin du Moyen-Âge à nos jours</i> . Paris: Éditions du Seuil, 2008, 499 pp.	<i>Memoria y sociedad</i>	2011
Freedman, Paul. <i>Lo que vino de Oriente. Las especias y la imaginación medieval</i> . Valencia: Publicaciones de la Universitat de Valencia, 2010, 289 pp.	<i>Memoria y sociedad</i>	2011
Astarita, Carlos. <i>Del feudalismo al capitalismo. Cambio social y político en Castilla y Europa Occidental, 1250-1520</i> . Valencia: Publicaciones de la Universidad de Valencia, 2005, 264 pp.	<i>Memoria y sociedad</i>	2011
Díaz de Durana, José Ramón. <i>Pasión por la Edad Media. Entrevista con José Ángel García de Cortázar</i> . Valencia: Ediciones Universidad de Valencia, 2008, 195 pp.	<i>Memoria y sociedad</i>	2011
Davis, Kathleen. <i>Periodization and Sovereignty. How Ideas of Feudalism and Secularization Govern the Politics of Time</i> . Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2008. 187 pp.	<i>Memoria y sociedad</i>	2012
López Forero, Abel Ignacio. <i>Europa. Temas, debates y libros</i> . Bogotá: Xpress Estudio Gráfico y Digital S.A., 2013. 438 pp.	<i>Memoria y sociedad</i>	2013
<i>Periodización, renacimiento y una larga Edad Media</i> . Jacques Le Goff. <i>Faut-il vraiment découper l'histoire en tranches?</i> Paris, Editions du Seuil, 2014. 208 páginas.	ACHSC	2014
Chicangana-Bayona, Yobenj Aucardo. <i>Imágenes de caníbales y salvajes del Nuevo Mundo. De lo maravilloso medieval a lo exótico colonial. Siglos XV-XVII</i> . Bogotá: Universidad del Rosario, 2013, 260 pp.	<i>Historia Crítica</i>	2014
Barlow, Frank. Tomás Becket. <i>El Santo político</i> . Barcelona: Edhasa, 2012. 576 pp	<i>Memoria y sociedad</i>	2014

Most of the reviews were written by the Colombian historian Abel López Forero, some of which have been mentioned in the previous section. We can say that he is by far the most dedicated researcher and teacher in the field of the Middle Ages in Colombia. That is why the first reviews to be reviewed in this section will be his, and then will be those made by other authors. The work will be a summary of the main



ideas expressed in each text, to know the appraisal of this work and its contribution in the area.

The first review is from Patrick Geary's book, *The Myth of Nations. The Medieval Origins of Europe*, which for López is *una brillante crítica a los abusos que políticos e incluso historiadores han hecho de la temprana Edad Media*.⁵² He claims that the author rejects the arbitrary uses of medieval elements to justify prejudices and exclusions on the part of ideologists of European nationalism.⁵³ He thinks that the book is a vindication of history as a science that contributes to change, which are possible thanks to several investigations of Geary and the archaeological findings within this research.⁵⁴ Due to the importance of the work he did, he concludes: *este libro y las investigaciones en las que se apoya inducen a revisar mapas históricos y textos universitarios*.⁵⁵

The second review is entitled *Periodization, Renaissance and a long Middle Ages* and it is about the book of Jaques Le Goff, *Faut-il vraiment découper l'Histoire en tranches?* It resumes the debate about the periodization in history, which –according to López– is a learned habit of religious people influenced by Judeo-Christianity.⁵⁶ He thinks that the book questions *los defensores del Renacimiento como periodo propio exageran algunos de sus alcances, desdeñan de los logros de la Edad Media y no caen en la cuenta de que las mayores transformaciones tuvieron lugar después del siglo XVIII*.⁵⁷

Another text that was analyzed in this research was the book of Carlos Astarita *From feudalism to capitalism. Social and political change in Castile and Europe, 1250-1520*,⁵⁸ in which he points out its differentiation from the thesis of Perry Anderson, Reyna Pastor, Maurice Dobb and other medievalists on the character of the feudal State, the role of trades and rural industry at the origin of capitalism.⁵⁹ For that reason, he considers that the book *constituye una reivindicación de la historiografía económica marxista, que pone en tela de juicio ciertas ideas sobre el excepcionalísimo castellano de finales de la Edad Media*.⁶⁰ He concludes that the greatest novelty of the book is *poder mostrar*

52. "is a brilliant critique to the abuse that politicians and even historians have made of the early Middle Ages". López, Abel Ignacio. "Geary, Patrick, *The Myth of Nations. The Medieval Origins of Europe*, Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2002, pp. 199". *Anuario Colombiano de Historia Social y de la Cultura*, 29 (2002): 292.

53. López, Abel Ignacio. "Geary, Patrick, *The Myth of Nations...*": 293.

54. López, Abel Ignacio. "Geary, Patrick, *The Myth of Nations...*": 295.

55. "this book and the research on which it is based leads us to a review if historical maps and university texts". López, Abel Ignacio. "Geary, Patrick, *The Myth of Nations...*": 296.

56. López, Abel. "Periodización, renacimiento y una larga edad media. Jacques Le Goff. *Faut-il vraiment découper l'histoire en tranches?*". *Anuario Colombiano de Historia Social y de la Cultura*, 41/2 (2014): 355-363.

57. "the defenders of the Renaissance as a period of their own and exaggerate some of its reach, and scorn the achievements of the Middle Ages, without realizing that the greatest transformations took place after the eighteenth century". López, Abel. "Periodización, renacimiento y una larga edad...": 358.

58. López, Abel. "Astarita, Carlos. *Del feudalismo al capitalismo. Cambio social y político en Castilla y Europa Occidental, 1250-1520*. Valencia: Publicaciones de la Universidad de Valencia, 2005, 264 pp.". *Memoria y Sociedad*, 31 (2011): 120-123.

59. López, Abel. "Astarita, Carlos. *Del feudalismo al capitalismo...*": 120.

60. "constitutes a vindication of Marxist economic historiography, which questions certain ideas about the very exceptional Castilian of the late Middle Ages". López, Abel. "Astarita, Carlos. *Del feudalismo al*



que, en el caso castellano, el origen del capitalismo no fue necesariamente resultado de la crisis del feudalismo.⁶¹

The fourth review corresponds to Frank Barlow's book *Thomas Becket. El santo político*,⁶² which Lopez entitled: *Delito y responsabilidad política*. He states that the text gives us many details that helps us understand the process that led to Becket's murder, and points out that *sin duda [el rey] había puesto en marcha operaciones que fácilmente podían producir tal desenlace*. He adds that the text allows an analysis of the intervention of the king, and how *habría sido planeado por cortesanos interesados en congraciarse con el soberano*.⁶³ He highlights the work because it allows us to see the struggle of the spiritual and temporal powers and their jurisdictional reach, their supremacy and their own legitimacies.⁶⁴

The next review is about David Herlihy's book *The Black Death and the Transformation of the West*, which is the result of three lectures given by the author in 1985. In this work, he resumes several aspects of the plague of 1348, classically related to the bubonic plague and which is reviewed by Herlihy, resulting in new findings. For Lopez, the book questions this classic view, because author emphasizes that in the stories of curation no presence of tumors or *bubas* is not mentioned, except for the presence of dark spots or pustules in different parts of the body.⁶⁵ In short, the text not only challenges this classic view, but also the Malthusian explanation, which at the time did not consider the social differences and the shortage of resources, which did not affect in the same way to the rich and the poor.

The sixth book reviewed is: *1492. El nacimiento de la modernidad* by Felipe Fernández-Arnesto, in which he points out his abundant use of primary sources, but questions the little use of modern and updated bibliography, which is the reason why López does not clearly allow the demonstration of his thesis.⁶⁶

The following text I mentioned is one by Paul Freedman: *Lo que vino de Oriente, las especias y la imaginación medieval*. López emphasizes that in this book the author explains how the spices did not have a restricted use to the conservation of the foods, but were also considered by their curative powers and fragrances, and even more if they were associated to the sanctity and the 'Paradise'.⁶⁷ He concludes that

capitalismo...": 122.

61. "to be able to show that, in the Castilian case, the origin of capitalism was not necessarily the result of the crisis of feudalism". López, Abel. "Astarita, Carlos. Del feudalismo al capitalismo...": 123.

62. López Forero, Abel Ignacio. "Barlow, Frank. Tomás Becket. El santo político. Barcelona: Edhasa, 2012. 576 pp.". *Memoria y Sociedad*, 36 (2014): 149-151.

63. "there is no doubt that he [the king] had started operations that could easily produce such an outcome"; "everything had been planned by lapdogs who were interested in win the king's favor". López Forero, Abel Ignacio. "Barlow, Frank. Tomás Becket...": 150.

64. López Forero, Abel Ignacio. "Barlow, Frank. Tomás Becket...": 151.

65. López Forero, Abel Ignacio. "Barlow, Frank. Tomás Becket...": 151.

66. López, Abel. "Fernández-Arnesto, Felipe. 1492. El nacimiento de la modernidad. Bogota: Mondadori, colección Debate, 2010, 371 pp.". *Memoria y Sociedad*, 30 (2011): 85.

67. Sánchez, Ricardo. "Abel Ignacio López Forero. Europa en la época del descubrimiento. Comercio y expansión Ibérica hacia ultramar, 1450-1550. Santafé de Bogotá, Ariel Historia, 299 págs.". *Historia y Sociedad*, 6 (1999): 277.



this idea served as a motivation for the Portuguese and Spanish exploration, but by the end of the 17th century their demand would decrease to the extent that they became old-fashioned. Furthermore, with the new products that came from the New World, changes in the alimentary habits emerged as well as their medical practices.⁶⁸

The eighth review is to the text written by Andrea Del Col, *Domenico Scandella Known as Menochio*,⁶⁹ which he says is a continuation of Carlo Ginzburg's twenty-five-year-old work, where the biography and thought of Domenico Scandella is exposed.⁷⁰ In his opinion, this book complements the work previously done, and reiterates how the use of inquisitorial processes could be a source to know someone's life and their intellectual world.⁷¹

The next review written by López is to the book *Une histoire de la violence. De la fin du Moyen Âge à nos jours*, by Robert Muchembled. He states that the text offers us the possibility of understanding how since the 13th century there has been a progressive decline in physical violence, especially in homicides, in Western Europe. The text shows that *los violentos eran en su mayoría jóvenes y célibes, movidos por lo que el autor denomina una 'ética viril' y como las sociedades medievales no solían condenar esas agresiones; más bien las estimulaban*. This practice would gradually disappear until the 16th century. It was due to the strengthening of the State and the extension of criminal justice along with the new norms of behavior. Finally, he points out that *a comienzos del siglo XXI, la violencia tiene aún rasgos medievales manifiestos, en especial, en las bandas de jóvenes de los barrios de las grandes ciudades*.⁷²

The following review is from the book written by Kathen Davis *Periodization and Sovereignty. How Ideas of Feudalism and Secularization Govern the Politics of Time*.⁷³ In his review, López states that *la periodización con la que se distingue las edades Media y Moderna sirve de disfraz a un ejercicio de poder*, because it seeks to associate the *Edad Media con feudalismo, desorden político, religión y esclavitud, por una parte, y a Edad Moderna con soberanía, secularización y libertad*. For him, the author makes very clear the influence of budgets of the Enlightenment, which showed how *la época moderna*

68. López, Abel. "Freedman, Paul. Lo que vino de Oriente. Las especias y la imaginación medieval. Valencia: Publicaciones de la Universitat de Valencia, 2010, 289 pp.". *Memoria y Sociedad*, 30 (2011): 87.

69. López, Abel I. "Andrea Del Col. 'Domenico Scandella Known as Menochio: His Trials Before the Inquisition, 1583-1599. Traducido por John y Anne C. Tedeschi. Tempe, Ar.: Medieval and Renaissance Texts & Studies', 1997. 173 páginas". *Fronteras de la Historia*, 6 (2001): 270-276.

70. López, Abel I. "Andrea Del Col. 'Domenico Scandella Known as Menochio...': 270.

71. López, Abel I. "Andrea Del Col. 'Domenico Scandella Known as Menochio...': 271.

72. "violent people were mostly young and celibate, moved by what the author calls a 'virile ethic' and also shows how medieval societies did not usually condemn such aggressions, but they rather encouraged them"; "at the beginning of the 21st century, violence still has obvious medieval features, especially in the youth gangs of the neighborhoods of big cities". López, Abel. "Muchembled, Robert. 'Une histoire de la violence. De la fin du Moyen-Age à nos jours'. Paris: Éditions du Seuil, 2008, 499 pp.". *Memoria y Sociedad*, 30 (2011): 86.

73. López, Abel. "Davis, Kathleen. 'Periodization and Sovereignty. How Ideas of Feudalism and Secularization Govern the Politics of Time'. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2008. 187 pp.". *Memoria y Sociedad*, 32 (2012): 106-109.



emancipó a Europa del lastre del feudalismo y del dominio de la religión, y que ese cambio benefició a toda la humanidad.⁷⁴ According to López, in the book we have a good tour through the categories of feudalism and secularization, and the debates regarding its use.⁷⁵

The eleventh review is to Gabriele Spiegel's book *The past as a text. Theory and Practice of Medieval Historiography*,⁷⁶ which –for Lopez– is an invitation to read the medieval chronicles in a different way.⁷⁷ He adds that the work helps us to see how we can meet the challenges of the postmodernist notion.⁷⁸ The reason is that in the first part of the text we are offered the *fundamentos teóricos y sociales del llamado giro lingüístico y su influencia en los estudios de la historia*.⁷⁹

The twelfth review is to Miri Rubin's book *The Work of Jacques Le Goff and The Challenges of Medieval History* and *L'ogre Historien* by Jacques Le Goff.⁸⁰ The work is the result of a colloquium at King's College's Center for History and Economics in Cambridge, where about fifty medievalists gathered and coincided with Le Goff's seventieth birthday. For López, the text can be summarized in two questions: *¿Qué han aprendido de él los medievalistas? y en ¿Qué se ha progresado desde el momento en que él planteó o propuso determinado problema?* He mentions that several of the articles are evidence of the development of themes proposed by Le Goff, as a review of the contribution of this French medievalist and the reach of his work.⁸¹

The last review published by López was to the book written by José Ramón Díaz de Durana, *Pasión por la Edad Media. Entrevista con José Ángel García de Cortázar*.⁸² It is the result of two interviews: one carried out in 2005 and the other in 2007, highlighting its pioneering attitude in medieval research when it comes to studying

74. "the periodization with which distinguishes the Middle and Modern ages serves as a disguise to the exercise of power"; "Middle Ages with feudalism, political disorder, religion and slavery, on the one hand; and Modern Age with sovereignty, secularization and freedom on the other"; "the modern era emancipated Europe from the ballast of feudalism and the domination of religion, and that change benefited all mankind". López, Abel. "Davis, Kathleen. 'Periodization and Sovereignty...': 106.

75. López, Abel. "Davis, Kathleen. 'Periodization and Sovereignty...': 106-107.

76. López, Abel Ignacio. "Spiegel, Gabrielle. 'The past as text. The Theory and Practice of Medieval Historiography'. Baltimore, Johns Hopkins Paperback edition, 1999, 298p.". *Anuario Colombiano de Historia Social y de la Cultura*, 25 (1998): 248-251.

77. López, Abel Ignacio. "Spiegel, Gabrielle. 'The past as text...': 249.

78. López, Abel Ignacio. "Spiegel, Gabrielle. 'The past as text...': 248.

79. "theoretical and social foundations of the so-called linguistic shift and its influence in the studies of history". López, Abel Ignacio. "Spiegel, Gabrielle. 'The past as text...': 248.

80. López, Abel Ignacio. "Rubin, Miri (Editor). *The Work of Jacques Le Goff and the Challenges of Medieval History*, Rochester, N. Y., Boydell Press, 1997, p. 262. Revel, Jacques, Schmitt, Jean Claude (editors). *L'ogre Historien. Autour Jacques Le Goff*. Paris, Gallimard, 1998, p. 353". *Anuario Colombiano de Historia Social y de la Cultura*, 28 (1998): 219-226.

81. "What have the medievalists learned from it? And Which evidence of progress can we see from the moment in which he proposed a specific problem?". López, Abel Ignacio. "Rubin, Miri (Editor). *The Work of Jacques Le Goff...*": 219.

82. López, Abel. "Díaz de Durana, José Ramón. *Pasión por la Edad Media. Entrevista con José Ángel García de Cortázar*. Valencia: Ediciones Universidad de Valencia, 2008, 195 pp.". *Memoria y Sociedad*, 31 (2011): 124.



the Castilian rural reality, especially the relations between space and power. Also in this text, we can see the state and future of the medieval debates, which generate certain concern in García, which is an aspect that López wants to show in his review.⁸³

Now let us consider several reviews made to the books by Abel Ignacio López Forero. The first two are to the text *Europa en la época del Descubrimiento. Comercio y expansión hacia ultramar, 1450-1550*, written by Rubén Jaramillo Vélez⁸⁴ and Ricardo Sánchez.⁸⁵ Both authors point out that this text is the result of Lopez's teaching experience, and they emphasize that the purpose of the work is the study in universities.⁸⁶ The two reviewers value the work from a different perspective: Jaramillo highlights the importance of *dentro del proceso, tan vigoroso y original, de la historiografía académica colombiana en los últimos años, ya empiecen a producirse obras como la presente, que vienen a ampliar hacia el ámbito universal, la problemática tratada.*⁸⁷ On the other hand, Sánchez emphasizes what calls the origins of the continent, which for him has two origins, indeed: the classic concept of discovery, and the second proposed by him as the *de su emancipación*. He thinks that the book would help to understand that second origin, and to have a look of how it was *nuestra inserción, a través de la violencia de la dominación, del mestizaje y el sincretismo en la modernidad.*⁸⁸

The following review is from Medófilo Medina⁸⁹ to the book *Europa. Temas, debates y libros* by Abel López, emphasizing the importance of the author in the consolidation country's historians, pointing out that the book should:

*(...) estudiarse como el reflejo de una parábola intelectual tanto en el plano docente como investigativo. No solo los que han sido alumnos del profesor López sino, no pocos de los historiadores e historiadoras colombianos tenemos una deuda intelectual con él por haber puesto a nuestra disposición una erudición histórica a la que sin su concurso no habiéramos accedido.*⁹⁰

83. López, Abel. "Díaz de Durana, José Ramón. Pasión por la Edad Media...": 124.

84. Jaramillo, Rubén. "Abel Ignacio López Forero. Europa en la época del Descubrimiento. Comercio y expansión hacia ultramar, 1450-1550. Santafé de Bogotá, Ariel Historia, 1998, 311 páginas.". *Anuario Colombiano de Historia Social y de la Cultura*, 25 (1998): 379-381.

85. Sánchez, Ricardo. "Abel Ignacio López Forero. Europa...": 276-277.

86. Jaramillo, Rubén. "Abel Ignacio López Forero. Europa...": 379; Sánchez, Ricardo. "Abel Ignacio López Forero. Europa...": 276.

87. "producing works like this to expand the problem addressed towards a universal scope, within the vigorous and original process of Colombian academic historiography in recent years". Jaramillo, Rubén. "Abel Ignacio López Forero. Europa...": 380.

88. "its emancipation"; "our insertion, through the violence of domination, the mixture of cultures and the syncretism in the modernity". Sánchez, Ricardo. "Abel Ignacio López Forero. Europa...": 277.

89. Medina, Medófilo. "López Forero, Abel Ignacio. Europa. Temas, debates y libros. Bogotá: Xpress Estudio Gráfico y Digital S.A., 2013. 438 pp.". *Memoria y Sociedad*, 35 (2013): 262-265.

90. "(...) be studied as the reflection of an intellectual parable both in the fields of teaching and research. Not only those who have been students of Professor López, but also lots of Colombian historians, men and women, that have an intellectual debt to him for providing us a historical erudition which we would never have found without his contribution". Medina, Medófilo. "López Forero, Abel Ignacio. Europa...": 265.



We believe that the above idea is significantly supported and could serve as a conclusion to the intellectual work of López that has been closely studied in this article, as well as his contributions and the high level of his research, which are evident.

The review number seventeen is that of Dolcey Romero Jaramillo on the text of Jacques Heers, entitled: *Esclavos y sirvientes en las sociedades mediterráneas durante la Edad Media*.⁹¹ The author says, about the book, that *es una obra desmitificadora de las fronteras y límites con que desde lo extremo se ha parcelado tradicionalmente los procesos históricos; especialmente el problema de la esclavitud*.⁹² In his opinion, the work can give us *luces a futuras investigaciones relacionadas con la esclavización indígena y negra en nuestro país [Colombia]*.⁹³

The last review included in our study is that of Jaime Humberto Borja Gómez⁹⁴ to the book by Yobenj Chicangana, *Sobre la imágenes de caníbales del Nuevo Mundo, lo maravilloso a lo exótico colonial de los siglos XV-XVII*. In his opinion, this book is important because it allows us to see the influence of the way in which the chronicles were written at the time of discovery and colonization, and how the discourse on cannibalism was emphasized in them. All the above with the interest of showing and highlighting the barbarism of the indigenous, and thus justify the actions of domination and control made in America.⁹⁵ The book allows us to see how the power of the imaginary ended up affecting the patterns, veracity and intention of these narrations. Then the relationship between the narrated discourse and the visual discourse is clear.⁹⁶

5. Conclusion

The presence of the Middle Ages or medievalism in the Colombian historiographical development is clear, especially in the early years, where universal history was a topic of interest. This idea is strongly supported in this summary, where we can see that there is a greater presence of these issues in the early years. The progressive abandonment can be understood as the first

91. Romero, Dolcey. "Jacques Heers. Esclavos y sirvientes en las sociedades mediterráneas durante la Edad Media. Instituto Valenciano de Estudios e Investigación, España, 1995". *Historia Caribe*, 4 (1999): 148-149.

92. "it is a demystifying work about the borders and limits that have commonly been ignored within historical processes, especially the problem of slavery". Romero, Dolcey. "Jacques Heers. Esclavos y sirvientes...": 148.

93. "insights to future investigations related to indigenous and black enslavement in our country [Colombia]". Romero, Dolcey. "Jacques Heers. Esclavos y sirvientes...": 149.

94. Borja, Jaime Humberto. "Chicangana-Bayona, Yobenj Aucardo. Imágenes de caníbales y salvajes del Nuevo Mundo. De lo maravilloso medieval a lo exótico colonial. Siglos XV-XVIII. Bogota: Universidad del Rosario, 2013, 260 pp.". *Historia Crítica*, 53 (2014): 227-231.

95. Borja, Jaime Humberto. "Chicangana-Bayona, Yobenj Aucardo...": 227-228

96. Borja, Jaime Humberto. "Chicangana-Bayona, Yobenj Aucardo...": 228.



Departments of History in the country were organized, which allowed the professionalization of the work of historians, at a national level. This change had an impact to the extent that these themes of universal nature were progressively replaced by topics of local interest. Nowadays, the Middle Ages and Universal History are not a matter of concern in the initial formation, nor in the investigative practice of historians. This is clearly evident in the topics that are addressed both by bachelor and graduate students in their research works, where this topic is completely absent.

Another essential point is the quality of the texts that were found, if we consider the possible limitations of the authors faced at that time. It is striking how the articles analyzed have a certain distance from the classical visions of the liberal writers of the 19th and 20th centuries,⁹⁷ when studying their arguments and conclusions. Finally, the universal history and therefore the Middle Ages, are still considered a time in history that has been sufficiently studied and which is distant for most of the historians in Colombia. However, works such as those of Echeverry⁹⁸ and Ceballos,⁹⁹ to mention few of them, are an example of exactly the opposite, and how is possible to produce good texts from our perspective, thus contributing to the study of the medieval world.

97. This is mentioned in the works of López and Ceballos where both point out to the long-standing backwardness of the studies of the Middle Ages that suffered by the discourses of the Enlightenment and the liberalism of the 19th century. Coinciding with Sabaté's approach: *esa Edad Media sinónimo de época de retroceso, estancada (media) entre dos polos de progreso y avance, ha consolidado la expresión en medios cultos al margen de la evolución que pueda tener la visión del medioevo.* ("Middle Ages is synonymous with a period of retreat, and stagnated between two poles of progress and advancement, has consolidated the expression in cultured media regardless of the evolution of the Knowledge of the Middle Ages"). Sabaté, Flocel. "La Edad Media en nuestro presente". Íber. *Didáctica de las Ciencias Sociales, Geografía e Historia*, 14 (1997): 27.

98. Echeverry, Antonio José. "Franciscanos, tras ideales utópicos". *Historia y Espacio*, 28 (2007): 65-90.

99. Ceballos, Diana Luz. "Política, heterodoxia e Inquisición...": 51-72.

