

Recent Dissertations

Copies of the complete text of these theses can be obtained from University Microfilms (Zeeb Road, Ann Arbor, Michigan) in any of three formats: hardbound paper, softcover paper, and microfilm positive. We wish to thank the Xerox Corporation for giving *Olifant* permission to reproduce these abstracts from *Dissertation Abstracts International*.

LA PRISE DE CORDRES ET DE SEBILLE: AN EPIC POEM OF THE THIRTEENTH CENTURY

MORNEAU, Kenneth Armand, Ph.D.
University of Pennsylvania, 1975

Supervisor: William Roach

La Prise de Cordres et de Seville is an epic poem of the early part of the thirteenth century. It falls into the group of later poems in the cycle of Guillaume, in which Guibert, Guillaume's brother, is the hero. The locale is Spain, a favorite setting for the final poems in this cycle.

Ovide Densusianu edited this poem in 1896 for the *Société des Anciens Textes Français*. His edition is a good one but has become extremely rare. The present edition is based on a new examination of the unique manuscript, using the additional aids provided by the scholarship of the last eighty years. The few errors in Densusianu's transcription have been corrected, but many of his emendations have been retained. In numerous instances, however, his changes have been rejected, either because they are unnecessary or because better solutions are available.

The introduction to my edition contains a description of the manuscript and a discussion and resolution of two problems which it presents: why the poem is incomplete and why the last twenty-seven verses are alexandrines, whereas all the rest of the work is written in decasyllables. I have also included a discussion of the language of the poem and have concluded that its place of composition is eastern Champagne. The language of the work also indicates that its date of composition is the early part of the thirteenth century. Max Rohde's philological study in 1891 proves this fact. In addition, it is clear that the linguistic traits found in *Guibert d'Andrenas*, the early thirteenth-century epic poem to which *La Prise de Cordres et de Seville* is considered to be the sequel, are also applicable, in their main points, to the latter poem. I also present an analysis of the distinctive traits of the poem: a concise and vivid style, a coherent and interesting plot, and a trait not as prevalent in other epic poems, namely, frequent repetition of whole lines or parts of lines. The last part of the introduction is a summary of the episodes of the work.

My textual notes concern mainly the following matters: explanation and discussion of emendations, references to other passages in this poem or to other poems as support for my emendations, explanations of words unusual in themselves or with unusual spellings, explanation of verbs with uncommon forms or meanings, explanation and discussion of rare words and expressions, discussion of unusual grammatical usages, commentary on words taken

from Provençal, and remarks on a few proper names.

The last two parts of my edition are an Index of Proper Names, where all the names in the poem are listed with an identification of each and the verses where it is found; and a Glossary, where those forms which an experienced reader of Old French might find unusual and worthy of consideration are included, along with a definition of each and the verses where it occurs.

DAI, Vol. 36, No. 12, p. 8042-A.
Order No. 76-12,313, 278 pages.

THE HYPOTHETICAL EPIC-NARRATIVE SOURCES FOR THE CATALAN CHRONICLES OF
JAUME I, DESCLLOT, AND MUNTANER

CONCHEFF, Beatrice Jorgensen, Ph.D.
The University of Wisconsin-Madison, 1976

Supervisor: Professor Lloyd A. Kasten

The objective of the present study has been to establish more firmly the intellectual basis for the hypothetical origin, development, and survival of lost epic-narrative poems in Catalan in the chronicles of Jaume I, Bernât Desclot, and Ramón Muntaner. Prevailing theories regarding the historical development of the medieval epic in Western Europe offer logical arguments in support of an epic genre in Catalan, and the example of the methods of French and Castilian historiographers has provided the rationale for the theory that traces of epic-heroic poems, lost in their original form, have survived in prosifications in the chronicles. Extensive vestiges of rhyme and rhythmic phraseology, consistent with the meter, style, and formulaic techniques of traditional epic and atypical of the prose of the chronicles, have been adduced as indications of possible poetic sources for particular passages. Through the application of systematic procedures, the presumed verse fragments have been reconstructed into partial or complete poems. By analysis of the form and narrative development of the reconstructed poems, the circumstances that appear to have given rise to them, and the prose contexts in which they were found, the study has sought to arrive at a more exact generic description of the original verse sources they are purported to represent.

DAI, Vol. 37, No. 1, p. 359-A.
Order No. 76-10,645, 240 pages.