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SANÇ de Mallorca

EL MONARCA OBLIDAT

700†

GUIDE TO THE EXHIBITION ENGLISH



**Conselleria de Turisme,
Cultura i Esports**
Direcció General de Cultura



Arxiu del Regne de Mallorca

PRESENTATION

King Sancho of Majorca (1311-1324) has traditionally been considered a weak, timid king, lacking temperament and courage. This was the result of an understanding of medieval tradition as a succession of wars and battles which glorified the conquerors and winners. It was a historiographical account, heir to the chronicles of the Middle Ages, in which opting not to use arms was perceived as a sign of cowardice or lack of character.

However, the latest studies, which value all aspects of monarchs' ability to govern and not only their success or failure in conflict, agree on the opposite viewpoint: Sancho's ability to govern intelligently, strategically and pragmatically. This meant avoiding as much as possible, but without contradicting it, his serfdom to his cousin James II of Aragon.

Sancho, possibly born in 1277, knew from an early age the risks involved in meddling in warlike disputes of higher-ranking contenders. His father, James II, had no choice but to do so, and was ill-fated as a consequence. Possibly, however, Sancho must have thought that the most dangerous thing was to confront the larger branch of his family, that of the kings of Aragon and counts of Barcelona. He had the relevant experience. In 1285, when he was eight years old, he was taken prisoner as a hostage by his uncle Peter III of Aragon. In the same year his father lost the kingdom of Majorca, which he did not recover until 1298. All of this must have influenced his attitude as a monarch, which soon began to become evident shortly after his ascension to the throne (1311).

Sancho's policies seem aimed at securing a government without much prominence, which would allow him to develop the policies he had planned and strategise to consolidate his authority.

In some specific areas he was an effective successor to his father's initiatives, such as the ordinances for the creation of towns, the strengthening of taxation and the promotion of maritime trade and the consular network.

On other issues he demonstrated his ability to manoeuvre and to take advantage of the clashes between the different collectives of his territory for his own benefit and, therefore, of the monarchy. A clear and striking case is the creation, in 1315, of the *Sindicat de Fora*. But he also devoted much time and effort to ensuring that the succession to the throne of Majorca remained within his direct family (the Majorcan *dinastia privativa*). To do so, he had to take part in the war campaigns of the King of Aragon and in the financing of these initiatives. That was, however, the most pragmatic and most intelligent strategy.



LA CROWN OF MAJORCA (1276-1343)

In his last testament (1272), James I decided to divide his territories between his two male sons as a result of his marriage to Violant of Hungary. Pere, the eldest (born in 1240), was to inherit the largest, most populated territories, those which constituted a territorial whole: the Kingdom of Aragon, the Kingdom of Valencia and the part of Catalonia located in the south of the Pyrenees. James, the second (born in 1243), was to receive in inheritance the kingdom of Majorca (which included the Balearic Islands), Pyrenean and north-Pyrenean Catalonia (the counties of Rosselló and Cerdanya) and a series of sites located in Occitania: the viscounty of Carladès, the barony of Omeladès and the lordship of the city of Montpellier. These were scattered places with a much smaller area than those awarded to his brother. In addition, the territories awarded to James had no common institution, except to become part of the king's own domain. The disparity between the assets awarded to each brother, therefore, was more than obvious, but none of them was to be awarded to the other.

After the death of James I, both brothers inherited according to these conditions, which meant the appearance of two crowns (territories dependent of the same king): Aragon and Majorca. Peter never agreed with this division, and in 1279 he forced his brother to declare himself his vassal. This meant the subordination of one brother to the other. This circumstance, and the fact that James was the vassal of the King of France due to his Occitan heritage, placed him in a very delicate situation, because he depended at the same time on two irreconcilable enemies: his brother and the French king. When clashes broke out between the two in 1285, James decided to answer to the king of France, who appeared to be the victor. But Peter's unexpected victory caused him to order the conquest of the kingdom of Majorca, having interpreted James' decision as a betrayal. In the same year, his son Alfonso carried out the conquest, with very little resistance.

It was not until 1298, as a result of the Treaty of Anagni (1295), that James regained the kingdom, thus leading to him governing the entirety of his territory. However, the situation of 1276 – equality between the two brothers – was not restored. Instead, the vassalage pact of 1279 was maintained and, consequently, so was the relationship of subordination between Peter and James. The kings of Majorca were subordinate to those of Aragon, a situation that conditioned the evolution of political relations between the two monarchies, and that the son of James II, King Sancho of Majorca, managed intelligently, effectively and pragmatically.

Documents



1

Charter of Rights by James I to the inhabitants of Majorca on 1 March 1230. Transfer that includes the chapters added to Alcanyis in 1257

Majorca, 1 March 1230

ARM, Royal Parchments 1

This is the founding document of the Kingdom of Majorca. It serves as a basis for the kingdom's later privileges and institutionalisation.



2

Privilege of James I to the masters and University of Majorca in which he grants them the right to have six juries and an indefinite number of advisors to govern and administer the island of Valencia

7 July 1249

ARM, Royal Parchments 13

This privilege determines the constitution of the municipality in Majorca as a unique district until 1315, the year in which the *Universitat Forana* will emerge.



3

The last will of James I.

Transfer made to Montpellier on 1319

Montpellier, 8 August 1272

ARM, Royal Parchments 19

The content of the will establishes the birth and constitution of the Crown of Majorca as an independent State of the Crown of Aragon.



4

Confirmation, oath and ratification by James II of Majorca of the privileges and Charters of Rights granted to the kingdom by James I

Majorca, 12 September 1276

ARM, Royal Parchments 23

The act of oath of Charters of Rights and privileges is done at the beginning of the reign of all monarchs, as a symbol of union between the Crown and the subjects.



5

Book of Charters of Rights and privileges of the Kingdom of Majorca (Book of Kings)

Majorca, 1334-1341

ARM, codex 1

Compilation of all the Charters of Rights and privileges granted by the kings of Majorca between 1230 and 1341



THE KING AND QUEEN

When his elder brother James abdicated, Sancho was appointed heir of the kingdom (1302). He was thus required to marry, in order to secure the succession within the dynasty. In 1304 he married Maria, daughter of Charles of Anjou, King of Naples, born around 1290. At the time of the bond, Sancho was twenty-seven years old and she was fourteen.

It was, of course, an arranged marriage, as was the norm among royalty at the time. It responded primarily to the political strategies of James II of Majorca and his nephew James II of Aragon, who sought to establish alliances between their houses and that of Naples, which until a few years had been competing with that of Aragon. A daughter of James II of Majorca, Sancha, married Robert d'Anjou, king of Naples in 1309. Two sisters, Blanca and Maria, married two cousins (James II of Aragon and Sancho of Majorca).

In 1311, when Sancho was thirty-four years old and Mary was about twenty-one, they became, respectively, king and queen consort of Majorca. It seems that the coexistence between the two spouses was not always agreeable. They had no legitimate male offspring, which deprived the crown of a direct heir. It seems that this took away the queen's prominence and ability to influence her husband's court. In fact, it seems that until the death (1316?) of her mother-in-law (Esclarmonda de Foix, considered until her last days "the mistress queen of Majorca"), Maria had to settle for being only "the young queen" and occupy a secondary role in the court of Perpignan.

Their habitual residence was in the royal castle, with frequent trips to Majorca. However, the Queen retained her capacity for strategizing, as evidenced by her correspondence with prominent figures from the ecclesiastical world and her family environment. But the birth in 1315 of her nephew James must have helped to further remove her from the spotlight. The child was sent to Perpignan shortly after his mother's death. His father, Ferdinand, Sancho's brother, died about a year later.

The delicate health of the king, who wrote a will in 1322 in which he named Jaume as heir, appointed a guardian and provided for a regency council, suggested what might happen to her shortly after: receive the important testamentary donations from her husband, recover the dowry and disassociate from the royal house of Majorca. This ended in 1326, only two years after Sancho's death, when she married James, Baron of Jérica. She was thirty-six years old and her husband died at forty-seven.



THE KING AND THE KINGDOM

When King Sancho rose to the throne in 1311 he quickly recognised the vassal bonds that subordinated him to the king of Aragon and the king of France, indispensable to begin to exercise his government with relative calm. His domain extended to territories (the kingdom of Majorca) where he was king and others, all the rest, where he was a relatively important feudal lord (Rosselló, Cerdanya, Montpellier, Omeladès and Carladès). However, as his father did, he set up residence and his unofficial court in Perpignan.

Despite all this, he rather frequently visited Majorca, where he resided on several occasions. It also seems clear that he had a special interest in acting as a true king. In 1312, he granted the juries of Majorca who had requested it, a heraldic emblem or distinctive flag for the city and the kingdom of Majorca. He also translated to Catalan the fragment of the Chronicle of Pere Marsili (a Latin extended adaptation of the royal Chronicle of James I) in which the conquest of Majorca was described in detail. This meant building the royal memory and remembering that he was the grandson of the conqueror and, therefore, that his descent was linked to the conquest that was the origin of the kingdom.

Furthermore, he worked to strengthen the design of the Crown Chancellery, the implementation of the government and the royal administration of the kingdom. They were headed by a lieutenant who, by delegation of the monarch, exercised tasks of governance and by a royal procurator who managed the expenses and income of the monarch, mainly from commercial or port taxes and the income he received as feudal lord.

Furthermore, Sancho tried to earn the loyalty of the nobility, as evidenced by his donation of the fiefs. Achieving this was important to continue with the implementation of taxation and to redesign, in accordance with their interests, the structure, function and number of representative assemblies. It is because of this that in 1315 he created the *Sindicat de Fora*, which materialised in the division of the countryside into different municipalities.

He delimited ecclesiastical power and, when he could, limited it. In 1314 he managed to incorporate into his heritage a significant fraction of the assets of the Knights Templar. The following year he signed two pacts or unions with the bishopric, one on the division of the tithe between the monarchy and the Church, and the other on the feudal jurisdiction that the bishopric of Majorca exercised in its domains, which was limited to civil justice. Finally, in 1323 he imposed on the bishop of Barcelona a union that limited his feudal jurisdiction.

Documents



6
First book of Majorcan Charters of Rights
Majorca, 1295 – 15th century.
ARM, codex 5

Confirmation and ratification made by Sancho I of the privileges and Charters of Rights of the Kingdom of Majorca.



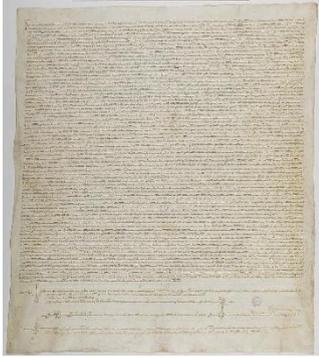
7
Confirmation and ratification made by Sancho I of the privileges and Charters of Rights of the Kingdom of Majorca.
Majorca, 4 July 1311 ARM, Royal parchments 50

As in the case of James II in 1276, Sancho of Majorca fulfilled the oath of the Charters of Rights and privileges of the Kingdom of Majorca when he began his reign.



8
Letter of the union between Sancho of Majorca and the University of the City and Kingdom of Majorca to jointly arm a squadron of galleys in defence of the Kingdom
Perpignan, 27 May 1316
ARM, Royal Parchments 53

This is about the funding in equal parts between the king and the municipality of a squadron to defend the waters surrounding Majorca, Menorca and the Pityusic Islands.



9
The Testament of Sancho of Majorca. Transfer of 7 October 1324
Majorca, 24 December 1321
ARM, Royal Parchments 64

This document establishes the succession of James III as King of Majorca.



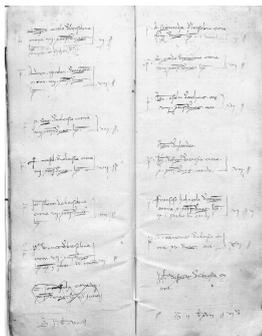
10
Privilege of Sancho I to the juries of Majorca in which he establishes new chapters to the existing privileges
Majorca, 10 November 1322
ARM, Royal Parchments 63

Majorca's own right was being formed with the new privileges that each monarch incorporated into the existing ones.



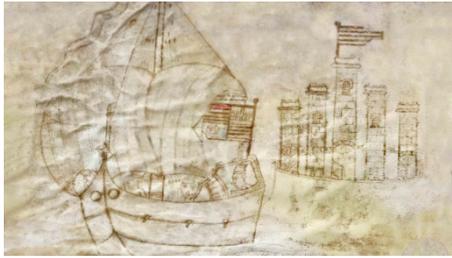
11
Book of data and receipts from the Royal Procurement of Majorca, 1316
Majorca, 1316
ARM, RP 3765

The Royal Heritage had to control the annual income and expenditure through accounting books.



12
Anchor Book
Majorca, 1324
ARM, RP 1098

Vessel traffic in the port of the City of Majorca was subject to the anchorage tax based on their displacement capacity.



POLÍTICS AND TRADE

During Sancho's reign, foreign trade was the engine of the Majorcan economy. The Balearic Islands occupied an ideal position in the Mediterranean. Because of this, they constituted a crossroads on numerous maritime trade routes and a necessary passage for ships from other states travelling to the East and North Atlantic. In addition, they were located at a short and medium distance from the main western Mediterranean ports.

The Illenca bourgeoisie had specialised in the exchange of basic and non-luxurious items at affordable prices. It had a fleet consisting of low tonnage and long ships that sailed to nearby markets, mainly to North African ports.

From the islands, the bourgeoisie exported local goods and goods from Montpellier and Rosselló. In return, they obtained goods from a wide range of foreign sources. The sale of food, products and raw materials met the demand of the Balearic population as well as that of foreign traders who travelled between the islands. Profits were constant if not excessively high, but constant, and were sufficient to generate wealth and prosperity.

Sancho's reign was characterised by complicated diplomatic relations with the Crown of Aragon and the Kingdom of France, the states that exerted the most influence on the Kingdom of Majorca. It also did so by signing treaties with North African states, which favoured trade. The Majorcan sovereign's relation with the Crown of Aragon alternated between phases of cordiality and great tension. He began his reign with good intentions, paying tribute to his cousin James II, of whom he was a feudatory. Shortly afterwards, in 1313, he handed over the territory of the Valley of Aran. Since 1318, however, the succession to the Majorcan throne had disrupted his political relations. James II understood that the kingdom of Majorca had to return to the Crown of Aragon because Sancho had no legitimate male heirs.

Sancho wanted the crown to pass to his nephew James. He eventually succeeded in this, but only in exchange for supporting part of the Crown of Aragon's military campaign destined for the conquest of Sardinia. It was the price for the kingdom of Majorca to continue to be ruled by the Majorcan *dinastia privativa*. On the other hand, in 1324 Sancho began negotiations with Charles IV, king of France, to sell him the lordship of Montpellier or to exchange it with another territory, but death prevented him from completing the transaction. North Africa was a scene of diplomatic success. In 1312 and 1313 the Majorcan monarch signed two peace treaties with the Sultans of Bugia and Tunisia. This allowed him to re-establish the Majorcan consulate in Bugia and obtain two new consuls, one in the towns of Jijel, Collo and Constantine, and the other in Bona and Tunisia.



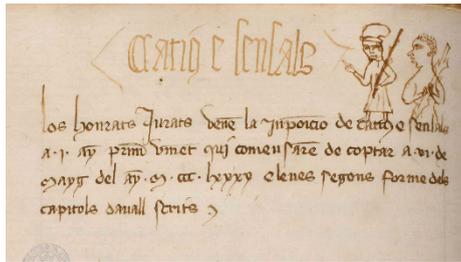
THE JEWISH MINORITY

The Christian conquest of 1229 and the creation of the kingdom of Majorca meant the constant arrival of new settlers and the emergence of a large and dynamic Jewish community of the island. James I of Aragon and his successors facilitated, with considerable privileges, the establishment in Palma of a Jewish quarter that soon became one of the engines of the insular economy and also a fundamental source of income for the young monarchy.

In 1311, at the beginning of his reign, Sancho of Majorca confirmed all the privileges and freedoms enjoyed by the large Jewish community residing in its territories. This confirmation of the policy of protection of the Jews, established by their predecessors, was both necessary and expected. Five years earlier, the Jewish population had been expelled from the Kingdom of France. The representatives of the Majorcan Jews informed the authorities of their concern about the forced conversions and migrations that occurred in the neighbouring monarchy. The island and continental territories of Sancho welcomed Jews from Narbonne and Marseille who fled the repression. The monarch, in addition to confirming the privileges, looked to avoid possible interference in the affairs of Jewish communities.

The apparent harmony between the Majorcan monarchy and the Jews changed suddenly in 1314. According to the first chronicles and traditional historiography, two Germanics went to Majorca to convert Christians and proselytise the Jewish religion. The facts presupposed, through an inquisitorial process, the confiscation of all the property of the Jews of Palma. This very heavy penalty was replaced by an equally high economic fine of 95,000 pounds. At the end of 1315, Sancho ordered the restitution of the privileges and graces previously enjoyed by the Jewish community. However, the penalty that had been imposed on them was not good news for the Royal Administration. The pressure on Jews might have led to massive migration and very serious economic woes. In addition to community restitution, the monarch allowed the city to build a new synagogue, but on condition that it was located in a place other than that from which it had been confiscated.

When the situation was restored, the monarch issued several regulations and provisions to ensure the safety of Majorcan Jews. In addition, he facilitated their business outside the islands, including with enemy territories, the restitution of their institutions and the protection of their businesses within and outside his kingdom. Resuming great international trade with the Maghreb, the Atlantic coasts and the kingdoms of the Western Mediterranean was fundamental for a monarchy with an economy based mainly on trade exchanges.



SLAVES

The Kingdom of Majorca was one of the places where slavery was most important during the Middle Ages. On the one hand, this is attributed to its strategic position, as the main trade routes of the western Mediterranean converged; on the other hand, to its proximity to North Africa, where Christians carried out numerous raids in order to seize Muslim captives. Mention must also be made of the fact that the new Majorcan Christian society had a long history of slavery, which began in 1230, as a result of the conquest of James I.

By 1260, the natives had become extinct and slaves came from capture and trade. During Sancho's reign, the presence of Muslim slaves, mostly male, was certainly relevant. There were some who did work under the orders of their owners, who were of all social classes and occupations (Sancho himself was an owner). Apart from the above, there were also many who signed a size or manumission contract with their owner. According to this contractual modality, the lord set a price for freedom, which the slave agreed to pay, usually in instalments. When the amount was fully paid, he would enjoy his freedom. Once released, if he wanted to continue residing in Majorca he had to pay the so-called right of stay. If he wanted to leave the island, he had to pay the right to leave.

The study of this data has allowed historian Jaume Sastre to suggest that there must have been two-thousand five hundred free Muslims in Majorca between 1311 and 1320. To this figure should be added the number of people who converted to Christianity when they were slaves (in order to improve living conditions) or when they had been released (in order to save the payment of rights). However, the most important group was that of the Muslim slaves, or those forced to convert to Christianity, who worked under the owners or who had signed with them a contract of size or manumission. They carried out a wide range of activities, depending on the occupation of their owner, or on the work they could find, if they were in the process of being released. This would lead to self-exploitation.

On the other hand, during Sancho's reign, slaves from Greece began being documented in Majorca, a group which grew to become very large. They were captured as a result of the activities of the *Gran Companyia Catalana* in those counties and, subsequently, through corsair activities. In theory, Christians could not enslave people of the same religion. Nonetheless, the Greeks were captured. The fact that they were Christian, but not Catholic, and the fact that they were considered enemies of the king of Aragon, served as pretexts for their enslavement.

Documents



13

Privilege of Frederick III of Sicily to the citizens of the Crown of Majorca in which he grants them the same concessions of the citizens of Barcelona to trade with the Sicilian lands and seas Trapani (Sicily)

15 December 1314

ARM, Royal Parchments 52

This concession is part of the efforts of the Crown of Majorca to promote Majorcan trade in the western Mediterranean.



14

Sancho of Majorca gives the knight Egidi Garcés, the jurispudent of Majorca Berenguer Domingo and the merchant of Perpignan Ramon de Capcir the posts of ambassadors of the Kingdom of Majorca before the Genoa community in order to deal with navigation conflicts.

Perpignan, 12 October 1317 ARM, Royal Parchments 54

Trade was the engine of the Majorcan economy. It was therefore essential to maintain good relations with the other maritime powers, as was the case of Genoa.

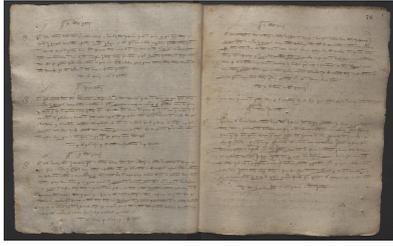


15

Letter from Alfonso XI of Castile to Sancho of Majorca in which he denounces the loss of 200,000 gold doubles for the capture of three Biscayne armed ships, which acted in chorus against the Muslims of Seville Valladolid, 15 October 1330

ARM, Royal Parchments 74

Commercial and corsair activities often interspersed and caused conflicts and claims of goods and captured persons.



16

Book of Royal Letters of the lieutenancy of the Kingdom of Majorca

Majorca, 1312 ARM, LR 4

The king sent his will and government action to all places under his rule by means of documents, which were recorded and kept in books such as the one presented here.



17

Order of Sancho I to the jurors of Majorca to avoid hindering the liberation of Saracens from the kingdom and to favour the peace treaty signed with Bugia

Perpignan, 10 April 1313

ARM, Pascual collection, paper 364

Diplomatic relations with the countries of the western Mediterranean were an important factor in the politics of Sancho of Majorca.



18

Order of Sancho I to the jurors of Majorca to release the 9,000 pounds outstanding from the annual payment of the 45,000 pounds requested by the royal treasurer, both as a loan and as a donation

Perpignan, January (?) 1321

ARM, Pascual collection, paper 353

The Kingdom of Majorca had to contribute a significant amount of money, as well as galleys and men, to the conquest of Sardinia by James II of Aragon.



19

Book of the table from 1316 to 1318

Majorca, 1316 – 1318

ARM, RP 446

The University's table or bank was the place where merchants deposited currency or exchanged coins from various locations.



THE PART FORANA

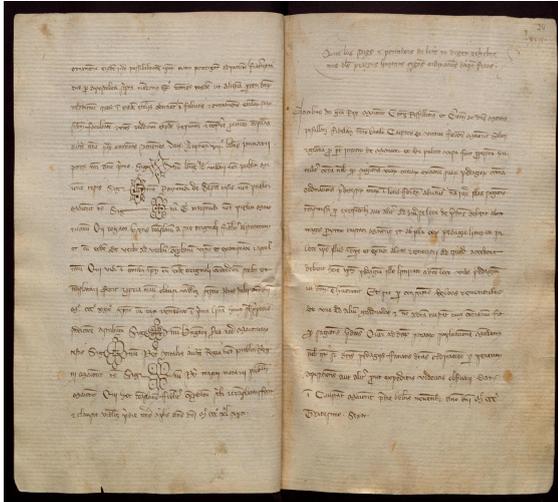
King Sancho ascended the throne approximately eighty years after the creation of the kingdom by his grandfather James I. At that time, the colonisation of Majorca, known as “repopulation” in traditional historiography, had achieved results that could be described as spectacular in the urban sphere. What is known today as Palma had become a very significant city, both in demographic and economic terms, especially as a result of the rise of the commercial sector. The situation in the rest of the island was more complex. More than thirty parishes had been consolidated, which served as the basis for the progressive crystallisation of the first Christian rural communities. However, there were great differences in the distribution of the population in the different regions of the island.

Significant demographic densities were reached in some places in the Serra and Raiguer and in various terms where nuclei had been clung that, in practice, could be classified as large towns or even small cities. Just the opposite occurred in most of the parishes of the centre and, above all, of eastern Majorca, where the majority of royal domains were located. Sancho’s father, James II, attempted to solve this through the 1300 ordinations, which aimed to create new towns or consolidate existing ones, each of which had to be formed by 100 families. However, there was, apparently, some improvisation. There were people from the new towns who had difficulties and who abandoned them.

Sancho had to deal with these issues. During his reign, the inspection of the towns and the provision of infrastructure continued. But this did not prevent some towns from declining, and in some cases even disappearing, such as Bellver (Sant Llorenç), La Palomera (Sant Elm) and La Granada (exact location unknown).

However, Sancho’s action related to the most relevant and transcendent countryside was the creation, in 1315, of the *Sindicat de Fora*. The rural demographic increase caused its inhabitants to request the monarch to participate in the government of the island. They asked that one of the jurors be from outside Palma. The monarch, however, did not accept the request and resolved to create a university; that is, a representative body of the rest of the island where the different parishes were represented. From that moment on, the parish demarcations were definitively consolidated as municipalities, with mayors, juries and councillors. This led to its demographic development, the need to better manage taxation and to establish representative mechanisms, such as attendance at trade union assemblies.

Documents

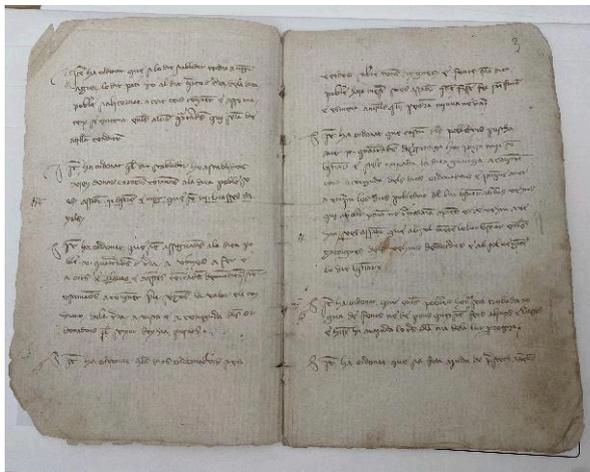


20

Book of the Sindicat de Fora II. Charters of Rights, privileges, ordinations, chapters and other documents of the Kingdom of Majorca from the 13th to 15th centuries, compiled in the 15th century by order of the Sindicat de Fora

Majorca, 15th century ARM, codex 15

In 1315, by means of an arbitral sentence of King Sancho, the *Universitat Forana de Mallorca* was created. A division between the city and the rest of the island was established for tax and representation purposes.



21

Ordinances of James II of Majorca from 1300 for the establishment of new villas in the Majorcan countryside

1300

ARM, RP 2048

During the second phase of his reign, James II of Majorca incorporated expansionary policies in all areas. Perhaps the most important was the creation and settlement of new villas in Majorca or the expansion of existing ones.



ART AND ARCHITECTURE

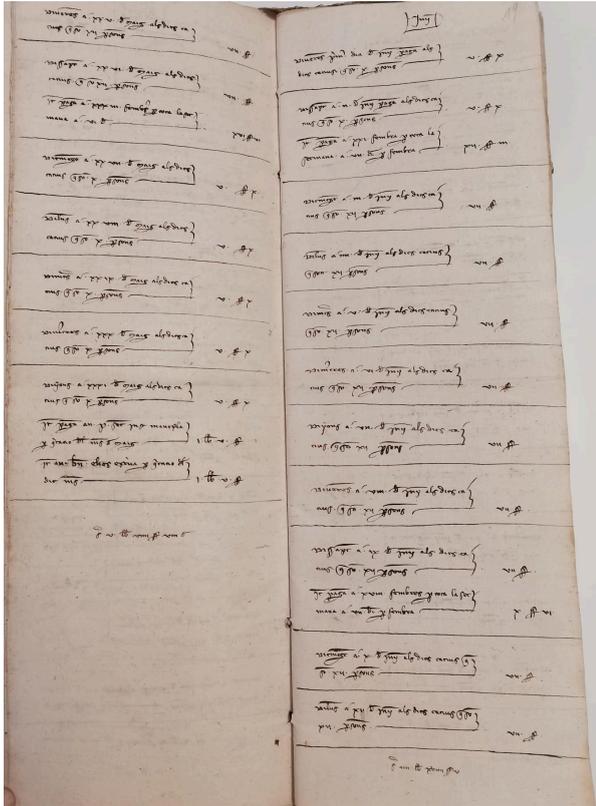
The era of the *dinastia privativa* was one of the most important periods in the promotion of the arts and medieval architecture in the territories of the Kingdom of Majorca. The artistic and architectural projects of royal promotion were one of the most effective tools to establish, consolidate and honour a monarchy that had been questioned almost since its birth. The reign of Sancho helped to consolidate a heritage that identified the *dinastia privativa* and that, in short, constituted another step in dynastic construction.

The (re)construction of royal residences is linked to the residential, patrimonial and ideological needs of the *dinastia privativa*. The royal castle of the city of Majorca (the Almudaina), the castle of Bellver and the rural palaces in Sineu, Manacor and Valldemossa are part of the Gothic monumental heritage promoted by the Majorcan monarchs. In continental territory, the royal castles of Perpignan, Montpellier and Cotlliure are included in this residential network.

The construction and adaptation of these castles and palaces also meant the establishment of important religious areas, such as the chapel of Santa Anna in the Almudaina, or the chapel of Santa Creu in the castle of Perpignan. This construction project, initiated by James II, was continued by Sancho. The execution and continuation of the palatine programs responded to their strategy of using this and other initiatives to improve the reputation of the monarchy. More defensive and located in strategic places of Majorca, the castles of Pollença, Santueri and Alaro were also the subject of attention in these times of the *dinastia privativa*. The same must be said of the castle of Capdepera, where works were carried out during Sancho's reign. The Royal Procurement was also responsible for the maintenance of other constructions in Menorca and Ibiza. The royal promotion extended beyond the residential and defensive areas and was also concerned with the supervision and improvement of the kingdom's infrastructure.

The actions of the monarchs were equally prominent in the spiritual sphere. In this sense, the *dinastia privativa* was one of the main drivers of the work of La Seu of Majorca; specifically, Sancho was in charge of continuing the work of Trinity Chapel. In 1324, he and Bishop Berenguer Batle laid the first stones of the new construction of the Cathedral of Saint John the Baptist.

In the royal court, the cultural sphere was enriched with other initiatives and extended to other interests and manifestations. Thus, Sancho ordered that a translation be made into Catalan of the fragment of the Latin version of the *Llibre dels fets* concerning the conquest of Majorca. In addition, Ramon Llull maintained his bond with the Majorcan court, as shown by his dedication in 1313 of one of his works to Sancho.



22

*Book of works of the castle of the
Almudaina of the city of Majorca*

Majorca, 1313

ARM, RP 1191

The royal palaces were a symbol of prestige for the Crown of Majorca. On the island, in addition to the Almudaina, royal residences were erected in places such as Valldemossa, Sineu or Bellver Castle itself.



SANCHO'S LEGACY

What is left of it? What survives today of Sancho's short reign, from 1311 to 1324? It may seem that little is left of it, but one must remember that he was the continuator who ended up consolidating many initiatives of his father, James II. For example, the residences or royal castles, or the ordinations of 1300 for the creation of new towns, which held and densified the urban fabric of the Majorcan rural area, particularly in the *Pla* and the *Llevant*. Towns such as Campos, Felanitx, Petra, Sa Pobla, Santanyi and Sant Joan, among others, have their origin in the initiatives of James II and in the supervision, which Sancho promoted, of their development.

It is in the rural world where the imprint of the monarch and the impact of his policies was made and is even more evident. The creation of the *Sindicat de Fora* in 1315 led the countryside to become a legal and administrative community. As a result, it acquired its own identity: part of the Majorcan identity, but differentiated from that of Palma and defined by its peasant character. The appearance of this identity, which divided Majorca socially between the city and the countryside (also later called the peasantry) has lasted until today and is the basis of the vigorous personality of Majorca's rural territory.

Sancho's legacy can also be seen symbolically, since the flag or banner that it granted in 1312 to the juries of the city and the kingdom of Majorca has survived in Palma's coat of arms and inspired the official flags of Majorca and the Balearic Islands.

Also worth mentioning is that Sancho ordered the translation into Catalan of the part of the Chronicle of Pere Marsili (an extended Latin translation of James I's *Llibre dels fets*) that referred to the conquest of Majorca. This translation served as the basis for the Sermon on the Conquest which is read on the occasion of the *Festa de l'Estendard* (local festivity). The memory of the contents of the Chronicle and its oral transmission may contribute to a great extent to the transmission and success of the figure of James I as a myth in Majorcan popular culture.

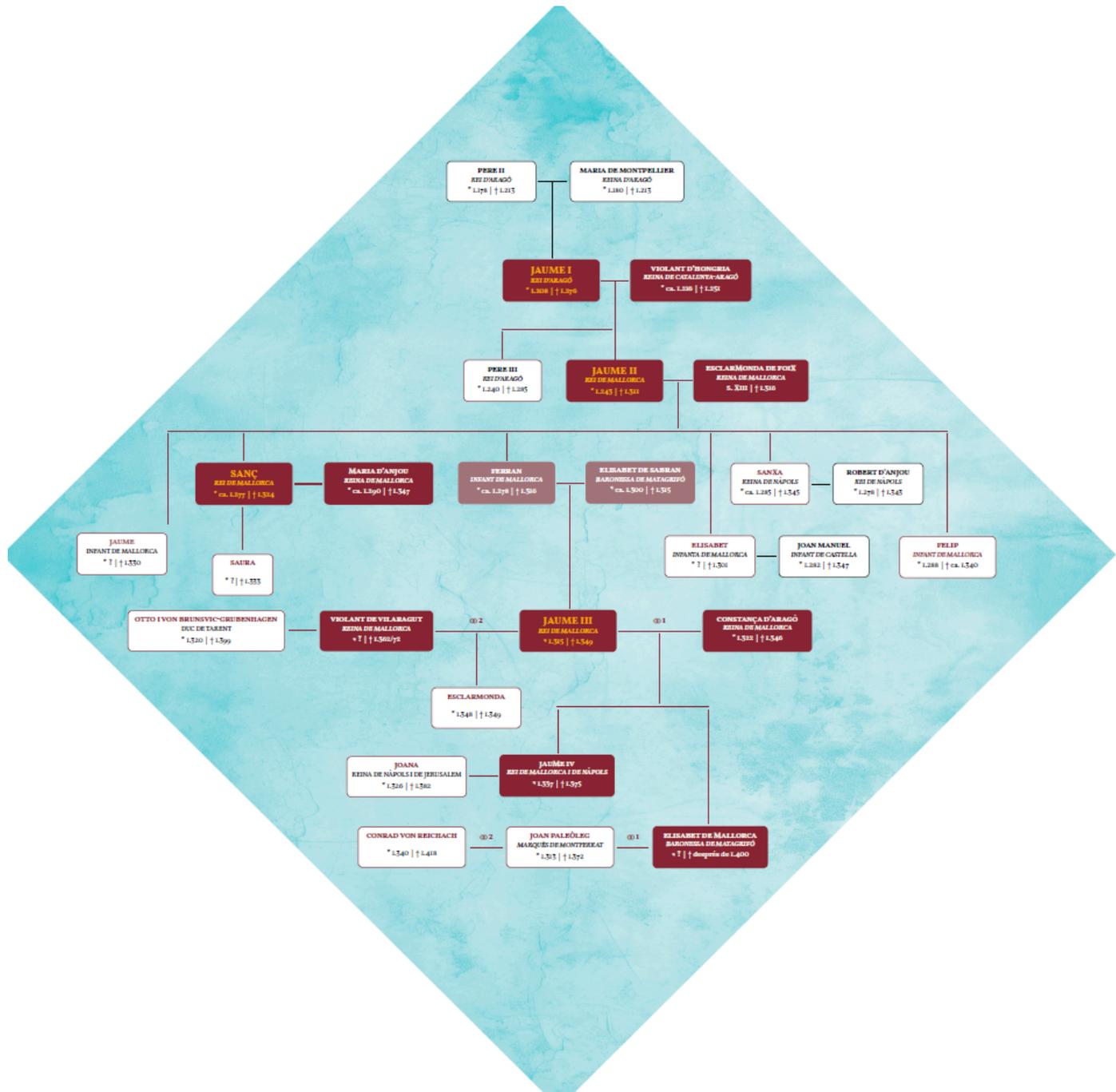
In summary, Sancho's legacy, a monarch who was typically forgotten or looked down upon, is still alive today. He may not have won battles or tournaments, but he managed to apply his policies, albeit with difficulty, and he solidified the image and memory of his dynasty. It is above all in these areas (which affected culture, human geography and current community symbols) that the mark of his reign becomes more evident.

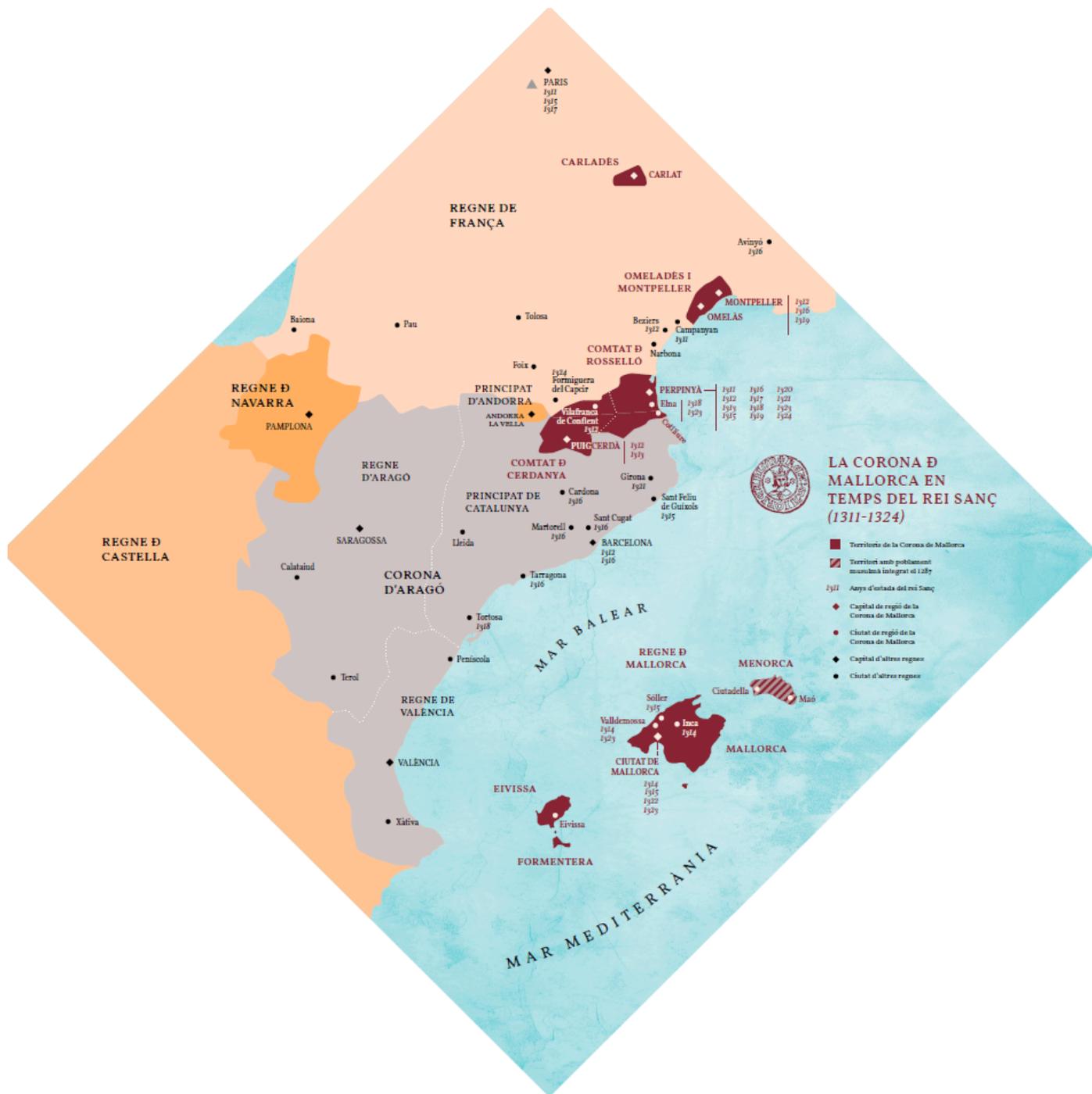
CHRONOLOGY

- c.1277 Born in Perpignan, son of James II of Majorca and Esclarmonda de Foix.
- 1285 His uncle, Peter III of Aragon, assaults the Palace of Perpignan to take with him James II and his family. His offspring are taken hostage.
- 1300 James II promulgates ordinances to create new towns and consolidate existing ones.
- 1302 Officially named heir to the throne, per resignation of his brother James.
- 1304 Sancho marries Maria d'Anjou with the goal of ensuring the success of the dynasty. They won't have any heirs.
- 1311 Death of James II. The same year, he swears as king the kingdom's Charters of Rights to the Cathedral of Majorca.
- 1312 Sancho confirms various administrative roles that had been named by his father. He orders to continue the works of the Almudaina Palace, the Cathedral of Majorca and the Palace of Manacor. He grants the juries of Majorca a heraldic emblem or distinctive flag of the City of Majorca, and translates the Chronicle of the Conquest of Majorca into Catalan.
- 1314 Sancho incorporates into his assets an important fraction of the benefits of the Knights Templar. The following year he signs two pacts or unions with the bishopric.
- 1315 Sancho creates the *Sindicat de Fora*, which establishes a structure that will allow greater autonomy for the Majorca's countryside. As for the Jews, although shortly before he had confirmed the privileges that Majorcan Jews had enjoyed, in 1315 all their property was confiscated. Soon after, they were returned in exchange for payment of a fine.
- 1316 Sancho creates the union army, agreed between him and the University of the City and Kingdom of Majorca, to protect trade.
- 1317 Sancho sends a diplomatic mission to Genoa. Dominicans and Franciscans continue the construction of their convents in Palma, with royal contributions.
- 1318 Sancho appoints his nephew James as his successor, raising the issue of succession with James II of Aragon, who wanted to annex the territories of the Crown of Majorca on the basis of the lack of legitimate male descendants. This conflict will be resolved three years later.
- 1319 Sancho orders the expulsion from Majorca of non-Majorcan Jews who exhibit inappropriate behaviour. In the same year, he returns to the Jews a part of the confiscated assets and confirms in perpetuity the immobility of the Jewish

Quarter. He extends the privileges and obligations to the Jews of Menorca and Ibiza.

- 1321 Sancho helps James II of Aragon in the conquest of Sardinia militarily and economically, in exchange for recognising James as heir. This ensures the continuity of the Crown of Majorca.
- 1322 On 24 December, from the Almudaina Palace, Sancho dictates his will, naming his nephew James as his successor.
- 1324 Sancho dies on 24 September in Formiguera del Capcir and is buried in Sant Joan de Perpinyà.







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