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ALFONSO X, *el Sabio, King of*
Castilla and León
LAS SIETE PARTIDAS



PRINTED BY ORDER OF
THE TRUSTEES

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1928

HISPANIC NOTES & MONOGRAPHS

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R.235

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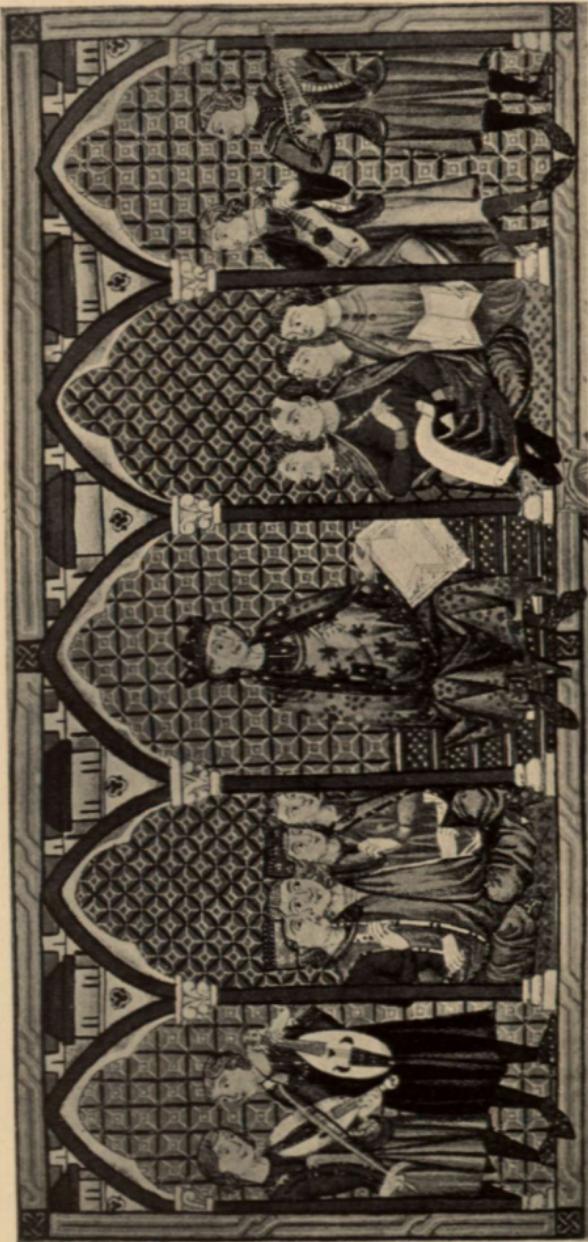


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MINIATURE FROM HIS CANTIGAS



BIOGRAPHICAL PREFACE

"He was more fit for letters than for the government of his subjects; he studied the heavens, and watched the stars, but forgot the earth, and lost his kingdom."

—Mariana

Alfonso the Tenth, called *the Learned*, *the Wise*, or *the Sage*, was born at Burgos, November 23rd, 1221. On the death of his father, Ferdinand the Third, *Saint Ferdinand*, in 1252, he ascended to the crowns of Castilla and León. In 1257 he was named Emperor of Germany by four of the electors, but was quietly superseded by Rudolph of the Hapsburg family. More skilled in poetry, geometry, astronomy, chemistry, and the occult sciences than he was in the ability of holding his throne, he was deposed by his son Sancho in 1282. The fortunes of the man, to whom above all others is credited the nourishing of the

early literature of Spain, fell so low before his death (at Sevilla, April 4th, 1284) that he was forced to write the letter, which the Spanish Academy calls "inimitable" in its prose, to one of the powerful Guzmán family:

"Cousin Don Alonzo Perez de Guzman:", as Ticknor translated it, "My affliction is great, because it has fallen from such a height that it will be seen afar; and as it has fallen on me, who am the friend of all the world, so in all the world will men know this my misfortune, and its sharpness, which I suffer unjustly from my son, assisted by my friends and by my prelates, who, instead of setting peace between us, have put mischief, not under secret pretences or covertly, but with bold openness. And thus I find no protection in mine own land, neither defender nor champion; and yet have I not deserved it at their hands, unless it were for the good I have done them. And now, since in mine own land they deceive, who should have served and assisted me, needful is it that I should seek

abroad those who will kindly care for me; and since they of Castile have been false to me, none can think it ill that I ask help among those of Benamarin. For if my sons are mine enemies, it will not then be wrong that I take mine enemies to be my sons; enemies according to the law, but not of free choice. And such is the good king Aben Jusaf; for I love and value him much, and he will not despise me or fail me; for we are at truce. I know also how much you are his, and how much he loves you, and with good cause, and how much he will do through your good counsel. Therefore look not at the things past, but at the things present. Consider of what lineage you are comé, and that at some time hereafter I may do you good, and if I do it not, that your own good deed shall be its own good reward. Therefore, my cousin Alonzo Perez de Guzman, do so much for me with my lord and your friend, that, on pledge of the most precious crown that I have, and the jewels thereof, he should lend me so much as he may hold to be just. And if

ALFONSO THE TENTH

you can obtain his aid, let it not be hindered of coming quickly; but rather think how the good friendship that may come to me from your lord will be through your hands. And so may God's friendship be with you. Done in Seville, my only loyal city, in the thirtieth year of my reign, and in the first of these my troubles.

Signed,
THE KING."

CAquí comienzan los títulos de la primera partida .

Título primero: que fabla delas leyes y por quáras razones es este libro partido por títulos y en q̄ maniera .

Ti. ii. del vicio y de la costumbre y del fuero .

Ti. iii. dela santa trinidad y dela fe católica .

Ti. iv. de los siete sacramentos de santa yglesia .

Ti. v. de los perdonados de santa yglesia qui há demostrar la fe y dar los sacramentos .

Ti. vi. de los clérigos y de las cosas que les pertenece fazer y de las que les son vedadas .

Ti. vii. de los religiosos .

Ti. viii. de los votos y de las promesas que los oñbres fazén adios a los santos .

Ti. ix. de las excomuniones y de las suspensiones y del entredicho .
Ti. x. de las yglesias como deuen ser fechas .

Ti. xi. de los pueblos y de las fráquezas que han las yglesias y sus cementerios .

Ti. xii. de los monasterios y de sus yglesias y de las otras cosas de religion .

Ti. xiii. de las sepulturas .

Ti. xiv. de las cosas dela yglesia q̄ no se deuen enajenar .

Ti. xv. del drecio del patronatgo .
Ti. xvi. de los beneficios de santa yglesia .

Ti. xvii. dela simonia en que caen los clérigos por razon de los beneficios .

Ti. xviii. de los sacrilegios .

Ti. xix. de las primitivas y de las ostiendas .

Ti. xx. de los diezmos que los cri-

tianos deuen dar adios :

Ti. xxi. del pegujar de los clérigos .

Ti. xxii. de las procuraciones y del censo y de los pecados que dan alas yglesias .

Ti. xxiii. de la guarda de las fiestas y de los ayunos y de como se deuen fazer las limosnas .

Ti. xxiv. de los romeros y de los peregrinos .

I

LAS SIETE PARTIDAS

Sevilla, Meynardo Ungut

and Stanislao *polono*,

October 25th, 1491

[Table of contents beginning:] | [Aqui comienzan los titulos dela | primera Partida.
| vº sig. a¹.- | prologo. | sig. a^{ij}-a^{ijj}.- Aqui comienza la primera partida | que fabla de todas las cosas q per | teneſçē ala fe catholica: que faze al | onbre conoſcer adios poꝝ creencia. [in red] | vº sig. a^{ij}-vº k⁵.- | Aqui comienzan los titulos dela se | gunda partida. | vº sig. mⁱ.- | prologo. | [and] | Aqui comienza la segunda partida | desto libro. que fabla delos enpera | doꝝes z delos reyes: z delos otros | grandes Señores dela tierra que la | han de mantener en iuſticia z verꝝ | dad. | [in red] | sig. m^{ij}-

vº sig. u⁷.- | Aqui comiençã los titulos dela
 ter | çera partida. | sig. aa^{ij}-vº sig. aa^{ij}.- |
(Aqui comienza el prohemio: | vº sig. aa^{ij}
 (second column).- | Aqui comienza la
 tercera partida | que fabla dela iusticia que
 es orden | de iuyzio para desébargar los
 pley | tos. | [in red] sig. bb¹-oo⁵.- | Aqui
 comiençan los titulos z las | leyes dela
quarta partida. | sig. A^{ij}-vº A^{iiij}.- | pro-
 logo. | vº sig. A^{iiij} (second column).- | Aqui
 comienza la quarta partida | que habla
 delos despozozios z de | los casamientos.
 [in red] | sig. A^{iiij}-vº E⁴.- | Aqui comiençan
 los titulos de | la quinta Partida. | vº
 sig. Gⁱ.- | Aqui comienza el Prologo. | [and,
 second column, in red:] | Aqui comienza la
 quinta Partida | deste libro. que fabla delos
 empiez | stidos z delas vendidas z delas
 cõ | pzas z delos cambios. z de todos | los
 otros pleitos z posturas que fa | zen los
 onbres entresi de qual na | tura quier que
 sean. | sig. G^{ij}-M⁷.- | Aqui comiècan los
 titulos dela fe | fta partida. que son.
 xix. | sig. AAⁱⁱ.-[in red:] | Aqui comienza
 el prologo. | [and second column, also in



Biologo.

red:] | Aqui se comienza la festa Parti | da
deste libro. que fabla delos teſſ | ſtamentos
z delas herenças. | *vº* sig. AAⁱⁱ-EE⁸.-
| ¶Eftos fon los titulos dela fetena |
partida. | *vº* sig. FFⁱ [and] | Aqui comienza
el prologo. | (second column).- | Aqui
comienza la Setena Partida | deste nuestro
libro. que fabla de to | das las acuſaciones
z malefiçios q | los onbres fazen. z que pena
mereſ | çen auer poſende. | [in red] sig.
FF^{ij}-*vº* LL⁸.-[Last leaf, with colophon,
printers' mark, etc. as reproduced] LL⁹.

[416] f. text, 25.1-25.9 x 7.4-7.6 (col.)cm.
a⁸ (*rº* first leaf blank)-g⁸, h⁶-k⁶ (last leaf
blank), m⁸ (*rº* first leaf blank)-u⁸ (last leaf
blank), aa² (first leaf blank), bb⁸-mm⁸,
nn⁶-oo⁶ (*vº* oo⁵ and last leaf blank), A¹⁰
(first leaf blank), B⁸-D⁸, E⁴, G⁸ (*rº* first leaf
blank)-M⁸ (*vº* M⁷ and last leaf blank),
AA⁸ (first leaf blank)-EE⁸ (*vº* last leaf
blank), FF⁸ (*rº* first leaf blank)-KK⁸, LL¹⁰
(*vº* LL⁹ and last leaf blank).

Gothic type, three sizes (Haebler 1, 2,
4); Text in double columns, 61-64 lines to
full page; *Partida's* headings in red;

Initials; Printed initials; Initial spaces (with minuscule guide letters usually); Running titles; No catchwords; Printers' device; Watermarks: Crowns, Crowns in circles, Swans in circles, Ovoid with cross (not in Briquet).

Notes

The first attempt at a codification of the many and oftentimes contradictory laws on the Spanish Peninsula was made by Saint Ferdinand of Castilla in his *Setenario*. About 1256, Ferdinand's son, Alfonso the Tenth, called *El Sabio*, after having compiled shorter codes, the *Espejo* and the *Fuero Real*, undertook this collection which he called *El Setenario* also. It was finished in about ten years, but meeting with much opposition, it was not adopted as the law of the land for another century, when it became known as the *Siete partidas*, the name by which it has since continued to be called. It is said that Montesquieu was much impressed with Alfonso's principle that "a despot cuts down a tree, while the wise monarch prunes it." The *Partidas* little resemble the statutes of the present day.

except in their intent. The subjects of certain of its chapters are scarcely to be met with elsewhere, certainly not in books of the law. That Alfonso could have made the compilation alone is not to be considered; that he was assisted by a certain Jacobo Ruiz, a bishop of Oviedo, Fernán Martínez, and a Maestro Roldán is the consensus of opinion of authorities on the subject, but that he was its incentive power and genius is doubted by none. Although he lost sight of the practical methods of government in his studies and theories and so lost his kingdom, nevertheless his greatness and right to bear the title of *The Wise* has been vindicated to posterity by this compilation alone. In it he shows himself as the prose writer of a distinction sufficient to make, as he did, Castilian the national language. Moreover, the fact that our own states of Louisiana and Florida to this day derive certain of their laws (through the Spanish rule) from these same *Siete partidas* is a proof of their greatness and that of their author in his ability to recog-

nize the needs and principles of a workable code. This is the first printed edition of these laws, the earlier of the two printed at Sevilla in the same year and the less often encountered. Haebler is apparently in error in giving the foliation as 430. Signature aa has two instead of eight leaves. Subtracting these six leaves as well as the eight blank ones makes the foliation 416 leaves. The work is usually bound in two volumes, the second volume beginning with the fourth *Partida* (signature A). The editor was Doctor Montalvo, Alfonso Díaz de Montalvo, who published several editions of *Ordenanzas* during the fifteenth century.

Facsimiles

vº f[1], *f[2]*, and *f[416]* (with colophon and printers' device), (signatures *vº aⁱ*, *a^{ij}*, and *LL⁹*).

— Copy I 31 x 23; leaf, 30.6 x 21.7 cm.

Imperfect: sig. oo⁶(blank), A³ and A⁴ wanting; Top margin trimmed; MS. notes.

A^v is marked A^{iij}; A^{vi}, A^{iiij}; AA^{ij}, AA.

From the library of Dón Antonio Cánovas

¶ Aquellas siete Partidas fijo collegir el muy
excelente Rey don Alfonso el nono: con intento
muy virtuoso que sus reynos de Castilla y de
Leon y todos los otros sus reynos y señorios
se rigiesen llena mente en buena iusticia sin al
gunas otras intricaciones litigiosas. Es segredo
obra soberana merte puechosa y de mucha auc
tovoras: porque en la recollecció destas dichas
leyes entendieron los mas famulos letrados iu
ristas que ala fazon se fallaua en la spianadas:
parecio alos Screrillanos y muy altos y muy
poterolos don fernando y conia y isabel Rey y
Reyna de Castilla y de Leon y de Aragon y de
Sicilia yz. que se ceuillesen poner enlos lugares
conuenientes delos capituloes delas principales
leyes que enclausa siete partidas se contiene
las avivencias del Doctor de Montalvo. fijase y
ron las imprimir en Seuilla Juan de porres ve
yno de Salamanca y Guido de Lauzarijs ge
nous.

Imprimidas son estas siete parti
das en la muy noble y muy leal ciu
dad de Seuilla. por M. Reynardo En
gut Alamanio. y Lancalao. Polo
no companeros. En el año del naci
miento de nuestro salvador Ihesu
cristo de mill y quattrocientos y no
ueyta y uno años. y se acabaron a
veinte y cinco dias del mes de otu
bre del dicho año.

El registro de los quadermos de las siete partidas .

¶ Primera mente la primera partida tiene siete
quadermos. a. b. c. d. e. f. g. E tres ternos. b. i. k.
¶ La segunda partida tiene nueve quadermos.
m. n. o. p. q. r. s. t. u .

¶ La tercera partida tiene primera mente una
hoja celos titulos. aa. E mas tiene onze quader
mos. bb. cc. dd. ee. ff. gg. bb. ii. kk. ll. mm.
E tiene dos ternos. nn. oo .

¶ La quarta partida tiene un quintermo. A. E
quadermos tres. B. C. D. E tiene un duoterno. E
¶ La quinta partida tiene seis quadermos. G
D. J. K. L. M .

¶ La sexta partida tiene cinco quadermos. H
B. C. D. E. E .

¶ La settima partida tiene cinco quadermos. ff
G. G. D. D. J. K. K. E un quintermo. LL .



LAS SIETE PARTIDAS

II

del Castillo (with bookplate). On flyleaf is MS. note: *Comprado en Madrid, á 20 Mayo 1874.* | *Precio: Bāā Rs. los dos tomos.* | *Carrant Barrachina.* |

In old pasteboard covers, 3/4 calf; Blue sprinkled edges; In two volumes.

— Copy 2 32.5 x 24; leaf, 31.4 x 22.8 cm.

Top margins trimmed; Many MS. notes; sig. u⁸ (blank), oo⁶(blank), and Aⁱ (blank) wanting.

Aⁱⁱⁱ is Aⁱ; A^{v-vi}, A^{iiij-iiij}.

In modern vellum binding drawn over boards; Gilt tooled backs; Red title labels; Rasped edges; In two volumes.

— Copy 3 32.5 x 24.5; leaf, 31.4 x 22.8 cm.

Imperfect: sig. k⁶ (blank), hhⁱ, oo⁶ (blank), A¹ (blank), and A¹⁰ wanting; Foxed; MS. notes.

A^{iiij} is Aⁱ; A^{iiij} not marked.

From the library of the Escorial whose escutcheon, a grid surmounted by a crown, is impressed, in blind, on covers. A crown surmounted by a cross, with the book's

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	<p>title, is to be found on the foreedges, as is the custom in marking books (which stand on the shelves with the foreedges facing outwards) in that library.</p> <p>In old calf binding drawn over boards; Gilt edges.</p>
Other copies	<p>Escorial; London. B.M.; Madrid. B.N., B. Acad. esp.; Sevilla. B. Col.; Toledo. B. Prov.</p> <p>Méndez knew of copies in the libraries of Don Joaquín Pastor at Madrid and of Señor Floranes at Valladolid. Heredia had a copy in his library, as did Don Mariano Murillo.</p>
References	<p>Brunet; <i>Census</i> 12426; Diosdado p. 146; Escudero 13; ^oFloranes p. 301; Gallardo 145; Haebler 518,—<i>Tip. iber.</i> plate LII, no. 96 (with facsim. of first column of last page as far as printers' mark); Hain 12426; Heredia 285; Laserna 1052; Méndez-Hidalgo p. 89-90, no. 27; Palau; Salvá 3723 note; Thomas; Ticknor I, 46-51.</p>

Primera partida.

II

LAS SIETE PARTIDAS

Sevilla, Paulo de Colonia, Johānes
Pegniczer, Magno, Thomas
(*Four German companions*),
December 24th, 1491

| . . . La primera [razon] el muy noble
z muy biēauē' | turado rey don Fernādo
nō padrē q̄ era cōpli | do de iusticia z de
derecho q̄ lo quisiera fazer sy | mas biuiera z
mando a nos q̄ lo fiziesemos. La | segunda
poz dar ayuda z effuerço alos que de / | spues
de nos reynasen poz q̄ pudiesen meioz fo /
| frir el grand trabaio q̄ han de mantener los
rey / | nos los q̄ lo biē quisiesen fazer. La
tercera poz | dar effuerço z carrera alos
onbres d'conoscer el | derecho z la razon z
se sopiesen guardar d' fazer | tuerto ni
yerro z sopiesen amar z obedescer alof |

Collation

otros señores q despues de nos viniesen. E este | libro fue comenzado a conponer bispera de fant | iuan baptista a quatro años z veynte y tres diaſ | andados del comiēço del nño reynado q comen | co quādo andaua la hera de adā en cinco mill z | onze años. z. lxxxvij. dias. . . . z fue acabado def' | de q fue comēçado a fiete años cōplidos. | f[3] (last 10 lines of column 1, lines 1-7 and 23-24 of column 2).

[474] f. text, 21.7-22 x 6.7-6.9 (col.) cm.
 a⁸-l⁸ (last leaf blank), aa⁸-ii⁸, kk⁶-ll⁶
 (last leaf blank), aaa⁸-ooo⁸ (last leaf blank),
 aaaa¹⁰, bbbb⁸-dddd⁸, eeee¹⁰ (v° last leaf
 blank), A⁸-F⁸, G⁶ (last leaf blank); AA⁸-
 DD⁸, EE⁶-FF⁶ (last leaf blank), AAA⁸-
 FFF⁸, GGG⁶ (last leaf blank).

Signatures marked with arabic figures;
 c³ is marked c²; dd², dd¹; fff² is also marked
 aaa³; Gothic type, three sizes (Haebler 1,
 3, 4); Text in double columns; 52 lines,
 small type, to full column; Chapter head-
 ings, at beginning of each *Partida*, in red
 (13 lines on a⁴, 9 on aa², 5 on aaa², 4 on
 aaaa³, 10 on A², 3 on AA², 2 and 5 on

Tabla de los títulos de la primera partida.

Introducción.

Lituto primero á fábla das leyes y por quanto
esta rason es de libro partido por titulos

Z.ii. del año 1 de la constubración del fuero
Z.1.iii. de la Santa Trinidad 1 de la fe católica.

QUATRO PERLADES DE SANTA REGINA QUE BASTAN DEMONSTRAR LA FE Y DAR LOS SACRAMENTOS.

En el año de 1850, cuando se publicó la obra de *La Biblia Sagrada*, se impuso la idea de que el autor era un sacerdote francés llamado *J. B. R. de S. L.* y que su autoría era dudosa.

Los oídos suyos y oídos próximamente que
los oídos suyos y oídos próximamente que
Su oídos suyos y oídos próximamente que

L'ordine delle raffigurazioni come deve esser fatta.

2.º) Las personas que no se acuerden.

217. Se ha hecho un patrón de
los beneficios de una regla.

LXXXVIII. Actos sacrilegios.

Y para que los trámites se den en
poco tiempo.

LXXXV. *Das præcunctiones i del anno i dies
pedidos que van alas y gafas.*

2. *Enjillar, adobar romero y todos los perejiles.*



vº AA², 2 on AA³, 8 on AAA²); Initials, three sizes (largest: A D E F L N O S T); Running titles; No catchwords; Printers' device (in black and white); Watermarks: Hands and stars (not in Briquet).

This is the second edition, much better typographically than the first and more frequently found, which issued from the presses at Sevilla within three months in 1491. The first edition (*q. v.*) bears the date October twenty-fifth and had as printers Ungut and the Pole, Stanislao. In this fact lies an indication of a spirit of rivalry. Between the work of these two companies in general, there is little opportunity to claim that the one is the superior of the other. This edition also has the additions and concordances by Alfonso Díaz de Montalvo (*el doctor de montalvo*).

Facsimiles: T.-p. (*Primera partida*), *f[2]*, and *vºf[474]* (last leaf, with colophon and printers' mark).

— Copy 1 30.6 x 23; leaf, 29.3 x 20.8 cm.

Notes

Facsimiles

ALFONSO THE TENTH

aaaa³⁻⁴ not marked; aaaa⁵⁻⁶ marked
aaaa³⁻⁴; BBB³, BBB²; EEE², EEE³.

Excellent copy

In old calf binding; Yellow end papers;
Gilt tooled back; Yellow, rasped edges.

— Copy 2 29.3 x 21.3; leaf, 28.4 x 18.9
cm.

d² is not marked; aaaa⁵⁻⁶ is aaaa³⁻⁴;
BBB², BBB³; EEE², EEE³.

Imperfect: ll⁶ (blank), aaaa³⁻⁴, G⁶
(blank), FF⁶ (blank), and GGG⁶ (blank)
wanting.

Salvá-Heredia copy (with *ex libris*), ac-
quired through Quaritch.

In red calf extra; 4-line gilt border;
Marbled end papers; Gilt edges.

— Copy 3 28.6 x 21.6; leaf, 27.8 x 20.5
cm.

Imperfect: a¹, l⁸ (blank), and all after
ll⁵ wanting; Stained; Foxed; MS. notes.

From the library of Don Francisco
Domecq Victor, Cádiz, 1852 (book label).

Bound in 3/4 black morocco; Mottled
brown pasteboards; Marbled end papers;
Marbled edges.

Registro.

ponente no oyeron los antiguos cuidado de las faser sobre las cosas que vinieron pocas ver ser: por que tuvieron que se podria lograr por otro caso de ley sencillante que se fallasecripta. Otros dijeron que en las cosas que se fayen de sus no deve ser castado en cierto la p[ro]p[ri]edad ante que se parte de las otras que fueran antigua mente tenidas por buenas y por derechas. E por que las otras palabras que los antiguos pusieron como regla de credito las avemos puestas y deparadas por las leyes de este nuestro libro as[í] como de su d[omi]nicio. porde no las q[ui]rremos borrar tenemos que aborzar los enca[pi]tos q[ue] los que aqui avemos demostrados.

- ¶ La primera partida tiene once quaternos. a.b.c.d.e.f.g.b.i.k.l.
- La segunda partida tiene diez quaternos. a.a.b.b.c.c.d.d.e.e.f.f.g.g.h.h.i.i.j.j.k.k.l.l.
- La tercera partida tiene quaternos catorce. a.a.a.b.b.c.c.c.d.d.e.e.f.f.g.g.h.h.i.i.j.j.k.k.l.l.m.m.m.n.n.n.o.o.o.
- La cuarta partida tiene dos quinternos el primero. aaaa. y el posterior. eeee. E tres ternos bbbb. cccc. dddd.
- La quinta partida tiene seis quaternos. H.B. L.D. E. f. E un tercio. G.
- La sexta partida tiene cuatro quaternos. B.B. B.B. C.C.D.D. E dos ternos. E.E. F.F.
- La settima partida tiene seis quaternos. B.B.B.B. C.C.C. D.D.D. E.E.E. F.F.F. E un tercio. G.G.G.

¶ Las siete partidas q[ue] serenissimo r[es]t[er] excellente señor don Alfonso rey de Castilla de Leon y de su gloria memoria dieron de su santo si[eu]o y mano consilar y revajar a muy profecido bencorato de todas las principales fayendas iurisdictivas por muy solemne y apacharlos surisconsilios. Fueron imprentas en la muy noble y muy leal ciudad de Sevilla por comisarios de Rodrigo de Robledo y de Aldebaro Gurri y mercaderes de libros. Impresionaron las maestres paulo de colonia y Joan Pérez de mireberga y Abadizo y Thomás compa[ñ]eros almanes. Escabaron se de imprimir a. xiiij. dias de desembre año de nuestra salut de mil y que eranientos y nouenta y un años bienaventurada mente. Han crellas siete partidas las avocaciones y decodizadas fechas por el doctor de mosalvo.



— Copy 4 31.6 x 22.5; leaf, 29.9 x 21.4 cm.

Imperfect: hh⁴-aaa⁶ (inclusive) and all after ooo⁷ wanting; Slightly wormed (at beginning).

d² is not marked

In old undressed kid binding drawn over boards; Kid clasps with two bronze *manecillas*; No end papers; Raspred edges with a pricked diamond design, probably made when book was still complete.

Evora. B. Prov.; London, B.M.; Madrid. B.N. (in 3 v.); Philadelphia. Univ. Lib.; Toledo. B. Prov.

Other copies

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