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Poverty and Welfare in
Habsburg Spain
Poverty and Welfare in Habsburg Spain

The Example of Toledo

LINDA MARTZ
To my Mother and
the memory of my Father


## Contents

List of figures ............................................................... ix
List of tables ............................................................... xi
Preface .................................................................. xiii
List of abbreviations ....................................................... xv
Note on currency ............................................................ xvii
Introduction ................................................................. 1

### PART ONE: CASTILE AND THE RELIEF OF THE POOR

1 Castilian legislation, debates and innovations ............... 7  
   Juan Luis Vives and the European reforms ............... 7
   The Castilian reaction ............................................ 14
   Hospitals and the growth of a new order ............. 34

2 The reform of charitable institutions ......................... 45
   The Tridentine reforms ....................................... 45
   Hospital consolidations and beggars’ hospitals .... 61

### PART TWO: POVERTY AND WELFARE IN TOLEDO

3 The city of Toledo ..................................................... 93
   The population, 1528–1625 .................................. 93
   Rich and poor in 1561 ........................................ 100
   The relief of the poor ........................................ 119

4 Private charitable institutions .................................... 159  
   Hospitals and confraternities ............................... 159
   The Hospital of Tavera .................................... 168
   The confraternity of the Santa Caridad ............ 188
CONTENTS

5 The recipients of relief 200
   Parish poor and hospital patients 200
   The preoccupation with youth 221

Notes 237
Select bibliography 254
Index 263
Figures

1. Baptisms in twelve Toledo parishes, 1557–1625  
2. El Greco's plan of Toledo (first decade of the seventeenth century)  
3. Toledo parishes in the sixteenth century  
4. Nucleus of wealth in Toledo, 1561  
5. Baptisms in the parishes of San Justo (5a), San Isidoro (5b) and Santiago del Arrabal (5c)  
6. Proposed location for the Toledo General Hospital of Beggars, 1582  
7. Number of patients fed by the Hospital of Tavera, 1569–1625  
8. Toledo baptisms and patients fed by the Hospital of Tavera, 1569–1625  
9. Monthly average of patients fed each day by the Hospital of Tavera  
10. The mayordomías of the Hospital of Tavera  
11. Province of origin of 354 immigrants, patients of the Hospital of Tavera  
12. Parish residence of 556 Tavera Hospital patients
Tables

1 Sixteenth-century census figures for the city of Toledo  
2 Population of Toledo parishes, 1561  
3 Percentage of widows in Toledo parishes, 1561  
4 Distribution and percentage of persons of wealth and social distinction in Toledo parishes, 1561  
5 Percentage of poor in Toledo parishes, 1558  
6 Parish bread distributions in Toledo, 1543–58  
7 Number of persons receiving relief in each Toledo parish, 1543–59  
8 Sex and infirmity of 187 persons issued a begging licence in Toledo, 1598  
9 Hospitals and hospices in Toledo and their approximate bed space, 1576  
10 Daily quantity of meat given to Tavera Hospital patients  
11 Expenditure by the Hospital of Tavera for patients’ food rations  
12 Hospital of Tavera expenditure in 1589 and 1626  
13 Income and expenditure of the mayordomo de finados of the Santa Caridad  
14 Income of the mayordomo de memorias of the Santa Caridad  
15 Date and purpose of 47 charitable bequests left to the Santa Caridad  
16 Alms distributed in Toledo parishes, 1573  
17 Sex and marital status of 1,200 Tavera Hospital patients  
18 Age, sex and parents of 516 single Tavera Hospital patients  
19 Sex and number of children of 260 married and widowed Tavera patients

ix
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Residence status of patients from four hospitals</td>
<td>214</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Percentage of mortality for the Hospital of Tavera patients</td>
<td>219</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Foundlings of Santa Cruz: place nursed, male/female ratio, and estimated mortality</td>
<td>230</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Preface

Poverty and welfare is an enormous topic, but in the sixteenth century its scope is limited somewhat by the documents that are available. For the first part of the book, which deals with crown policy and welfare reforms, much information has been printed, and I have relied heavily upon the British Library’s excellent collection of sixteenth-century books and other printed material. As for documents, the state archives of Madrid and Simancas have been consulted, together with other smaller collections, but the Archive of Simancas has provided the most useful information, especially the sections Patronato Eclesiástico, which contains much information about charitable institutions, and Consejo Real and Estado, which yielded facts about the policy of the crown and the city of Toledo. In Toledo, the archives of the city, the cathedral, the diocese, the parishes, the notaries, the Diputación, and the Hospital of Tavera, as well as the Lorenzana Collection in the Toledo Public Library, have been consulted and all have contributed useful material. The minutes of the city council meetings and other documents in the municipal archive have provided the core of information about the city’s policy toward the poor. If it appears that the policy of the church has been neglected, or that the discussion of the Toledo prelates is uneven, this is because many important church documents are inaccessible, a great loss in a city where the church played such an important role in poor relief.

To explore all the documents relating to sixteenth-century poor relief would be a life-long task. The state archives are vast and contain no catalogues relating to the subject, so finding information is somewhat hit-or-miss. It is possible that much information remains buried in an unlikely section or an unexplored legajo. On the local level there is a surfeit of documents about the finances of charitable institutions but very little about church policy or the people who received relief. If and when all the collections of the cathedral and the
diocese are catalogued and made available to the public, it is likely
that a more definite evaluation of the role of the church will be
feasible. The book attempts to present a broad outline of the major
events that occurred in Spain and Toledo relating to the poor, an
outline that future research will amplify and possibly modify.

In instances where a document is not paginated and it forms but
one small portion in a collection of three hundred papers, it is briefly
described when first mentioned. Also, since the great part of the
research for this book was carried out between 1970 and 1974, the
description should enable any interested party to locate the document
in archives that have recently changed the numbers of their
cataloguing system, as is the case in the Toledo diocesan archive.

Throughout the book the Benedictine abbot who defended the
1540 Castilian welfare reforms has been called Juan de Robles, even
though he originally wrote his treatise under the name Juan de
Medina, alias Robles. This course has been adopted to conform with
modern Spanish usage and to avoid confusion with another con-
temporary, also named Juan de Medina, who was a theologian at the
University of Alcalá de Henares.

Many people have contributed to the making of this book. I am
especially grateful to John Lynch and H. G. Koenigsberger, who read
the original manuscript and offered suggestions for improvement; to
Brian Pullan, who also read and commented on the original
manuscript and has since provided valuable ideas and bibliography;
to Richard Kagan and Julian Montemayor, who have contributed
bibliographic material; and to John Elliott, who offered guidance and
moral support through the formative stages of the research and has
since read and given helpful advice on the final product. I have also
benefitted from the interest and assistance of Spanish archivists and
friends: doña Adela González of the Archive of Simancas, don
Clemente Palencia and his successor doña Esperanza Pedraza of the
Toledo municipal archive; don Emilio Rodríguez and his successor
dona Maria-Jesús Cruz of the Toledo Diputación archive; don
Ignacio Gallego and his ex-assistant don Manuel Gutiérrez of the
Toledo diocesan archive; the staff and the patron of the Hospital of
Tavera; and Julio Porres, who has generously shared with me his
knowledge of Toledo’s history. To the other people who offered
assistance, whether in the form of a reference, an idea, or general
interest in the topic, I would also like to express my thanks and
appreciation.
### Abbreviations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ACT</td>
<td>Archivo de la Catedral de Toledo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAC</td>
<td>Libros de Actas Capitulares</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OF</td>
<td>Obra y Fábrica</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADT</td>
<td>Archivo Diocesano de Toledo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADPT</td>
<td>Archivo de la Diputación Provincial de Toledo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SC</td>
<td>Santa Caridad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LC</td>
<td>Libro de Crianza (Hospital de Santa Cruz)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADPZ</td>
<td>Archivo de la Diputación Provincial de Zamora</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AGG</td>
<td>Archivo General Guipúzcoa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AGS</td>
<td>Archivo General de Simancas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CC</td>
<td>Comisaría de Cruzada</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CG</td>
<td>Contadurías Generales</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CR</td>
<td>Consejo Real</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DGT</td>
<td>Dirección General del Tesoro</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Est</td>
<td>Estado</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EH</td>
<td>Expedientes de Hacienda</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MPD</td>
<td>Mapas, Planos y Dibujos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PE</td>
<td>Patronato Eclesiástico</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PR</td>
<td>Patronato Real</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AHN</td>
<td>Archivo Histórico Nacional (Madrid)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AHPT</td>
<td>Archivo Histórico Provincial de Toledo</td>
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<tr>
<td>AHT</td>
<td>Archivo del Hospital de Taivera</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AF</td>
<td>Arca Fuerte</td>
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<tr>
<td>LB</td>
<td>Libro de la Botillería</td>
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<tr>
<td>LD</td>
<td>Libro de Despensa</td>
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<tr>
<td>LO</td>
<td>Libro Ordinario</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LR</td>
<td>Libro de Rentas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LRE</td>
<td>Libro de Recepción de los Enfermos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AMT</td>
<td>Archivo Municipal de Toledo</td>
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</tbody>
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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AP    Autos de los Pobres
AS    Archivo Secreto
CJ    Cabildo de Jurados
LA    Libros de Actas
AMZ   Archivo Municipal de Zamora
APS       Archivo Parroquial de Santiago del Arrabal
APSJ  Archivo Parroquial de San Justo
APSN  Archivo Parroquial de San Nicolás
APST  Archivo Parroquial de Santo Tomé
AVM   Archivo de la Villa de Madrid
BL    British Library
Add.  Additional MSS
Eg.   Egerton MSS
BNM   Biblioteca Nacional, Madrid
BRME  Biblioteca del Real Monasterio del Escorial
BPT   Biblioteca Pública de Toledo
BPUG  Bibliothèque Publique et Universitaire, Geneva
FC    Favre Collection
RAH   Real Academia de la Historia, Madrid

OTHER ABBREVIATIONS

AC    Actas de las Cortes
caj.  cajón
cap.  capítulo
carp. carpeta
DHEE  Diccionario de Historia Eclesiástica de España
exp.  expediente
leg.  legajo
lib.  libro
MHSJ  Monumenta Historica Societatis Jesu
mr(s) maravedí(s)
n.    note
no.   number
NR    Novísima recopilación
pet.  petición
secc. sección
t.    tomo
CURRENCY

NOTE ON CURRENCY

In sixteenth-century Castile the ducat and the real were coins of gold and of silver, respectively, while the maravedí served as a unit of account. Payments were recorded in all these units. The relationship between them is:

\[
\begin{align*}
1 \text{ real} &= 34 \text{ maravedís} \\
1 \text{ ducat} &= 375 \text{ maravedís}
\end{align*}
\]

Throughout the book, maravedí(\(s\)) is abbreviated to mr(\(s\)).