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Keepers of the City
The Corregidores of Isabella I of Castile
Keepers of the City
The Corregidores of Isabella I of Castile (1474–1504)

MARVIN LUNENFELD
TO PETER
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Glossary

aceñilero mayor  chief of the royal muleteers
acostamiento  stipend given to local political persons by aristocrats or kings to assure loyal service
adelantado  royal governor of a district
alcalde  military governor of a fortification or castle warden
alcalde  urban official combining functions of mayor and judge;
         justice of the peace
alcalde de casa y corte  royal official charged with prosecuting legal
         cases
alcalde mayor  urban official with formal legal training
alférez  standard-bearer; town military captain
alguacil  peace officer; constable
aposentador real  official who provides lodging for the court
asistente  royal municipal supervisor combining functions of mayor
         and judge
Audiencia  see under Chancillería
bachiller  holder of initial degree in liberal arts
caballero  knight or gentleman; noble of the higher grade, usually
         propertied
capitán  military officer
capitán general  senior military officer
Chancillería  supreme legal tribunal for Castile, divided into two
         major segments (Valladolid and, by 1505, Granada), plus two
         lesser tribunals, denominated Audiencias, at Santiago and Seville
comendador  knight commander of a religious military order
concejo  municipal council
consejero real  member of the royal council, or attached to the royal
         council
contador mayor  chief auditor and accountant
continuo real  royal guard or pensionary, often sent on mission
GLOSSARY

converso Jewish convert to Christianity and descendants; New Christian; marrano

convivencia the coexistence, or “living together,” of differing faiths

corregidor supervisor for municipality combining functions of mayor and judge, appointed either by a lord or the crown

cortes assembly of delegates in the Spanish realms; parliament

deputado general delegate, especially to the kingdom-wide assembly of the Santa Hermandad

doctor holder of doctorate degree in law, medicine, or theology

etregador alcalde with jurisdiction over cases involving pasturage and livestock

fiscal public attorney and prosecutor

fueros In Castile, royally-granted urban and provincial charters of rights and privileges; in Aragon and Catalonia, kingdom-wide privileges and exemptions negotiated with kings

gobernador royally appointed governor of a district

hidalgo holder of noble status (hidalguía) without indication of rank, although typically of the lowest grade

juez executor presiding magistrate

junta deliberative or administrative council, specifically the various bodies that met in Castile from 1520 to 1521

jurado urban councilor of second-tier body

justicia mayor lord chief magistrate

kahal the Jewish district within a Christian community; judería; aljama

letrado university graduate in law

licenciado holder of advanced degree in law (licenciate)

limosnero distributor of alms

lugarteniente deputy of a corregidor

maestrasala honorific title granted member of Castilian royal household

mariscal marshal

maravedís the main gold coin in Castile after 1497 was the ducat (ducado) and in silver, the real. Accounting was done not in these coins but in maravedís (abbreviation: mrs), which were once actual specie. A ducat was equivalent to 375 mrs and a real to 34 mrs.

mayorazgo an entailed estate, or trust, used to pass on property intact to successive generations of heirs

mayordomo chief steward or majordomo

merino mayor chief magistrate
GLOSSARY

Meseta table-land of the great Castilian plateau that dominates the center of the Iberian peninsula
mesías local or kingdom-wide associations of stock owners; the Real Mesta gained exceptional privileges for its migratory flocks
mosén “reverend” or “sir,” which was a title given a cleric in Aragon and Valencia
Muçulman living within Christian territory
oidor civil judge of a high court
pechero member of the taxpaying portion of society
pesquisidor judicial inquirer on mission
procurador representative from a legally constituted body, such as a municipal council, to a Cortes or other deliberative body
regidor senior urban councilor
regimiento principal municipal governing council
repartidor assessor of taxes
residencia investigation into conduct while in office applied to corregidores and, to a lesser degree, other functionaries with judicial duties, typically undertaken at the end of a term by an appointed judge
Santa Hermandad kingdom-wide “Holy Brotherhood” association of Castilian municipalities which policed rural districts and, during Isabella’s reign, raised a militia
servicio special “service” or grant of taxes awarded the monarchy by delegates through the Cortes
Siete Partidas codification of law under Alfonso X, a thirteenth-century king
teniente deputy of a corregidor
tesorero treasurer and accountant
trinchante honorary title granted member of royal household
vara a slender wooden rod that is the symbol of governmental authority upon which oaths are administered, and which also signifies the jurisdiction of which it is the emblem
veedor inspector on mission
veinticuatro senior urban councilor in Andalusia
Distribution of royal jurisdictions (1474–1504)
The cover page from the ordinances of 1500, the Capítulos de Corregidores de 1500.