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978-0-521-12248-1 - Poverty and Welfare in Habsburg Spain: The Example of Toledo

Linda Martz

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To my Mother and
the memory of my Father

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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

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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 contemporary, 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 doña María-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.

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Abbreviations

ARCHIVES AND LIBRARIES

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

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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
APSA	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

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

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CURRENCY

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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:

$$1 \text{ real} = 34 \text{ maravedís}$$

$$1 \text{ ducat} = 375 \text{ maravedís}$$

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