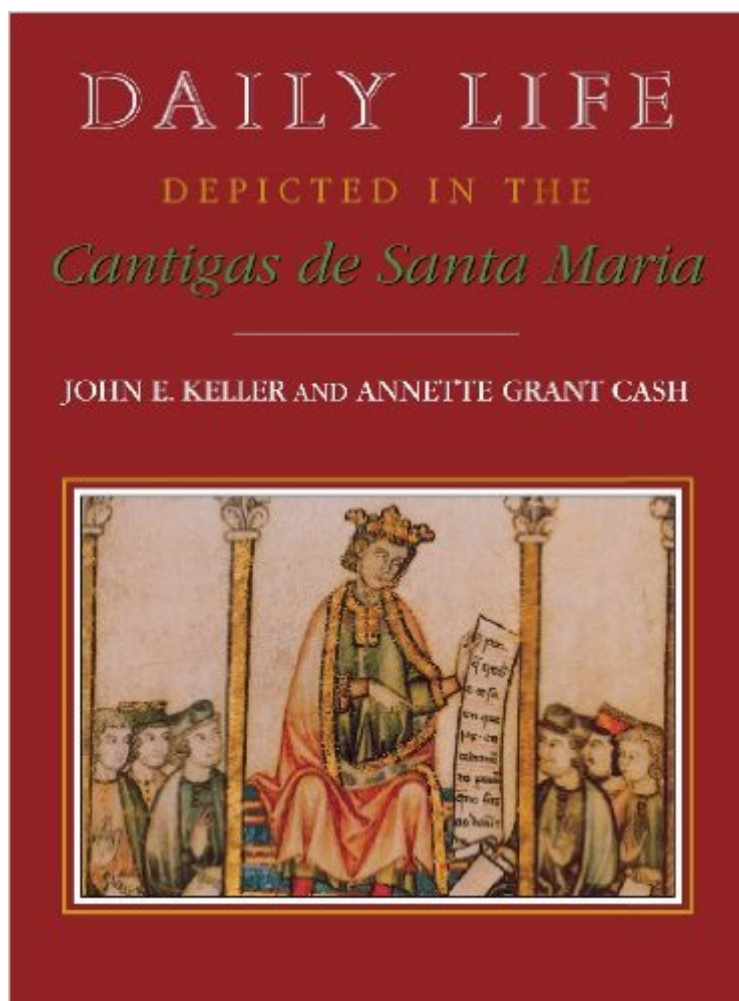


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Daily Life Depicted In The Cantigas De Santa Maria (Studies In Romance Languages)



Synopsis

The hundreds of illuminated miniatures found in the Cantigas de Santa Maria, sponsored by King Alfonso X (1252â€“84), reveal many vistas of daily life in thirteenth century Spain. No other source provides such an encyclopedic view of all classes of medieval European society, from kings and popes to the lowest peasants. Men and women are seen farming, hunting, on pilgrimage, watching bullfights, in gambling dens, making love, tending silkworms, eating, cooking, and writing poetry, to name only a few of the human activities represented here. Combining keen observation of detail with years of experience in the field, John Keller and Annette Grant Cash bring to life a world previously little explored.

Book Information

Series: Studies in Romance Languages (Book 44)

Hardcover: 120 pages

Publisher: University Press of Kentucky (October 29, 1998)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0813120500

ISBN-13: 978-0813120508

Product Dimensions: 8.5 x 0.4 x 11 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.7 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 2.0 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (2 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #2,886,156 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #105 in [Books > Arts & Photography > Other Media > Illuminations](#) #332 in [Books > Literature & Fiction > Poetry > Regional & Cultural > Russian](#) #611 in [Books > Literature & Fiction > History & Criticism > Regional & Cultural > European > Spanish & Portuguese](#)

Customer Reviews

This volume is worth the price for any Cantigas de Santa Maria enthusiast simply for the color plates (although many of these are repeats of those presented in the 1984 book by Keller and Kincade, *Iconography in Medieval Spanish Literature*). The index, a logically categorized list of specific aspects of daily life in the miniatures, is very thorough indeed and should be extremely useful for further research in Cantigas iconography. The short discussions about each general category do not delve very deeply, and are again only useful as a springboard for further research. Though the written content is not what I would have expected, for those of us who do not have regular access to the facsimiles, this book is a major blessing.

While the depictions of daily life in this work may be of interest those sections referring to clothing are both convoluted and misleading. Descriptions of garments worn and sumptuary laws reference few other documents than a paper written by Kathleen Kulp-Hill of which the author gives inordinate praise. For those researching Garment Construction and reproduction and practices this book provides little more than narrative of images found in the plates and at that the it is often confusing. Tunics being described as modern hunting jackets. The casual assumption that the "Star of David" is the symbol required by the "Siete Partidas" for Jewish Sumptuary clothing does not lend credence to the writers study of the corpus of Medieval Spanish or Jewish history and is alarming at best. The work is overpriced for its relative size and merit into the description of Medieval Life in Alfonso El Sabios Spain.

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