

# A Companion to Islamic Granada

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# A Companion to Islamic Granada

*Edited by*

Bárbara Boloix-Gallardo



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# Acknowledgements

Assuming the task of coordinating a volume on Islamic Granada seemed, at first glance, a simple mission. I remember the day when I personally met Julian Deahl and Kate Hammond at the annual meeting of medievalists held in Leeds some years ago, and we started to discuss the arrangement of this book. From the very first moment, I felt very excited about the idea of planning a collective work on the amazing history of my hometown. In my case, this assignment entailed both a serious personal and a professional responsibility since, on one hand, I was born and raised in Granada and, on the other, this city constitutes the main core of my academic research.

Since then, the process of organizing and preparing its contents has gone through very different phases, in which I realized how complex it was to summarize in a cluster the long and rich Islamic history of this emblematic city of al-Andalus. To achieve this aim, the chapters integrating this collection have been prepared by a number of Spanish, European, and American scholars highly specialized in each theme, who have tackled each topic utilizing both a rigorous approach and an easy to follow style. However, we also did not want to ignore those elements which, in our view, were necessary to add scientific accuracy and rigor to its content. In this regard, we have reproduced the transliteration of both Arabic names and terms in English to ensure its correct spelling. In order to offer an exact chronology of the events referred to throughout this volume, we have reproduced the dates specified in the Medieval Arabic sources in both the Hegira and Christian calendars, respecting to the fullest extent the original information provided by them; this measure does not affect the information extracted from the Hebrew and Christian sources, the dates of which follow the Jewish and Christian calendars respectively.

The final publication of this work is, therefore, the culmination of an intense and rewarding process that was made possible thanks to the combination of efforts of a number of individuals who deserve my upmost gratitude and respect. I would like to start these acknowledgements by thanking first of all both Brill and, more specifically, Julian Deahl and Kate Hammond for agreeing to creating a Brill Companion to Granada, exporting its Islamic history during both the medieval and early modern epochs for the first time into English for international academics. I am also extremely grateful to them for entrusting me with the privilege of coordinating this volume as well as for their constant help, orientation, and advice throughout the editing process, to which Elisa Perotti and Alessandra Giliberto herself contributed at a late stage.

I owe most of my gratitude to the generosity, knowledge, time, and enthusiasm of the outstanding cast of contributors who, from the very first moment, agreed to participate in the book, all of them specialists in the field who I deeply admire: Drs. María Jesús Viguera-Molins, Alberto García Porras, Antonio Malpica-Cuello, Bilal Sarr-Marroco, Allen Fromherz, Bernard Vincent, Maribel Fierro, María Luisa Ávila, Juan Pedro Monferrer-Sala, José Martínez-Delgado, Luis Bernabé-Pons, Adela Fábregas García, Josef Ženka, Amalia Zomeño, Delfina Serrano-Ruano, Julio Samsó-Moya, Celia del Moral, Antonio Orihuela, Ieva Rėklaitytė, and Rafael López-Guzmán. It was a real honor for me to work side by side with them and to have the chance of learning from their wisdom that they have shared in their respective chapters. This volume is result of the Research Associated Unit “Patrimonio cultural árabe e islámico” established between the University of Granada (UGR) and the Spanish National Research Council (CSIC) through both the School of Arabic Studies in Granada and the Institute of Mediterranean and Near Eastern Languages and Cultures of the Mediterranean in Madrid, a unit of which some of the contributors of this volume are members and that I coordinate.

I should also extend my appreciation to the institutions to which they belong (Complutense University of Madrid, Georgia State University, *L'École des hautes études en sciences sociales* in Paris, the Spanish National Research Council (CSIC) in Madrid and Granada, University of Cordoba, University of Alicante, Charles University of Prague, University of Barcelona), and especially the University of Granada and its Department of Semitic Studies—my academic home—, for providing the infrastructure that was necessary to undertake the preparation of this volume.

The resources available at the libraries of all these universities and research centers have been fundamental in enriching, with cutting-edge content, its pages. In this regard, the role played by different archives should be also highlighted since a considerable amount of documents, manuscripts, and images have been obtained for this volume from their collections, especially: the National Library of Madrid, the Archaeological Museum of Madrid, the General Archive of Simancas, the Lázaro Galdiano Museum, the Archive of the Alhambra and the Generalife, the Museum of the Alhambra, the Royal Chapel of Granada, the Municipal Archive of Granada, the Fondation du Roi Abdul-Aziz Al Saoud of Casablanca (Morocco), the Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin (Germany), and the Museum für Islamische Kunst of Berlin (Germany).

Equally praiseworthy has been the thorough job carried out by the translators (Teresa Villa-Ignacio and Peter J. Mahoney) who carefully rendered into English some of the chapters of this work, without leaving out any detail from their contents.

Last but not least, I would like to thank those readers interested in the history of Islamic Granada who decide to approach it through the gates and windows that this volume aims to open up. We hope to have finally provided an accurate, enjoyable, and compelling overall view of this phase of our history that we expect will be useful for professors, students, researchers, and history lovers around the world.

*Bárbara Boloix-Gallardo*

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(2017), “Beyond the ḥaram. Ibn al-Khaṭīb and his privileged knowledge of the royal Nasrid women (2014), “The genealogical legitimization of the Naṣrid dynasty (13th–15th centuries): the alleged Anṣārī origins of the Banū Naṣr” (2014), and *Las Sultanas de la Alhambra. Las grandes desconocidas del Reino Nazarí de Granada (siglos XIII–XV)* (2013).

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