

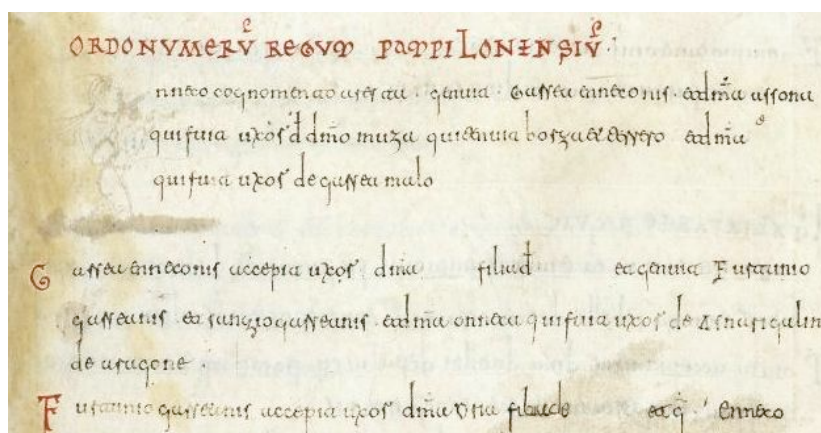
Memory, identity and genealogy on the Iberian frontier: the earliest European genealogies and nobiliaries

Nathaniel Lane Taylor



The European princely genealogical narratives of the twelfth century have been well studied since the 1960s, with a focus mainly on texts from the northern provinces of the Carolingian Empire. The Iberian frontier, however, not only produced one of the most elaborate of these texts — the *Deeds of the counts of Barcelona*, begun shortly after 1162 —but other important and little-known genealogical works which together build a complex picture of genealogical identity on the Christian-Islamic frontier in the time of the *Reconquista*. From the enigmatic tenth-century Pamplonan genealogies of the *Códice de Roda*, to the thirteenth-century Portuguese *Livros velhos de*

linhagens (the earliest nobiliaries in all Europe), these texts share a frontier-defined genealogical identity with common themes such as military conquest and defense, the tensions of loyalty and autonomy, and the problems of exagamous intermarriage. This illustrated talk will introduce these texts (and others) and suggest the ways the frontier milieu informed these works, which individually and together hold an important place in the broader genesis of genealogical literature in Europe.



Nathaniel Lane Taylor, Ph.D., F.A.S.G., holds a doctorate in medieval European history from Harvard University (1995) with a dissertation on wills and probate law in early medieval Catalonia and Languedoc; he taught history and interdisciplinary medieval studies at the university level for several years before leaving academia to focus on writing, music, and raising his young children. Historical research interests include the history of genealogy; cultural and legal systems of kinship, inheritance and probate; the evolution of names; and artistic and diagrammatic representation of families, including heraldry. Published genealogical work ranges from medieval Spain, France, and Britain, to colonial and more recent North America. In 2006 Dr. Taylor joined the Committee on Heraldry of the New England Historic Genealogical Society; in 2011 he was elected a Fellow of the American Society of Genealogists. A native of New England, Dr. Taylor lives in and has been renovating an eighteenth-century house in Rhode Island, where he is active in local preservation organizations, and is also a church organist in the Anglican tradition. He maintains a website and blog at nltaylor.net.