



The Latin American Studies Program and the Casa Hispánica are organizing an annual conference on Hispanic issues. This year we have chosen the fascinating subject of Semitic Spain in the New World (Jewish and Muslim). With this annual Forum, it is our intention in the upcoming years to explore different dimensions of the dynamic and varied Hispanic World.

Organizers: Juan Francisco Maura
Tina F. Escaja

This conference is sponsored by the following UVM contributors: The Department of Geography, The Department of German and Russian, The Department of History, Holocaust Studies, International Studies, Jewish Action Coalition, The Office of the Dean, The Office of Multicultural Affairs, The Department of Political Science, The Office of the Provost, The Department of Religion, The Department of Romance Languages and The Department of Sociology.

The
Latin American Studies
Program
& La Casa Hispánica
invite you to
**The First Annual
Hispanic Forum**

This year's topic is:

**“SEMITIC SPAIN
AND THE
NEW WORLD”**

October 6-7, 1994

**University of Vermont
Memorial Lounge,
Waterman Building**

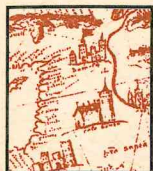


"SEMITIC SPAIN AND THE NEW WORLD"

From the ninth century to the twelfth, Spain was under Islamic control. During that time, Jewish and Islamic scholars achieved the most extraordinary development in the disciplines of architecture, mathematics, medicine, agriculture, poetry, etc., often translating from Sanskrit and Greco-Latin classics into Hebrew, Arabic, Latin and Castilian, and spreading these works into other European countries before the existence of any university. Cities such as Cordoba and Toledo were as sophisticated as any in the known world. So were their libraries. The Renaissance and the love for the classics which ensued had a strong connection with the intellectual labor of this period of non-Christian Spain. Later it would also spread to Christian territories.

As you might know, the oldest Spanish spoken in the world today is the one that the Judeo-Spanish families (Sephardic) brought with them when they were expelled from Christian Spain in 1492. Much of their music, poetry, ballads and religious practices have been preserved until today in various corners of the world: from Turkey, the Soviet Union and Holland, to New Mexico and Colorado, the latter having once been the northern areas of the Spanish Empire in the New World.

Judeo-Spanish or *ladino*, however, is disappearing today due to its isolation from its original roots and the influence of the mass media on younger generations that are unwilling to carry the load of the heritage that their ancestors passed on for so many generations. Even though there are some communities of more than a half million Sephardics (as in Israel), and some



important communities in Turkey and the United States (Santa Fe, Seattle, New York), in the next decades the knowledge of *ladino* will be limited to the intellectuals who do research on it in libraries. The purpose of this forum is to help to stem the pace of that process.

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Thursday, October 6

11:00 a.m.

Opening Remarks: Prof. Kevin McKenna, University of Vermont

Session 1 (in Spanish):

Prof. Armando Zárate, Moderator

11:15 a.m.

Prof. María del Carmen Caballero, SUNY at Farmingdale. "La comunidad sefardita de Nueva York."

11:45 a.m.

Prof. Ligia Rodríguez, Trinity College. "Hispanos-judíos al borde de la expulsión: el papel de la Inquisición."

12:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Lunch

Session 2 (in Spanish):

Prof. Tina F. Escaja, Moderator

1:45 p.m.

Prof. James Vigoreaux, University of Vermont. "Música y arquitectura mudéjar en el Caribe: una presencia viva."

2:30 p.m.

Prof. Daniel Gade, University of Vermont. "Contribuciones culinarias del mundo hispano-musulmán en el Nuevo Mundo"

3:00 p.m.

Special Session (in English): Ms. Nane Rubin, Radio Producer, "The Crypto Jews of New Mexico: Contemporary Spiritual Quest."

5:00 p.m.

Open (Leaf Peeping)



Friday, October 7

Session 3 (in English):

Prof. Timothy Murad, Moderator

9:15 a.m.

Prof. Steve Berkowitz, University of Vermont. "Jews, Marranos and the Northern Connection: The Shift in Trade and the New World."

9:45 a.m.

Prof. Lanin Gyurco, University of Arizona. "Persecution and Deliverance in Aridgis' 1492: *Vida y Tiempos de Juan Cabezón*."

10:15 a.m.

Rose Mary Lévy Zumwalt, Davidson College. "Women's Brew: Sephardic Domesticated Religion."

10:45 a.m.

Film: "Spanish songs from Sepharad"

12:00 Lunch

Session 4 (in English):

Prof. Gayle Roof-Nunley, Moderator

1:30 p.m.

Prof. F. William Forbes, University of New Hampshire. "Turks, Genizars and Jews in the New World."

2:00 p.m.

Prof. Gladys White, Middlebury College. "Erasmist Theatre and the Semitic Question."

Introduction of keynote speaker:

Prof. Juan F. Maura

2:30 p.m.

Keynote Speaker: Prof. Isaac Jack Lévy, University of South Carolina. "Sephardim: the richness of diversity."

3:30 p.m.

Round Table: "The absence of the Hispano-Semitic element in the curriculum." Moderator: Marshall True, University of Vermont.

5:30 p.m. Closing

6:00 p.m. Dinner

7:00 p.m.

Fyre and Lightening Consort (Sephardic music). North Lounge, Billings.

