Resources for Promoting Early Interest in the Iberian Middle Ages

Pulling the Next Ones Up:
Encouraging the Study of Medieval Spanish, Challenges and Projects

International Congress of Medieval Studies

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Embarras de Richesses

- Digitized materials
  - Medieval and Early Modern imprints
  - Works of art
  - Textbooks
- Websites
  - Reference
  - Thematic or topical
  - Pedagogical
- Print
  - Already published
  - Promoting publication

- Collaborate to compile, develop, and disseminate materials
- Create and use a freely available space to consolidate access to digitized materials, websites, and bibliography: IberianMiddleAges@gmail.com (write for password)

Three Obstacles We Must Overcome

- Deprecation of translation

- Dismissal of popularization

- Insistence on addressing novices as though they were experts or experts-in-training in the discipline

- Fear of being thought incompetent for not implementing the most advanced norms of the discipline in every context – i.e. tolerate vulnerability

The Point

SEDUCTION

WE MUST COMMUNICATE WHAT TURNED AND TURNS US ON ABOUT OUR FIELD

Points of Contact

- K–12
  - Elementary and Middle School
  - Homeschooling
  - High School, particularly AP Spanish
- College
  - Freshman Seminars
  - GenEd courses

Approaches

- Scalable topics and themes

- Important events and characters

- Medieval roots of modern phenomena

- Modern translations, retellings, and adaptations of medieval texts

→ Gather links and bibliography for ongoing projects developing materials

Scalable Topics with Workable Iberian Focus/Texts

- <u>Fashion</u> (hats, footwear from platforms to cowboy boots, the social meaning of fashion choices)
- <u>Branding</u> from the Middle Ages to the Digital Age (Iconograph, Heraldry, Fashion)
- <u>Games</u> (chess, backgammon, 15th-c. courtly games)
- The Social History of <u>Emotion</u>
- <u>Prowess</u>
- <u>Pluralism / diversity</u> (linguistic, religious)
- <u>Foodies Across the Ages</u>

Scalable Topics with Workable Iberian Focus/Texts

- <u>Ethics / Integrity</u>
- <u>Bureaucracy</u>
- <u>Money and Commerce</u>
- <u>Writing, Books, Libraries</u>: Clay to Digital
- <u>Illustration</u>: Beatus of Liébana to Alfonso de Cartagena's *Crónica de los reyes de España* to Graphic Novels and Comics
- <u>Centralization and Marginalization</u>
- <u>From Polities to Nation-States</u>
- <u>Family (heraldry, genealogy)</u>
- <u>Living with Animals in the Middle Ages</u>

Example: Branding

http://hdl.library.upenn.edu/1017/d/medren/4924015

Scalable Topics cont.

- Productive ongoing relationships and collaborations across disciplines, not just other (national) literatures and the usual disciplines in the humanities, but completely different fields like business, marketing, accounting, law, medicine

- Productive ongoing relationships with entities like the Society for Creative Anachronism

- All topics would support current Common Core emphases on balanced literacy and engagement with primary sources

- Many of these topics would support explorations of gender, identity, ethics, etc.

Important Events and Characters of International Scope
Also Nodes for Scalable Topics

- Generate Your Own Based On What Is Most Exciting to YOU
  - Saints and Saints Lives
  - Christopher Columbus
  - Diego de Valera
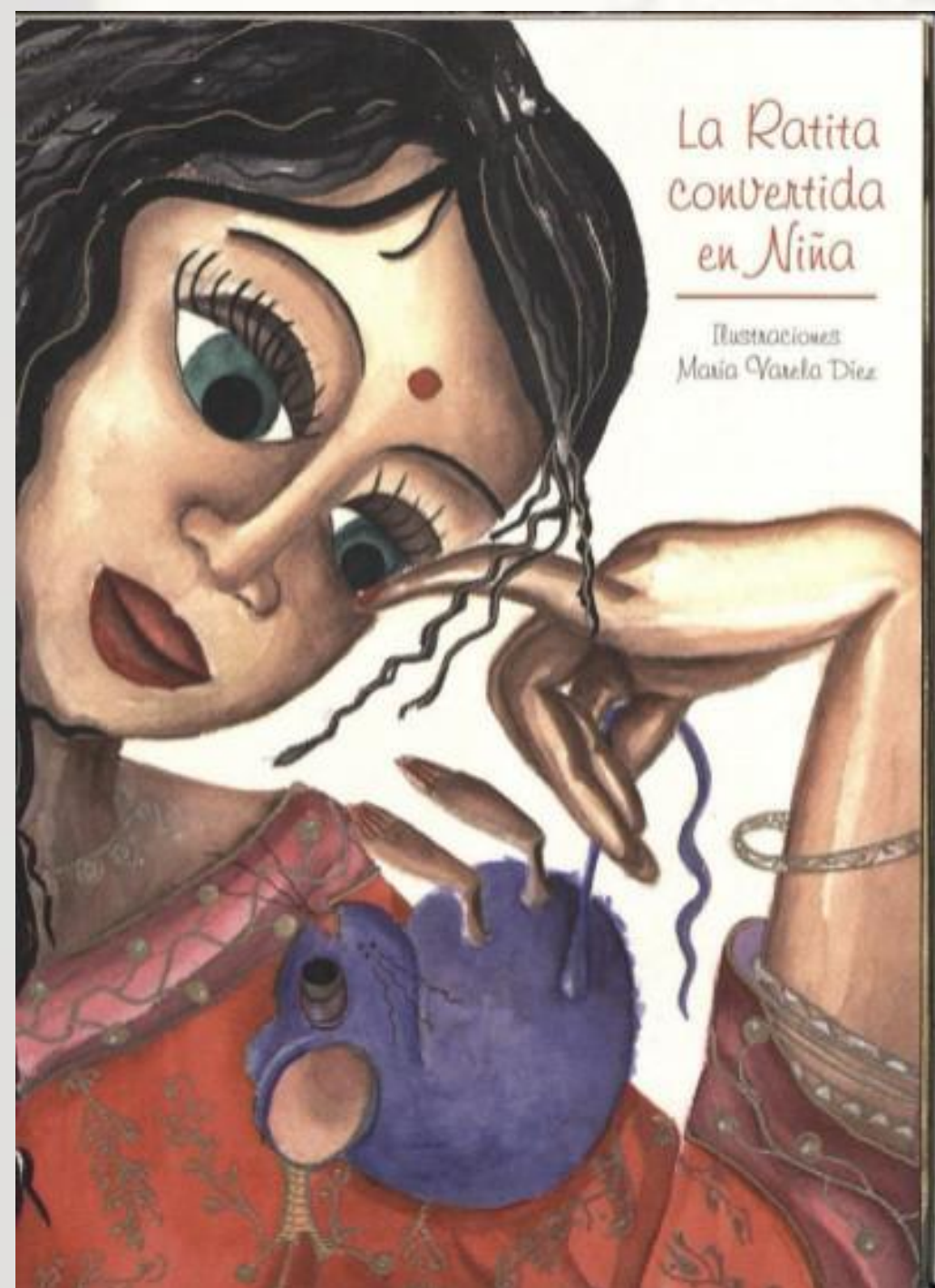 - Isabel I and Fernando V
  - Maimonides

Medieval Roots of Modern Phenomena
Often with an Iberian aspect if not an Iberian "invention"

- Bureaucracy and social control

- Law

- Insurance

- Banking

- Encyclopedism

- Trade

- Colonization

- Military technology and organization

Modern Translations, Retellings, and Adaptations of Medieval Texts

- Films, television shows, plays

- Adaptations from the 19th and 20th centuries
  - The 19th century is particularly rich in plays with medieval themes, often via the French and German studies and reimagining of the Iberial Middle Ages
    - yes, yes, I know: but it can also be quite salutary to <u>teach</u> what's "wrong" in those adaptations

- Modern retellings of medieval histories and stories
  - Children's books (use Getty series // ad in program)

La Ratita...

La Ratita
convertida
en Niña

Ilustraciones
María Varela Díez

Este cuento procede de la traducción del
Calila e Dimna, siendo una de sus fuentes
primigenias el Panchatantra hindú.
Un cuento, que nos enseña,
a través de una ratita asustadiza
y un anciano benevolente,
cómo la felicidad se halla
en tu verdadero yo.

Ilustraciones: María Varela Díez

Print

- Already published:
  - Europeana.eu
  - books.google.com
    - Useful series:
      - Henry Holt & Company
      - Allyn & Bacon
  - Negotiate classroom use of more recent translations
  - Adapt Spanish and Latin American editions for primary education
- Promote publication:
  - Sponsor competitions and award prizes (even without a purse)
    - Lesson plans / units: https://teacherspayteachers.com
    - General and children's series (Arte Público Press)
    - Series for teaching (TEAMS, Támesis, Juan de la Cuesta)
  - Collaborate with TEAMS: http://teams-medieval.org/

Notes from my native informants, Kimberly Waller and Keenan Sloane

- Make use of student writing tasks in common core.
  - Reading in World history, 7th grade, medieval – global
- Create set of units for ~3 weeks:
  - support texts
  - writing prompts
  - lesson plans
- common core aligned 7th grade, 9th grade
  - History
  - AP Spanish language
    - ID passages, structure of language, grammar
    - Task: analyze metrics, compare texts, create their own texts
  - Target advanced lower language level, particularly reading
  - SHORT but difficult is okay

Notes from my native informants, Kimberly and Keenan +

- Focused readings in translation for earlier students and in Spanish, Catalan, Portuguese, etc. for high school students
  - Bloom's Taxonomy of Educational Objectives: http://www.bloomstaxonomy.org/
- Images from the many digital reproductions of manuscripts and early printed texts; include transcription as part of the exercise, thus including textual materiality

Keenan:

Tools and Venues for K–12 Materials

- For manipulating images, including extracting pages from pdfs (freeware):
  - http://www.gimp.org/
- For creating graphic organizers ($30):
  - http://plasq.com/apps/comiclife/macwin/
- For distributing units and lesson plans (lots of medieval, none Iberian):
  - https://www.teacherspayteachers.com/

Websites & Catalogues

- Biblioteca Virtual Miguel de Cervantes

- Wikipedias in Iberian Languages

- http:\\europeana.eu\

- Digital scriptorium: http://vm136.lib.berkeley.edu/BANC/digitalscriptorium/

- Schoenberg Center for Electronic Text and Image: http://sceti.library.upenn.edu/

- Google (remember that Google is a marketing company; no vocabulary control = all keyword search)
  - Books (NO incunables accessible)
  - Images (Pile of images of all kinds)

Digital Libraries

- http://europeana.eu
- http://bipadi.ub.edu/cdm/home

Search Terms

- Medievalism
- _____ in literature
- Title and/or author
- Each specific topic, with the subheading "Adaptations..."

Web Resources: Lesson Plan Templates

- http://www.commoncorelessonplantemplate.net/
- http://www.commoncorelessonplantemplate.net/common-core-lesson-plans-2/
- http://rogers.ss5.sharpschool.com/cms/One.aspx?portalId=3091742&pageId=3533611
- http://static1.1.sqspcdn.com/static/f/945898/13014709/1309632083573/HOW+TO+BUILD+A+BETTER+LESSON.pdf?token=9MI03ioWNVyD8ImqZd8166aeEZ4%3D

Medieval Stuff

- http://medievalhistories.com