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DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

February 22, 1986

Dear Roger,

Greetings! Thank you so much for an off-print of your article, "The Ordination Rite in Medieval Spain: Hispanic, Roman, and Hybrid." I read it with great love in my heart for all you were saying, and with a touch of almost nostalgia because of my familiarity with all the liturgical texts you mention. I will come back to this in a minute. I enclose folios 136-139 of Barcelona, Bibl. Univ. 228 because I noticed in your article that you said you had not seen them. I can't remember if I already sent them to you or not, but please forgive me if I didn't. (I realize you may have written the article a while ago, too.)

Well, at Christmas time I received a letter saying my contract at Davidson would not be renewed past the 1986/87 year. I am trying to look at it very objectively. The truth is, Davidson and I were never really suited to each other. I had been applying ever since I got here for any jobs that were closer to my real area of interest and that stressed research instead of teaching. I cannot take it too personally since two other of my colleagues whom I highly respect were also not renewed. My department chairman and I simply do not see eye to eye, and it has been frustrating for me to have so little time to work on my research. This is not Davidson's fault-- I knew it stressed teaching when I came, and I knew it didn't have the kind of library facilities I need. But I guess my experience here has helped me to sharpen my knowledge of where my best service might lie.

I know that when I am working on my research, or reading an article like yours, I realize that there was a real reason why I concentrated in the history of the liturgy in graduate school. Teaching these broad introductory medieval survey courses is something I certainly never planned to do, nor was I ever trained to entertain large classes of freshmen. I am far more comfortable with a small seminar in which the students want to learn and do the work. The upshot of my situation is a friendly relationship with my department chair and the Dean of the Faculty especially, with a mutual understanding that Davidson is just not suitable to me, nor I for it. He has written me a very complimentary letter of recommendation, which he is willing to send to anyone for me.

I have been applying to everything I've heard of in medieval or religious studies openings, but the few places that emphasize research and have the kind of facilities I would like to be near have gone to others, so far. I would really like to get my book finished by the end of this summer; I do have next year at Davidson, if necessary.

In regard to my book, I did get a very nice letter from the director of Catholic U. of America Press offering to consider it for publication. I thanked him, and warned him of its rather technical contents. I am not sure whether it would be better in something like the series your Ordinals is in, or whether it matters, if anyone is willing to publish it at all. Anyway, his letter was some nice encouragement (he had read that very nice review of Carolingian Essays by Paul Mayvaert in Speculum).

I also got a letter from Horst Fuhrmann about the International Congress at MGH in September and asking me if I would contribute an article to fill up its special issue on medieval falsifications. I wrote to him that I would like to, but I am quite uncertain about what I shall write on. If you have any inspirations as to how my baptismal texts might be used in regard to this theme, I'd love to hear anything you have to say, or just about your on topic at the Congress. I was thinking something along the line of "The desire for authorization among Carolingian compilers of baptismal instructions."

You are a wonderful inspiration to me in all my moments of uncertainty about my own future and where I really fit in. Thanks for listening to this letter. I sure hope everything's going well for you. I will never understand where you find so much time for people. Thank you again for your article. (Heather sent me hers, too. Wasn't it well written! Thanks for alerting me to it; she is too modest to ever send it unless I ask.)

Warmest regards as always,

*Juan*