

PREPARATION FOR WAR AND SPORTS IN THE KINGDOM OF CASTILE (SPAIN) DURING THE 15TH CENTURY - A SPECIFIC STUDY OF THE CITY OF SEVILLE

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Submitted in February, 2006

The main purpose of this research is to know and characterize the sports that were practised with the purpose of preparing the participants for war, during the XVth Century in Castilian Spain and especially Seville (one of the most prosperous Castilian capitals at that time). The first part of this research is devoted to its justification and basis, whereas the second part puts forward the research methodology suggested, which has a new nature within the history of Sports. Thirdly, the results obtained in the research are presented and analysed. Finally, the research conclusions are expounded, which are based on its result and on other contributions from previous research projects.

Keywords: Sports, war, XVth century, Spain.

INTRODUCTION

The territories that form the Iberian Peninsula were divided during the 15th century into different kingdoms, which were the embryos of the modern future states that shape the current geographical panorama of the peninsula. Concretely, the geopolitical panorama of that era marked the existence of five peninsular kingdoms: Castile, Aragon, Navarre, Portugal and Granada, of which the first four were of Christian origin and had shaped their territories starting during the reconquest of the Iberian Peninsula, and the last one of them, Granada, arose as a result of the breakup of the third "taifa" kingdoms in the 13th century, being the last Moslem one in the peninsula (Suárez, 1970). This territorial situation determined a constant tension among the different kingdoms, which were in constant battle among themselves in order to increase their territories (Riu, 1989). Because of all this, it is possible to affirm that the wars among kingdoms, overall that against Granada, were permanent and this caused preparation for war to be one of the most promoted aspects by the powers of the time.

The fostering that leaders of that period made of war spread to all aspects of society: economy, religion, education, etc. Certainly, it also happened with the entertainments of the time, among which different types of sports stand out. Many authors have emphasized the warlike orientation that most of the medieval sports had. Domínguez (1995) indicates that the majority of these were practised by the nobility, which was the reason why they were given the name of "the warrior class". Mandell (1986) not only defends the previous attitude, he also complements it affirming that the great majority

of medieval sports had as a goal the preparation for war. Finally Betancor, Santana and Vilanou (2001) insist on the warlike character of the sports of that time, affirming that the nobility practised tournaments and jousts in the scanty periods of peace to fill the war emptiness that the absence of battles caused them and also to be prepared for them.

But which are specifically the sports that were practised in the middle ages inside the Iberian Peninsula? Several authors have approached this question (Díez, 1966; Rodríguez, 2003; Hernández, 2003; Salvador, 2004), the sport activities that these authors show off as typical ones being the following: hunting, tournaments, jousts, "juegos de cañas", "bohordos", bullfighting, "correr la sortija", duels or challenges, "pasos de armas", horse riding, fighting (leonesa or canaria), bow shot, cross-bow shot, ball games ("frontón", "paume", "mallo", "vilorta"), athletic activities (especially jumping, throwing objects and running), and finally childrens' games such as spinning tops, balls and bowling.

The question that inexorably arises is: "Which of these sports took to be as their main purpose the preparation for war?" This research, whose objective is the study of the sports practised during the XVth century (both in the Kingdom of Castile and in the city of Seville) with the purpose of preparing the participants for war, tries to contribute with some conclusions towards a resolution of this issue.

OBJECTIVE

To know what sports were practised during the XVth century with the purpose of preparing the par-

ticipants for war inside the Kingdom of Castile and, specifically inside the city of Seville.

METHOD

In this study, the historical method is the one used, being used in this case under the principles of qualitative methodology. The sources handled in this research in order to obtain information are, on the one hand, the chronicles of the Kingdom of Castile that refer to facts of the XVth century, since according to Aróstegui (2001), among the great quantity of writings that can be found referring to a historical period, the chronicles are, possibly, those from which relatively more information serves as a contribution to the researcher's efforts to find out more about the lifestyle, customs and activities of men and women who lived during the time that is being researched. Specifically, the above mentioned chronicles are:

- the chronicle of Juan II of Castile,
- the respreading of Juan II's Falconer's chronicle of Castile,
- Juan II's Falconer's chronicle of Castile,
- Don Álvaro de Luna's chronicle,
- the Victorial, don Pero Niño count of Buelna's chronicle.

On the other hand, the Municipal file of Seville has been used, since from the letters, privileges and other historical documents contained in the same, it is possible to obtain relevant information for this study. This information has to be added to the data obtained from the analysis of the chronicles mentioned above.

RESEARCH DESIGN

The research design proposed for this analysis has three well differentiated parts. First, the sources review from the documentary analysis of the same, which once ensured the reliability and validity of the information contained in these sources, the analysis of content, which was done in a computer assisted manner using the program ATLAS/ti, is applied, in order to obtain in a methodical way the information contained in these sources relevant for this research.

Finally the last part of this research design consists of the triangulation of the information obtained in each of the sources analyzed.

DESCRIPTIVE CATEGORIES OF THE OBJECT OF RESEARCH

The characterization of the sports object of study in this research is realized using a few descriptive categories, in order to gather the existing information regarding the documentary sources in a systematical way. Concretely, the set of categories used are the ones suggested by Lavega (1996) for the study of popular - traditional games. The above mentioned categories are divided in two big groups, the ones belonging to the internal logic of sport (that study the regulation of same), and the ones belonging to the external logic of sport (that study the social context where each of these practices are placed).

Now the categories used are exposed in a synthetic way, using two grids, the first one referring to the internal logic (TABLE 1) and the second one to the external logic (TABLE 2).

TABLE 1

Categories of the internal logic

INTERNAL LOGIC
Space: Referring to the rational adjustment of space that the participants of every sport make, it is a question of defining the occupation of the space and the zone division of the same.
Temporary characteristics: Define a certain temporary sequence of the sport's actions. Concretely, it refers to how the players used to take part and the criteria that determined the duration of the activity.
Tools used: In sports participants can use materials. This category not only mentions the name of the materials used, but it also differentiates the type of contact and the part of the body involved in the use of those materials.
Participants: This category analyzes the number and distribution of players who take part in each sport.
Net of motor communications: It determines the type of motor communication that takes place inside a sport.
Ways of winning: This category establishes the routes by which the aims of the sport can be reached, that is, it indicates how someone can win.
Ways of participating: It is about defining what types of roles or motor behaviors are given inside a sport. This category, apart from determining these roles, categorizes them depending on the stability of those along the duration of the activity.

TABLE 2
Categories of external logic

EXTERNAL LOGIC
Emplacements: Related to the knowledge of the local characteristics where the sport develops.
Temporary locations: Consists of knowing the continuity of the sport in the life cycle of a certain group of people. Concretely, this category describes the moment of the day in which every sport is practised, if it took place on concrete dates and if it was typical of a specific season.
Materials: This category only appears when materials are in use, categorizing each of them depending on its origin, type of raw materials that compose it and the type of property it is.
Protagonists: This category analyzes aspects of great relevancy for this analysis, concretely the age, sex and social class of the participants in every sport.
Prizes: This category only appears when there are prizes or remunerations for the participants, categorizing them depending on if they are tangible or personal goods.
Associate celebrations: This category only appears when a sport takes place during a concrete celebration. It refers to the type of celebration or event inside which the sport being analyzed develops.

ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION OF THE RESULTS

The results obtained in this research, taking into account the existing information in the analyzed sources, indicates that during the XVth century inside the Kingdom of Castile, and specifically inside the city of Seville, the following sports were practised with the purpose of preparing the participants for war. The characterization made of each of these activities, from the information obtained for each of the descriptive categories used in this study, is a synthetic one. It has to be pointed that there are sports for which concrete information has not been gathered in any of the descriptive categories, due to the fact that there was not information about them in the analyzed sources.

“Juego de cañas” (game of canes): The regulation of this sport indicates that it was an activity realized in teams, every warrior riding a horse and dressed with an “adarga”, that is, with a shield of oval leather and with canes. All the warriors acted simultaneously, using the former for defending themselves from the warriors’ shots of the other team, and the latter, the canes, to attack the opposite team shooting them. That is why in the Victorial it is said: “Durante el rey aquella vez en Sevilla, fueron fechos muchos juegos de cañas, en los quales este doncel, de cuantas vezes aquel juego se hizo, bien podrían decir la verdad los que le vieron jugar que no andava allí cavallero que más hermoso lanzase una caña, ni que tales golpes diese. Ca muchas adargas buenas fueron oradas de su mano” (Carriazo, 1940b). This game lasted until the warriors of one of the teams gave up or their horses were so exhausted that they could not continue.

The social context where this sport is inserted is characterized by the following aspects. Firstly, it was an activity that was nailed into the frame of typical celebrations of several types of events: ecclesiastic, civic, family and extraordinary. For it was not typical of a season

or a concrete date but it could take place throughout the whole year, though it was always performed in the morning or in the evening, but never at night. They took place in streets or city squares, which were fenced, and scaffolds were also set up in order to serve as stands for the spectators; there were also special zones for the nobility. Regarding Seville, these competitions took place at the San Francisco square. The people who practised this sport were men of the nobility, who used their own horses and shields, but they were given the canes which, therefore, were common property, being supplied by the organizers of the game of canes (who were determined by the type of celebration inside which this game was realized). Finally, it has to be pointed out that the participants were offered different kinds of prizes of various nature: clothes, jewels, weapons and animals.

The cross-bow game: The name given to this activity is due to the fact that it was the name by which it was known at that time, in fact in Don Álvaro de Luna’s chronicle it is mentioned: “Avia grand plaçer en fallar a qué vallestear, e en el juego de la vallesta maravilla era fallar quien le ganase” (Carriazo, 1940a). The regulations for this sport indicate that it was an individual activity, every player had his own cross-bow and arrows to be used. All the participants, usually lots of them, made a certain number of shots (the number of shots was previously agreed upon by the participants), the winner was the participant making the most accurate shot to the chosen target.

The social context where this sport is inserted is characterized first because it was an activity practised by men of the nobility, we having no information regarding the practise of this game by other social classes. Secondly, this sport was practised frequently, there not being necessary concrete celebrations for its practice. For these reasons it is not typical, neither of celebrations nor of any particular seasons nor concrete days; considering when they took place, but it is important

to say that it was practised, logically, in the sunlight, either in the morning or in the evening. Thirdly and last, considering the places where this sport took place, it has to be pointed out that references have been found to that practice not only in built-up zones but also in nature, although always in open spaces, since its practise needed a large area.

“Juego de viras”: This sport was known at that time as “juego de viras”, as read in the following quotation of the *Victorial*: “Hera muy buen puntero, así de ballesta como de arco, muy çertero. Hera puntero maraulliso de juego de viras” (Carriazo, 1940b). This activity consisted of throwing a “vira” to a predetermined target. According to Cobarruvias (1977) a “vira” is a “certain type of arrow or short spear”. Unlike other sports of precision shot seen previously, this one has at least one of the targets on which the shots were realized well defined, as appears in the *Victorial*: “Un día acordaron algunos caballeros mancebos de los más esmerados del real de yr lanzar lanzas a la puerta del palenque” (Carriazo, 1940b). The “palenque” at that time was “la estacada que se pone para cercar el campo donde ha de aver alguna lid o torneo. Dixose así porque se haze de estacas y palos hincados en tierra” (Cobarruvias, 1977). That is, the shots were realized on stakes or trunks fixed in the soil.

The social context where this sport is inserted is characterized by the following aspects. First, it was an activity practised by nobles, ranging in age from youth to adulthood; though it is necessary to point out that the majority of the quotations found mention that it was an activity principally practised by youth. Secondly, it is necessary to emphasize that this sport was regularly practised, since as has previously been indicated, it was used as a way to exercise spear throwing, very useful in the art of war. As for time aspects it is important to say that it was practised, logically, in the sunlight, either in the morning or in the evening, since it was not typical of any season or concrete dates. In addition, it has to be said that, being a sport with few social repercussions, it was not associated with any kind of celebration. Finally, as for the places where it took place, it has to be pointed out that references have been found to its practice exclusively in opened built-up zones, this being logical due to the great quantity of space that is necessary for its practice.

“Correr la sortija” (running the ring): Few references have been found to this game in the analyzed sources. The scanty references found only indicate that a few riders traversed the ring during the planned celebrations due to the birth of the Castilian prince Enrique, Juan the II’s son. From this information it is not possible to know what this activity consisted of, nevertheless Cobarruvias’ definition of the same is enlightening enough: “A military game, where horse riding participants aim

with a spear at a ring that is put to certain distance” (Cobarruvias, 1977). Nevertheless, Cobarruvias’s dictionary not being an object of study in this research, it is not possible to use the information he contributes as results, that’s why the above mentioned information only must be born in mind as not confirmed guiding reference.

“Armas retretas”: The sport called, by the chroniclers of the 15th century, “armas retretas” basically consisted of combat between two contenders. The regulations of this sport are very well described in the documentary sources analyzed, so it is possible to affirm that this activity had two well defined parts. In the first one, the warriors faced each other astride, using a spear for attacking their opponent and a shield to defend themselves. The space where they fought was separated by a sheet of fabric, so that every competitor had his own zone and could not invade the rival’s one. This phase lasted until both warriors broke two spears attacking the opponent. A quotation referring to this appears in Juan II’s Falconer’s chronicle “y la condición era que fiziesen tantas carreras que cada uno quebrase dos lanças” (Carriazo, 1946b). Once this part of the game was performed, the warriors’ godfathers withdrew them to their respective tents where the spear and the shield were taken and they were given a dagger. Then the second part of the competition began, combat on foot in an area without separations between the warriors, who could only use that dagger as a weapon. This combat consisted of performing fifty dagger blows. In the Falconer’s chronicle ediffusion a reference to this appears: “E luego los padriños sacaron de las tiendas a los caualleros, y lleuáranlos al logar donde se avian de combatir a pie. Los quales avian de fazer çinquenta golpes de dagas” (Carriazo, 1946a). When this phase was ended the participants went back to their respective tents. The winner was the one who had not given up at combat, and in case of no giving up by any of them, the final result of the game was a tie.

The social context of this activity indicates that it was practised by gentlemen, that is, men of the nobility. This sport had great social impact, in such a way that it was carried out in squares prepared for it, with stands, with tents for the contenders where they rested and dressed up, with musicians who played music during the breaks and, certainly, with a fenced area where the combat scene developed. As for the prizes, it has to be pointed out that, regarding the information obtained, that both contenders were offered, for their effort, rich clothes in which they had to dress once the game was finished. Finally, to indicate that this practice was not limited to concrete holidays, seasons or specific days; nevertheless they were always carried out at night, an aspect that is not only confirmed by the results obtained but also by the fact that the word “retreta” contained in the name of this activity, means “military night party”.

“Correr monte”: It is also known as “caça”, “hunt” or “to go to the country”, was a very popular sport during the XVth century, being practised very frequently all around the Castilian kingdom, including the city of Seville. This statement is confirmed by the following quotations: “E llegando çerca de Aranda, sopo cómo el Rey era salido como solía a caça, y con él el conde de Benauenete, y otros muchos caballeros y gentiles onbres” (Carriazo, 1946a). “E partió de Seuilla en sauado veinte seis días de agosto, e plúgole mucho de la posada, e ovo en ella muy grand plazer. Tanto, que así arreçió, e andando a monte e a caça de perdigones e codornices, ay muy çerca de la casa” (Carriazo, 1982). The regulation of this sport indicates that it consisted of going out to nearby forests to hunt animals. Its great diffusion caused it to be practised all the year long, and although it always began in the morning, sometimes it lasted up till the evening. This activity was a practice typical of the men of the nobility that, according to the obtained information, they used this entertainment as a way of keeping themselves and their horses fit, in case of possible future battles. Nevertheless, it seems to be no more than a justification and the hunts were really the nobility’s leisure activities. Besides they served as moments of social exhibition, since the nobles dressed up with their best suits, carried their best weapons and used their best saddles. It is necessary to say that in this game a great number of gentlemen participated, who were always astride and used exclusively a spear as a weapon. The above mentioned gentlemen usually took with them a bird of prey, which had been trained for the hunt. It is important to point out that the falconry, as a form of hunt, had experienced great development inside the Kingdom of Castile and it was common to use birds of prey, usually falcons or goshawks, in the hunts that were organized.

The aim of this practice, logically, was none other than to knock down the piece or wished pieces, for which all the participants collaborated together. As soon as the hunt trophy was obtained the activity ended and normally they celebrated it all together. Finally, as to the pieces hunted, it is necessary to mention that the obtained information indicates that there existed a minor hunt (rabbits, partridges, quails, etc.) as well as a major hunt (bears, wild boars, deer, etc.). Besides it was common, for hunts of special importance, to let free in the forest exotic animals, as for example lions. This can be seen in Don Álvaro de Luna’s chronicle: “Entre las cosas que tenía él más plazer tenía, así por la templanza e bondad de la tierra, e por él ser muy montero, e aver en ella muy buenos montes de muchos puercos e ossos, e otras animalias como leones, los quales mandaba mucho guardar, para cuando él allí venía, o el Rey, que se acaecía ir por allí muchas vezes” (Carriazo, 1940a).

Tournaments: In the Kingdom of Castile, during the XVth century, tournaments were one of the principal entertainments in times of peace, this is why there is a great quantity of documentary sources where they appear. A great part of the regulations and contextual aspects of this sport are confirmed in the following quotations: “E ordenó con una parte cómo fornesçiesen un torneo a caballo, e otro a pie, e señalóles los capitanes para cada uno dellos, e escogió el número de la gente que de cada parte avía de aver, e conçertó con ellos cómo saliesen armados e guarnidos” (Carriazo, 1940a). “E los caballeros fueron prestos al torneo, segúnd el Maestre lo avía ordenado, de los cuales era capitán de una parte don Pero de Luna, hijo del Maestre, e de la otra don Martín de Guzmán; y el torneo se ordenó en el patio delantero del alcáçar. E el Rey con sus caballeros e la Reyna con sus dueñas y donzellas se pusieron en aquellos lugares, que estaban muy ricamente adreçados, donde mirasen. E los caballeros vinieron al torneo muy bien armados y guarnidos, e en muy buenos caballos, e fuéronse a ferir los unos a los otros, como aquellos que estaban usados de lo fazer, no solamente en fiestas e torneos, mas en canpales batallas, e en lugares de mortal peligro” (Carriazo, 1940a).

Of all the information contributed by the previous quotations, concerning the regulations of the game, several aspects can be inferred. First, this sport consisted of a simulated battle between two teams, each one formed by a large number of warriors, though the number was not a fixed one. The aim of every participant was to hurt and to knock down the largest possible number of opponents, since the final purpose of this activity was the surrender of the opposing team. Secondly, it is necessary to indicate that inside every team there existed a captain, who was the one in charge of directing strategically the warriors of his team during the game, so that, although every participant could move freely, he always had to follow the tactical principles marked by his captain. Due to all of this, it is possible to affirm that this sport possessed motor communication and counter communication, because there were both partners and adversaries.

It is necessary to emphasize that there were two variants of this sport, one on foot and another one astride a horse, the aim and basis of each one was the same, the only difference being the use of saddles for the practice of this activity. As for the materials used, in both cases weapons were used, usually shields, spears and swords, though it is necessary to say that the participants and organizers of every tournament agreed before hand on the weapon that would be in use. It is not possible to generalize the utilization of a concrete type of weapon.

The tournament finished when one of the teams gave up and therefore considered victorious the opposite team was considered victorious, nevertheless there

were times where the forces were the same and the scuffles started being bloody, in these cases the maximum authority present in the stands (normally the king or someone in a high position in the kingdom) indicated that both teams should give up, decreeing that neither of them was the winner.

Concerning the context where this sport took place, of which some particularities have already been advanced previously, it has to be said that it was characterized by the following aspects. First, it was a very common activity, which was characteristic of some typical celebrations: family, ecclesiastic and extraordinary. It is possible to affirm that it was not typical of a determined season or date, but it could take place all the year long, at any hour of the day (morning, evening and night). The place where this combat-like sport took place were city streets or squares, which were enclosed by means of fences and scaffolds that were also used as stands for the spectators, there were even special zones for the nobles who were present at the spectacle. Inside the game area, outside the field of battle, a zone existed for every team in which its participants could rest, change weapons, saddles, etc. The people who practised this sport were men of the nobility, who competed in these simulated battles in order to train themselves for war. Finally, it has to be stated that the participants were offered different types of prizes: clothes, weapons and animals.

Jousts: This sport consisted of a combat between two knights, who, riding a horse, attacked the adversary with a spear, trying to protect themselves from the opponent's blows with a shield. An example of the previous statement is the following quotation: "Miércoles a veinte y ocho días del mes de março, año del Señor demill y quatroçientos y veinte y çinco años, fué la primera vez que justó el Rey don Jhoan en arnés rreal en la Cassa de la Ribera, a dos legoas de Tordesillas; e justó con Ruy Días de Mendoza, su mayordomo mayor. El Rey encontre tres vezes en la vuelta del escudo; e fizo vna carrera con Lope de Alarçón, su criado, e encontrolé el Rey a Lope de Alarçón en medio del escudo, e fizo vna vara tres pedaços, e tomó Lope de Alarçón vn gran rrebez" (Carriazo, 1946b).

The place where this combat-like sport took place were city streets or squares, which were enclosed by means of fences and scaffolds that also served as stands for the spectators, there were also special zones inside these for the nobles who were present at the spectacle. The game area was divided into two parts by means of a strip of fabric placed along the whole space. Every joust was placed in one of these parts and galloped in on his horse parallel to the above mentioned strip of fabric, trying to approach maximally to the opponent's zone to be able to attack him better with his spear.

Several types of jousts existed depending on two aspects, on the one hand it concerned the type of harness

used and on the other hand it concerned the organization of the participants. In the first case, we have to differentiate between the royal harness jousts, which were more eye-catching due to the beauty of the weapons and armour, but also more expensive, and the war harness jousts, which were characterized for being more violent than the first ones mentioned here and less eye-catching regarding the warriors' clothes and weapons. In the second case, depending on the organization of the participants, we must differentiate between individual jousts, where every joust competed exclusively for his own benefit, and the team jousts, where the competitors were divided into two teams, each of these teams trying to obtain the major number of victories in the jousts.

Most of the jousts were preceded by an introduction of the theatrical sort in which different contextual situations appeared; all this was in order to give more meaning to the spectacle, and also make it more of a show. As we may deduce, the participants in this sport were exclusively men of the noble class, that is to say gentlemen. The roles they could adopt were that of supporter, who was the organizer of the event and who had the defender's role in the introductory story; and that of adventurer who was that knight who defied the supporter in the introductory story. In both cases, the role was the same, to face the opponent in a joust and try to defeat him.

This sport was practised throughout the whole year, there is even in existence information showing that it took place at any hour of the day (morning, evening and night). This shows the great popularity of this activity, which is confirmed by the fact that it was a part of celebrations of various nature like those of weddings, baptisms, royal entrances, military victories, etc. Finally, it has to be indicated that the prizes the participants received were very varied: weapons, clothes, jewels, horses, etc. However, not all of them got a prize for their participation in a joust. According to the obtained information, there existed a few judges who stipulated to whom the prizes were granted. As seen in Juan II's Falconer's chronicle: "E al primero capítulo es que el cauallero que mejor encontrare, e más desmasya fiziere a los que justasen con él, que le sea dado un presçio por los juezes. El segundo capítulo es que el cauallero que más varas de buena quebrare, que aya el segundo presçio. El terçero capítulo, que el cauallero que mejor troxiese, e mas trabajo e más gentiles carreras fiziese, que aya el terçero presçio" (Carriazo, 1946b). Regarding the information contributed by this quotation and others similar to this, it can be deduced that only three jousts received prizes. First, the one who defeated more opponents. Secondly, the one who broke more spears in the different races. And finally, in third place, the one whose races were best from the point of view of the spectacle.

CONCLUSIONS

Our research has allowed us to know what sports were practised during the XVth century in the Kingdom of Castile and more specifically in the city of Seville with the purpose of preparing the participants for war. Nevertheless, it will be necessary to study the matter more deeply, since the quantity of information about this type of activity contained in the analyzed documentary sources is very broad. That is why deeper research might contribute important knowledge about the sports practised in Spain during the XVth century.

According to the obtained results, it is possible to conclude that in Seville sports were common practice during the XVth century. Besides that, these activities involved the movement of a large number of people, that is why the assembling of stands for spectators was quite common at the San Francisco square and in the collation of stands, places where jousts, tournaments and other sports were usually organized.

The third aspect to be taken into account refers to the participants in the sports, who were mainly men of the nobility, few activities of the other social classes are referred to and women are certainly not, as active participants, mentioned at all. As Salvador (2004) affirms, it is logical that most of the sport activities typical of the middle ages, known to us now, were proper only for the nobility, since it is the social class that had more leisure time and was therefore the only one capable of allowing itself to have a chronicler who reflected facts relative to their lives. Moreover, the warlike character of the noble class, being the only one allowed to carry weapons, allowed for the development of many exclusive activities for the maintenance of the warrior and his equipment before incidental wars. This way, in the city of Seville, the usual participants in these sports belonged to the nobility, frequent practisers being those knights belonging to the grand lineages of the Sevillian society of the time, the Guzmán and the Ponce of León. Nevertheless, it is also necessary to point out that the gentlemen belonging to the lower steps of the nobility, the so called gentlemen of amount, were also common practisers of these sports but in this case more for obligation than for pleasure, since they were forced to keep their saddles and weapons in good condition, and there were periodic boastings.

Concerning the sex of the participants, it has to be pointed out that all the sports found were men's proper activities. Unfortunately, this situation has a simple and good explanation already mentioned by Salvador (2004). The principle is that women exist only when men speak about them, that is, the woman's role in the XVth century was, with some exceptions, totally secondary, taking part inside the sports of the time as mere spectators and only participating by delivering the trophies to the

victors, as it usually happened in the tournaments organized in the San Francisco square of Seville.

Finally, it has to be highlighted that the majority of sports practised during the XVth century both in the Kingdom of Castile and in Seville were promoted and controlled by the dominating structures of the society, that in the case of the XVth century it was the nobility, including inside it the crown and the church. This way, the important gentlemen frequently organized sport shows in order to entertain the common people and to keep them this way under control. In fact, in the city of Seville the principal supporters of this type of entertainment were both of the great lineages of the city, the Guzmán and the Ponce of León. They almost competed in the XVth century for the organization of the major number of sport events inside the city. A special reference is deserved by the church, which, in its search for power, always tried to organize them where there was a religious celebration. In this way the church kept its power status over the people, since it acted as a moral judge saying what was allowed and what was not. In this way, due to the context of the reconquest in which the Iberian Peninsula was immersed in the XVth century, these sports were fostered as preparation for war. We must not forget that the Christian armies fought for the apostle Santiago against the "unfaithful Moors". That is why tournaments and jousts, organized for the the day of the Corpus Christi, the Kings' Virgin and the day of the Virgin of the assumption, were famous in Seville.

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**PŘÍPRAVA NA VÁLKU A SPORTY
V KASTILSKÉM KRÁLOVSTVÍ (ŠPANĚLSKO)
V 15. STOLETÍ -
SPECIFICKÁ STUDIE MĚSTA SEVILLY
(Souhrn anglického textu)**

Hlavním cílem tohoto výzkumu je poznat a charakterizovat sporty, kterým se v 15. století v Kastilii a v Seville (tj. v jednom z nejvíce prosperujících kastilských hlavních měst této doby) lidé věnovali za účelem přípravy účasti ve válce. První část výzkumu se věnuje jeho zdůvodnění a východiskům, druhá část představuje navrhanou metodiku výzkumu, která je v rámci historie sportu nová. Třetí část představuje a analyzuje dosažené výsledky. Dále jsou objasněny závěry výzkumu, které jsou založené na jeho výsledcích a dalších příspěvcích předcházejících badatelů.

Klíčová slova: sport, válka, 15. století, Španělsko.

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