UPDATE ON MEDIEVAL LANDS

by Charles Cawley[1]

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The Medieval Lands website (**http://fmg.ac/Projects/MedLands/index.htm**), hosted by FMG, has been steadily expanding and improving over the last six months. Each document is being systematically updated and revised, to check for inconsistencies, add commentary relating to the more difficult cases, correct typos and style differences, and standardise format. To date, more than 50 of the approximately 140 documents have been updated to version 1.1, or in a few cases to 1.2. The list of updated documents can be accessed through the link on the right-hand side of the opening page of the website). Some new data has also been added, but at present the primary focus is on revising and correcting. In the course of this review, all cases where primary sources have not yet been identified to confirm relationships have been highlighted. More and more examples have been found where speculative connections have developed into general acceptance, apparently not based on primary source material. In such cases, the revised documents clarify what is factual (in most cases only the individual's name), with speculation relegated to the discussion section, pending the emergence of other information from primary sources. Another interesting aspect is also developing: the number of cases where the accuracy of information relating to a relationship depends on a single uncorroborated source, which in many cases is often not strictly contemporary. These also deserve comment to highlight the fragility of the evidence in question.

The review process has been assisted by the considerable amount of constructive feedback and comment which has been sent to me over the past few months, and in particular by the active collaboration of some FMG Members. Among these, Morris Bierbrier has reviewed and added to the three documents relating to the Byzantine emperors, and has provided additional information which has been incorporated into the Mongols document. Kees Nieuwenhuijsen has provided copies of additional primary source material for incorporation into the document dealing with the Counts of Holland, which has been considerably expanded as a result. Jean-Claude Chuat has provided invaluable assistance in expanding the scope and detail of the Toulouse Nobility document. Ginny Wagner has made available a large range of sources to which I had not previously had access. I am grateful to all these members for their help, and also to Steve and Joe Edwards for their continuing assistance in the prompt resolution of technical issues. Please continue to send your comments, and of course any other serious offers of collaboration, which will always be welcome. At present I am seeking help in particular on the documents dealing with Spain, post-conquest England, and the Balkans.

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[1] Charles Cawley introduced the Medieval Lands project in the July 2006 issue of *Foundations* (Vol.2 (2), pp.165-168). Please refer to that article for further details.