


# Chapter 18

## First book of atas of the conselho de Tui some thoughts

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### ABSTRACT

Steeped in history, the border city of Tuy is witness to the great episodes of relations between Spain and

Portugal, while it houses within the walls the social relations of the Old Regime, in a specific local variant typical of Galicia <of the late 16th century. and the beginning of the 17th century. In this way, the trade structured by the flow of the Miño River, the crafts organized through the guilds, the great calamities of the century such as the plague and, on the contrary, the festivals and popular celebrations.

**Keywords:** Proceedings- codicology- diplomatic - economy- society- history

## 1 INTRODUCTION

This study is a brief preview of the Doctoral Thesis that the writer of these lines is carrying out in the area of knowledge of Historiographical Sciences and Techniques of the Department of History of the University of Santiago de Compostela. technical work composed of a codicological, diplomatic and paleographic study, and with an addition regarding the historical context referred to in the content of the first book of minutes of the council of Tuy.

Fundamentally it is a job of organizing the geographic information, social and economic activity of the town, so that other historians in more particular studies can make use of it. For a more comfortable reading we have lightened the critical apparatus, as well as the conditions for establishing a theoretical framework that guides our investigation.

In a first approximation it can be affirmed that the Galicia of the Old Regime was a manifestation of the European estate society in which the village was the original and fundamental nucleus of settlement. The absence of a modern urban economy together with the predominance of a traditional agriculture completed with the textile proto-industry and fishing were the dominant notes.

We can start from the legal definition of a town that refers to the minimum existence of an urban structure with a walled enclosure, a square, streets, a convent and that houses some distinctive condition, such as a fair, a council structure and a local administration, as well as the fixed or temporary residence of social elites

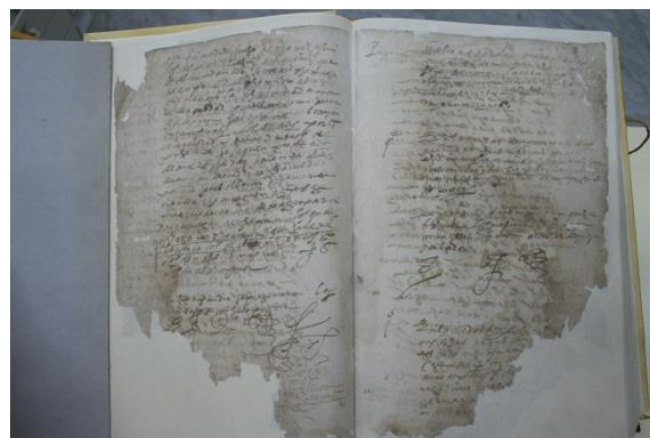
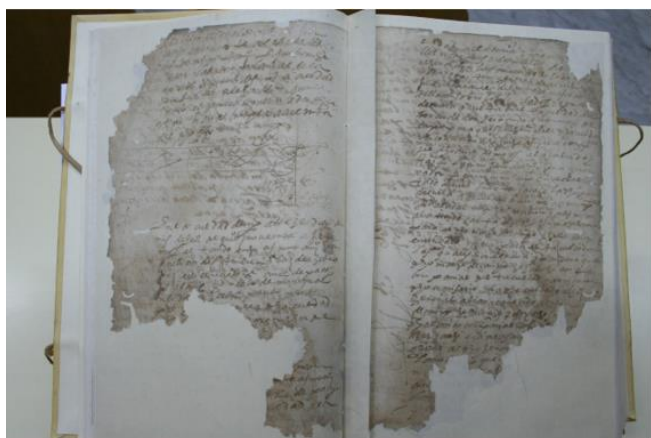
Therefore, local knowledge, understood as the knowledge that the members of a community have developed throughout history, the key element is the community, not the individual. Microanalysis will be the method and perspective that we are going to use.

It should be noted that we are facing the world of council diplomats, with respect to which considerable attention has been paid in Spain to the oldest minute books of the different councils, which begin to leave a written record of their agreements from the regulations established by the Catholic Monarchs.

It is not idle to recall here that the Council of Tuy reflects the organic structure and functioning of the Castilian councils, which from the reign of Alfonso XI follow the closed council model, with direct neighborhood representation in the position of attorney general, the last vestige of the open council present in medieval times, which is accompanied by an ordinary judge and aldermen, usually the latter in number of four, who are the true protagonists of the activity of these councils in the last years of the Middle Ages and the beginning of the Modern age.

## 2 CODE STUDY

The handwritten book that with the denomination of Old Book of Agreements and Chapter Orders of the city of Tuy that begins in the year 1597 and ends in the year of 1616 being notaries Alvaro Alonso Figueroa and Roque de Araujo and that contains the minutes from January 1597 and December 1616, has been kept in the Municipal Archive of the City Council of Tuy since October 1, 2012 after its return as an integral part of the documentary collection of the historical archive of the aforementioned town hall by the provincial archive of Pontevedra, where it was object of It has been in custody since 1943, the year it was transferred from the aforementioned City Council's own archive, due to the inadequacy of its facilities at that time. It consists of 419 pages, most of them written on the recto and on the back.



The manuscript has been rebound and its pages repaired for the first time that is known, in 1776, "because it was extremely destroyed and missing the pages with which it began due to having been eaten away over time," at the same time that it is placed parchment on the covers and an index at the top. Currently, and after the restoration and rebinding of December 1981, the index and the initial pages are missing again, and the minutes corresponding to the years 1607, 1608 and 1609 are missing, which could have been attached to a different book.

We cannot know the scope of the modifications that exist with respect to the original documentation, but the current aspect that corresponds to the material and technical actions of 1981 can be considered very satisfactory.

It is numbered in figures, with Arabic numerals from page 7 to 414, since the following pages up to 419, as has been said, are torn or illegible. The numbering is correlative with 3 numbers, one in the lower part of the folio that includes the first 17 pages and which corresponds to the 1981 restoration, and two upper ones that seem to correspond, one to the original numbering and the other to the 1776 restoration. Both Numberings are the same up to folio 73, from folio 74 to 77 they differ by one unit and two from this to folio 192, where the original numbering disappears and a single upper numbering remains until the end, which would be the restoration of 1776 that accompanies the lower one, the latter counts 441 sheets.

The material support of the writing is paper, fine, yellow in color, with darker tones on some occasions with good conservation in general, with the corresponding endpapers and 15 initial blank pages. Some sheets present evidence of having been burned or have been close to a fire, others are largely torn, especially the 5 sheets at the end, with the loss of part of the text. Information is also lost in the initial sheets due to the existence of broken edges. With simple binding with yellow parchment, smooth and sheepskin ribbons to tie it and a label on the spine with the name of the book and decoration with a projection drawing of a flower with six petals on a stem.

The inks used are sepia, metallic, which sometimes show evidence of oxidation, in which the letter is transparent from one side to the other. There are also some seats in which the inks are faded and which are difficult to read.

The degree of occupation of the paper by writing is high since the writing box usually shows a left margin with a more or less wide space, in which a word usually indicates the subject of each entry. while the top, bottom and right margins have no space.

The writing is straight line, and generally done at the time the sessions take place.

In the layout of the writing, as a general rule, there is a differentiation between the heading, which is usually repetitive, and the rest of the entries, leaving a wide space between them, with the intention of highlighting its importance.

Continuing with the degree of occupation of the paper, it is necessary to take into account the way of notarizing of each scribe, who are in greater number than indicated in the title of the manuscript, since in addition to the aforementioned Alvaro Alonso Figueroa and Roque de Araujo, other hands have

intervened, which are those of Francisco de Caldas, Diego de Soto, Antonio de Pazos Figueroa, Alvaro Parceros de Maceda, Alonso de Castro, Andres Ferreira and Pedro Correa. In general, the handwriting of all of them is clearly legible, with wide interlinear spaces, on other occasions the handwriting is tiny and these spaces hardly exist.

The distribution of the pages by year is as follows:

1597 from folio 7 to 48v

1598 from 48 to 93v

1599 from 93v to 119v

1600 from 119 to 173(171)

1601 from 173 to 189(187)

1602 from 189 to 192

1603 from 192 to 206

1604 from 206 to 228

1605 from 228 to 255

1606 from 255 to 263

1607 no records

1608 no records

1609 no records

1610 from 263 to 284

1611 from 284 to 314

1612 from 314 to 342

1613 from 342 to 356

1614 from 356 to 377

1615 from 377 to 403

1616 from 403 to the end

### **3 DIPLOMATIC STUDY**

There is already an extensive bibliography to guide any study regarding council diplomacy, and in an important work Fernando Pino Rebolledo has described the minute books as, internal regime documents, important contributions are also those of Fernandez Santalices (2007) and Sampedro Redondo (2007) on the books of agreements of the councils of Oviedo and Gijon, without forgetting the basic work of Pino Rebolledo (1991) on the typology of municipal documents

#### 4 PALEOGRAPHIC STUDY

The agreements made by the members of the government of the Tui Council are headed with a brief that briefly indicates the subject matter, and with the formula they sent and ordered the following, they are listed consecutively. The agreements are attested by you and the corresponding council notary, who signs and initials with the previous indication Step before me.

#### 5 HISTORICAL STUDY

An author from the 19th century such as Avila y La Cueva (1852), describes Tuy, its suburbs and parishioners as a fertile land, with a temperate climate and sunny weather from dawn to dusk every day, presided over by Mount Aloia, which some authors identify with the mythical Monte Medulio, the last place of resistance of the Galician castro culture against the Roman legions.

Following Iglesias Almeida (1996) in his study on the medieval fortification of Tuy, the first historical references we have of this city date back to Roman times with Plinio and Silio Italico, it is called Castellum Tude, located in an original location that It would be modified in the year 1170 by King Ferdinand II with his transfer to a place located between the Miño River and the Cathedral. Walled city, and with four main gates called Los Herreros, La Pila, the latter a concentration place for muleteers and fishmongers, the Arco gate and the Bergan gate. The first three are mentioned in the minute book, and other minor gates, in addition to Torres, which in number of six are registered by the aforementioned author.

Regarding the Modern Age, we have as impressionist sources the work of Licenciado Molina, who in his chorographic work entitled Description of the Kingdom of Galicia, based on facts that he has seen or heard, refers to Tui as a city of great antiquity, founded by a Greek captain from the destroyed Troy, named Diomedes. Which built this city that was formerly called Tide, "at the entrance of the Miño River into the sea. He also describes the town as possessing the best fish in the Kingdom (and he is right because in the Tui market we can find conger eel, hake, turbot, prego, shad, pout and panchozes, barnacles, haddock and maragota, cabrillon, melea , ray or octopus, as can be seen in the tariffs that are reflected in the minutes), of great Riberas and of gentle seat and dwelling, head of bishopric and province, and the presence of a Holy Body in allusion to San Telmo, on whose canonization is reflected in the book of agreements dated February 3, 1601, patron of the city and of the people of the sea.

In general, the minutes give notice of the economic and social structure of the city, devastated by the plague in 1599, with the abandonment and death of a significant number of residents, the economy backbone of the guilds that controlled the exercise of the professions. artisans with their examiners, no one could open a shop without having been examined.

Many agreements of the government of the city of Tuy dealt with the conservation of roads and bridges, forest policy with the obligation of the neighbors to plant oaks

Of the conferring of weights and measures, of the obligatory lodging of the soldiers who came or went to the kingdom of Portugal, of fairs such as San Bartolomé de Rebordans, one of the oldest horse fairs



in Galicia or the Corpus Fair. The prices and supply of salt in the storehouses and wine were regulated, relations with the captain general and governor of the Kingdom of Galicia, Don Luis Carrillo de Toledo, Tui was also a city of ecclesiastical dominion, the Bishop was the lord of the city to which two golden keys were delivered at the time of taking office, the keys were later returned in his name to the attorney general, true representative of the residents who elected him by direct suffrage on January 6 , Kings Day.

The minutes also reflect the contributions of the city to support the expenses of the empire, through the payment of direct or indirect taxes, such as ordinary and extraordinary service, the donation of millions, the payment of alcabalas and sisa or through monetary policy of the Spanish crown that adopted inflationary measures in relation to the fleece coin, which, as is known, was the one habitually owned by the popular classes who found it very difficult to access gold and silver coins.

The city had a town crier who informed the residents at the sound of a drum or, failing that, cédulas were posted at the doors of the Cathedral church and at the city gates, for everyone to know.

Outside the walls there was the Hospital of San Gian or San Juan, with its obenzal or butler and its income, in addition to the existence of a Hospital for the poor and pilgrims

As a conclusion, we have tried to present this brief references to the external characteristics of an unpublished documentary source such as the first book of minutes of the city of Tui, as well as its content, realizing its incardination both in the broader processes of participation in politics. of the Crown of Castile, like the dynamics of a town of the Old Regime of the Kingdom of Galicia, solid and autarkic land, with a large mesh of peasant population, the cities are therefore located in the pores of that still feudal society in lucky expression by peter kriedte

