

The Anti-Converso Statute in the College of San Antonio de Portaceli in Sigüenza*

Not long after the foundation of the College of San Antonio de Portaceli in Sigüenza in 1476, by Juan López de Medina, archdean of Almazán, it started to attract converso students who soon began to obtain degrees¹. Shortly afterwards the school turned into a centre of dissension and quarrels and its Rector and Patrons ordered the closing of its gates to converso students. Vicente de la Fuente set the date of the «Statutum contra hebraeos» as January 25th 1497². In the possession of the Jewish National and Hebrew University Library is a manuscript entitled «Informacion [sic] contra judios», in which an inquiry held at the college about converso disturbances and behaviour is described. The inquiry was held on June 30th and July 1st, 1497³. The document is comprised of five folio pages and contains a notarial confirmation made on April 24th 1649, in Sigüenza by the secretary maestro Juan Varona Angulo and witnessed by licenciado Francisco del Olmo and Pedro Lamparero, both *familiares* of the college and its secretary.

The inquiry was carried out by the Rector Pedro de la

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1 See V. de la Fuente, *Historia de las Universidades, Colegios y demás establecimientos de enseñanza en España*, II (Madrid 1885) p. 9 et seq., 543-44. C. M^a Ajo G. y Sáinz de Zúñiga, *Historia de las Universidades Hispánicas*, II (Avila 1957-66) p. 333; A. Jiménez, *Historia de la Universidad Española* (Madrid 1971) p. 160 s. Cf. also: H. Rashdall (ed. by F. M. Powicke and A. B. Emden), *The Universities of Europe in the Middle Ages*, II (Oxford 1939) pp. 104-5; R. L. Kagan, *Students and Society in Early Modern Spain* (Baltimore-London 1974) p. 69.

2 *Ibid.*, p. 19. See also Apéndice 6, p. 543. This is also the date given by A. A. Sicroff, *Les controverses des statuts de «Pureté de Sang» en Espagne du XV^e au XVII^e siècle* (Paris 1960) p. 90. See further below.

3 My thanks are due to Prof. M. Beth-Arie, director of the Jewish National and Hebrew University Library in Jerusalem, for permission to publish this document.