STYLE NOTE

Certain standardised usages are in force throughout the following essays (except, where relevant, in quotations and titles of academic works), as follows:

When speaking of Islamic Spain and its inhabitants, the forms “al-Andalus”, “Andalusi” and “Andalusis” are normally preferred to “Andalusia”, “Andalusian” and “Andalusians” respectively. “Andalucía” refers to the territory (part of al-Andalus) corresponding to the present-day Spanish province of that name.

The patronymic form “b.” is normally preferred to “ibn” within a personal name, with “Ibn” used as the first element of names. It will be appreciated that this may cause a change from “b.” to “Ibn” if a name is given first in a fuller, then in a shorter form. Thus, for example, “Muḥammad b. Waḍḍāḥ” will become “Ibn Waḍḍāḥ” in the shorter form.

Dates are normally given in both Hijri and Christian form with respect to events within Muslim al-Andalus, to events in the Christian part of the Iberian Peninsula where ruling Muslims are directly involved (for example, in the case of military campaigns conducted by Muslim forces within Christian territory), and to events occurring in other parts of the Islamic world. Otherwise Christian dates only are given. In accordance with normal practice, two alternative dates may occasionally be given where either the Hijri or Christian year (usually the latter) is not precisely known.

Anyone who has ever assisted in editing a work of this kind will know how apparently cut-and-dried systems tend to break down in the face of specific established usages. In certain areas (bearing in mind especially the need to combine scholarly accuracy with accessibility to the interested non-specialist reader) a frankly pragmatic approach has been preferred to a dogged global consistency liable to produce odd or even misleading effects:

— A limited number of terms regarded as so common that they have, for practical purposes, been assimilated into English are used without diacritics. Examples of such terms are “Abbasid”, “Sufi”, “sultan” and “Maghrib”.

— Iberian cities are normally given their modern Spanish or Portuguese form, but English forms (e.g., “Lisbon”, “Saragossa” and “Seville”) are exceptionally used throughout where these are felt to be so well established that use of the modern Iberian form would be perverse. Similar considerations of established usage underlie the use of non-Iberian forms in the case of such regional names as “Aragon” (without accent), “Castile” and “Navarre”. In the case of cities accents are used, where appropriate, for the names of the cities themselves (e.g., “Córdoba”, “Almería”), but not for English adjectives derived from these (e.g., “Cordoban”, “Almerian”).

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