

Armies of Castile and Aragon 1370-1516
Osprey Men-At-Arms series No. 500 (2015)
By John Pohl; illustrated by Gerry Embleton

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Comments:

This is one of those Ospreys that is basically a history lesson ó there is little else in here; for example, the section on weaponry and tactics is barely two pages and offers little information. Here you have the story of the unification of the kingdoms of Aragon and Castile, the complicated politics of the period and then the expansion of the new joint kingdoms into Granada, Italy and the New World.

If you want information on weapons, tactics or uniforms, then you need to look elsewhere. The most interesting plates depict light troops (jinetes ó a type of javelin-armed light cavalry -- Muslim horse archer and foot javelin soldier) and a grenade thrower. The latter was used in naval actions and hurled a grenade, often containing quicklime, using a sling mounted on a pole ó an interesting figure indeed. Unfortunately, there is almost no discussion of these troops in the text ó which is a shame because these light troops are what set Spain apart from the rest of late medieval Europe.

--Paul Le Long

Men-at-Arms

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John M.D. Pohl PhD • Illustrated by Gerry Embleton