The Idea of Friendship
in the Literary, Historical and Legal Works
of Alfonso X of Castile (1252-1284)

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I certify that all material in this thesis which is not my own work has been identified and that no material has previously been submitted and approved for the award of a degree by this or any other University.

Antonella Liuzzo Scorpo........................................................................................................................................
Abstract

This research project explores an area which had been touched only tangentially, being a comparative analysis of the idea and interpretations of friendship which emerge from the three vernacular collections attributed to the supervision of King Alfonso X of Castile (1252-1284): namely the Marian songs *Cantigas de Santa María*, the law code known as the *Siete Partidas* and the chronicle *Estoria de España*. These sources have been examined by adopting a thematic approach which has highlighted the existence of categories such as spiritual, religious and political friendships, as well as other forms of amicable relationships, including those between representatives of different religious, ethnic and social groups. Additionally, this study demonstrates that there was a conscious adoption of a specific lexicon of *amicitia* which contributed to reinforce either the opposition or the coincidence between friendship, companionship and counselorship.

Despite the undeniable inheritance of both classical eastern and western traditions, the works of the ‘Learned’ King present a peculiar idea of friendship which was deeply affected by contemporary historical contingencies and by the political and cultural projects of a sovereign who wanted to be regarded as a friend of his people, without denying, however, the unbridgeable gap which existed between different social groups. Interestingly, even if the Alfonsine works display a complicated range of relationships which envisage clear differences, they still outline a perfectly-balanced system within which the general and untouchable rules of friendship predominated, although in some cases certain variants were allowed in order to adapt such general requirements to contemporary social and political situations.
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List of Abbreviations

AHDE  Anuario de Historia del Derecho Español, Madrid

CSM  Cantigas de Santa María

EE  Estoria de España

GE  General Estoria

PCG  Primera Crónica General de España

PMC  Poema de Mio Cid

PMLA  Publications of the Modern Language Association of America, Baltimore

SP  Siete Partidas

English translations of the Cantigas de Santa María have been taken from the Songs of Holy Mary of Alfonso X, the Wise: A Translation of the Cantigas de Santa María, edited by Kathleen Kulp-Hill, and of the Siete Partidas from the translation by Samuel Parsons Scott, edited by Robert I. Burns. Unless otherwise stated, all other translations, and in particular those taken from the Estoria de España, are my own. Additionally, some editorial corrections have been made when and where it has been considered appropriate.
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Panels illustrating CSM 181

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