

JUDEO-ANDALUSIAN TEXTS

No. 2

“Whoever has been interested in medieval Hebraism will have had the opportunity to learn about the biography of Maimónides and the most outstanding aspects of his work, as varied and extensive as it is profound and interesting, as well as its role in the context of Jewish literature in a broad sense and its impact on the Jewish communities contemporary to Maimónides and those that followed him.

Part of Maimónides' life and work was dedicated to the art of medicine. As a medical professional he achieved great prestige, which led him to the service of the Egyptian sultan and other wealthy court figures. As author of medical treatises he is, without a doubt, the most prolific and important doctor in history of medieval medicine.

The Hebrew versions of his medical works have been edited almost in their entirety and some of them have been translated into modern languages, but never into Spanish, so the translation of THE HEALTH REGIME and the TREATISE ON THE CURE OF HEMORRHOIDS are the first medical texts by Maimónides that can be read in our language. We trust that reading it will spark interest in the rest of his work.”

LOLA FERRE is a professor of Hebrew Language and Literature at the University of Granada, where she obtained her doctorate with a medical topic: Pirque Arnau de Vilanova.* Dedicated to medieval Jewish science, with this first volume it undertakes the Spanish version of the MEDICAL WORKS of the great Cordoba master Maimónides.

* *Pirge Arnau de Villanova is a Catalan name for **Arnaldus de Villa Nova**, a famous physician and religious reformer who lived in the 13th and 14th centuries. He translated many medical texts from Arabic, wrote about 100 medical works, and was the personal doctor of several kings and popes. He also had a strong interest in theology and eschatology, and predicted the end of the world and the coming of the Antichrist. He died in a shipwreck near Genoa in 1311. He is considered one of the most influential figures in the history of medicine and science in the Mediterranean region.*