

## **Abstract**

In the Crown of Aragon, power, rank and prestige were not just assumed as such and attributed to the persons to whom they belonged by right. The persons concerned actually needed to show and constantly assert them. Expressing power was not a one-sided process driven by the owner of that power. How others perceived and interpreted, it was highly significant. The process created a plethora of opportunities for making political statements and also brought about conflictual situations. In the Crown of Aragon, the Catalano-Aragonese Kings had to interact with the estates of their realms during the Corts/Cortes held at different times – an appropriate moment for the display of power. From time to time, the Kings also had to respond to challenges typical for pre-modern societies. On the one hand, there was the conflict with the recalcitrant nobility. On the other hand, the emergence of the heir-apparent and his entourage could lead, under certain circumstances, to a rivalry between the King with his heir-apparent. Even though these realities hardly ever took a dramatic turn, as it happened in the Kingdom of Castile, they still cannot be ignored. The present paper attempts to probe into the limits of the King's power in the Crown of Aragon, a power which needed to be displayed and asserted throughout the conflict with the nobility and the heir-apparent.