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The Caliphate of Córdoba

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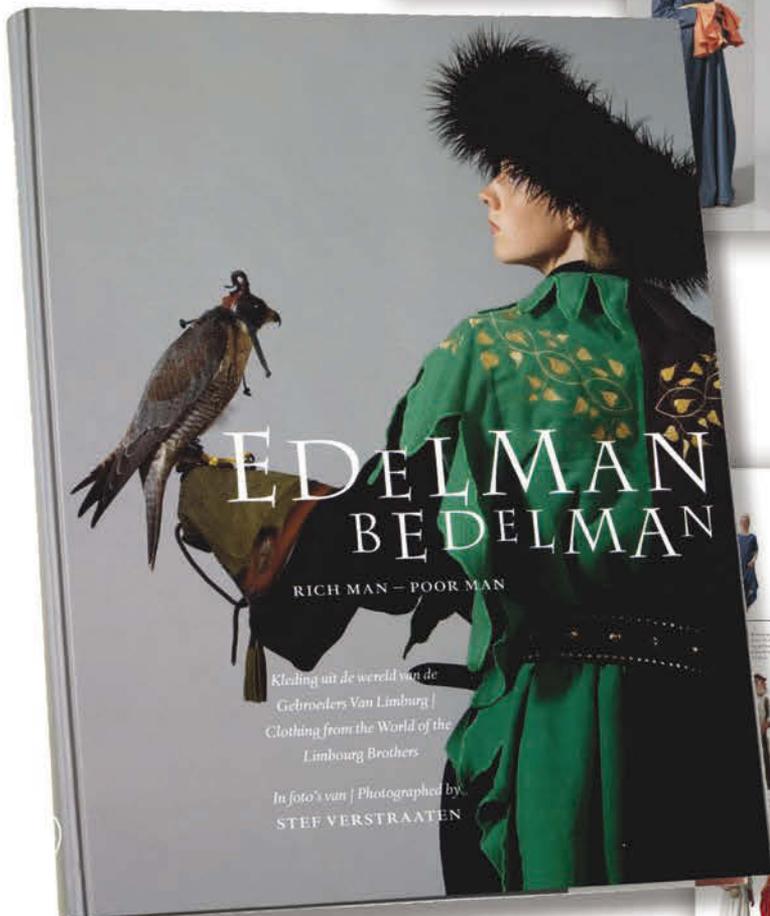
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THEME: *The Caliphate of Córdoba*

A centre for Islamic culture and learning in Spain, the Caliphate of Córdoba was nonetheless plagued by both internal and external strife.

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This Middle Eastern sect claimed and converted a number of castles across Syria and Iran.

News & Letters

Signing off

About six years ago, I was asked by Karwansaray Publishers to start working on a new magazine, a project similar to the already existing *Ancient Warfare* magazine. In May 2010, the first issue of this new magazine, fittingly dubbed *Medieval Warfare*, came back from the printers. With issue V-4 (the 26th) *Medieval Warfare* starts its sixth year. During these past five years, the magazine has grown considerably, with dozens of expert contributors, excellent illustrations, and a steadily growing number of readers. Now, it is time for me to take the next step, which means leaving Karwansaray Publishers to pursue a career elsewhere.

I am certainly going to miss working with our knowledgeable and dedicated authors and artists. I would hereby like to thank all our contributors for their hard work, their enthusiasm, and their continued dedication. It has been a great pleasure working with (and for) all of you. A word of thanks to our readers as well, especially those who have been following us

since the magazine's inception. I would also like to take this opportunity to introduce the new editor of *Medieval Warfare*, Erin van der Pijl. Starting with this issue, she has taken over my responsibilities, and she has been working around the clock to get up to speed. I am confident that she will continue to guarantee the high standard of our magazine. She already has done a lot of work on issue V-4, finishing the project where I left off. My own final project was the 2015 MW Special on the Battle of Agincourt, which came out a few weeks ago (it is now available in our webshop).

I will leave you in the capable hands of Erin and the other members of the Karwansaray staff, and I hope that you will continue to enjoy *Medieval Warfare* in the years to come.

Goodbye and all the best.

— Dirk van Gorp
(former) Editor, *Medieval Warfare*

Getting on board

It was a dark and stormy night when I decided to apply for an internship at Karwansaray Publishers. Being a medieval history major who's interested in journalism and writing, there aren't many opportunities to fit my skill set. So, I have to take opportunities where I find them. Luckily, I got the job, and started working on 'The Art of Ancient Warfare': a special about the illustrations and art work of *Ancient Warfare* and one of the perks for the *Ancient History Magazine* Kickstarter. Further, I created a *Medieval Warfare* survey to find out who you, the readers, are and what you think of the magazine. I'm still working on finishing these assignments, while also taking charge of *Medieval Warfare* magazine as the new editor: before even graduating, I started working at my dream job.

But enough about work: I'm Erin van der Pijl and a 24 year old nerd. I've almost finished my studies at Utrecht University, with a major in medieval history and a minor in journalism. As I already said, I started at Karwansaray as an intern about two month ago. After Dirk an-

nounced that he had found a new job, I was offered his current position. Of course I accepted and in the past few weeks, I've tried to learn as much as possible about running a magazine.

It has meant learning a lot in a very short amount of time and finishing an issue of *Medieval Warfare* which I knew nothing about, until the very moment I took charge. Since then, I've learned about the importance of court poetry, 'travelled across Spain' with Almanzor and 'fought' with mysterious fifteenth century swords. Besides that, I've struggled with InDesign and mail archives in order to finish this issue. I really hope the results are to your liking.

In the future, I'll continue to maintain the high standards of *Medieval Warfare*, but maybe in a slightly new way than you're used to. But more on my plans later: for now, enjoy this issue and I'll see you again in two months.

— Erin van der Pijl
Editor, *Medieval Warfare*