Violence in Religious Imagery: Representations of the Virgin Mary in Alfonso X's *Las Cantigas De Santa María*

Elizabeth White  
*Illinois Wesleyan University*

Carolyn Nadeau, Faculty Advisor  
*Illinois Wesleyan University*

Follow this and additional works at: [http://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/jwprc](http://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/jwprc)

Part of the [Spanish and Portuguese Language and Literature Commons](http://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/jwprc)


This Event is brought to you for free and open access by The Ames Library, the Andrew W. Mellon Center for Curricular and Faculty Development, the Office of the Provost and the Office of the President. It has been accepted for inclusion in Digital Commons @ IWU by the faculty at Illinois Wesleyan University. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@iwu.edu.

©Copyright is owned by the author of this document.
VIOLENCE IN RELIGIOUS IMAGERY: REPRESENTATIONS OF THE VIRGIN MARY IN ALFONSO X’S LAS CANTIGAS DE SANTA MARÍA

Elizabeth White and Carolyn Nadeau*
Hispanic Studies Department, Illinois Wesleyan University

*Las Cantigas de Santa María* is a thirteenth-century collection of over 400 poems commissioned by King Alfonso X of Castile and Leon. These Marian miracle poems are represented in a variety of media including written text, songs, and illuminations. Throughout these works, Mary takes on many roles including: the Queen of Heaven, the Mother of Christ, and God’s divine intercessor. This investigation will use select *cantigas* and their respective illuminations to examine the image of Mary when she intervenes on God’s behalf. Special attention will be paid to instances of violence, as we try to understand the representations and implications of the “violent Virgin”.