In memoriam

Jocelyn Hillgarth (1929-2020)*

Jocelyn Hillgarth was born in the city of London on 22 February 1929 and died there in April 2020. He studied at Cambridge University, where he earned his doctorate in 1957. After several years as a researcher at the University of London and Princeton University, he began his teaching career first in Texas and later at Harvard U. and at Boston College. From 1977 until he retired in 1995, he served as the chair in history at the Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies at the University of Toronto.

Hillgarth’s life as a scholar began with the critical edition of the *Prognosticum* by Saint Julian of Toledo, regarded as the first treatise on Catholic eschatology. That same year, 1957, he published an extensive article based on this treatise—which was, in fact, his doctoral thesis—in the *Analecta Sacra Tarraconensia*, a journal to which he made several further contributions. Apart from other studies on the figure of Saint Julian, such as the publication of the *Opera* in the *Christianorum. Serie Latina* in 1976, Julian was the figure that drove him to dedicate much of his research to Visigothic culture on the Iberian Peninsula and the Visigoths’ relations with the Church. The outcome of this research are his works devoted to the conversion of the Visigoths, the influence of power on the historiography of the period and the Visigothic presence in Europe. *Christianity and Paganism* (1986) is probably his most representative volume on this topic.

Hillgarth has also been internationally recognised for his contributions to knowledge of the Crown of Aragon and the Kingdom of Castile between the 13th and 15th centuries. This is confirmed by the two-volume book *The Spanish Kingdoms* published in Oxford (1976-1978) and immediately translated into Spanish.

It goes without saying that many of Hillgarth’s publications focused on studying the culture of Mallorca and especially the figure of Ramon Llull. His writings on early Lullism in Paris and Tomàs Le Myèsièr are seminal works, as is *Readers and Books in Majorca* (2 vol., Paris 1991) in another sphere of culture.

Thanks to the rigour of his contributions, professor Hillgarth has been recognised by numerous academic institutions. By 1969, he was already a Master of the Schola Lullistica and later a corresponding member of the Reial Acadèmia de Bones Lletres de Barcelona and the Real Academia de la Historia of Madrid (1977), as well as a member of the Medieval Academy of America (1979) and the British Academy (1995). In 1996, he was elected to be a corresponding member of the Institut d’Estudis Catalans in the History-Archaeology Section. In the 1990s and the early 2000s, he was given important awards, such as the “Serra d’Or” in Research (1993), the Catalonia Award from the IEC (1994) and the Ramon Llull Award for Letters (2001). Additionally, the fact that a solid part of his books were written in or translated into Catalan clearly shows Catalan readers’ interest in his contributions, most notably: *Ramon Llull i el naixement del lul·lisme* (1998, or. 1971), *El problema d’un imperi mediterrani català: 1229-1327* (1984, or. 1975) and the *Diplomatari lul·lià: documents relatius a Ramon Llull i a la seva família* (Barcelona 2001), among others.

Thus, Professor Hillgarth’s relationship with the Catalan-speaking lands, especially with Mallorca, is crystal clear. And it was a long-term relationship. Back in the 1930s, Allan Hillgarth, Jocelyn’s father and a military officer, diplomat and consul on the Balearic Islands during the Spanish Civil War, purchased Son Torrella estate in Santa Maria del Camí, which became the family residence for long stretches of time. Indeed, in 2008 its library was donated to the University of the Balearic Islands, and precisely in 2010 workshops devoted to him and another great Lullist, Anthony Bonner, were held there, organised by this university’s Ramon Llull Chair.

And hence this brief biographical portrait in homage to this scholar, Catalanophile and Mallorcan by both sentiment and adoption.

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Jordi Nadal i Oller (1929-2020)*

On 8 December 2020, the historian Jordi Nadal i Oller died at the age of 90. He was elected to be a full member of the History-Archaeology Section of the Institut d’Estudis Catalans in 1978, and he became a supernumerary member in 1993. An expert in economic history, and especially in demographics and the history of industrialisation, he was the last direct disciple of Jaume Vicens Vives and continued his mentor’s task of updating historiography. He revised and improved the famous *Manual de Historia Económica de España* which Vicens had published.

A native of Cassà de la Selva, near the city of Girona, Jordi Nadal earned his PhD from the Universitat de Barcelona in 1957 with a thesis on the recovery of the Catalan population between 1553 and 1717. He was a lecturer at the University of Liverpool in 1958-1959. After serving as a professor of economic history at the Universitat de Barcelona until 1967, he moved to the Universitat de València in 1968-1969 and then to the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, where he worked from 1970 to 1980, until returning once again to the Universitat de Barcelona from 1981 until he retired. He was the president of the Asociación de Demografía Histórica from 1983 to 1991 and the Asociación Española de Historia Económica from 1994 to 1997. With Emili Giralt, he studied immigration from the kingdom of France to Catalonia in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries.


He was active in and devoted to his passion for research and dissemination until his last days, as proven by his book on the famous Hispano-Suiza automobile factory. He was awarded the Narcís Monturiol medal (1983) and the Cross of Saint George (1997). He won the Pasqual Madoz national prize for social and economic research in 2004 and was bestowed an honorary doctoral degree from the Universitat Pompeu Fabra in 2010 and the Universitat de Girona in 2013. It is impossible to write about demographic or industrial history in Spain or Catalonia without consulting the works of Jordi Nadal and his direct disciples, who have carried on his zeal to update the historiography in a broad range of fields where the human factor is prominent, conditioned yet not determined by economic factors.

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