Biographical sketches of new members of the History-Archaeology Section

Ernest Belenguer is one of the most prestigious modern historians in the Catalan-speaking lands, with a university career that has led him to teach and research in the region of València, in Catalonia and in the Balearic Islands. Born in València in 1946, he earned a Bachelor’s in Philosophy and Letters from the Universitat de València in 1968 with an Extraordinary Bachelor’s Degree Award. His first steps as a historian were overseen by one of the most prominent disciples of Jaume Vicens Vives, Dr Joan Reglà i Campistol, who during the 1960s assembled a veritable school of historians specialised in modern history at the Universitat de València.

Between 1968 and 1972, Ernest Belenguer worked as a professor in practical classes and was the course supervisor at the Universitat de València. In the latter year he accompanied his master, Joan Reglà, when he moved his chair to the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona.

In June 1973, Ernest Belenguer read his doctoral thesis at the Universitat de València under the supervision of Joan Reglà. It focused on the reign of Ferdinand the Catholic and earned the top academic honours. It was published three years later by Edicions 62 under the title of La crisi de València en el segle xv. In 1978, this book earned the Jaume I Historical Research Award from the Institut d’Estudis Catalans. The study was based on impressive documentary research that afforded an innovative view of the opening of València during modern times, underscoring the fact that València’s expansion during the 15th century was built upon pillars that were not always very solid. In fact, this growth was largely sustained by what we would call today a financial bubble, which ended up bursting at the beginning of the next century, providing the economic context for the Brotherhoods movement. The interest and relevance of the contributions of this study meant that recently (2012) the Universitat de València has translated the 1976 text into Spanish and updated it to publish it as Fernando el Católico y la ciudad de València.

After reading his doctoral thesis, Ernest Belenguer had to overcome the shock of Joan Reglà’s premature death in December 1973. Belenguer replaced Reglà in his job at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, where he would land a position as an assistant tenured professor. Two years later, Ernest Belenguer vied for and secured a position in Palma de Mallorca, and in 1981 he became a professor in the then-recently created Universitat de les Illes Balears, where he served as the Director of the Department of Modern and Contemporary History and the Vice Rector of Academic Affairs. In October 1986, he won the competition for the Chair in Modern History at the Universitat de Barcelona, where he still works and has also served in administrative positions, including Director of the Department of Modern History between 1990 and 1996.

Throughout this extensive university career in València, Catalonia and the Balearic Islands, Dr Ernest Belenguer has also taught and researched a great deal. We would like to highlight the following from his teaching and research record:

1. The publication of scholarly monographs that have become true references in the historiography of the Catalan-speaking lands, including (just a brief selection) not only the aforementioned València en la crisi del segle xv (1976): Jaume I a través de la història (1984), with its expanded reissue in 2010, but also Ferran el Catòlic (1999), with translations into Spanish and Italian; Un reino escondido: Mallorca, de Carlos V a Felipe II (2000); El imperio de Carlos V. Las coronas y sus territorios (2002); Jaume I. El seu regnat (2007), with a Spanish edition in 2008; the two volumes of the Col·lecció documental del regnat de Ferran II i la ciutat de València (1479-1516) (2012); and El com i el perquè del Compromís de Casp (1412). Història e debat (2012).

2. A significant scholarly output which is also reflected in the publication of articles in specialised journals with a large readership, including Saitabi, Cuadernos de Historia del Instituto Jerónimo Zurita, Estudis. Revista d’Història Moderna de la Universitat de València, Hispania, Studia Historica, Manuscriptis. Revista d’Història Moderna, Chronica Nova, Pedralbes, Afers. Fulls de Recerca i Pensa ment, Butlletí de la Societat Catalana d’Estudis Històrics and more. This intense publishing activity is also reflected in his participation in and organisation of numerous congresses and exhibitions in Catalonia, Spain and internationally. As a whole, this scholarly output has been recognised by 30 years of accredited research.

3. Likewise, we should also stress his efforts coordinating and overseeing collective works of a sweeping scope which have reinvigorated the historical perspective on the Catalan-speaking lands in the past four decades. Ernest Belenguer has served as the coordinator of the five volumes of the Història del País Valencià (Edicions 62, 1989), director of the three volumes of the Història de les Illes...
Balears (Edicions 62, 2004), director of the Història d’Andorra (Edicions 62, 2005) and director of the two volumes of the Història de la Corona d’Aragó (Edicions 62, 2007). In these works, dozens of researchers from the Catalan-speaking lands have contributed to providing updated, rigorous syntheses of the history of these regions. In addition to this scholarly coordination, Belenguer has also served as the director of the “Biblioteca d’Història dels Països Catalans” issued by the Curial publishing house for more than one decade, a collection which includes essential titles in historical research into the Catalan-speaking lands.

4. The last aspect we wanted to highlight about Dr Ernest Belenguer is his capacity as an educator. Throughout his teaching career at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, the Universitat de les Illes Balears and the Universitat de Barcelona, Belenguer has supervised more than 20 doctoral and Bachelor’s theses, including the ones written by many of the professors currently teaching at these universities. That is, Professor Ernest Belenguer has ensured continuity between one of the most prominent disciples of Jaume Vicens Vives, Joan Reglà, and the younger generations of Catalan historiography.

To conclude, I would not want this summary of Dr Ernest Belenguer’s merits to close without mentioning the fact that of the many seminars he has taught and lectures he has delivered, one was the opening lecture of the History-Archaeology Section in October 1979. This talk was entitled “Catalunya en l’edat moderna: de la recuperació al creixement”, and it was delivered at a session presided over by Dr Ramon Aramon i Serra, then the Secretary General of the Institut d’Estudis Catalans.

Antoni Simon
"Flors del Calvari" de Jacint Verdaguer: estudi i edició, currently at press in the critical edition collection of the works of Verdaguer, and the other two in 2013: La recepció de Verdaguer a França: traductors i traduccions and La traduccion i la recepcion de "Camio" des de la seva publicació fins a la Guerra Civil (1886-1936). He is also the co-director of another thesis on Maria de Canèllas (1874-1952). Biografia intel·lectual d’una escriptora i activista social.

He participated in the “La Renaixença” Thematic Network while it was still active under the direction first of Dr Joaquim Molas (1996–1998 and 2000–2001) and later of Dr Pere Farrés (2002–2003). He has coordinated the Publication of Contemporary Literary Texts research group and currently coordinates the Contemporary Literary Texts: Study, Edition and Translation research group. He has supervised the projects “Jacint Verdaguer: Edició crítica, fonts, context i recepció” and “Verdaguer: edició crítica i recepció hispànica i internacional”, and he is currently supervising the two projects, namely “Textos literaris contemporanis: estudi, edició i traducció” and “L’obra i la figura de Jacint Verdaguer: elaboració d’edicions críiques i filològiques i estudi de llur recepció nacional e internacional coetània i posterior”.

In all the aforementioned institutions and platforms, he has performed and continues to perform solid research and research guidance, the most noteworthy results of which include: 1) the articles he has regularly published on the oeuvre of Jacint Verdaguer and its repercussions, and on other contemporary topics (translations of English literary works into Catalan between 1868 and 1910, for example) in the Amuri Verdaguer and a variety of indexed journals (Rassegna Iberistica, Catalan Writing, Quaderns. Revista de Traducció and Catalan Historical Review, among others, such as Bulletin Hispanique, forthcoming); 2) monographic studies such as the one based on his doctoral thesis read in 1992 which preceded the critical edition of Jacint Verdaguer’s Pàtria (2002), and other studies on Verdaguer, such as the “Introduction” to Selected Poems of Jacint Verdaguer translated by Ronald Puppo (Chicago, 2007), the chapter on “Jacint Verdaguer” in the Panorama critic de la literatura catalana (2009), supervised by Dr Enric Cassany, and the study entitled “Sobre la difusión americana del poeta Jacint Verdaguer” in the third volume of Escribir y persistir. Estudios sobre la literatura en catalán de la Edad Media a la Renaixença (Buenos Aires, 2013, digital edition), coordinated by Vicent-Josep Escartí; 3) other monographic studies on 19th and 20th century topics: the chapter on “Les traduccions de literatura polonesa a Catalunya fins a 1939” from the Almanach Katalonski edited by T. Eminovicz-Jaskowska and A. Sawkia; the chapters “Literatura, ideologia i política. A través de la història dels Jocs Florals” and “Els dos Jocs Florals de Barcelona de 1888”, included respectively in Barcelona i els Jocs Florals, 1859. Modernització i romanticisme (2011) and Joan literari i estratègies de representació: 150 anys dels Jocs Florals de Barcelona (2012), both supervised by Josep M. Domingo; his contribution to the Diccionari de la traducció catalana (2011), supervised by Montserrat Bacardí and Pilar Godayol; and “Notes sobre l’activitat editorial d’Antoni López Lluasàs abans de la guerra civil” (with Manuel Llanas) in La literatura catalana contemporània: intertextos, influències i relacions, edited by Montserrat Bacardí, Francesc Foguet and Enric Gallén; and 4) his contribution to establishing philological publishing standards and their application to the publication of numerous works by Jacint Verdaguer published during the author’s lifetime (Pàtria, Montserrat) for the collection of complete works of Jacint Verdaguer promoted by the Societat Verdaguer, for the fourth and last volume of Jacint Verdaguer’s Totes les obres (2006), coordinated by Dr Joaquim Molas and Dr Isidor Consul, entitled Poesia dispersa (1864-1902), and for works only published posthumously (Perles del Llibre d’Amic e Amat and others) or as yet unpublished (Jesús Amor, Cor de Jesús).

MANUEL JORBA

Albert Rossich. born in Girona in 1952, studied Catalan philology at the Universitat de Barcelona, where I had the pleasure of having him as my student. There I was able to note that he was a compassionate, intelligent person, qualities that he has continued to display throughout his life. He earned his doctorate with a thesis on the Rector de Vallfogona, which was published in part (such as in the book Francesc Vicent Garcia. Història i mite del Rector de Vallfogona, 1987). Since 1975 he has been teaching at the Universitat de Girona, where he has been a chair for some years, and where he has also directed the Institut de Llengua i Literatura Catalanes for many years. He also worked as a professor at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona between 1977 and 1992.

His major avenues of research are Catalan literature in the modern age and the early 19th century. He has made major contributions to this field, especially by shedding more light on Catalan literature during the Renaixença in Catalonia and the Baroque, which the traditional historiography had somewhat marginalised by calling it a time of “Decadència” (decline), situating it instead within the more appropriate concept of the 19th-century Renaixença. In this sense, we should stress not only his effective efforts to train a group of disciples who work in the same
field, but also his participation in collective publications such as the *Diccionari de literatura catalana* directed by Enric Bou, his supervision of the third volume of the *Panorama crític de la literatura catalana* published by Vicens Vives, and his writing of major works of synthesis such as the anthology *Poesia catalana del Barroc* and the textbooks *Literatura i cultura catalanes (segles xvi-xviii)* (2007) and *Literatura catalana moderna (siglos xvi-xviii)* (2011).


In addition, we should note that Albert Rossich is the director of the Generalitat’s consolidated research group on Language and Literature in the Modern Age (since 1996), and that he and his collaborator Pep Valsalobre coordinate the database “Nise. Literatura catalana de l’edat moderna”. He has won several awards, including the Milà i Fontanals granted by the Institut d’Estudis Catalans (1980), the literary research award given out by the Generalitat de Catalunya (1982), the Vila de Perpinyà award (1985) and the Xarxa d’assaig award (1986). In 2000, he earned a distinction from the Generalitat de Catalunya as a renowned researcher, and he is an elected member of the Reial Acadèmia de Bones Lletres of Barcelona.

*Josep Massot*