

Biographical sketches of the new members of the History-Archaeology Section



Francisco M. Gimeno Blay was born in Algímia d'Almonesir (Alt Palància) on 1 November 1957. He was educated at the Universitat de València, where he studied history, and he earned his PhD in 1984 with top marks and the extraordinary doctorate award.

Since 1980, he has taught at that same university, where he has served as an Adjunct Pro-

fessor of Practical Classes (1980-1982), a Tenured Lecturer (1982-1986) an Associate Professor (1986-1993) and a Full Professor since 1 December 1993. This teaching was complemented with courses and lectures offered at different universities and institutions in Spain, including the Universities of Alcalá de Henares, Alicante, Barcelona, Girona, Seville and the Basque Country; the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona; the Universidad Complutense; the Universitat Jaume I; the Jerónimo Zurita Chair at the Institución Fernando el Católico of the Provincial Council of Zaragoza; the Casa de Velázquez; and at universities and research centres abroad, such as the Universities of Pisa, Roma, Florence and Sassari; the Sapienza Università di Roma; Pau et des Pays de l'Adour; the Institut für Österreichische Geschichtsforschung at the University of Vienna; and the Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche - Istituto sui Rapporti Italo-in Cagliari.

Since 1992, Dr Gimeno has participated in 11 funded projects, in ten of which he was the Principal Investigator. Likewise, he has been the director of 13 doctoral theses. He was the director of the History of Antiquity and Written Culture at the Universitat de València three times between 2000 and 2014, and between May and October 2016 he served as the acting director of the new Mediaeval History and Historiographic Sciences and Techniques Department.

He has participated and continues to participate in the editorial boards of different national and international journals, including *Signo. Revista de Historia de la Cultura Escrita* (Alcalá de Henares), *Studia Philologica Valentina* (Valencia), *Vegueta. Anuario de la Facultad de Geografía i Història* (Las Palmas de Gran Canaria), *Cultura escrita & sociedad* (Alcalá de Henares - Gijón), *Litterae caelestes. Rivista annuale internazionale di paleografia, codicologia, diplomatica e storia delle testimonianze scritte* (Rome), *Studium medievale. Revista de cultura visual-*

cultura escrita (Girona) and *Bullettino dell'Istituto Storico per il Medio Evo* (Rome).

He is also a member of the Standing Committee on Conferences on the History of the Crown of Aragon (since October 2017), the Committee of Honour of the journal *Scripta. An International Journal of Paleography and Codicology* (since 2006) and the Executive Council of the Instituto de Historia del Libro y de la Lectura. Between 1999 and 2006, he was a member of the board of Lluís Guarnier. Biblioteca Valenciana, of the Ministry of Culture, Education and Science of the Generalitat Valenciana. He is also a member of the Fundació Duques de Soria (since July 2020), the Centro Internacional de Investigación de la Lengua Española (CiLengua) and the Fundación San Millán de la Cogolla, and, since February 2010 he has been a member of the Advisory Board of the Ministry of Culture and Sport of the Generalitat Valenciana for the area of archives. He is a full member of the Comité International de Paléographie Latine (since June 2015).

He has helped to organise courses (*Cursos d'estudis universitaris Castelló-Benassal*, the *VII Congrès Internacional de Diplomàtica* (Valencia-Castelló-Peníscola, 1986) and the UIMP seminar *Escribir y Leer en Occidente* (Valencia, 1993)), and he has directed courses for the Universitat d'Estiu de Gandia (*La memòria històrica i la configuració de l'imaginari col·lectiu* (1997); *Noves Històries?* (1998) and *Conservar la memòria, representar la societat* (1999)). He has directed seminars and congresses, including *Esriptura, símbols i imatges de la comunicació urbana* (Valencia, 1987) *Escrituras y documentos medievales de la Península Ibérica* (Madrid, 1991), *Erudición y discurso histórico* (Valencia, 1992) and *Los muros tienen la palabra. Materiales para una historia de los graffiti* (Valencia, 1994). Since 2016, he has been the co-director of the *Història* collection published by the publication service of the Universitat de València.

His research has primarily focused on studying aspects related to the history of literacy and writing in the Middle Ages in all its expressions, as well as the writing systems of Romance languages. He has analysed the processes used in learning writing on the Iberian Peninsula during the Middle Ages and Modern Age, from drawing the first letters to calligraphy. He has taken a special interest in the historiography and methodology of Spanish palaeography and diplomatics and in the history of erudition in general. He has paid particular attention to the mediaeval manuscript book as a meeting point of highly intense and complex social relations, which have contributed to defining it as an object of communication. These lines of re-

search are joined by his work as the editor of a wide range of mediaeval texts (homiletics, treatises on calligraphy, epigraphic inscriptions, phylacteries and signs on paintings, legal documents, graffiti, etc.) from the Latin and Romanesque linguistic domains, specifically written in Catalan, Italian, Spanish and Aragonese.

The outcome of these lines of research is his extensive scholarship, which translates into 18 papers and 85 lectures at national and international congresses, the publication of 16 books on his own, 12 more in conjunction with other authors and 9 in which he participated as an editor. His publications also include more than 60 articles in local, national and international journals, many of them indexed (*Alfabetisme i Cultura Scrita, Anuario d'Estudis Medievals, Cultura Escrita & Societat, Hispània, Irargi, Scrittura i Civiltà, Scriptorium, Signo. Revista espanyola de historia de la cultura escrita, Syntagma. Revista del Instituto de Historia del libro y de la lectura, Anuario de Estudios Medievales*) and his participation in book chapters, tributes, presentations, prologues, words of praise and obituaries.

His important works include *La escritura gòtica en el País Valencià després de la Conquesta del segle XIII*, a study in which Gimeno expanded what had focused on the county of Alt Palància in his doctoral thesis to the entire Kingdom of Valencia, analysing the radical change that the Christian conquest caused in the realm of writing. In that book, he comes out in favour of the nomenclature *Esriptura Gòtica catalana* over other proposed terms which did not bear in mind the role of the Cancellaria Reial of Barcelona in the achievement of the graphic canon of this writing system. Regarding his editions of texts, we should highlight first *El sermonari d'Avinyó* by Vincent Ferrer, a comprehensive, painstaking edition of 134 sermons by the Valencian Dominican, with the identification of the textual sources mentioned in it; secondly, his participation in the publication of the original docu-

ments of James I for the metropolitan church of Valencia, which is joined by a study of the document issuance process in the Cancellaria Reial; and thirdly, the edition of the *Ordinacions de la casa i cort de Pere el Cerimoniós*, a Catalan translation of the *Leges palatinae* of James III of Mallorca, which Peter the Ceremonious revised and corrected. The edition contains the text of the *Les Ordinacions* and the coronation protocol, drawing from the fourteenth-century original for the first time. His interest in writing as an instrument of governance, private communication and the transmission of ideological programmes was the point of departure for his study on the graphic-textual experience of Peter the Ceremonious, a king who was aware of the value of documentation and writing in political action. In recent years, he has focused part of his research on the Compromise of Caspe, with different studies, including *Una corona, set aspirants: Casp 1412*, where he edits and studies the three manuscripts conserved and highlights the importance of the written word as a symbolic instrument and instrument of power at a time of social and political instability, as was experienced after the death of Martin the Humane.

Since 2011, he has been the academician in charge of the team cataloguing mediaeval and Renaissance manuscripts at the Biblioteca Històrica of the Universitat de València, which is participating in the *Europeana Regia* project, funded by the European Commission, along with the Bibliothèque Nationale de France, the Bayerische Staatsbibliothek, the Herzog August Bibliothek de Wolfenbüttel and the Koninklijke Bibliotheek van België – Bibliothèque royale de Belgique.

All of this activity and scholarship are joined by his commitment to Valencian culture and his defence of and commitment to Valencian in university teaching and research.

Ignasi BAIGES



Rafael Roca Ricart (1971, Alaquàs, Horta Sud) is an associate professor in the Department of Catalan Philology at the Universitat de València and teaches in the Faculty of Philology, Translation and Documentation. He began teaching in 1998. He has also taught courses at the Universities of Bari, Tallinn, Siena, Naples, Münster, Liberec (Czech Republic) and Verona.

He has held several administrative posts at his university, and since 2008 he has participated in seven funded projects; today he is the principal investigator in a project of the Generalitat Valenciana. He has delivered 59 papers

at international conferences and 29 at non-international ones. He is the secretary of two university publications: *Scripta* and *Revista de Filologia Valenciana* (which was presented by himself and the director, Vicent Josep Escartí, at a plenary of the History-Archaeology Section). He also belongs to editorial or advisory boards of different publishing houses and periodicals.

His scholarship is extensive and thus far has yielded around 30 books (including studies and/or editions), 41 book chapters, 55 articles in international journals and 52 in non-international journals. Specialising in the Renaissance in Valencia, he has worked tirelessly to restore figures like Teodor Llorente, Constantí Llobart and Sanchis Guarner, as well as mediaeval Valencian classics, and he has studied the relations between eighteenth-century Valencian and Catalan writers (especially Verdaguer).

He has contributed and continues to contribute to cultural magazines committed to the Catalan-speaking Lands like *Saó*, the Valencian equivalent—although not quite—of *Serra d'Or* (to which he has also contributed) and the Catalan pages of *Levante*. He belongs to the most active Catalan studies associations (Societat Verdager, Societat Catalana de Llengua i Literatura, Associació In-

ternacional de Llengua i Literatura Catalanes and Institut Interuniversitari de Filologia Valenciana). Since January 2017, he has been a corresponding scholar in Valencia of the Reial Acadèmia de Bones Lletres de Barcelona.

Ramon PINYOL