

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



Dolors Bramon was born in Banyoles on the 31st of December 1943. She studied in the Faculty of Philosophy and Humanities at the Universitat de Barcelona, where she specialised in Semitic languages. There she was a disciple of Joan Vernet, a member of the Institute, whose obituary she wrote, which was published in issue 5 of this journal, pp. 117-119 / 239-240.

Immediately after earning her Bachelor's with an Extraordinary Prize (1969), she wrote the vast majority of articles on the Semitic world for the *Gran enciclopèdia catalana* and supervised the external contributions in this subject.

She is a several-time winner of the Joan Fuster Essay Prize as part of the October Awards in the region of Valencia. She won the first, in 1976, for the collective publication *Raons d'identitat del País Valencià* (Edicions 3 i 4, 1977). Her contribution, "Una llengua, dues llengües, tres llengües", examines the speech of Valencians of Al-Andalus, or Saracens, as they were known in the Middle Ages. Obviously, this was a dialect of Arabic. Its publication necessitated a change in tactics among those who groundlessly claimed that Valencian was the language that the Mozarabs and Moors of the country must have spoken. The second time (1981), she won the Joan Fuster Essay Prize with the work *Contra moros i jueus* (Edicions 3 i 4, 1981), in which she studied the discrimination suffered by religious minorities in the Kingdom of Valencia. This book has been translated into Spanish (Península, 1986) and Arabic (Ministry of Culture of Egypt, 2005). In fact, one of her fields of study is still religious minorities in the Crown of Catalonia and Aragon, and she has recently taken an active role in a number of conferences commemorating the expulsion of the Moors who had converted to Christianity.

In 1984, she defended her first doctoral thesis, which sought to compare the Arabic text by Andalusian geographer al-Zuhri with a 14th century Spanish translation. In the words of Dr Vernet, when he proposed Dolors Bramon as a corresponding member of this Institute in 1996, "this is a work showing vast erudition which adds new details to those known to date about the methods used by the mediæval translators. What is more, it sheds light on certain episodes in our cultural life in the 12th century, along with a series of ethnographic legends and ideas that were in vogue at that time." As Vernet himself concludes in the prologue

to its publication (Ausa, 1991), the author "ingeniously, brilliantly and knowledgeably resolved the difficulties in her research".

Al-Zuhri's treatise enables us to identify, for example, the "rabitam de Cascall", which appears in a donation deed granted by the Count of Barcelona Ramon Berenguer II to the abbot of the monastery of Sant Cugat del Vallès in the year 1097, as the latter-day town of Sant Carles de la Ràpita in El Montsià. The description of it by this Arab writer, who personally visited the fortified hermitage, was the subject of Dolors Bramon's talk at the conference on fortified hermitages, or *ràpites*, in 1989, which was later published (ICMA-CEROMDI, 1993). Her careful study of the texts by Muslim geographers and her knowledge of Catalan toponyms, both major and minor, enabled her to identify the names of the places mentioned by another geographer, al-Idrīsī, in her study published in homage to Emilio García Gómez entitled "Identificación de algunos topónimos de la diócesis de Tortosa citados por al-Idrīsī" (El Caire, 1998). She revisited this topic in her welcome speech as a new member of the Institut d'Estudis Catalans, which was entitled *Reivindicació catalana del geògraf al-Idrīsī* (2012). Some of her studies on toponyms have been compiled into a book published in conjunction with Rosa Lluch Bramon entitled *Mots remots. Setze estudis d'història i de toponímia catalana* (Girona, Curbet, 2002).

Her second thesis, supervised by Dr Manuel Riu and defended in the Faculty of Geography and History, which also won an Extraordinary Prize (1999), was the response to a commission from the Institut d'Estudis Catalans to continue the Arabic chronicles studied by J. M. Millàs, entitled *De quan érem o no musulmans. Textos del 713 al 1010 (continuació de l'obra de J. Ma Millàs i Vallicrosa)*. It was co-published by the Institut d'Estudis Catalans and Eumo in 2000, and a second edition came out two years later. With the study of 494 new fragments added to the 131 exhumed by Millàs, this work marks a turning point in our knowledge of the Islamic past of the lands currently falling within Catalonia, and it is a seminal reference for the early Middle Ages in Catalonia.

Also quite noteworthy are her efforts as a philologist as she studies the loanwords from Arabic in the Hispanic languages, especially Catalan, a field in which she has worked with the Office of Onomastics and the Lexicographic Offices of the IEC, and with Termcat since 2002. She won the 24th Prize for Linguistic Normalisation granted by the Ateneu Cultural de Girona (2010) for her

work on Arabisms. In the field of philology, also worth note is her article “Aglutinación y deglutinación del artículo en arabismos del castellano y del catalán” published in *Vox Romanica* (1987).

Dr Bramon has shown herself to be especially prepared to study topics which refer to the political, social and economic history of the Muslims. This can be clearly seen in her numerous invaluable publications on the Islam of Al-Andalus and on Mudejars and baptised Moors. She has also efficiently dealt with the history of the mediaeval Jews. Geographically, her research encompasses all the Catalan-speaking lands today with the exception of the town of L'Alguer, or Alghero, on Sardinia.

Another important facet of Dolors Bramon is her extensive work on Islam as a religion. Some of her best-known works include *Obertura a l'islam* (Fundació Joan Maragall i Cruïlla, 2001 and 2002) and *Ser dona i musulmana* (Cruïlla, 2007 and 2008), both with prologues by Antoni Matabosch and translated into Spanish, the former with a prologue by Joan Vernet (*Crítica*, 2002 and 2009) and the latter by Juan José Tamayo (Bellaterra, 2009). We should also mention her work as an Islam expert in the second edition of the *Diccionari de la llengua catalana* issued by the Institut d'Estudis Catalans (2007), along with her repeated participation in events organised by both Catholic and Muslim religious centres, as well as by secular organisations.

She also served as the supervisor and editor of the book *Lluís de Santàngel: un nou home, un nou món* (Generalitat Valenciana, 1992), which was issued to accompany the exhibition to commemorate the fifth centennial of the discovery of America. It also has a Spanish-language version published in Seville that same year to accompany the exhibition when it travelled to this city.

She has been a professor in the Department of Semitic Philology at the Universitat de Barcelona since 1987 and at the Institut Superior de Ciències Religioses since 2004. She has also taught numerous monographic, summer, doctoral and Master's courses on topics not included in the curricula at a number of universities, foundations and institutions, both foreign and domestic. We should note that her participation has been sought by all the universities in Catalonia, Valencia and the Balearic Islands.

Finally, apart from her devotion to academia in both teaching and research, she has also taken an active, committed role in the intellectual life of the Catalan-speaking lands.

The History-Archaeology Section and the Institut d'Estudis Catalans in general needed an expert in the Islamic world, and for this reason we recruited Dolors Bramon to cover one of the vacancies among the full members. She has now joined the IEC's undertakings.

MARIA TERESA FERRER



Jordi Casassas was born in Barcelona in 1948. He studied in the Faculty of Philosophy and Humanities at the Universitat de Barcelona, where he is a full professor of contemporary history and has six avenues of research, the maximum allowed. He began at the Universitat de Barcelona as a professor in charge of the course in 1974. He became a full professor in 1984

and earned the position of chair in 1990.

He read his doctoral thesis, which earned top distinctions, at the Universitat de Barcelona in 1977. With this thesis, he began an avenue of research that he would later expand and diversify, yet never abandon: the study of the civic involvement of intellectuals in contemporary Catalonia, whom he has called “intellectuals -professionals”, that is, the civil servants of the Catalan regional state. In 1978, he published a summary of his thesis in the journal *Recerques*, and in 1980 the publishing house Curial issued it under the title of *Jaume Bofill i Mates, 1878-1933: l'adscripció social i l'evolució política*. The previous year he had published and analysed a seminal text by Bofill i Mates, *Prat de la Riba i la cultura catalana*, in the prestigious collection “Antologia Catalana” put out by Edicions 62.

In 1983, Jordi Casassas became an enthusiastic advocate of a major enterprise sponsored by the Diputació de Barcelona and published by La Magrana: the “Biblioteca dels Clàssics del Nacionalisme Català” (Library of the Classics of Catalan Nationalism). He was part of the supervisory committee of the collection, in which he wrote the prologues to and edited three works. Of all the members of the Library's management council, he was the one who published the most. He was in charge of the 1983 publication of Bofill i Mates' *L'Altra Concòrdia i altres textos*; of the book *Una política catalana i altres escrits* by the same author in 1986; and of a compilation of texts by Francesc Cambó entitled *El catalanisme regeneracionista* (1990). He also wrote the prologue to and edited Enric Prat de la Riba's *La Nacionalitat Catalana* in 1992. In 1993, with 32 titles published by the “Library of the Classics of Catalan Nationalism”, the Diputació de Barcelona lost interest in the collection, a situation which remains intact today. Nonetheless, it is still a major contribution to the history of Catalan political thinking and a critical resource.

In 1986, Jordi Casassas published one of his most important individual books: *L'Ateneu Barcelonès. Dels seus orígens als nostres dies*. Twenty years later, as the leading expert in the field, he supervised a new collective work on the same institution, the Barcelona Athenaeum, entitled *L'Ateneu i Barcelona, un segle i mig d'acció cultural*. In 1990, a book of his that is crucial for understanding the past of

Catalanism before its early electoral successes was issued by La Magrana: *Entre Escil·la i Caribdis: el catalanisme i la Catalunya conservadora de la segona meitat del segle XIX*.

In addition to the aforementioned works, in 1983 he published a compilation of documents about the Primo de Rivera dictatorship with Anthropos publishing house. With other authors, including Josep Termes, he contributed to the book *El nacionalisme com a ideologia*. Three years later, he and Termes co-authored the book *El futur del catalanisme*. Both were published by Proa.

Throughout the 1990s, Jordi Casassas was asked to supervise numerous collective publications, including the eighth volume of *Història, política, societat i cultura dels Països Catalans*, a publication of Enciclopèdia Catalana. Of this entire work, he supervised the part devoted to the period 1900-1930. Another collective book that he planned and supervised was *Els intel·lectuals i el poder a Catalunya, 1808-1975: Materials per a un assaig d'història cultural del món català contemporani*. Casassas contributed to this book along with twelve other authors; in fact, he had supervised most of their doctoral theses, and the majority of them were part of the extensive circle that revolved around him, namely the Group of Studies on the History of Culture and Intellectuals, GEHCI. This group not only organised regular meetings and debates, but in 1998 it also issued a journal called *Cercles, revista d'història cultural*, fifteen issues of which have been published to date, each of them increasingly extensive in length. It is published by the Universitat de Barcelona.

Since 1998, Casassas has promoted exchanges and shared history through the Mediterranean Network of Cultural History, which by 2011 had held fourteen working sessions with the participation of Italian, French and Greek historians. The issues examined at these symposia, which always encompass the entire European Mediterranean region in the 19th and 20th centuries, include the clash between democracy and dictatorship, national identity, cultural elites and political modernisation, the role of the press in cultural modernisation and intellectuals and dictatorships.

In 2001, Casassas was asked by the Generalitat to serve as the curator and scriptwriter for the travelling exhibition entitled *Catalunya, terra d'acollida*, which travelled from Barcelona to Madrid, Valladolid, Santiago de Compostela, Badajoz, Seville and Las Palmas de Gran Canaria. It was an effort to give a positive, not distorted, image of Catalonia to the rest of Spain, as well as its own citizens. The show spotlighted an open vision of Catalanism based on recent history. Related to this effort, in 2006 Casassas published the book *Cataluña y la España plural. Discursos políticos*, a compilation of texts from 1901 to 1991.

In 2003, another extremely important Casassas book was published which stemmed from an exhibition at Barcelona's Centre de Cultura Contemporània that Casassas oversaw. The book was entitled *Josep Tarradellas o la reivindicació de la memòria*. That same year, a seminal collective publication was issued which Casassas co-supervised: *Diccionari d'història catalana*. As a direct

outcome of Jordi Casassas' work in the Tarradellas archive in Poblet, he wrote the prologue to the publication of a resource of enormous value which was issued in two volumes by Dau in 2009: *Crònica de la Guerra Civil a Catalunya: Crònica diària de la Generalitat de Catalunya*.

Within the dissemination of the Catalan identity abroad, Casassas published *Le nationalisme catalan* in Paris in 2004, while domestically, the previous year he had been the author of the last part of the last volume of the *Història de la Generalitat i dels seus presidents*, published by Enciclopèdia Catalana.

In 2004, Casassas received the Ramon Trias Fargas Prize for his book *El temps de la nació. Estudis sobre el problema de les identitats*.

It should be noted that Jordi Casassas is not only an indefatigable researcher and promoter of collective publications, but he also is highly talented at academic administration. Between 1999 and 2005, he was in charge of the Department of Contemporary History at the Universitat de Barcelona for two consecutive appointments. He dealt with the problems that arose in such an extensive, heterogeneous department both tactfully and effectively.

We should also mention Jordi Casassas' more recent books. With Francisco Gracia and Josep M. Fullola he wrote the part on the 19th century restoration of the Universitat de Barcelona until 1931 within the book accompanying the exhibition *La Universitat de Barcelona. Libertas perfundet omnia luce*, which was held in 2008. The following year, another collective publication that he promoted was issued: *Les identitats a la Catalunya contemporània*. And finally, that same year Afers publishing house issued his individual book that is perhaps the richest in original ideas, a work that is equally the outcome of archival research and interpretative synthesis: *La Fàbrica de les Idees: política i cultura a la Catalunya del segle XX*. It is a mature work in which Casassas writes not only as a historian but also as an intellectual committed to the problems of his society above and beyond partisanship and prejudices, and instead with an eye on the future of his country.

It would be impossible to list all of Jordi Casassas' book chapters, scholarly articles and talks at conferences. However, we should not fail to mention two books that combine both research and synthesis which do not fall within his principal avenues of research but which do give an idea of his ability to address the most diverse topics, namely *La Companyia Transatlàntica* (1987), written with Santiago Riera i Tuèbols, and *Història de la Federació Catalana de Caixes d'Estalvi* (2008), of which he is the sole author.

With regard to the IEC, Jordi Casassas has participated in some of its most prominent activities. He was one of the writers of the first report on history research in Catalonia and presented lectures at the symposium on "Puig i Cadafalch i la Catalunya contemporània" (2001) and at the symposium entitled "Història de la historiografia catalana" (2003). He has also just completed work on the *Història de la Generalitat de Catalunya*, published by the IEC.