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CULTURAL INFORMATION  
FROM CATALAN SPEAKING LANDS  
(January-June 1987)



## HISTORY

The first half of 1987 was characterized by outstanding historiography. Edicions 62 published the first two volumes of a new history of Catalonia, under the direction of Pierre Vilar, the most illustrious contemporary researcher in the field. Truly a teacher, Vilar guides the work of a number of Catalan scholars despite the geographic distance (he lives in France). The first volume in the series was written by Joan Maluquer de Motes with Anna M. Rauret, and is entitled *Prehistòria i Edat Antiga fins el segle III* (Prehistory and Ancient History up to the Third Century). The second was written by Josep M. Salrach and is entitled *El procés de feudalització. Segles III-XII* (The Process of Feudalization. From the third to the twelfth centuries). This new synthesis of Catalan history, which takes advantage of new methodology, aims at providing a more dynamic view and assessment of the secular process of creating Catalonia from the prehistorical period to current times by considering political events as well as social, economic, and cultural aspects.

Also within the field of historical overviews, we note that Barcelona was host to part of the Hug Capet International Colloquium (1987-1987). This Colloquium «travels», as it was held in Paris, Senlis, Uxerre, Barcelona, and, finally, Metz. The meeting held in Barcelona, *França meridional, Catalunya, Aragó i Navarra al voltant de l'Any Mil* (Southern France, Catalonia, Aragon and Navarre around the year 1000), was focussed on investigating one of the crucial points in both the history of the *Marca Hispanica* and the birth of Catalonia in the framework of the emerging Modern Western Europe.

The study of medieval Catalan history has been enriched by the translation of John C. Shideler's book *Els Montcada: una família de nobles catalans a l'edat mitjana (1000-1230)* (published by Edicions 62), an essential work to get to know the power structure in feudal Catalonia. This book was familiar in the original English form to only a few scholars, who were able to recognize the importance of Shideler's research in assessing this noble family as a dynamic element in the development of Catalonia. Now, fortunately, the book will reach many people who are interested in learning about the history of their country. The Catalan edition of Ramon d'Abadal's work *Pere el Cerimoniós i els inicis de la decadència política de Catalunya* was re-edited this year by «Llibres a la mà». For a number of reasons (not just those of a political nature) this classic work in Catalan historiography discussing Catalonia's «decadence» as of the 14th century has been surpassed to some extent by more recent research. We conclude this section on medieval history by pointing up an important development: the study of Gothic stained-glass windows. Up to now stained-glass work has been mostly overlooked, even though it thrived from the end of the Romanesque period (the XII to the XV century). *Els vitralls medievals de l'església de Santa Maria del Mar a Barcelona* (The Stained-Glass Windows of the Church of Saint Mary of the Sea in Bar-

celona) and *Els vitralls de la Catedral de Girona* (The Stained-Glass Windows of the Cathedral of Girona), both written under the direction of Joan Ainaud de La-sarte, were published by the Institut d'Estudis Catalans in the collection «Corpus Vitraearum Medii Aevi». This contribution highlights once again the great wealth of Catalan art which has survived, despite the course of time, neglect, and/or pillage.

Four books bring new ideas to the study of the modern period, a time which, unfortunately, is forgotten in Catalan history and almost completely ignored by scholars. The first of these books, another translation from English (this time to Spanish, however) is by James S. Amelang: *La formación de una clase dirigente: Barcelona 1490-1714* (published by Ariel Historia), in which the leaders of not just Barcelona but in many respects all Catalonia are studied during the so-called Decadence. The second book is a biography of one of the most important literary and cultural personalities of the Catalan baroque period at the turn of the 17th century, *Francesc Vicent Garcia. Història i mite del rector de Vallfogona* by Albert Rossich (published by Edicions 62). This historical and not mythical biography has cleared the path to return this period of Catalan history to its deserved place in historiography. The third work is a selection of writings from the journal of the Baron of Maldà, Rafael d'Amat i de Cortada, *Calaix de Sastre I. 1769-1791* (lit. «Tailor's Drawer» meaning odds and ends) (published by Curial Edicions). It is essential for studying the thinking, language, and daily life in the Barcelona of the second half of the 18th century as seen by this minor aristocrat and landowner from inland Catalonia who resided in the capital. The final work is a careful study by Ignasi Terradas i Saborit, *El Cavaller de Vidrà. De l'ordre i el desordre conservadors a la muntanya catalana* (The Gentleman of Vidrà. On Conservative Order and Disorder in the Catalan Mountains) (published by the Publications of the Abbey of Montserrat). It traces the evolution of this family from rural central Catalonia (the county of Osona).

Contemporary Catalan history, especially that of the tragic years of the first half of this century, continues to provide topics for many books and articles. The bibliography is very extensive and at times it is difficult to choose a small number of representative works to begin the study of this period. Although not everyone may agree with our choices, we have tried to point out those which show an in-depth understanding of the problems and issues of the period. *Les relacions internacionals de l'anarquisme català (1881-1914)* (The International Relations of Catalan Anarchism) by Teresa Abelló i Güell (published by «Llibres a l'abast») is a careful study of a specific topic — the worker's movement. The memoirs of Joan Garriga i Massó, *Memòries d'un liberal catalanista (1871-1939)* (published by Edicions 62) is a nice complement to Abelló's book, as it describes the point of view of a statesman (as opposed to a politician) who was very aware of the situation in the country. Two different outlooks on the Spanish Civil War are found in *El desembarcament de Bayo a Mallorca (agost-setembre 1936)* (Bayo's landing in Mallorca [August-

September 1936]) by Josep Massot i Muntaner (published by the Publications of the Abbey of Montserrat) and *La setmana tràgica de 1937. Els fets de maig* (The Tragic Week of 1937. What happened in May) by John Lagdon-Davies (published by «Llibres a l'abast»). A more personal perspective is offered by Pere Tarrès in *El meu diari de guerra, 1938-1939* (My War Diary) (published by the Publications of the Abbey of Montserrat). We conclude this section on the Civil War by mentioning three books which analyze the Post-War period: *Nacionalisme i premsa clandestina (1939-1951)* (Nationalism and the Underground Press) by Albert Viladot i Presas (published by Curial Edicions); *Guerra Civil i Església catalana. La recepció de la guerra civil per l'Església de Catalunya (1938-1953)* (Civil War and the Catalan Church. How the Church in Catalonia dealt with the Civil War [1938-1953]) by Joan Bada (published by the Publications of the Abbey of Montserrat); and, *La Caputxinada* by Joan Crexell (published by Edicions 62) a work about an important episode in the country's resistance to the Franco dictatorship.

Issues 7, 8, and 9 of the magazine *L'Avenç* contain many interesting articles on local (as opposed to localist) history. Complementing them is the bibliography published by the Generalitat de Catalunya, the *Guia dels centres d'estudis de Catalunya*. Among the hundreds of articles on specific points in Catalan-speaking lands, Jaume Codina's work, *Els pagesos de Provençana (984-1807). Societat i economia a L'Hospitalet pre-industrial* (The Farmers of Provençana [984-1807]. Society and Economy in Pre-industrial Hospitalet) stands out. It is an excellent example of research on an urban Catalan community.

It was a difficult task to mention only certain works, and, clearly, we have had to leave out many others. Nevertheless, we hope to have provided a representative outline of the topics and authors that appeared in print between January and June, 1987.

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*Translated by Janet DeCesaris*

## LINGUISTICS

There was a considerable amount of publishing in all areas of culture in the Catalan language community between January and June, 1987. Specifically in the field of language, there continue to be analyses from several points of view, something which indicates that the existence —and subsistence— of the Catalan Lands is dependent upon the vitality of the language itself. It is precisely in this respect that research in sociolinguistics and language policy, aimed at explaining

the complexity that characterizes minority groups and languages, stands out. This is especially true for Catalan due to its particular sociocultural development.

Aspects of external history are discussed in *La diversitat (im)pertinent. Gent, política i llengües* (June 1987, Barcelona, El Lamp), a collection of articles by several members of the Seminar on Sociolinguistics of Barcelona. There are references to other oppressed languages besides Catalan, and as the title indicates, papers on both sociolinguistics and more specifically, language planning are included *Curs de sociolingüística 1* by Toni Mollà and Carles Palanca (January 1987, Alzira, Edicions Bromera) is an interesting essay which applies theoretical concepts such as languages in contact, language conflict, and standardization, etc. to Catalan. Edicions La Magrana continues to publish *Quaderns d'Alliberament*; issue 13, entitled 1992: *Quins Jocs* (June 1987, Barcelona) brings up the concern of «whose Games» the 1992 Barcelona Olympics will be, and also addresses the issue of which language will be dominant. Partial results of the II International Congress of the Catalan Language are another sign of the interest in the current use of the language and the outlook for the future (both of which were topics of special interest at the Congress). Two books have appeared: *Segon Congrés Internacional de la Llengua Catalana. Àrea 5. Llengua i Dret* (Language and Law) (1987, Barcelona, Institut d'Estudis Autònoms. Fundació del II Congrés Internacional de la Llengua Catalana) reports on one of the most important aspects of the Congress, as it discusses the legal options in citizens' language usage; and, *Segon Congrés Internacional de la Llengua Catalana. I. Convocatòria. Inauguració. Clausura. Conclusions. Congressistes* (June 1987, Barcelona, Generalitat de Catalunya, Escola d'Administració Pública). Although language problems are only treated indirectly, we should also mention Albert Rossich's *Francesc Vicent Garcia. Història i mite del Rector de Vallfogona* (April 1987, Barcelona, Edicions 62), which earned the Twelfth «Xarxa» Award. Professor Philip D. Rasico is the author of *Els menorquins de la Florida: història, llengua i cultura* (April 1987, Montserrat, Publicacions de l'Abadia de Montserrat), a work which adds much to our knowledge of the history of the language. And, even though it discusses another language, we would like to draw attention to Juka Havu's *El finès, de llengua dominada a llengua normalitzada* (January 1987, Barcelona, Generalitat de Catalunya) because of the sociolinguistic similarities to Catalan.

Several recently published works deal with the analysis of language as a system. We would like to highlight German Colon's *Problemes de la llengua a València i als seus voltants* (1987, València, Servei de Publicacions, Universitat de València), which marks his receiving an honorary degree from this institution. The book is the first in the «Col·lecció Honoris Causa», and contains both the speeches made during the presentation of the degree and a collection of articles (some previously unpublished) by Colon on several topics including the external history of the language. Manuel Pérez Şaldanya and Manuel Prunyonosa

have published *Elements per a una sintaxi liminar del català* (1987, València, Eliseu Climent Editor), and R. Morant and E. Serra, *Els Modificadors intraoracionals i interoracionals* in the new series «Biblioteca Lingüística Catalana» directed by A. Ferrando and A. López García (1987, València, Servei de Publicacions, Universitat de València).

In the field of history of the language, Lluís Cabruja, Pere Casanellas and Maria Àngels Massip have written *Història del català. Síntesi, textos i exercicis* (March 1987, Barcelona, Editorial Columna). It is geared toward students who are finishing high school.

In methodology and exercises for the teaching of the language, *Com ensenyar català als adults* has reached issue 15 (June 1987, Barcelona, Departament de Cultura de la Generalitat de Catalunya). Josep Mila has published *Els verbs catalans. Conjugació* (March 1987, Barcelona, La Llar del Llibre), and in Majorca, Miquel Vives has written *Ortografia programada. Curs per a autoaprenentatge de l'ortografia de la llengua catalana* (March 1987, Palma de Mallorca, Miquel Font Editor).

Lexical issues, whether from the point of view of lexicology (broadly understood) or from a strictly lexicographic perspective, merit special attention from researchers, as they are aware that the normalized use of a language necessarily implies that speakers have no difficulty in finding words and expressions in any field. Joaquim Martí Rodríguez and Josep Vicent García Díez have produced a new *Vocabulari Mèdic* (1986-87, València, Generalitat de València), and Jordi Monés i Pujol-Busquets has written a *Diccionari abreujat d'educació* (1987, Barcelona, Grao Editorial). Bernabé Dalmau has published *Lèxic d'espiritualitat benedictina* (June 1987, Montserrat, Publicacions de l'Abadia de Montserrat), and Montserrat Combalia, Xavier Pedraza, Magí Puig and Anna Vaqués have collaborated in the *Esbós del vocabulari de la indústria d'adobar pells* (June 1987, Igualada, published by the MH Dena de Blanquers of Igualada). Josep Enric Rebés, Valentí Sallas and Carles Duarte have produced a considerably expanded fourth edition of the *Formulari de procediment administratiu* (February 1987, Barcelona, Escola d'Administració Pública, Generalitat de Catalunya).

The more general topic of the theory of communication is equally important for understanding the «place» of Catalan in the complex reality of mass media. In this respect, J.M. Tresserras and E. Marín have published *El regne del subjecte. Per una teoria materialista de la comunicació social* (June 1987, Barcelona, El Llamp), and Santiago Cucurella and Domènec Iborra, *Joventut, llengua, comunicació. Els estudiants de Catalunya davant els mitjans de comunicació* (June 1987, Barcelona, El Llamp).

Josep Llord's biography *Josep Miracle* (1987, Barcelona, Editorial Milla) includes those aspects of Catalan which interested Miracle.

Turning to specialized journals, *Límits, Revista d'Assaig i d'Informació sobre Ciències del Llenguatge* has published its second issue (May 1987, Barcelona, Editó-



rial Empúries). The Onomastic Society has issued numbers XXVII (March 1987, Barcelona) and XXVIII (June 1987, Barcelona) of its journal *Bulletí Interior*. Other journals which have appeared are issue 36 of *Els Marges* (January 1987, Barcelona, Curial Edicions Catalanes), issues 23-24 of *L'Espill* (January 1987, València, Eliseu Climent Editor), and issue 9 of the *Revista de Llengua i Dret* (June 1987, Barcelona, Escola d'Administració Pública, Generalitat de Catalunya). The experimental phonetics laboratory of the Faculty of Philology of the University of Barcelona has published the second issue of *Estudios de Fonética Experimental*; although dated 1986, it was not available until January, 1987. Four of the articles included are on Catalan and are by A.M. Badia, E. Martínez, J. Martí and M. J. Solé.

In addition to these publications, we should also mention certain important activities which focused their attention on Catalan. In April the coordinators of the seven scientific areas of the II International Congress on the Catalan Language presented and discussed their conclusions. Both the Catalan Group on Sociolinguistics and the Catalan Society of Language and Literature continue to organize lectures and seminars. Finally, in May the Fifth Colloquium of the NACS was held in Tampa and St. Augustine, Florida.

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#### LITERATURE

The first half of 1987 was marked by the passing of one of the most important contemporary figures of Catalan poetry, J.V. Foix. The first issue of this journal remembered him with a deserved and commendable homage. The principal newspapers and magazines of the country dedicated numerous articles to both Foix the person and the importance of his work. This year there also appeared two new studies on Foix: Mercè Trincàs i Preckler's *J. V. Foix i el surrealisme* (1986), and a collection of lectures given by Gabriel Ferrater and edited by Joan Ferraté, *Foix i el seu temps*.

Works on literary history published in the first six months of 1987 include the edition of the first volume of *Calaix de sastre: 1769-1791* by the Baron of Maldà; Estefania de Requesens's correspondence, *Cartes íntimes d'una dama catalana del segle XVI* edited by Maite Guisado; and, *Francesc Vicent Garcia, història i mite del rector de Vallfogona* by Albert Rossich. Among those books published on different aspects of twentieth century literature we would like to draw attention

to the following: *El teatre al País Valencià durant la guerra civil (1936-1939)*, a two-volume study by Ricard Blasco published at the end of 1986; *Marginats i integrats en la novel·la catalana (1925-1938)* by Carme Arnau; *Pere Calders: ideari i ficció* by Amanda Bath; *Els meus inèdits de Llorenç Villalonga* by Baltasar Porcel; and, *Carles Riba i Friedrich Hölderlin* by Jaume Medina. Among the collections of articles, memoirs and short stories which appeared we have Maria Aurèlia Capmany's *Mala memòria*. Quim Monzó's *Zzzzzzzz...*, Vicent Andrés Estellés's *La parra boja*, Joan Brossa's *Anafil* (a sequel to *Vivàrium* [1986]), Lluís Racionero's *Microcosmos català*, and Carles Miralles's *Eulàlia. Estudis i notes de literatura catalana* (1986). We should also mention the multi-authored collections *El Noucentisme* and *Estudis de literatura catalana al País Valencià*.

Turning to creative works, the third volume of Pere Calders's *Obres completes* stands out. *Els déus inaccessibles* by Miquel Àngel Riera, *La vida fàcil* by Jaume Vidal Alcover, *La veu melodiosa* by Montserrat Roig and *El jaqué de la democràcia* by Maria Aurèlia Capmany were among the other important narrative works published during this period. The historical novel was represented by Manuel Bofarull's *Els hereus de la terra*, recipient of the 1986 St. John's Prize, and Gonçal Castelló's *València dins la tempesta*. The singer Pau Riba has begun his career as a novelist with *Ena*, and Rafael Vallbona turns to the short narrative with *Sabates italianes*. We would also like to mention Vicenç Villatoro's two novels, *Entre batalles* and *Les illes grogues*, and the three books published this year by Maria Mercè Roca, the collection entitled *El colleccionista de somnis* and the novels *Els arbres vençuts* and *El present que m'acull*, which was awarded the Josep Pla Prize in 1986. Other books which should be mentioned are: *Eulàlia, la ben parlada* by Octavi Fullat; *Somni Delta* by Valentí Puig; *Els àngels quàntics* by Lluís Racionero; *Més enllà del mar* by Antoni Serra; *Rellotges fora de punt* by Isidre Grau; *Som irrepetibles* by Josep Franco; *La dama de les boires* by Gabriel Janer Manila; *Hotel Àfrica* by Ferran Cremades i Arlandis; and *El pacte de Formentera* by Ignasi Riera.

A rather curious and quite interesting volume is *Alfabet*, by the writer Josep Palàcios and the painter Manolo Boix. An intelligent combination of literature, visual arts, and typography, *Alfabet* is a collection of 28 magnificent pieces of prose — part poetry, part narrative — that define, with the corresponding illustrations, the letters from A to Z. Contrasting with this type of minority book we note the rise of the «genre novel» and especially of the «black novel» with such interesting results as *El parany súts* by Magí Rosselló, *Un negre amb un saxo* by Ferran Torrent, *Octubre pinta negra* by Xavier Borràs, and *No demanis llobarro fora de temporada* by Andreu Martín. We should also mention here the short stories by Núria Minguez, *Una dona ha de morir*, as well as the new editions of Rafael Tasis's novels, *És hora de plegar* (1986) and *Un crim al Paralelo* (both published by Tres i Quatre). With the recent success of novels like *Amorrada al piló* and the series *Quaderns d'en Marc*, a similar style of narrative has begun to appear with *Maten, el fill d'en Marc* by Manuel Joan Arinyó and *Cool: fresc* by Toni Cucarella.

In the field of poetry, we must first salute the publication of *Est llibres de versos* by Joan Fuster, a collection of all of his published poems as well as two previously unpublished books of poetry. Other important publications include: *Aniversari. Obra poètica (1925-1985)* by Xavier Benguerel; *La collita en la boira* by Marià Manent; *Catàleg general 1952-1981* by Joan Ferraté; *Obra poètica, 1959-1983* by Miquel Bauçà; two books by Joan Brossa, *Viatge per la sextina (1976-1986)* and *Poemes públics*; and *Canals* by Vicent Andrés Estellés. We should also mention two books which appeared at the end of 1986, *Autoretrat. Obra poètica (1962-1986)* by Joan Colomines, and *Quadern vermell* by Joan Valls Jordà. Although no all works can be reviewed here due to space limitations, we would like to mention some of those who published poetry in the first half of 1987: Montserrat Manent, Salvador Jáfer, David Jou, Antoni Fornés, Joan Margarit, Joan Casas and Feliu Formosa, Xavier Lloveras, Isidre Martínez Marzo, Vicent Berenguer, Lluís Alpera, and Ramon Guillem. Finally, we cannot end this review without mentioning the initiative by the publishing house «La Forest d'Arana» of Valencia in sponsoring weekly poetry readings, mainly by young authors. Up to now the response has been most successful, as nine short collections of poetry have already appeared this year.

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## MUSIC

1987 began with the performance, in Barcelona and other Catalan towns, of Haendel's *Messiah* as a mark of peace and good will. Perhaps the most striking characteristic of the first half of the year is the renewed enthusiasm generated in all fields and thus also music, as Barcelona begins to prepare for the 1992 Olympic Games. Worthy of special note in the first semester of 1987 are the following activities: «Ibercamera» organized the most prestigious concerts by orchestras like the English Chamber Orchestra, the Munich Philharmonic, and the Los Angeles Philharmonic; the Paris Orchestra, conducted by Pierre Boulez, offered *In Memoriam Bruno Maderna*; in addition, the performance by I Solisti Veneti left behind a delightful and light-hearted memory. «Euroconcert», a more modest but also a more popular institution, added a different touch to the season, viz., the elegant performances of Montserrat Figueres, Jordi Savall, Pro Cantione Antiqua, the Israel Chamber Orchestra and I Musici. The Fundació Caixa de Pensions sponsored the traditional cycles of Ancient Music, of Romantic Music,

and of Religious Music. Finally, in an effort to regain past levels of achievement (sixteen different conductors were invited), Franz Paul Decker was chosen as the new conductor of the Orquestra Ciutat de Barcelona.

In València, the Orquestra Municipal, conducted by Manuel Galduf, offered its usual concert series at the «Principal», sponsored in part by various institutions. Special mention should be made of the presence of Ivo Pogorelich and the series of guitar performances at the Palau del Marquès de Dos Aigües, which gave a special character to musical life in the capital of the País Valencià.

In Mallorca, the cycle «Alma Concerts» was continued, permitting a perhaps somewhat modest approximation to the classical repertory; the Orquestra Simfònica of Palma and the Coral Universitària offered a memorable rendition of Mozart's *Requiem* K. 526.

València has, since April, a new Palau de la Música i els Congressos, whose inauguration included works from the great classical repertory, as well as from the 20th century, performed by the more important orchestras of the Spanish State. The Palau, built in Mediterranean style, consists of an auditorium with a capacity for 1,700 people, a smaller auditorium housing 1,500 (especially designed for classical music), and two smaller halls.

The Principat registers the birth of several orchestras and music-related institutions within this same period: the Orquestra Simfònica del Vallès, conducted by Albert Argudo, has its seat in Sabadell and participates in that city's Associació d'Amics de l'Òpera program while trying to extend musical life throughout the surrounding area; the Orquestra del Palau de la Música Catalana, conducted by Juan José Olives, counted with Alicia de Larrocha for its inauguration and attempts to complement the activities of the Orfeó Català, fulfilling also the role of a young supporting orchestra; the Orquestra del Teatre Lliure, conducted by Josep Pons, acts in unison with the Teatre Lliure and concentrates on exploring the newest contemporary trends; in addition, the Solistes de Catalunya orchestra, conducted by Xavier Güell, has undertaken in recent months a vast project known as «Mozartiana» — an attempt to perform the entire Mozart production within the coming six years. Classical music lovers can now enjoy a new radio station, «Catalunya Música», directed by Jesús Rodríguez Picó, devoted exclusively to the classical repertory. Concert series in smaller towns are also on the rise. Thus, Terrassa, which saw the disappearance of the «Retaule Artistic», counts instead with a number of musical events, sponsored by the Caixa de Terrassa, which this year have included performances by the Cor del Liceu and The Vienna Boys Choir, among others.

The 70th anniversary of the Grup Filhàrmonic of the Ateneu de Maó was celebrated in Menorca with various concerts and the performance of *Aida*, as part of its annual opera season. Opera in Barcelona, at the Gran Teatre del Liceu, has included Alan Berg's magnificently staged *Lulu* (a brilliant success), Bellini's *Beatrice di Tenda*, and *La Sonnambula*, Mozart's *Lucio Silla*, Edita Gruberova's un-

forgettable *Lucia di Lammermoor*, and Montserrat Caballé's *Saffo*.

Catalan musical life has also been rich in contests, prizes, summer courses, and other activities. Outstanding names are Salvador Brotons and Albert Sardà, winners of the Premi Ciutat de Barcelona, and José García Román, whose *Sexteto de Estío* won this year's Ciutat d'Alcoi's composition prize; also worthy of mention is the Josep Iturbe's piano course, which took place in València during the month of June — an important addition to an already well-established pianistic tradition personified nowadays by Mario Monreal and Perfecto García Chornet, among others.

The first half of 1987 also registers the passing of two important personalities in the field of Catalan composition: Manuel Blancafort and Frederic Mompou. Blancafort (1897-1987), strongly influenced by the French school of Eric Satie and the Groupe des Six, was the author of works like *El parc d'atraccions* and left behind a rich and variegated production; he died on January 8. Frederic Mompou (1893-1987) was in the same aesthetic tradition as his great friend Blancafort; not a prolific composer, Mompou wrote mainly for the piano. His work has been profusely interpreted in recent years by such reputed Catalan and international figures as Rosa Sabater, Albert Giménez Atenelle, etc., and has become a symbol of contemporary Catalan music even though his aesthetic universe is anchored in the impressionistic nationalism of the 20's and 30's. He died on June 30.

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*Translated by Maria del Tura Boix*

## VISUAL ARTS

Visual arts exhibits presented during the period in question have been both numerous and thematically varied.

The Generalitat, following its policy of touring exhibits, presented in the town of Encamp, Andorra, «Un univers màgic» featuring works by Joan Josep Tharrats, and in Girona, an exhibit of photographs taken by Joaquim Gomis. The anthology of works by Ràfols Casamada was moved to Castell d'Aro, and to conclude the season, «Extra» was presented in the Palau Robert in Barcelona. This last exhibit was quite polemic from the standpoint of both the artists represented and, above all, the works chosen, which although contemporary, were not illustrative of the most significant art.

After a brief vacation, the Palau Robert has re-opened its doors with an exhibit which recalls the twenty-five years of activity at the *Eina* school. The school

was begun by Alexandre Cirici, Albert Ràfols, Romà Gubern and Maria Girona, and many of today's most outstanding professionals in Catalonia have passed through its hallways.

Three exhibits put on by the City Government of Barcelona merit special mention: «La tauromàquia» (The Bullfight), «Homenatge a Barcelona» (Homage to Barcelona), and especially, «Col·leccionistes de Catalunya». All three were examples of the private art patrimony and the lengthy tradition it enjoys in Catalonia.

The Caixa de Pensions sponsored exhibits in three different locations in Barcelona; we will concentrate on the two which were presented in the Cultural Center of the Caixa. The exhibit «L'art i el seu poble» (Art and its people) dealt with the most recent American movements, such as Neo-Neo art, Post-expressionism, and those artists who are turning back to Minimal Art or to Povera. The exhibit was particularly useful to teachers, who were able to explain to younger students the still unfinished development of the latest art. The other exhibit, «Principis d'una col·lecció» (Beginnings of a Collection) displayed the works the Caixa has acquired in order to develop a quality collection of contemporary art. The part of the exhibit which drew the most attention was that dedicated to Edward Munch. For the first time the work of the Nordic genius could be fully appreciated, as oils and etchings took us into Munch's very personal world.

The exhibit «Joièria Contemporània» (Contemporary Jewelry), which included elements from very diverse sources, clearly showed that jewelry does not always have to be made of precious metals and stones. There were pieces made of plastic, paper, feathers, and wire, whose value is determined by the design as opposed to the materials used.

Thanks to Foto Press International, photography fans from around the world were able to display their work in a large exhibit and then compete for prizes.

Towards the end of the season, the exhibit «El Arte en las Colecciones de la Casa de Alba» (Art in the House of Alba Collections) made it possible for those who are unable to visit the Palace of the Dukes of Alba to see quite valuable pieces from their collections.

Several shows by young artists, such as Soledad Sevilla and Eva Lootz, were presented on Montcada Street. The centers of attention was a sample of holography, which allows you to see non-existent objects.

The Caixa de Barcelona also organized important exhibits during this period in its gallery at the Plaça Sant Jaume. There was the exhibit «Pintura catalana postimpressionista 1896-1986» (Post-impressionist Catalan Painting), which had first been shown in Buenos Aires to commemorate the centennial of the Caixa there. «Arte Español en Nueva York (Spanish Art in New York), Colección de Amos Cahan» was a magnificent showing of now historic works of the middle generation, with names such as Clavé and Ponç.

We should also like to mention the «Biennial del Vídeo», which took place at the end of the season. Although the videographic works presented were quite interesting, the panel of judges, faced with a difficult task, decided not to make any awards.

Springtime activities in the visual arts ended with the «Triangle» experience at the Casa de la Caritat (in Barcelona). Encounters of artistic cooperation took place between painters and sculptors with the presence of the sculptor Anthony Caro and several of his disciples. Even so, the results were not as productive as hoped for. On the other hand, the two joint exhibits of visual poetry by Joan Brossa and Xavier Canals were very successful. The themes were street activity and the letter A.

In the city of Valencia, the City Government organized in the Llotja a very interesting exhibit of the latest works of the textile artist Josep Grau Garriga. The City Hall subsequently sponsored an exhibit about La Plaça d'Almoïna (Almoïna Square) with documents and drawings that showed the imprint different cultures (the Visigoths, the Romans, etc.) have left on the Square. Antonio Machado was the focus of an exposition that included a considerable number of his original works related to his friendship with several artists. The exhibit «Arte y Ciencia. Arte y Naturaleza» (Art and Science. Art and Nature) dealt with the topics in the title. We would also like to draw attention to the tribute to the great Catalan potter, Angelina Alós, who has dedicated most of her life to teaching ceramics in official schools. The show included a retrospective sample of her work.

In the Balearic Islands, the exhibit «Tristan» was presented in Palma de Majorca, in the Chapel of Mercy. The exposition was designed by Benito Achille Oliva, father of the «Transvanguardia» trend. In addition to several foreign artists, the Majorcans Toni Socias, Ruitort, and Joan Benassar participated in the exhibit. Afterwards, Benassar displayed his latest works in an individual show. Finally, Ferran Garcia Sevilla presented his fabrics in the Llotja, in a showing which included work similar to that he had previously presented at the Biennial of Venice and the Documents of Kassel.

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*Translated by Janet DeCesaris*