

10th-15th CENTURIES



THE MONARCHY AND THE CATALAN COURT

THE CATALAN MONARCHY WAS FOUNDED DURING THE TENTH CENTURY, AND AN INDEPENDENT STATE AROSE WHICH WAS TO LAST UNTIL THE FIFTEENTH CENTURY. THE *CORTS CATALANES* CAME INTO EXISTENCE DURING THE REIGN OF JAUME I, AND WERE GIVEN THEIR DEFINITIVE STRUCTURE UNDER PERE *EL GRAN* (1283). THE COURT WAS CATALONIA'S CHIEF LEGISLATIVE INSTITUTION FROM THE THIRTEENTH CENTURY TO THE BEGINNING OF THE EIGHTEENTH. IT WAS MADE UP OF THREE DIVISIONS OR *BRAÇOS*: NOBILITY, CLERGY AND BOURGEOISIE.

*MINIATURE OF THE INCUNABULUM CONSTITUTIONS AND OTHER RIGHTS OF CATALONIA.
15th CENTURY.*



THE MARITIME CONSULATE

DURING THE TWELFTH, FOURTEENTH AND FIFTEENTH CENTURIES, THE COMMERCIAL ACTIVITY OF THE *PAÏSOS CATALANS* GREW CONSIDERABLY. TO REGULATE AND ENCOURAGE THIS TRADE, A NUMBER OF INSTITUTIONS WERE FOUNDED. AMONGST THESE WERE THE MARITIME CONSULATES, WHICH HAD JURISDICTION OVER QUESTIONS OF TRADE AND SEA TRAVEL. THE "BOOK OF THE MARITIME CONSULATE" WAS THE FIRST CODE OF MARITIME LAW IN EUROPE, AND REGULATED THE MARITIME AND COMMERCIAL ACTIVITY OF BARCELONA, MAJORCA AND VALENCIA.

ENGRAVING FROM THE BOOK OF THE MARITIME CONSULATE. 13th CENTURY.



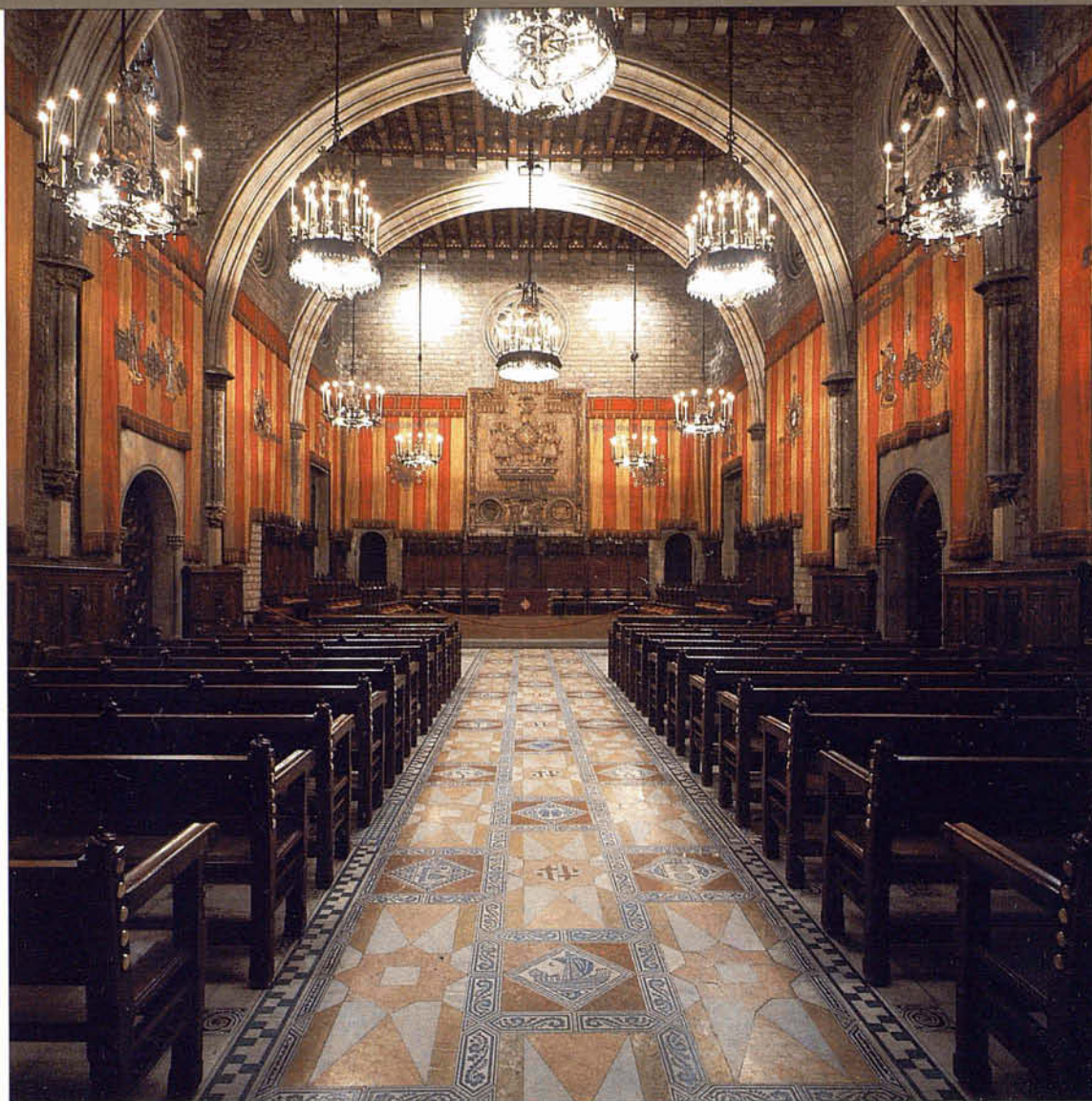
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ROMANESQUE ARCHITECTURE

CATALONIA HAS GIVEN US ONE OF THE MOST BEAUTIFUL AND MOST ORIGINAL STYLES OF ARCHITECTURE: THE ROMANESQUE, WHICH DEVELOPED AS A RESULT OF THE INFLUENCE OF BYZANTINE ART. ROMANESQUE ART HAS BEEN CONSIDERED THE NATIONAL ART OF CATALONIA, AND THE TENTH CENTURY ABBEY OF SANT PERE DE RODES IS AN OUTSTANDING EXAMPLE.

MONASTERY OF SANT PERE DE RODES. 10th CENTURY.





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THE COUNCIL OF THE ONE HUNDRED

THE *CONSELL DE CENT* WAS BARCELONA'S GOVERNING BODY FROM THE MID-THIRTEENTH CENTURY UNTIL 1714. IT WAS THE COUNTRY'S MOST IMPORTANT POLITICAL INSTITUTION AFTER THE CATALAN GOVERNMENT OR *GENERALITAT*, AND HAD THE POWER TO ELECT COUNCILLORS, DRAW UP BYLAWS AND APPOINT CATALAN CONSULS OVERSEAS.

HALL OF THE ONE HUNDRED. BARCELONA CITY HALL.



© MUSEU D'ART DE CATALUNYA

ROMANESQUE PAINTING

ROMANESQUE CHURCH STARTED IN THE MI-LEVENTH CENTURY. IT IS OUTSTANDING FOR ITS ROMANESQUE MURALS, WHICH FOCUS ON THE FIGURE OF THE ALMIGHTY. LARGE-SCALE MURAL PAINTING ACQUIRED CONSIDERABLE IMPORTANCE IN CATALONIA DURING THE ELEVENTH TO THIRTEENTH CENTURIES.

FIGURE OF THE ALMIGHTY FROM SANT CLIMENT DE TAÜLL.



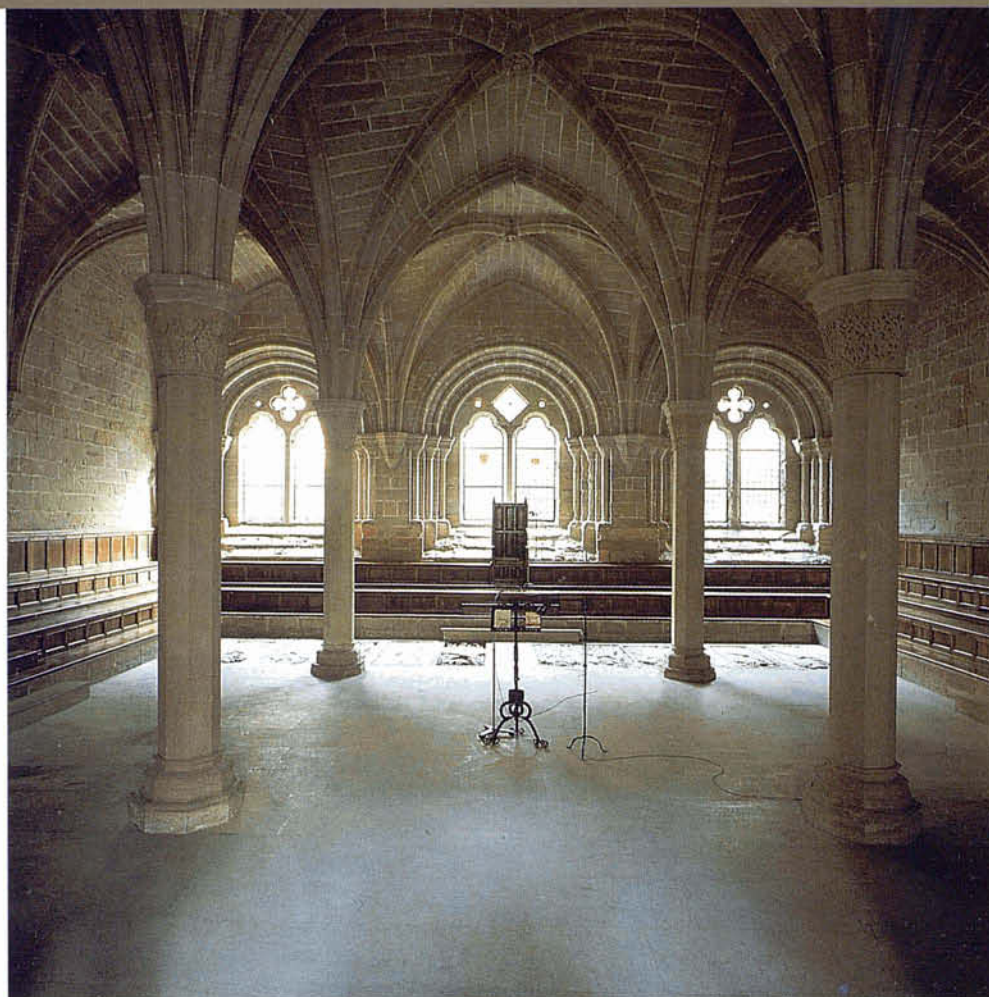
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SANT RAMON DE PENYAFORT AND ARNAU DE VILANOVA

SANT RAMON DE PENYAFORT AND ARNAU DE VILANOVA ARE TWO UNIVERSAL CATALAN FIGURES FROM THE THIRTEENTH AND FOURTEENTH CENTURIES. THE FIRST WAS AN OUTSTANDING LEGISLATOR AND THE AUTHOR OF THE DECRETALS OF POPE GREGORY IX, A WORK WHICH WAS USED IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH UNTIL PIUS X'S CODE OF CANONIC LAW. ARNAU DE VILANOVA STANDS OUT FOR HIS WORK IN THEOLOGY, CHEMISTRY, ASTRONOMY AND, ESPECIALLY, FOR HIS MEDICAL RESEARCH, WHICH WAS KNOWN THROUGHOUT EUROPE.

*ALTARPIECE OF SAINT ABDÓ AND SAINT SENÉN, BY JAUME HUGUET. 1461.
SAINT RAMON DE PENYAFORT, BY FRA ANGELICO.*





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THE MONASTERY OF POBLET

A CISTERCIAN MONASTERY STARTED IN 1153 AND NOT COMPLETED UNTIL WELL INTO THE SIXTEENTH CENTURY. IT PLAYED AN IMPORTANT PART IN THE CULTURAL LIFE OF THE CATALAN COUNTIES AND HAS AN OUTSTANDING LIBRARY CONTAINING WORKS ON PHILOSOPHY AND SCHOLASTIC THEOLOGY, AND ON MONASTIC AND FRANCISCAN SPIRITUALITY, AS WELL AS LATIN AND RENAISSANCE CLASSICS.

CHAPTER HOUSE OF THE MONASTERY OF POBLET. 12th CENTURY.





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THE TAPESTRY OF THE CREATION

THIS IS THE MOST IMPORTANT CATALAN ROMANESQUE TEXTILE WORK IN EXISTENCE, AND DATES FROM THE LATE ELEVENTH OR EARLY TWELFTH CENTURY. THE SMALLER CIRCLE CONTAINS THE TYPICAL IMAGE OF THE ALMIGHTY, WHILE THE LARGER CIRCLE IS DIVIDED UP INTO EIGHT UNEQUAL BUT SYMMETRICAL PARTS REPRESENTING THE FIRST TWO CHAPTERS OF *GENESIS*, SURROUNDED BY ALLEGORIES OF THE FOUR WINDS.

FRAGMENT FROM THE TAPESTRY OF THE CREATION. 11th CENTURY.



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RAMON LLULL

RAMON LLULL WAS A GREAT THIRTEENTH CENTURY PHILOSOPHER AND HUMANIST. HE HAD AN ENORMOUS INFLUENCE ON THE THINKING OF HIS AGE. THERE IS A RECENT, 21-VOLUME CATALAN EDITION OF HIS WORKS. PUBLISHED IN MAJORCA, AND AN 8-VOLUME LATIN EDITION, ALSO RECENT, PUBLISHED IN TURNHOUT (BELGIUM).

KARLSRUHE MANUSCRIPT.

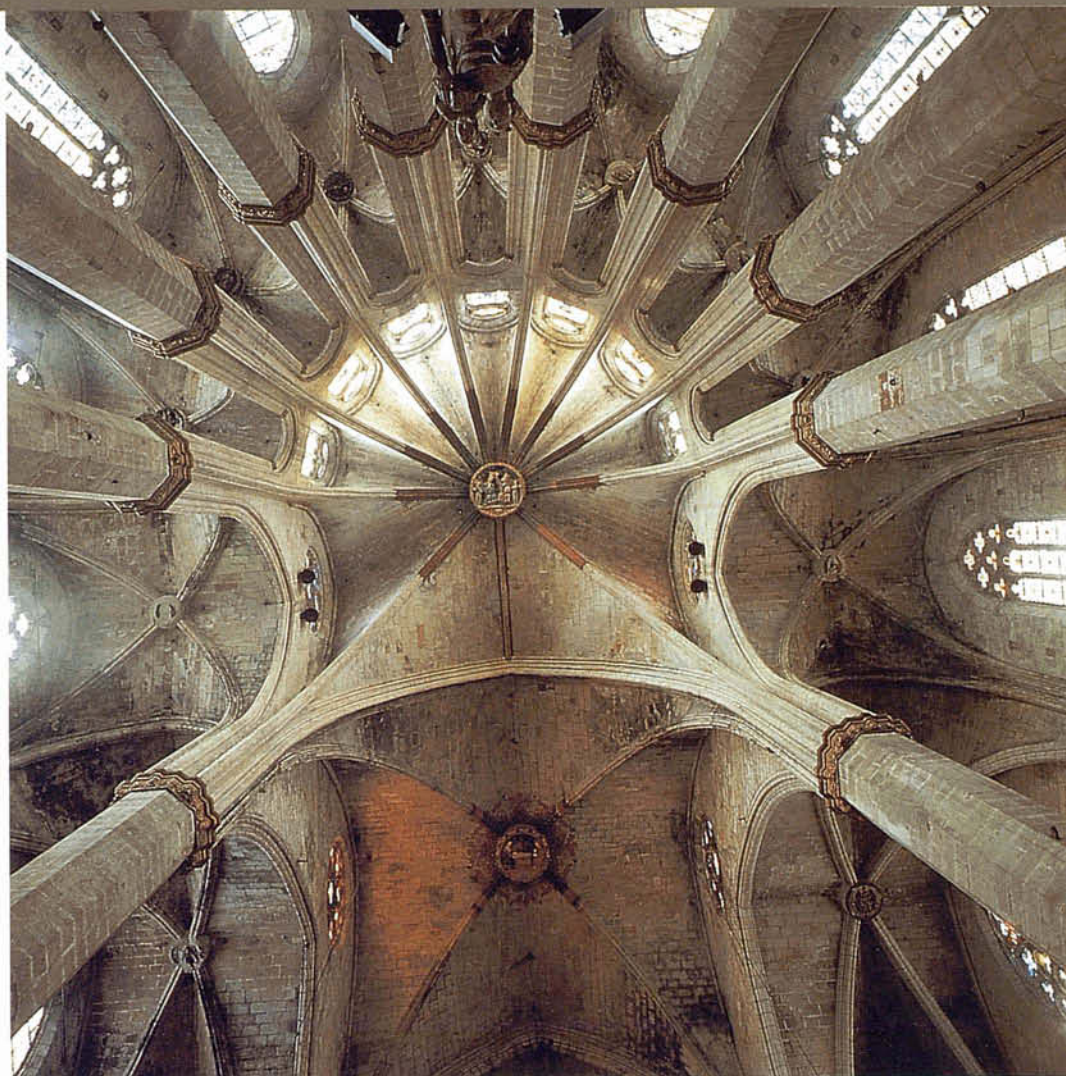


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CATALAN MUSIC

THE TENTH CENTURY "CANT DE LA SIBIL·LA", THE "ESCOLA MONTSERRATINA", THE MUSIC OF ANTONI SOLER IN THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY, THE POPULAR CHOIRS OF THE NINETEENTH CENTURY AND THE NEW TRENDS OF THE 20TH CENTURY, ALL DEMONSTRATE THE UNFLAGGING VITALITY OF CATALAN MUSIC, WHICH HAS ALWAYS MAINTAINED LINKS WITH THE MUSIC OF THE REST OF EUROPE.

MUSICIANS, *BY PERE SERRA. 1390-1400.*

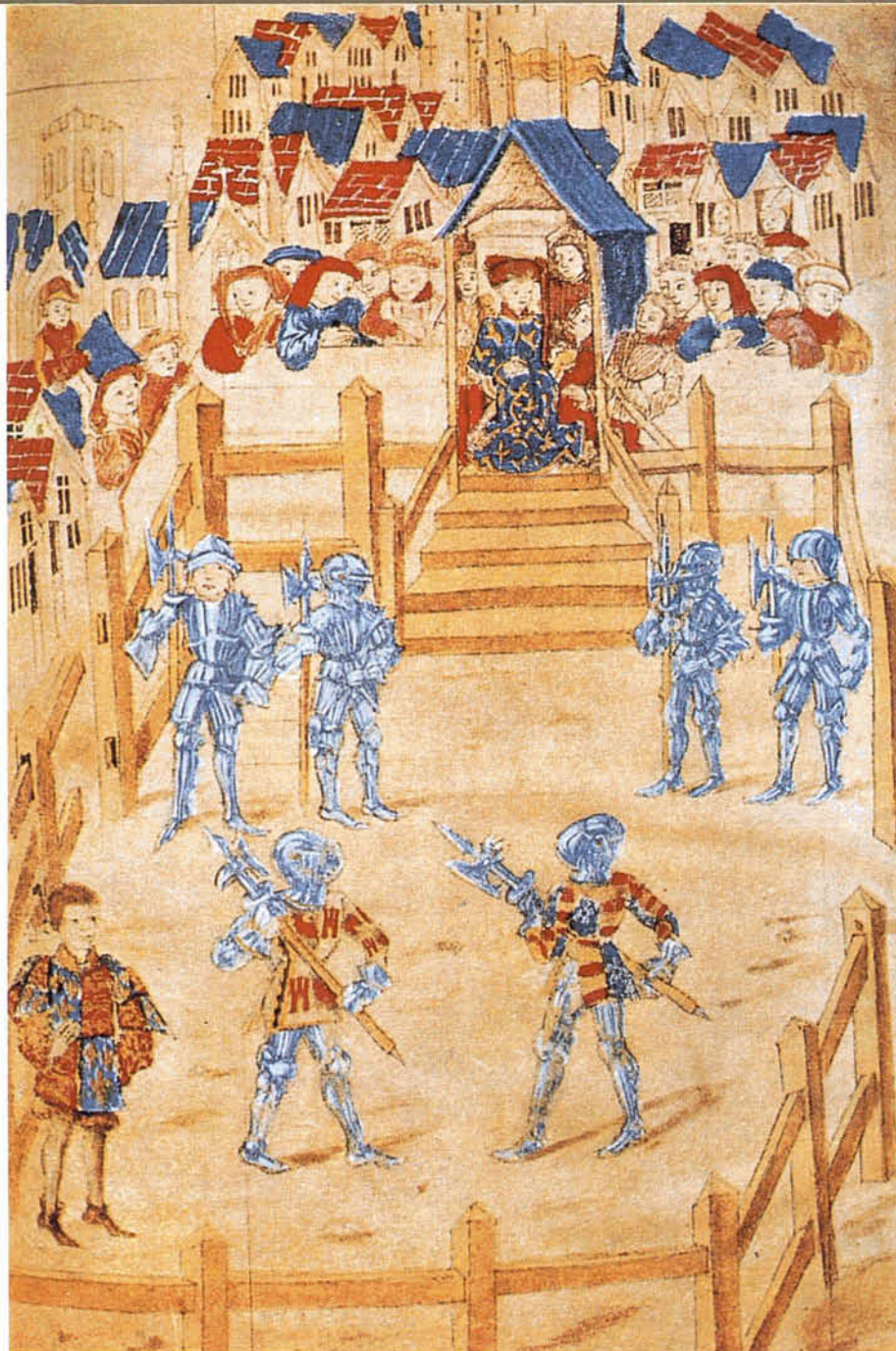


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GOTHIC ARCHITECTURE

IN THE THIRTEENTH CENTURY, ELEMENTS FROM GOTHIC ART BEGAN TO APPEAR IN OUR ARCHITECTURE. THE SEVERITY OF ITS LINES AND THE SIMPLICITY OF ITS STRUCTURE MAKE THE CHURCH OF SANTA MARIA DEL MAR THE FINEST EXAMPLE OF GOTHIC RELIGIOUS ARCHITECTURE IN CATALONIA. GOTHIC CIVIC ARCHITECTURE WAS ALSO VERY IMPORTANT, WITH SUCH BUILDINGS AS THE "PALAU DE LA GENERALITAT" OR THE "LLOTJA DE BARCELONA".

CHURCH OF SANTA MARIA DEL MAR. BARCELONA.



TIRANT LO BLANC

IN 1490, THE VALENCIAN JOANOT MARTORELL WROTE ONE OF THE MOST BEAUTIFUL CHIVALRIC NOVELS EVER WRITTEN, *TIRANT LO BLANC*. THE WORK HAS BECOME A VALUABLE DOCUMENT OF ITS TIME AND IS ONE OF THE GREAT EUROPEAN NOVELS, AT THE FOREFRONT OF CATALAN FICTION, ON ACCOUNT BOTH OF ITS THEME AND ITS STYLE OF EXPRESSION. IT WAS PUBLISHED IN MORE TRANSLATIONS THAN ANY OTHER WORK OF ITS TIME, INCLUDING VERSIONS IN ENGLISH, FRENCH, ITALIAN AND SPANISH.

MANUSCRIPT OF THE LINEAGES OF CATALONIA. 15th CENTURY.





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MEDIEVAL CATALAN CARTOGRAPHY

IN THE FOURTEENTH CENTURY, THE MAJORCA SCHOOL OF CARTOGRAPHY MADE A NAME FOR ITSELF IN THE COURTS OF EUROPE. THE MASTERPIECE OF MEDIEVAL MAP-MAKING IS THE SO-CALLED *ATLAS CATALÀ*, THE WORK OF THE MAJORCAN JEWS ABRAHAM CRESQUES AND HIS SON.

CATALAN ATLAS, BY ABRAHAM CRESQUES. 14th CENTURY.