

Biographical sketches of new members of the History-Archaeology Section



Ernest Belengué 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 Valencia, in Catalonia and in the Balearic Islands. Born in Valencia in 1946, he earned a Bachelor's in Philosophy and Letters from the Universitat de València in 1968 with an Ex-

traordinary 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 Belengué 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 Belengué 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 Valencia during modern times, underscoring the fact that Valencia'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 Valencia*.

After reading his doctoral thesis, Ernest Belengué had to overcome the shock of Joan Reglà's premature death in December 1973. Belengué 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 Belengué 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 Valencia, Catalonia and the Balearic Islands, Dr Ernest Belengué 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 i 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*, *Manuscripts. Revista d'Història Moderna*, *Chronica Nova*, *Pedralbes*, *Afers. Fulls de Recerca i Pensament*, *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 Belengué 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



Ramon Pinyol was my student at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, back when we were not yet allowed to spell the name Pinyol with "ny" (the Spanish "ñ" had to be used) or Torrents with the final "t", and back when the Hispanic philology students began their degrees having taken at most perhaps a language course on the side and knowing virtually

nothing about Catalan literature. He was 19 years old back then: he had been born in Olesa de Montserrat in July 1953, where he spent most of his childhood and adolescence until he married a woman from Esparraguera and they moved to Bruc, neutral territory, to live.

As a student of both language and literature, he was well-poised to start a teaching and research career when he graduated in 1977. In 1979, this led him to become a baccalaureate teacher of Catalan language and literature, as well as a baccalaureate chair once he earned his doctorate in 1992 with a study and critical edition of the book *Pàtria* by Jacint Verdaguer. Soon thereafter, in academic year 1992-1993, he became an associate professor in the Department of Catalan Philology at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona. The following year he was appointed a professor in the Faculty of Translation, Education and the Humanities at the Universitat de Vic, and since 2007 he has also served as the director of the Verdaguer Chair of Literary Studies at the same university.

At the crucial juncture when Catalan language and literature were just being introduced into secondary education, he contributed not only as a teacher but also with his direct participation in writing solid textbooks starting virtually from scratch.

His university teaching and research have focused on 19th century literature and culture in general, and on the works of Jacint Verdaguer in particular: studying and publishing his work and their international repercussions both during Verdaguer's day and later. With many points of convergence with these topics, which are clearly reflected in the forty or so lectures and papers he has presented at congresses and symposia and their subsequent publications, Pinyol has written a host of studies on the history of translation and the reception of different authors in Catalonia in the 19th and 20th centuries.

Worth noting is his personal, steadfast participation from the Universitat de Vic in regular partnerships with Departments of Catalan Philology at other universities in the Catalan-speaking lands in the creation and subsequent activities of the platforms set up to develop the studies of the romantic century which Catalan universities were lacking. We can most notably cite the *Anuari Verdaguer* (a journal devoted to 19th century studies created in 1986), whose editorial board he was associated with from the start, and the Societat Verdaguer, created in 1990 to promote and encourage studies of the 19th century and the repercussions of Catalan literature and culture from then until today. Ramon Pinyol has participated, quite often by making scholarly contributions, to organising the eight Verdaguer colloquia (held between 1986 and 2011, and he is currently participating in the one that has been scheduled for November of next year, on "1714. Del conflicte a la història i el mite, la literatura i l'art"), the nine Jornades d'Intercanvi Cultural (cultural exchange workshops held in different sites in the Catalan-speaking lands and elsewhere, 2006-2013) and the two workshops on publishing texts prior to the norms issued by the Institut d'Estudis Catalans (Barcelona, 2007, and Vic, 2011). He has supervised three outstanding doctoral theses on topics related to Verdaguer, one read in 2012: