



Damià Pons. He was born in Campanet in 1950. Pons, a keen admirer of Blai Bonet, got his start publishing three poetry compilations between 1973 and 1988, which he merged into a single compilation in 2001 whose title is also a statement of principles: *Els mapes del desig*. Between 1984 and 1988, he was a member of the

board of directors of Obra Cultural Balear, and afterwards he was the director of *Lluc* twice, in 1994-1998 and 2004-2008, when it became the major cultural magazine from the publisher Lleonard Muntaner. In the interim, in 1995, he was elected to be a deputy in the Parliament of the Balearic Islands and appointed presiding minister of the Culture and Historical Heritage Committee of the Council of Mallorca, and between 1999 and 2003 the Regional Minister of Education and Culture of the government of the Balearic Islands. Pons not only acquitted himself admirably in his jobs but also contributed to creating new patrimony which should be properly inventoried and valued today, including the acquisition of Villalonga House in Binissalem and the creation of the foundation that bears the name of this novelist, which I was able to track quite closely. Another milestone was the creation of a cultural and shopping centre near the Biblioteca de Catalunya in Barcelona which hosts events and purveys items from the islands.

In any event, the culmination of this activity came in his work as a professor and researcher at the Universitat de les Illes Balears. Pons has concentrated his efforts on studying Mallorca at the turn of the 19th to 20th centu-

ries, and he has written articles on the day-to-day consequences of this period. He has made a global reading plan which also brings meaning to the disorder of the archives, which often have neither voice nor vote, and avoids the sweeping scenes which are perfect for everything and yet ultimately nothing. His work revolves around two engines, modernisation and renationalisation, and reflects the most vivid yet contradictory needs of the present.

He is publishing the complete works of Miquel dels Sants Oliver and he has studied the newspaper *La Almudaina* and its most important contributors in his studies *Ideologia i cultura a Mallorca d'entre els dos segles. El grup regeneracionista de "La Almudaina"* (1998) and *El diari "La Almudaina" en l'època de Miquel dels Sants Oliver* (1998). Last year, on the occasion of its 150th anniversary, he delivered many lectures, including the one offered at the Institut d'Estudis Catalans. He continued those studies with *Entre l'afirmació individualista i la desfeta col·lectiva: escriptors i idees en la Mallorca del primer terç del segle xx* (2002, Serra d'Or Critics Aware for Literary Studies, 2003), *Cultura i literatura a Mallorca entre els segles XIX i XX* (2006) and "Integració de Llorenç Riber en la cultura franquista" (*L'Avenç*, 345, April 2009). As mentioned above, he has completed this essential focus with the analysis of living literature in a series of notes and prologues which in many ways set forth guidelines for behaviour and include, among others, *Lectures i reflexions* (2006) and *Trajectes literaris: de Mateu Obrador a Baltasar Porcel* (2010).

In 2008, he was elected to be a corresponding member of the Philology Section of the IEC, and as such he is responsible for the Institute's delegation in Palma de Mallorca.

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