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Introduction and Bibliography
Donna M. Rogers

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STUDIES IN MEDIEVAL IBERIAN LITERATURE AND CULTURE IN HONOR OF DAVID J. VIERA

DONNA M. ROGERS

INTRODUCTION

The issue of *Catalan Review* you hold in your hands is a collection of essays in honor of the noted American scholar of medieval Catalonia, Dr. David J. Viera. Its genesis was a group of sessions co-sponsored by the North American Catalan Society and the Brill Academic Publishers series "The Medieval and Early Modern Iberian World," at the 41st International Congress on Medieval Studies, Western Michigan University, May 2006. Four sessions were organized by John A. Bollweg, Larry J. Simon and me, and took place over the four days of the congress, with David in attendance.

David J. Viera, a native of Providence, Rhode Island, received his B.A. from Providence College (1965) in Education and Foreign Languages. He continued his studies at the Catholic University of America, where he earned an M.A. in Spanish (1969) and a Ph.D. in Iberian Studies (1972). During his graduate student years he received diplomas from the universities of Barcelona, Lisbon, and Coimbra. A true polyglot, David speaks five languages and reads at least nine.

David is the author of over 90 publications on astonishingly diverse topics. The breadth of his research is impressive: while the majority of his publications focus on Francesc Eiximenis, he has also published essays on other major figures of medieval Catalan literature (Ramon Llull, Vicent Ferrer), on medieval Castilian, Portuguese and Italian literature and culture, as well as on 20th-century Castilian and Portuguese literature and Portuguese culture in the U.S.

During his career at the State University of New York at Geneseo and the Tennessee Technological University, David taught Spanish and Portuguese language and literature, Italian phonetics, English as a Second Language, and methods courses for language teachers. David took early retirement in 2005 due to ill health, yet he has continued to work, as he is able.

David is widely recognized as an authority on Francesc Eiximenis: he is certainly the preeminent North American scholar of Francesc Eiximenis—indeed, one of the best anywhere—and those of us who work on Eiximenis, on both sides of the Atlantic, owe him a great debt. His many studies of specific themes and figures in the works of Eiximenis have shed much light on the Franciscan's life and works.

His award-winning annotated Eiximenis bibliography has now been updated and is expected to come out this year.

Above all else, David Viera is one of the kindest, gentlest, most modest, most unfailingly helpful scholars in the field of Medieval Iberian studies. Many of us have met him on the page, or at conferences, and we were delighted that he could be with us at the Congress so that we could thank him properly for his collegiality, guidance and friendship over the years.

I invite the readers of this issue of *Catalan Review* to join the international community of David's friends and admirers. Along with many others, I owe a great debt to David, and in particular I wish to acknowledge gratefully here his bibliographical, textual and analytical work on Eiximenis over the decades of his career, which has provided us with tremendous insight into many of the unedited texts of the Eiximenian oeuvre.

Finally, I wish to thank the evaluators who read these pieces for this special issue. As well, I wish to recognize the participation in the 2006 sessions of four scholars whose excellent papers are not among those collected here, for a variety of reasons: John A. Bollweg, Alberto Ferreiro, Daniel K. Gullo and Larry J. Simon. Their distinguished work contributed greatly to the success of the sessions on Medieval Iberian Literature and Culture in Honor of David J. Viera. The bibliography that follows is current as of August 2007. Any errors or omissions are mine alone.

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DONNA M. ROGERS
DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY