A clear, determined institutional decision to showcase literature written in Catalan in Frankfurt 2007 cannot aim either to be a mirage or to conceal reality. Reality indicates that many Catalan writers have made significant contributions to the corpus of literature written in Spanish, and moreover, that the latter constitutes the bulk of the work produced by the powerful Catalan publishing industry. A decision such as this is recognition that Frankfurt, a cyclical (and also ephemeral) shop window to the international publishing world, provides us with a unique opportunity to try and correct a serious cultural anomaly within the context of the reality which is Europe: the lack of knowledge of the existence of a past literary tradition and a present tradition still very much alive today, in a Romance language which is more than eight centuries old. Frankfurt must signify the reestablishment of artistic creation in Catalan, with the latter taking its rightful place as the language of a specific culture, and also the restoration of its position as a natural, cultural force in the eyes of the international publishing community. At the same time, Frankfurt must recognise and have the will to demonstrate that this creativity, whether literary, humanistic or scientific, extends much further than just one political administration. The domain .cat is open, multiple, flexible, and crosses all borders. Frankfurt 2007 must show this to the world for a few days. The real work of restitution however, began many years ago, and will continue for a very long time to come.

E. Manzano

ON LINE

Eight centuries online

http://cultura.gencat.net/ili/literaturacatalana800/

‘800 years of Catalan Literature’ is the title of the exhibition that the Catalan Arts Institution (Institució de les Lletres Catalanes) has shown in 29 different countries over the past seven years. An elegant, summary of this introduction to eight centuries of Catalan Literature is now available in digital format. Currently in English and Catalan it will shortly be available in eight other languages including Spanish, French, Italian, Portuguese, Russian and Swedish.

Invitation to the Fair


This site, coordinated by the Ramon Llull Institute, provides introductory and updated information on the organising team, the timetable and press coverage of the Frankfurt fair. In Catalan, Spanish, English and German.

Translators, protagonists

http://www.pencatala.cat/cltd/

The PEN Catalan Committee of Translation and Linguistic Rights has an important portal focusing on the essential role of translators, which is divided into three sections: ‘Translations of Catalan Literature’, ‘Universal Literature in Catalan’ and ‘Translators’ Corner’. In Catalan, Spanish, English and German.

“Lletra” in English and Spanish

http://www.lletra.net (English)  http://www.lletra.com (Spanish)

The portal on Catalan Literature of the Open University of Catalonia (UOC), which has become a reference point on the Internet, is now also available in English and Spanish.