

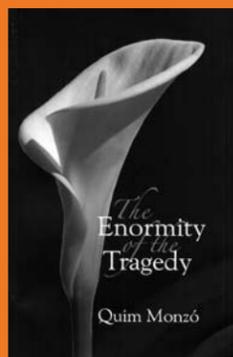
PUBLISHING NEWS



Joanot Martorell
Tirant lo Blanc

Fisher Verlag
German translation by Fritz Vogelgsang

A three-volume edition of the complete version of *Tirant lo Blanc*, one of the great medieval classics of Catalan literature and one of the original chivalresque novels. The work is full of intrigue and adventure, conspiracies and battles, with a central love story uniting the brave knight Tirant and the beautiful princess Carmesina. Medievalist Lola Badia writes: "Martorell sought to fill his book with prestigious literary information about all the things that could be of interest to the reader, taken from the most distinguished and illustrious sources of his times. He did so to flesh out the behavior of his characters and because he had an appreciative audience in mind. This audience was thirsty for literary culture, wanting both entertainment and models for acceptably cultured conversations."



Quim Monzó
La magnitud de la tragèdia
(The Magnitude of the Tragedy)

Peter Owen Publishers
English translation by Peter Bush

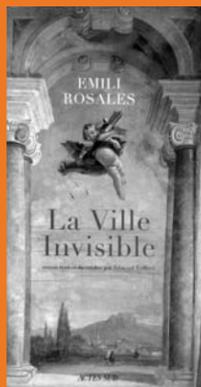
A trumpet player has finally gotten the star of the theater where he works to go out with him. During dinner, he drinks to work up some courage. He drinks too much, though, and then fears he won't be able to perform if they end up in bed. This night is the beginning of the magnitude of the tragedy for the character and also for the novel, a grotesque history full of lucid absurdities, loaded with irony and irreverence, and which treats themes as universal and essential as love, hate, loneliness, the march of time and the inevitability of death. Monzó published *La magnitud de la tragèdia* in 1983. At that time, it was a great success and has been through twenty editions in Catalan. In 2005 a new edition, revised by the author, was released. The novel has been translated into eleven languages.



Eugeni Xammar
Lou de la serp (The Snake Egg)

Berenberg Verlag
German translation by Kirsten Brandt

The journalist Eugeni Xammar arrived in Berlin during the winter of 1922. He found a Germany destroyed by World War I, and a nation where the power of Nazism was beginning to take hold. He experienced historical moments of major importance first hand, and from 1923 to 1925 coincided with Josep Pla, with whom he traveled in Bavaria and the Rhine valley. The book *Llou de la serp* collects the articles that Xammar wrote from Germany during the period 1922 to 1924. They are journalistic pieces of high, even literary quality that offer a lucid glimpse of that historic moment. Surely, Xammar is one of the outstanding names in European journalism of the first half of the twentieth century.



Emili Rosales
La ciutat invisible (The Invisible City)

Ed. Actes Sud
French translation by Edmond Raillard

In the eighteenth century, Charles III wanted to construct a city in the image of Saint Petersburg on the delta of the Ebro River, in southern Catalonia. The monarch abandoned the project without explaining why he did so. But in the beginning of the twenty-first century, an art gallery curator, Emili Rossell, finds the memoirs of the architect who planned that invisible city. It's a mystery novel, full of historical enigmas, and is a personal adventure. With this work the writer and editor Emili Rosales won one of the most prestigious literary prizes in the Catalan language, the Premi Sant Jordi, in 2004. In Catalonia the book has been a commercial success, and it has also widely awoken international interest: *La ciutat invisible* has already been translated into twenty languages, most recently to Mandarin. With this French version the book was a finalist for the Prix Médicis in 2007.



Jordi Puntí
Animals tristos (Sad Animals)

Isbn Edizioni
Italian translation by Patrizio Rigobon

Animals tristos contains six stories with today's Barcelona as a unifying nexus, and a whole mosaic of characters who are victims of the fragile balance of love and the shocks hidden by a couple's life: illusions and resentments, terrible memories and therapies against loneliness, latent failures and muffled existence. Establishing an ironic and tender gaze, Puntí paints a portrait of the sadness that inundates these characters when love is gone. A movie adaptation of the book has been made by Ventura Pons, called *Animals ferits* (Wounded Animals). The moviemaker takes as a point of departure three of the stories that appear in *Animals tristos*: *Icones russes* (Russian Icons), *Bombolles* (Bubbles), and *El gos que es llepa les feridas* (The Dog Licking His Wounds).



Llorenç Villalonga
Bearn

Piper Verlag
German translation by Jörg Koch

A German reissue of *Bearn o la sala de les nines* (Bearn or the Room of Dolls), a book that has already become a classic. Villalonga reflects poetically on passionate love and conjugal love, through the relationship of Don Toni and his niece, Dona Xima, including a scandalous escape to Paris and a later reconciliation with his wife, Dona Maria Antònia. Through the writing of his memoirs and punctuated by the reading of Proust, the protagonist wants to show that there is no other paradise than a lost paradise. The critic Jaume Vidal Alcover pointed out that this novel enters into the minute motives of daily life and surrenders to psychological study at all costs. *Bearn* has been translated into eighteen languages.

MONTSERRAT SERRA

ON STAGE

ON THE BORDER BETWEEN POETRY AND DRAMA

Years ago, Carles Santos closed one of his shows with this image: while he played the piano hysterically, the actors, without ceasing their movement on the set, constructed a wall on the edge of the stage. Brick by brick, a wall separating them from the audience was built. When the wall exceeded human height and no one could be seen from the stalls, the piano stopped.

The metaphor of the covered stage suggests various meanings, but most important is the pleasure that emerged from a show abundant with images, signs, gestures, movement. A show that did not tell a story—Carles Santos never does so—but that explained us to ourselves through perceptions: instinct, feeling and music (Santos comes from the world of classical music).

It was just a matter of time before Carles Santos would rediscover Joan Brossa, the great Catalan poet who played so much on the border between poetry and drama. Santos has always found inspiration in Brossa's rigorous imagination. Brossa lobrossot desbrossat, the title already a game, brought Brossa's world to the theater, distributed among images, music, and words. He does justice to the poet and does justice to this theatrical language—innovative, creative, metaphorical, rhythmic, impregnated with humor—that connects to the essence of human experience without awakening it, so that each spectator must answer its questions.

This is something similar to what Joan Brossa did with his visual poems, with his theatrical poems, with his strict poems. Universal and rooted, this show is pure poetry.

PATRÍCIA GABANCHO

ON LINE

Catalan Writers' Web Pages

In this edition we highlight some of the personal web pages of contemporary Catalan authors:

Vicent Alonso

<http://www.vicentalonso.com/>

Ada Castells

<http://webs.ono.com/adacastells/> (in Catalan, Spanish and English)

Joan Margarit

<http://www.joanmargarit.com/> (in Catalan, Spanish and English)

Joan-Francesc Mira

<http://www.joanfmira.info/index.php>

Quim Monzó

<http://www.monzo.info/> (in Catalan, Spanish and English)

Vicenç Pagès

<http://www.vicencpagesjorda.net/>

Francesc Serés

<http://francescseres.net/>

Màrius Serra

<http://www.mariussera.info/home/home.php> (in Catalan, Spanish, English and Italian)

These are two of the most important "collective" resources for information about Catalan authors:

AELC Authors' Web Pages

<http://www.escriptors.cat/autors.php>

For over a decade the Association of Writers in the Catalan Language (Associació d'Escriptors en Llengua Catalana; AELC) has provided a web page for its members. There are now over two hundred.

Lletra Authors

In Catalan: <http://www.uoc.edu/lletra/noms.html>

In English: <http://www.lletra.net/noms.html>

A collection of web pages about Catalan authors from the website Lletra: Catalan Literature Online (available in Catalan, Spanish, and English).

JAUME SUBIRANA