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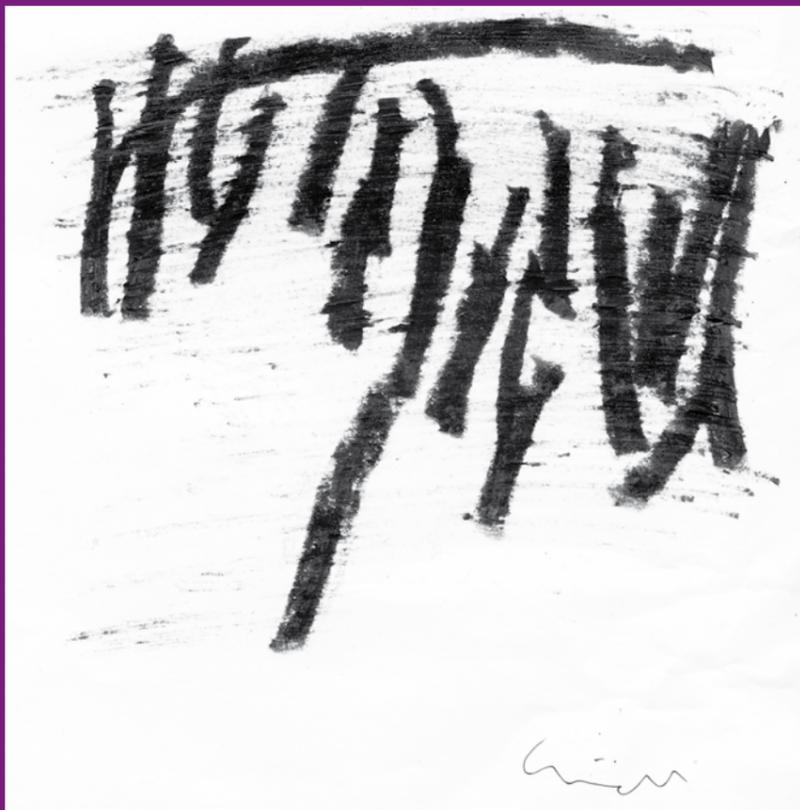
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EDITORIAL

Catalan Literary Translations after Frankfurt 2007

With the distance of time, it has become clear that being the guest of honor at the Frankfurt International Book Fair was a strong affirmation of Catalan culture by the German editors: in just one year—as a result of the translation work carried out during the prior five years—fifty-three Catalan literature titles were translated into German. The work was rigorous, making use of the whole arc of Catalan literature: medieval classics (Ramon Llull, *Tirant lo blanc*), classics of the twentieth century (Salvador Espriu, Josep Pla, Mercè Rodoreda...), many current fiction writers (Quim Monzó, Carme Riera, Albert Sánchez-Pinyol, Josep Maria

Fonalleras, Jordi Puntí...), as well as poets (Pere Gimferrer, Joan Margarit...) and works of theatre and essay were translated. The Germans discovered a literature unknown to many of them, but more significantly, they discovered it as readers. In addition, from Holland to India, Portugal to Greece, the success achieved by the German editors has spread like wildfire.

In 2008 we can verify the effect of Frankfurt 2007: the IRL has granted 81 translation subsidies. This fact clearly shows that translations into German are remaining at a good level and are increasing in other languages. In 2007, the IRL subsidized 82 translations, 13 of which were into German and 69 into other languages. In 2008, translations into German have understandably diminished, although translations remain at a good pace, with seven subsidies granted to several of the publishing houses that published Catalan literature in previous years by repeat authors, such as Maria Barbal—who published a second novel with a third on the way—, Baltasar Porcel, Teresa Solana and Sergi Pàmies, and by newly translated authors, such as Toni Sala.

A couple of cases might serve as examples of the circulation of titles and authors from country to country. Thus, the impressive success of *Les veus del Pamano*, by Jaume Cabré, in Germany (unanimous critical praise and 250,000 copies sold), came after the publication of translations in Hungarian and Spanish, and was followed by the the Dutch and Italian versions in 2007, Portuguese and Romanian in 2008, and French and Greek in 2009.

Mercè Rodoreda, in the year of her centennial, has been confirmed as a classic of European literature, widely read: *La plaça del diamant* appeared in a German paperback edition, translated into Hebrew and in a new Dutch edition in 2007, in an extraordinarily well-sold Italian edition in 2008, and translated into Sardinian in 2009. *Quanta, quanta guerra* was translated into German in 2007, and a new edition in French, together with *La mort i la primavera*, appeared in 2008.

In spring of 2009 the English version of *La mort i la primavera* was introduced in New York by a new publishing house specializing in translations (Open Letter), which represents a thaw in the language most resistant to them, English. In 2008 an extraordinary Verdager anthologues was published, and in the US and Great Britain, recent English translations of Joan Margarit, Jordi Coca, Quim Monzó, Teresa Solana and Jaume Cabré have been published. The classics collection by the New York Review of Books is translating *El quadern gris* by Josep Pla. Finally, the publication of a monograph dedicated to “New Catalan Fiction” by the prestigious *Journal of Contemporary Fiction* from the Dalkey Archives in Spring 2008 confirms the United States’ growing interest in Catalan letters.

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