

PUBLISHING NEWS



Mercè Rodoreda

La plaça del diamant (The Time of the Doves)

laNuovafrontiera
Translated into Italian by Giuseppe Tavani

Colometa's story, Mercè Rodoreda's most popular and oft-translated novel, is reborn in Italian—with unprecedented success, according to the publisher laNuovafrontiera. The 25,000 copies sold in two months placed it on the list of the most well sold foreign literature books. Its commercial success has been accompanied by critical blessing from the principal communication media of the country. The Rodoreda phenomenon in Italy coincides with the centennial of the writer's birth. *La plaça del diamant* was published for the first time in Italy in 1970 and again in 1992. The present edition incorporates a new translation undertaken by Giuseppe Tavani. For laNuovafrontiera, *La plaça del diamant* leads off a series of editions of Rodoreda's most outstanding titles, among which are included *El carrer de les camèlies* (Camellia Street) and *Jardí vora el mar* (Garden by the Sea).



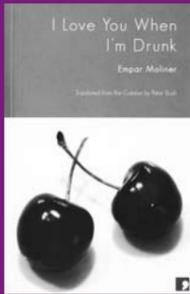
Josep Pla

Nocturn de primavera (Noapte de primăvară; Spring Nocturne)

Bucharest: RAO
Translated into Romanian by Anca Bărbulescu and Joan Llinàs Suau

Nocturn de primavera is one of Josep Pla's few incursions into fiction during the course of his very extensive oeuvre. The novel is set in a town of the Empordà (it could be Palafrugells or also La Bisbal d'Empordà, which Pla calls Vilaplana), where an important banker gathers the town's most distinguished citizens to celebrate his daughter's wedding. The celebration becomes the backdrop against which the tensions that dominate this small society are made visible. Pla paints a clear portrait of the country and, in a way, the human condition. *Nocturn de primavera* appeared from the publisher Selecta in 1953, but years later was lengthened and restructured by the author and appeared thusly in the 1972 Complete Works. Three years ago,

the writer Baltasar Porcel and the publisher Destino recovered the first edition of the novel to commemorate the twenty-five years since Josep Pla's death. The Romanian translator has chosen the second version, the one that Pla rewrote.



Empar Moliner

T'estimo si he begut (I Love You When I'm Drunk)

Comma Press
Translated into English by Peter Bush

T'estimo si he begut contains thirteen stories that portray situations of strictly contemporary life with irony and humor. They are everyday situations carried to the limit, portraits of modern life that range from comical to bitter, written with a style as rigorous as it is impudent, employing fresh, direct language. Moliner makes rigorous use of humor to denounce certain behaviors. The author speaks of a feminist group that organizes a talk against discrimination; of a man who gets angry with his boyfriend after dreaming that he has caught him in bed with another; of a couple who attend a course required for adoptive parents... Empar Moliner's bibliography includes stories as well as novels and opinion

articles. She is a "media savvy" writer, known to a wider audience for her participation in various radio and television programs. *T'estimo si he begut* won the Lletra d'Or Prize.



Anonymous

Llibre de Sent Soví (The Book of Sent Soví: Medieval Recipes from Catalonia)

Translated into English by Robin Vogelzang

The *Llibre de Sent Soví* is the oldest book of medieval recipes known to exist in Catalan. Tamesis Books has published the English edition, based on a version edited by Joan Santanach, who modernized the spelling in order to make this valuable volume more approachable to a wider public. Santanach based his version on the only manuscript that exists, a copy made in the fifteenth century and currently at the Historical Library of the University of Valencia. This gastronomic treatise is believed to have been compiled towards the first half of the fourteenth century, but the compiler remained anonymous, as the result of successive interventions. Santanach says that the recipe books was seen as a practical text, a working tool at the disposition of cooks who, while using it, included new

procedures, left out recipes or added notes about certain aspects of the dishes. The *Llibre de Sent Soví* demonstrates that the Catalan culinary tradition is a long one. Already a vibrant force during the old Crown of Aragon, this tradition continues to the current moment of great prestige for Catalan cuisine in the world. Tamesis Books (a branch of Boydell & Brewer), according to an agreement with the publisher Barcino, is internationalizing the medieval Catalan classics: they have already published an anthology of Ausiàs March and the chronicles of Ramon Muntaner in English, as well as works of Ramon Llull and Francesc Eiximenis.



Teresa Solana

Drecera al paradís (Shortcut to Paradise)

Editorial Piper
Translated into German by Petra Zickmann

This is the second volume of satirical murder mysteries whose main characters are the occasional detectives Eduard and Pep, twin brothers, created by Teresa Solana. The first book, *Un crim imperfect* (An Imperfect Crime), Solana's first work, had a warm welcome from the Catalan public, was distinguished with the Brigada 21 Prize, and was translated into several languages, including German (as well as Spanish, Italian, French and English), to coincide with the 2007 Frankfurt Book Fair, with more than 12,000 copies sold. The publisher Piper has championed this author by translating her second mystery novel. *Drecera al paradís*' story begins with the murder of a well-known and best-selling writer at Barcelona's

Ritz Hotel, on the same night that she wins a prestigious literary prize. A frustrated writer with a strange alibi is accused of the crime: at the exact time of the murder, the writer in question is attacked by a translator who finds himself in a dire economic situation. In this novel Teresa Solana infiltrates the miseries of Barcelona's literary world. "I could care less about a certain attitude in literature and I denounce situations like those of translators, who often live badly on very low salaries."



Emili Teixidor

Pa negra (Black Bread)

Ed. Castanotis
Translated into Greek by Caterina Tzoridu

Halfway between memoir and fiction, the story revolves around Andreu, a boy who lives in central Catalonia in the most crucial years of the post-war. He is child of the losing side: his father, a man of firm Republican ideals, is in prison, and his mother has to work in a factory. Andreu lives in the farmhouse with some relatives, caught between a childhood about to become adolescence, space of life's initiation, and a world of adults, which he senses is full of secrets and fear. When the novel was published in 2003, it was immediately successful among critics and the public, for the language employed and its narrative construction. Emili Teixidor (Roda de Ter, Osona, 1934) has an extensive and successful

literary career. He has written children's and youth literature and personal essay, habitually appears in the media, and has written television and movie scripts. With *Pa negra* he won the National Literature Prize, the Lletra d'Or prize, the Crexells award and the Maria Angels Anglada award, all for published work.

MONTSERRAT SERRA

LITERARY SOCIETY

THE BERNAT METGE COLLECTION

The Bernat Metge collection is one of the most outstanding cultural initiatives of the twentieth century in Catalonia. Instituted in 1923 by Francesc Cambó, and sustained to this day by his heirs, the Bernat Metge numbers among the most select collections of the world, offering a bilingual edition of the works of Greek and Roman authors, the original text edited, translated and annotated with philological rigor. Because of these characteristics, and its long history, this Catalan collection is probably only comparable on an international level to the Loeb Classical Library (available since 1911 in the Anglo-Saxon world) and the Budé (the Collection des Universités de France published, since 1920, by the Association Guillaume Budé).

During the course of more than eighty-five years of history, the Bernat Metge collection has published 368 volumes; thus, it has made great strides in its attempt to make the written legacy of the classics (literary, historical, philosophical, scientific, and other types of works) available to the cultured Catalan reader. Fortunately, there is still a lot of material left to cover. One avenue for exploration is to increase the availability of old titles, which in itself constitutes an essential asset in contemporary Catalan culture.

For this reason the Institut Cambó, which is the owner of the Bernat Metge collection, and Grup 62, an irrefutable reference in current Catalan publishing, have reached an agreement. The combined effort of both entities has already begun to bear fruit. Just a few weeks ago fifty selected titles from the Bernat Metge collection began to be distributed at newsstands. At the moment, the idea has been warmly welcomed, and this suggests an optimistic outlook for new initiatives planned by the Institut Cambó and Grup 62 in order to spread the classical heritage among the largest possible number of readers.

FRANCESC GUARDANS I XAVIER MALLAFRÉ

ON LINE Medieval Literature

The Llibre dels feyts of Jaume I

<http://www.lafactoria.eu/EILlibreDelsFeyts/>

A recent digital production that allows computer users to see, read and listen to one of the great Catalan royal chronicles, written in 1343.

RIALC

<http://www.riale.unina.it/>

This "repertorio informatizzato dell'antica letteratura catalana" of the the University of Naples "Federico II" is a true archeological site that provides direct access to the corpus of medieval poetry in Catalan. Won the 2001 Lletra Prize for the best digital initiative in Catalan literature.

Llull DB

<http://www.llull.cat/>

The Ramon Llull Institute is the official body responsible for the exterior promotion of Catalan Culture. It subsidizes translations from Catalan to other languages, and organizes periodic events for the promotion of Catalan works and authors at international fairs and festivals. In Catalan, Spanish and English.

NARPAN

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

Defined as a "Catalan Literary and Cultural Space," this web page provides access to the work of the most important university research team on literature and culture in the Low Middle Ages.

Literatura catalana medieval (Medieval Catalan Literature)

<http://www.editorialuoc.com/literaturacatalanamedieval/>

These course materials from the Open University of Catalonia (UOC), provided by professor Albert Soler, present an original multimedia journey through the authors and texts of the period.

Textos medievales catalans (Medieval Catalan Texts)

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

A joint web page of various collections to disseminate editions of texts and studies of medieval Catalan writings. In Catalan, Spanish and English.

JAUME SUBIRANA