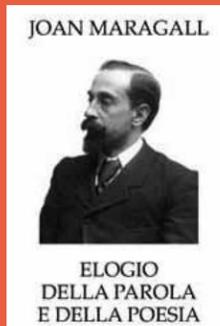


PUBLISHING NEWS



Joan Maragall

Elogi de la paraula, Elogi de la poesia, Cant espiritual (Eulogy of the Word, Eulogy of Poetry, Spiritual Chant)

Tullio Pironti Editore

Translated into Italian by Nancy De Benedetto

A modern intellectual and poet-thinker, Joan Maragall was a contemporary of Matisse, Klimt, Gide, Valery, Nietzsche, Conrad, Freud, Einstein and Mahler among others. Like them, he redefined a series of concepts that had become lacking in content towards the start of the 20th century, such as beauty, art, inspiration, words, song and rhythm. The Joan Maragall Year is currently being held to commemorate a hundred and fifty years since his birth and the centenary of his death (1861-1911). The Maragall Year has enabled the celebration of the First International Congress of Joan Maragall at the University of Barcelona, the publication of several studies of his work, the organisation of an exhibition and many more popular activities all over the country. It has also been possible to advance a great deal in the critical edition of his *Obra*

Completa (Complete Works), which will begin publication in the coming year. In the context of the internationalisation of the figure of Joan Maragall, this outstanding book from the Italian publishers Tullio Pironti includes two fundamental essays in the work of Maragall and one of his most emblematic poems. This publication has an introduction by the specialist Francesco Ardolino.



Lluïsa Cunillé

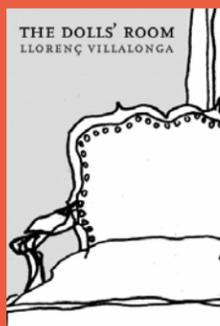
Barcelona, mapa d'ombres (Barcelona, a Map of Shadows)

Éditions de l'Amandier

Translated into French by Laurent Gallardo

If there is a literary genre that enjoys good health in the field of translation in Catalonia, it is drama. One generation of Catalan playwrights succeeds another and the quality of their work and the singular personality of their authors remains. In this context, Lluïsa Cunillé (Badalona, 1961) dazzles in a special way. *Barcelona, mapa d'ombres* (Barcelona, a Map of Shadows) is one of the most well-known and award winning plays by the author. It was first staged in 2004, it was distinguished with the City of Barcelona Award and, in 2007, the film director Ventura Pons adapted the play for the screen under the title of *Barcelona (un mapa)* (Barcelona. A Map). The plot: one summer night, an elderly couple talk to each of the sub-lessees that live in their home, a flat in l'Eixample in Barcelona, with the intention of getting the tenants out in order to be alone for the time there is left to be together. Everyone, the leasers and the sub-lessees, are trying

to survive in a city that turned its back on them long ago. This book also includes the play *La màquina de parlar* (The Speaking Machine) by Victoria Spunzberg (Buenos Aires, 1973), who has lived in Catalonia since 1977. Both texts played a leading role in the cycle *Tanta Explorations* in Paris theatres in the autumn of 2009.



Llorenç Villalonga

Bearn o La sala de les nines (The Dolls' Room)

Catalan Literature Series

Dalkey Archives Press

Translated into English by Deborah Bonner

John O'Brien, the publishing director of the North American Dalkey Archive Press, has begun printing the collection Catalan Literature Series. The aim of this collection is to present modern classics of Catalan fiction translated into English, the first volume of which is *Bearn o La sala de les nines* (The Dolls' Room) by Llorenç Villalonga. The editor has also announced the imminent appearance of one of the works of the Majorcan writer Miquel Bauçà. The publishing house intends to print two books a year. In addition, the Dalkey Archive Press has introduced the writer Mercè Ibarz in their anthology *Best European Fiction*, edited by the Bosnian writer Aleksandar Hemon and published once a year (<http://www.dalkeyarchive.com/info?fa=text162>).

The interest shown by this North American company in Catalan literature became clear in 2009, when they brought out the short story anthology *New Catalan Fiction*.



Xavi Sarrià

Histories del Paradís (Stories from Paradise)

Txalaparta Editorial

Translated into Castilian by Roger Sarrià

Xavi Sarrià, the young singer and guitarist of the group Obrint Pas from Valencia, made his debut in the literary field with this piece of work, consisting of twenty-two stories set in a series of places all over the world: a terrified youngster in Finland, hiding in a cupboard while one of his classmates fires madly along the high school corridors; a trapeze artist, who hides the bruises made by her husband in their quarrels, balancing up high on the rope that separates her from the abyss. Written in a variety of narrative techniques and driven by a strong social commitment, these stories are designed to have a thought provoking effect on society. The stories share their subject matter with the songs on the disc *Benvinguts al Paradís* (Welcome to Paradise) by Obrint Pas. Xavi Sarrià has two blogs: www.obrintpas.cat and his personal one <http://blocs.mesvilaweb.cat/xavisarria>.



Josep Maria Quintana

Els Nikolaidis (The Nikolaidis)

Published by Lagoudera

Translated into Greek by Avgi Sarafi

The writer Josep M. Quintana (Alaior, Menorca, 1950) delves into the story of a family of Greek origin, who settle in Mahon in the 18th century during the British occupation of the island, and how they come to gain wealth and power. Josep M. Quintana has a degree in Law and works as a professional property registrar. It is from his experience in this area that he gave an account of the present great families in Menorca, shaped in the 18th century. At that time, Mahon was a crossroads of peoples and religions, a town in the throes of transformation that turned into the capital of the island. Quintana explains that while researching, he came across the Ladikos family who arrived on the island in the 18th century and, who unlike other families belonging to the Greek colony, stayed on the island, bought up the property of all their fellow countrymen, married a son to a local

girl who helped him become Mayor of Mahon and later a royal senator. In turn, the son of the mayor achieved the position of republican senator and minister in the government of the First Republic. Quintana creates an incredible fictional story of this family. Josep Maria Quintana has a personal blog: <http://quintanapetrus.com>.



Flàvia Company

L'illa de l'última veritat (The Island of the Ultimate Truth)

Bloomsbury Verlag, Berlin

Translated into German by Kirsten Brandt

Doctor Prendel is a mysterious, elusive character who no one has known anything about for five years. Pirates had attacked his boat and sunk it. He says nothing about this event that turned his world upside down until he is on his deathbed. For Prendel has been able to live with his secret, but he cannot die with it. With references such as Conrad, Stevenson and Sánchez Piñol, Flàvia Company composes an adventure novel which reaches far beyond this genre, reflecting on construction of identity, on how we act before others and on how much truth there is in everything.

MONTSERRAT SERRA

NARRATIVE ON STAGE

The history of cinema is plentiful in narrative adaptations for the screen. Many great works from universal literature have undergone such transformation, which as a result has opened up access to a far greater public. We have frequently seen how the adaptation of a novel for the cinema has converted it into a best seller. This may not be so habitual in the theatre, but we cannot overlook the fact that there have been equally valuable and popular narrative arrangements for the stage.

Catalan literature has enjoyed good adaptations of major narrative sources, carried out with the greatest respect, thus contributing to the diffusion of the authors and their production or simply offering a different perspective to reading. A contemporary work which has been adapted for the theatre twice in a relatively short space of time is the novel *Pedra de tartera* (Stone in a Landslide), Maria Barbal's first book and the most outstanding *long seller* in Catalan contemporary literature. Over a period of twenty five years, the novel has been through 60 editions and has renewed its reading public across generations. Six years after it came out, in 1991, the novel underwent its first transformation for the theatre by Joaquim Vilà-Folch, published by Edicions 62, and has been continuously performed ever since by a variety of amateur theatre groups. As recently as last April, the play was staged in Germany for the first time, at the Meiningen Festival, translated by Heike Nottebaum and directed by Jan Steinbach.

In Catalonia, as a tribute to the 25th anniversary of the novel's publication, The National Theatre of Catalonia programmed its staging last winter, in a new dramatised adaptation written for the occasion by Marc Rosich and directed by Lourdes Barba. The success it received from enthusiastic audiences prolonged its performances in The National Theatre, and in spring it was restaged at The Romea Theatre in Barcelona. Currently on tour, it is still booked to play in thirty different theatres throughout Catalonia. The respect given to the essence of the novel in both adaptations is the characteristic of the two versions, one quite different from the other, and this has contributed to making a fundamental work of Catalan literature known to audiences who are sometimes not readers. *Pedra de tartera* (Stone in a Landslide) has been translated into 15 languages and in Germany alone it has been reedited a number of times and sold over 200 000 copies.

CARME ARENAS

ON LINE Literature & Audiovisuals

Four years later

<http://www.buchmesse.de/en/>

A look at the digital heritage from the presence of Catalan culture as guest of honour at the Frankfurt Buchmesse in 2007.

A web-sum-up

<http://www.frankfurt2007.cat/@eng/home>

The vastly extensive programme of activities, exhibitions and guests of Catalan culture at the Frankfurt Fair in October 2007, has been compiled on a specific web-memorandum. Available in Catalan, Spanish, English and German.

800 years on Internet

<http://cultura.gencat.net/ilc/literaturacatalana800>

Audiovisual exhibition that offers a panoramic summary of the history of Catalan literature, with specific versions in eleven different languages.

The writers speak

<http://www.vilaweb.tv>

VilaWebTV hosts (in open) the series *La Paraula Viva* (The Living Word), around twenty recorded interviews with some of the most outstanding Catalan writers who were guests at Frankfurt.

What has been translated? (TRAC)

http://www.llull.cat/_cat/_eines/trac_cerca.cfm?seccio=eines&subseccio=trac#.

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The Ramon Llull Institute web holds the TRAC database, which enables agile consultation on what books and authors in Catalan literature have been translated and into what languages. Available in Catalan, Spanish and English.

Què llegeixes? (What are you reading?)

<http://www.quellegeixes.cat>

Què llegeixes? (What are you reading?) is the most important initiative for the promotion of reading currently functioning in Catalonia. It has over 10 000 participants and works as a digital space, created within the programme of preparation and accompaniment for the Catalan presence at the Frankfurt Fair.

JAUME SUBIRANA