



**FIDORA, Alexandre i TRENC, Eliseu (eds.)** *2n Col·loqui europeu d'estudis catalans, vol. 1: La recepció de la literatura catalana medieval a Europa.* Centre d'études et de recherches catalanes. Université Montpellier III / Association Française des Catalanistes. 265 pp. ISBN: 9 782878 024272.



**CAMPS, Christian i ROSER i PUIG, Montserrat (eds.)** *2n Col·loqui europeu d'estudis catalans, vol. 2: La intertextualitat a la literatura de la postguerra fins avui.* Centre d'études et de recherches catalanes. Université Montpellier III / Association Française des Catalanistes. 2007. 502 pp. ISBN: 9 782878 024289.

As the title indicates, these two handsomely turned out volumes constitute the proceedings from the successful II European Conference on Catalan Studies held in Béziers in January 2006. The thematic approach adopted corresponds closely to the habitual framework in this area with a division falling naturally between the two exceptional eras of dynamism in this discipline: the medieval and the modern periods. The first volume, which concerns itself with the former, perhaps has the easier task in terms compilation given the fact that the great figures of the age are all well known. As such, the focus falls naturally on the familiar creative geniuses of Llull, Eiximenis and March as well as celebrated texts like the Chronicles, *Curial* and the *Tirant*.

Nonetheless, the consistency of the international dimension is to be applauded as evinced by the historical essay on the threat presented to the Byzantine Empire by the Catalan Great Company and the four articles dealing precisely with Llull in the European context: translations of his work, his reception in Italy and Poland and the reflection on his contribution by Nicolau de Cusa. These are then

followed by studies on the appreciation of Catalan literature in Hungary and the Czech-speaking territories with the relation to France duly represented by thoughts on the translations of the *Llibre dels Fets*, the *Llibre dels àngels* and Buchon's nineteenth-century edition of Muntaner's *Crònica*. A pair of articles consider appropriately the European-wide reception of March, the *Tirant* and *Curial* with a couple of more precise essays on March's troubadour idiom, the Latin tradition as exemplified by the *Llibre dels àngels* and, intriguingly, the dimension of medieval Catalan language and literature as reflected by George Sand in her work of 1841, *Un hiver au Midi de l'Europe*. In this way the academic quality of the contributions is enhanced appreciably by the consistency of the thematic purpose.

As might be expected, the second volume on the topic of intertextuality in the modern period could not possibly aspire to such investigative concision given the amazing proliferation of authors over the past century and the theoretical actuality and preponderance of this line of enquiry for both creative artists and critics alike. Nonetheless, the vivacity of the speculation across a wide spectrum of artistic modes is to be applauded. Fiction is covered variously - and interestingly - with studies on Aritzeta, Gimferrer, Serra, Capmany, Maria-Antònia Oliver, Perucho, Jaume Fuster, Villalonga, Rodoreda, Isa Tròlec and Moncada together with a more general reflection on this aspect of the experimental prose of the 1970s and 1980s. Verse is represented with articles on Gimferrer, Duarte, foreign language quotations and collages in poetry of the Franco period and intertextuality in the verse composed around the end of the dictatorship. Essays on the theatre consider Benet i Jornet, Belbel, Espriu and the *teatre document*. Finally, one of the most impressive areas deals with the interaction of various art forms and genres, as music in the novels of Moret and Roig, mail art, poetry and painting in Isabel-Clara Simó, Antoni Miró, Ràfols Casmada and Brossa and Tàpies. Other more generalised surveys combine to make this volume a lively and dynamic re-appraisal of this topic from a variety of interesting angles.

In conclusion, the editors are to be thanked for providing us with these proceedings which evince the broad gamut of interest and

interpretation which Catalan culture enjoys internationally at the present moment - from the depth and specificity of the medieval period to the intensity and breadth of approach to things more contemporary.

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