

Foreword

Just like the first two issues of our journal, this third one is devoted to offering assessments of state-of-the-art knowledge on the overarching issues in the history of the Catalan-speaking lands. Catalan is a Romance language derived from Latin, and this indicates that Rome's domination of the territory exerted an important and lasting influence through its cities, either new or restructured. For this reason, the first article in this issue examines the earliest Roman cities in what is today Catalonia, covering most of the *Conventus Tarraconensis*, and it shares the archaeological knowledge available as of today. In a forthcoming issue, there will be an article to complement this one devoted to the same topic but covering the territory that is today the region of Valencia.

Just like in other European countries, the origins of Catalonia today can be found in the feudalism of the 10th to 11th centuries. Thus, the second article in this issue is devoted to this important subject. The author examines the debates on the concept of feudalism and its application in mediaeval Catalonia, where the feudal institutions had their own autochthonous roots, albeit ones which bore some similarities to the feudalism in other European countries. This is a very broad topic that with many different aspects that shall be examined in articles to appear in future issues of the *Catalan Historical Review*.

We devoted an article in the first issue to the figure of Raymond Lully. Continuing in this vein, here we offer a study on the *prosists* writing in Catalan from the 14th and 15th centuries. At that time, the vernacular was reaching an early state of maturity before other European nations, even though at the dawn of what is now called the humanistic Renaissance, Latin not only continued to enjoy prestige as an international language of culture but was also gaining a new impetus with better knowledge of the ancient classics. From the oeuvre of Bernat Metge to the chivalric novels, this period witnessed a sweeping spread of Catalan prose that had been launched by the great chronicles from the 13th and 14th centuries.

The Catalan political institutions which structured society and showed a great deal of autonomy in the Principality of Catalonia and the kingdoms of Valencia, Mallorca and Aragon were abolished after the Catalan defeat by the absolutism of the first King of the House of Bourbon, Philip V, a French monarch, after a bloody war. The conflict took place between 1705 and 1714 as part of the Europe-wide conflagration: the War of the Spanish Succession. There is a raft of literature on this war on the Iberian Peninsula, and on its origins, development and consequences. In this issue, we are offering a comprehensive overview written by one of the experts on the topic, as

all the other articles in this issue are. The Principality of Catalonia and the kingdoms of Valencia and Mallorca were converted into Spanish provinces stripped of their own institutions due to the force of weapons, not to the will of their inhabitants.

With regard to art history, there is no doubt that Surrealism ushered in a number of great Catalan figures, and that the works by artists who adhered to this movement are among the most famous in the world. For this reason, the subject of Surrealism earned a survey in this issue, although it is not limited to the persona and oeuvre of Salvador Dalí and Joan Miró, but includes other valuable artists.

Anarchism played an important role in the political and social history of Catalonia and Valencia – and to a lesser extent the Balearic Islands – in the 19th and 20th centuries, more than in other Latin countries. For this reason, this issue offers a summary of the extensive literature that research into this topic has generated, so extensive that it has been divided into two parts. The first part, which appears in this issue, covers the last third of the 19th century until the change in Spain's political regime in 1931. The second article slated to appear in a later issue will cover from the 1930s until the Civil War, when the influence of the anarchists, in their diverse strands, reached its peak with the revolution unleashed in 1936 over the failed coup d'état on the 19th of July.

The cover of this issue reproduces a fragment from an historical engraving depicting the French-Spanish troops' final assault on the wall of Barcelona in September 1714 through the breaches in the wall on the northeast part of the city's fortified perimeter. This work is by Jacint Rigau-Ros (1659-1743), the famous chamber painter and portraitist of Louis XIV. The artist, known to the French as Hyacinthe Rigaud, was a Catalan from Perpignan. The monarch commissioned him to draw the successive phases of the siege of Barcelona as an example – among other possible ones – of the military technique used to lay siege to and assault a fortified city. Every engraving comes with a completely aseptic explanation in French at the base, and the title of this one is "The Assault on the Main Body of the Square".

We wish to express our appreciation for the numerous papers we have received from recipients and readers of this journal. Each printed issue is sent to 400 national, university and academic libraries all over the world. We also wish to note that our journal has been included in the bibliographic database DICE (Dissemination and Editorial Quality of Spanish Humanities, Social Sciences and Legal Journals), the outcome of a cooperation agreement between the Spanish National Research Council (CSIC)

and the National Quality Assessment and Accreditation Agency (ANECA), the entity that uses it as an editorial quality reference in its faculty assessment processes.

This journal is also indexed in such important bibliographic databases as RACO, the Catalan database containing more than 274 journals; the University of Rioja's DIALNET, which has 5,685 journals indexed; FECYT (Spanish Foundation for Science and Technology), with 2,480 journals; DOAJ (Directory of Open Access Journals), managed by the University of Lund (Sweden), which contains 5,149 journals; and LATINDEX (National University of Mexico), which contains more than 18,000 journals. On the electronic version, there have been more than 7,500 downloads of our articles in PDF format. This

is a highly satisfactory figure for a new scientific journal that examines a small geographic area without a state of its own, although the area is historiographically rich and accomplished and encompasses a time span of over two millennia.

Finally, we wanted to inform readers that the Catalan Historical Review is the first journal put out by the Institut d'Estudis Catalans that has a blog as a channel of communication with its international readers, and its own page on Facebook, where everyone who wishes is encouraged to participate.

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