

In Memoriam

Joan F. Cabestany (1930-2013)*



Joan F. Cabestany (Barcelona 1930-2013) was a mediaeval historian, university professor (1964-1985), archivist at the History Archive of the city of Barcelona (1961-1974 and 1990-1995), director of the History Museum of the City of Barcelona (1987-1990), president of the Santes Creus Bibliographic Archive (1995-2001), director of the Catalan Romanesque Art Centre (since 1985) and member of the Institut d'Estudis Catalans. His scholarly output focused primarily on the mediaeval history of the city of Barcelona, monastic history and Catalan Romanesque art history.

Trained alongside Jaume Vicens i Vives, he contributed to the collective work *Biografies catalanes* with a study on the life and political acts of Alfonso the Chaste (1960) and to Vicens i Vives' *Índice Histórico Español*. He also published studies on Catalan demographics and urban planning in the late Middle Ages, using the 14th century hearth taxes as his source of documentation. His studies on the geography of the properties of Poblet in the 14th century (1966), on the territorial property of Santes Creus in the same century (1970) and on the economic and social topography of Barcelona were pioneers when they were published and served as models for later, more detailed studies on these subjects.

Regarding the history of Barcelona, his studies examined subjects such as the lists of prominent citizens (1962); the list of registered merchants between 1479 and 1696 (1964); the *privilegi fundacional* of the workers in 1301 (1964); the royal letters addressed to Barcelona between 1269 and 1479 (1966); the master shoemakers and the brotherhood of Saint Mark in the 14th century (1967); the construction of the port of Barcelona in the 15th century (1972), in conjunction with J. Sobrequés i Callicó; the impoverishment of Santa Maria del Pi between 1401 and 1428 (1973), in conjunction with Salvador Claramunt; the creation of the post of magistrate (*mostassà*) (1974); and

the barony of Elche and Crevillent in the region of Valencia (1981), in conjunction with J. Sobrequés i Callicó.

A very important part of Cabestany's scholarly output examined topics related to the political and economic life of Catalonia within the Mediterranean. We should mention what can be regarded as some of his most important scholarly works in this field, including the one examining the economic situation of the Catalans in Càller in 1328 (1959); the archive of the Consulate of the Sea (1964); Barcelona's purchase of wheat from Sicily (1965); the overview on the Catalan expansion in the Mediterranean (1967); the Catalan overseas consulate in Beirut and Damascus from 1340 to 1405 (1974); and Jacques Coeur, a rival to Catalan trade (1974), along with other lesser works that, nonetheless, always brought some new document to light.

Much of Cabestany's effort as a historian focused on Catalan monastic life, especially but not exclusively in the monasteries of Santes Creus and Poblet. The following studies belong to this chapter of his output: a privilege in favour of Santes Creus (1962); Santes Creus and the Battle of Ponsa (1965); the Abbot Hug II of Santes Creus (1969); Bernat Escuder, a convert from Poblet in 1185 (1970); the prior of Sant Jeroni de la Murtra in the 15th century (1973); and the economy of the Valldonzella monastery in the 14th century (1974).

Although I mentioned it generically above, I would particularly like to highlight a study based on the hearth taxes in which Cabestany clarified several aspects of Barcelona's mediaeval urban planning. I am referring to "Els fogatges, font per a l'estudi de la topografia econòmica i social de la Barcelona del segle XIV", published in *Actes del VIII Congrés d'Història de la Corona d'Aragó*, II-1, Valencia, 1969, pp. 133-140.

Cabestany devoted his later years to studies on Romanesque art. He did so as a historian both individually and in conjunction with others, as well as in the capacity of the promoter and driving force behind others' studies. This somehow marked a pivotal point in his career.

Cabestany, with whom I spent many years at the History Archive of the City of Barcelona working in the same office in the Sala Toda, had a positivist motivation, with the archive document as the basic source in his studies. He had gained outstanding knowledge of mediaeval palaeography and this often led him to support the researchers who came to work at Ca l'Ardiaca, where he spent the best years of his professional life.

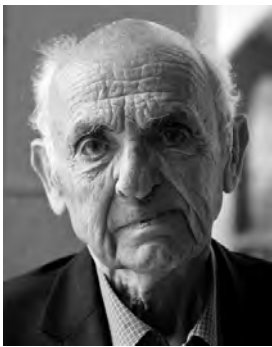
Beyond all scholarly considerations, as a friend Cabestany deserves my gratitude for the deferential, friendly

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way he welcomed me when in the late 1960s I started to work in the archive where he, as a mediaevalist, was the most prominent member. We met up again when, under the impetus of Ramon Aramon i Serra, we spearheaded (1969-1973 [1996]) the *Estudis d'Història Medieval* devoted to Ferran Soldevila on the occasion of his 75th birthday, which was published by the Catalan Society of History Studies, an affiliate of the Institut d'Estudis Catalans. During those years, Cabestany and myself worked

together to move the *Estudis* forward, and we did so in conjunction with Carme Batlle, Maria Mercè Costa, Maria Teresa Ferrer i Mallol, Josep M. Font i Rius, Anscari M. Mundó and Manuel Riu. Today's tribute should be signed by two entities, which are somehow one and the same: the Catalan Society of History Studies, where he worked during difficult years, and the History-Archaeology Section of the Institut d'Estudis Catalans, which is publishing this biography in tribute to him today.

Jürgen Untermann (1928-2013)*



Jürgen Untermann, born in Rehinfieldem, Baden, on the 24th of October 1928, died at his home in Braunweiler on the 7th of September 2013. His death marks the end of an entire era in the consolidation of the field to which he devoted his entire life, primarily Indo-European linguistics, Italic languages, palaeo-Hispanic studies and an aspect that should

not be forgotten in his scholarly and life's work: classical philology, to which he remained eternally faithful.

Trained at the University of Tübingen under the tutelage and supervision of the eminent Indo-Europeanist Hans Krahe, he inherited from his master an extraordinary capacity for synthesis and organisation and taxonomy of the most complicated and widely debated linguistic issues, yet he did so with humility and common sense, a far cry from the arrogance that sometimes characterises those who do so successfully, as Untermann did. With his doctorate in hand, in 1959 he also he earned his *Habilitation* in Tübingen under the supervision of the no less illustrious Ulrich Schmoll.

A unique insight in detecting problems and framing possible solutions was coupled with an exceptional work capacity that enabled him not only to simultaneously cultivate different research fields but also to devote part of his time to his extended family, his disciples, who soon became friends, motivated by the bonhomie that Jürgen Untermann always displayed, along with his personal and scholarly generosity. Practically the entire large band of palaeo-Hispanicists on the Iberian Peninsula had the chance to experience this in both Germany and in the course of his journeys around Spain taken by Jürgen Untermann and his inseparable wife, Bertha, who collaborated actively in transcribing the epigraphic documents

on the ground. Until Bertha's death, the Untermans were a constant fixture at all the colloquia on palaeo-Hispanic studies, and they were wont to pop in at any time at the homes of his countless friends during his long research trips around the land. At this point, we should recall the close friendship that he shared with Pere Vegué, for many years the director of the Gabinet Numismàtic (Coin Collection) of Catalonia, and his family, as well as with Leandre Villaronga, whom he had granted an honorary doctoral degree at the University of Cologne. Precisely at the tribute in honour of Villaronga, Untermann wrote an article published in Catalan: "Intercanvi epistolar en un plom ibèric?" (Barcelona 1993, pp. 93-100).

The Untermans' eyes lit up when they spoke about both their friends and their Spanish disciples, whom they had often even welcomed into their home. The long after-dinner discussions with them in Barcelona were a stream of recollections as well as inquiries into the activities of their acquaintances and a constant, deliberate insistence on paying special attention to those who were just starting out. They rarely spoke about themselves, and when they did they immediately and discreetly redirected the conversation towards future projects with contagious zeal, asking the opinions of those who, like myself both then and now, were so much less familiar with the things they were studying than they were. But Untermann had an extraordinary ability to get people on board and at the same time make you feel like an accomplice in his undertakings. After Bertha's passing, Ulla accompanied him in his later years, becoming beloved as well with her friendliness and the devotion with which she followed Untermann's interests.

During his active academic life he cultivated many fields, even though palaeo-Hispanic studies was the subject that earned him renown and brought him often to the Iberian Peninsula. A brief glance at Untermann's publications in these other fields is an illuminating way to capture the universality of his cultivation of the ancient world.

This versatility, which stemmed from his solid classical education, enabled him to write important works in many different fields, such as *Wörterbuch des Oskisch-Um-*

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