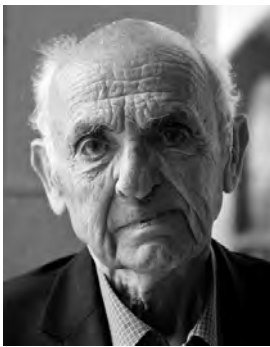


way he welcomed me when in the late 1960s I started to work in the archive where he, as a mediaevalist, was the most prominent member. We met up again when, under the impetus of Ramon Aramon i Serra, we spearheaded (1969-1973 [1996]) the *Estudis d'Història Medieval* devoted to Ferran Soldevila on the 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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brischen (Heidelberg 2000), *Die venetischen Personennamen* (Wiesbaden 1961) and his *Einführung in die Sprache Homers. Der Tod des Patroklos* (Heidelberg 1987). Other shorter yet no less significant contributions that reveal the variety of Untermann's interests include "Die hispanische Heerschau des Silius Italicus", in the studies devoted to Anna Mopurgo Davies (Oxford 2004, pp. 474-484), and "L'aggettivo. Forma e funzione" (*Quaderni Patavini di Linguistica* 7, 1988, pp. 3-31), as well as "Das Adjektiv und eine Ode des Horaz" in the miscellany in honour of H. Seiler (Tübingen 1980, pp. 338-350). At this point we could also cite "Joan Coromines y la onomástica de la Hispania Antigua" (in J. Solà, ed., *L'obra de Joan Coromines*, Sabadell 1999, pp. 183-192). Among his plethora of publications we would also like to highlight the little-known and yet highly intelligent contribution "Die Sprache in der Provinz" in the proceedings of the colloquium organised by H. von Hesberg, *Was ist eigentlich Provinz?* published in Cologne in 1995 (pp. 73-92).

Jürgen Untermann was primarily known for his research into palaeo-Hispanic studies. Within his contributions to this field of study, which he helped to update, we should spotlight an entire series of works, some of which in themselves are a "*monumentum aere perennius*", using the expression by the poet Horace whom Untermann so deeply appreciated.

First let us cite some of his early pioneering works: *Sprachräume und Sprachbewegungen im vorrömischen Hispanien* (Wiesbaden 1961, with a Portuguese version in the *Rivista de Guimarães* 72, 1962, pp. 5-41, and a Spanish version in *Archivo de Prehistoria Levantina* 10, 1963, pp. 165-192) and *Elementos de un atlas antroponímico de la Hispania Antigua* (Madrid 1965). His most lasting contribution, to which he would devote much of his time with exemplary effort, was the four volumes of the *Monumenta Linguarum Hispanicarum*, published in Wiesbaden between 1975 and 1997: *I: Die Münzlegenden* (1975), *II: Die Inschriften in iberischer Schrift aus Südfrankreich* (1980), *III: Die iberischen Inschriften aus Spanien* (1990) and *IV: Die tartessischen, keltiberischen und lusitanischen Inschriften* (1997). This oeuvre marks a scholarly milestone and serves as the basic referent for studies in this speciality.

Exhaustively cataloguing his entire output in this discipline would break records, and this tribute aims to be a

few brief pages, but we should definitely highlight his sweeping works like "Die althispanischen Sprachen", in *Aufstieg und Niedergang der römischen Welt* II 29, 2 (Berlin, Zurich, New York 1983, pp. 791-818); "Zur Morphologie der lusitanischen Götternamen", in the *Festschrift* dedicated to Joseph Piel (Tübingen 1988, pp. 123-138); the indispensable *Die vorrömischen Sprachen der iberischen Halbinsel*, published by the Nordrhein-Westfälische Akademie der Wissenschaften in Wiesbaden in 2001; "La onomástica celtibérica", in *ELEA* 2 (1996, pp. 109-156); the section on anthroponyms entitled "Onomástica" in the volume by F. Beltrán, J. de Hoz and J. Untermann, *El tercer bronce de Botorríta (Contrebia Belaisca)* (Zaragoza 1996, pp. 109-180); "La gramática de los plomos ibéricos", in *Veleia* 2/3 (1987, pp. 35-56); and, in that same publication, "Lusitanisch, Keltiberisch, Keltisch" (pp. 57-76). Naturally, what we have cited here is just a brief sample of his rigorous, steadfast efforts which we hope is at least representative. Nonetheless, perhaps we should mention that he even focused his attention occasionally on topics here in Catalonia, such as "Namenkundliche Bemerkungen zu Constantí und Centelles", in *Madriider Mitteilungen*, 8 (1967, pp. 226-229), and "Dos inscripciones recién halladas de Castell de Palamós (Gerona)", published in the first volume of the tribute to Luis Mixelena in Vitoria in 1985 (pp. 433-441), just to give a little taste.

His classical studies pointed him towards the Italic languages and later to the palaeo-Hispanic languages, a journey he took without ever ceasing to cultivate and further the fields of study that had sparked his earlier interest. This quite uncommon capacity led him to an unquestionable scholarly universality. His attention to and esteem of our land and its peoples, both past and present, spurred our institution to elect him a corresponding member, and we felt honoured to have him among us. Today, now deceased, the memory of Jürgen Untermann remains alive among those of us fortunate enough to interact with him and enjoy his faithful, open friendship, and to make up for his absence the entire scholarly community is left with a solid, academically honest and impeccable body of work which will feed studies of the topics they cover for many years to come and will always be a crucial factor in their development.