Foreword

With the eighth issue of the Catalan Historical Review, this publication by the Institut d’Estudis Catalans is consolidating its place in the international dissemination of Catalan historiography with the satisfaction of having reaffirmed its classification in the first category of Carthus Plus, the index of Catalan journals in the sciences and humanities.

Tarraco was the major capital of the largest province in Roman Hispania, and Octavius Augustus endowed it with a territory that extended from most of the Mediterranean coastline to the Cantabrian and Galician coastline, along with half the central plateau. This imperial capital offers one of the most important Roman archaeology sites on the Iberian Peninsula and in the ancient Roman complex that dominated the Mediterranean and much of Europe for eight centuries. In this issue we offer an overview of the current state of research, with recent discoveries and a view of a large urbs, Tarragona, during a long, influential period.

Catalan Gothic painting, including frescoes, panels and miniatures, is one of the richest testimonies to medi eval art as it engaged in early contact with the Italianising models in the 14th century, and after the international Gothic in the Principality of Catalonia, the Kingdom of Valencia and the Kingdom of Mallorca. In this issue, we present a comprehensive, detailed view of the leading studios in the Catalan-speaking lands from 1300 until the early decades of the 15th century, before the currents that heralded the 15th century Renaissance had appeared.

Banditry, intertwined with the political struggles among factions in the 16th and 17th centuries, was a Mediterranean phenomenon that was not exclusive to Catalonia, a historical fact which has attracted the attention of historians and inspired literary works. This issue analyses the complexity and involvement of different social classes in a manifestation which subverted the prevailing order within the composite Spanish monarchy, which had to go to great pains to control it. The bandits in Catalonia were divided into nyerros and cadells prior to the 1640 uprising against the authoritarianism of the Hapsburg monarchs. This article attempts to ascertain the roots of this phenomenon.

Another article examines a crucial topic in contemporary civilisation: the Catalan-language press, which represents the popular expression of the revival of Catalan culture in its own language. In this issue, we survey the main titles and the evolution in journalism from 1868 until 1939. In the first third of the 20th century, and especially between the world wars, the mass media in Catalonia – just like everywhere – experienced a major transforma-
Finally, we would like to thank our readers who peruse either the electronic or printed version of our journal for their emails that come to us from faraway countries. Informing scholars from all over the world on the historiography of major topics in the history of the Catalan-speaking lands is and will continue to be the main goal of this journal.

Albert Balcells
Editor