

Biographical sketches of new members of the History-Archaeology Section



Ferran Arasa i Gil. Born in Castelló de la Plana (1957), he holds a Bachelor's in Geography and History from the Universitat de València, where he earned his doctorate in 1995 with the thesis entitled "Territori i poblament en època romana a les comarques septentrionals del litoral valencià" (Territory and Population in

the Roman Era of the Northernmost Counties of the Valencian Coastline), supervised by Dr Carme Aranegui Gascó. In 1982-1983 he was an intern at the Servei d'Investigacions Arqueològiques i Prehistòriques (Archaeology and Prehistory Research Service) of the Provincial Council of Castelló. Shortly thereafter, between 1984 and 1990, he worked as a Catalan language teacher at the former Escola de Magisteri (Teacher Training School) of Castelló (which depended on the Universitat de València). Since then, he has been a member of the Department of Prehistory and Archaeology at the Universitat de València, where he has been a full professor of Archaeology since 1997.

Dr Arasa's research activity has primarily revolved around studying the Roman period in the region of Valencia. More specifically, he has focused on the following avenues of research: epigraphy, sculpture, architecture and roadways. He has also worked on the historiography of Valencian archaeology and studied the toponyms and linguistic transformations associated with Romanisation. He has also published valuable studies on ceramics. His scholarly work as a whole, much of which has been published in Catalan, makes a significant contribution to knowledge of the Roman world in the region of Valencia.

He has participated in numerous research projects financed by different organisations and ministries, including:

— *Paisaje, poblamiento y vías de comunicación de época romana en la cuenca del Bajo Júcar* (Landscape, settlement and roadways from the Roman era in the Bajo Júcar basin, 1997-1999).

— *Memoria y significado: uso y recepción de los vestigios del pasado* (Memory and meaning: Use and reception of the vestiges of the past, 2010-2012).

— *Una arqueología sin fronteras. Los contactos internacionales de la arqueología española en el siglo xx* (An archaeology without borders. International contact in 20th-century Spanish archaeology, 2013-2015).

— *Cerdeña e Ibiza: la ocupación rural en época púnica* (Sardinia and Ibiza: Rural occupation during the Punic era, 2013-2015).

He has supervised or co-supervised numerous excavations in Valencian sites, including the Roman villa of Sant Gregori, the late Iberian site in Torre d'Onda (Borriana, Plana Baixa) and the *mansio* on Via Augusta in L'Hostalot (Vilanova d'Alcolea, Plana Alta), and between 2001 and 2009 he supervised the research project on the Roman city of *Lesera* (Forcall, Ports).

He is the author or co-author of 87 articles, 45 book chapters, 32 papers and lectures and 7 books, including:

— *Lesera (La Moleta dels Frares, El Forcall). Estudi sobre la romanització a la comarca dels Ports* (1987).

— *L'arc romà de Cabanes* in conjunction with L. Abad (1989).

— *La romanización del Alto Palancia según la epigrafía* (1992).

— *Les vies romanes del territori valencià* in conjunction with Vicenç M. Rosselló (1995).

— *La romanització a les comarques septentrionals del litoral valencià. Poblament ibèric i importacions itàliques en els segles II-I aC* (2001).

— *La ciutat romana de Lesera* (2009).

He is also the author of a significant number of popular works on archaeology, with numerous contributions to a wide range of publications.

He won the extraordinary doctoral prize in 1996 and the Puig i Cadafalch prize from the Institut d'Estudis Catalans for his doctoral thesis in 1995. He is a contributor to the *Tabula Imperii Romani* project (Unió Acadèmica Internacional - CSIC) and a member of the scientific committee of the *Corpus Signorum Imperii Romani* (CSIR)-Spain and of the editorial board of several archaeology journals.

Joan SANMARTÍ