

In Memoriam

Efrem (Ernest) Compte i Roux (1926-2020)*

Efrem (Ernest) Compte i Roux, a corresponding member of the History-Archaeology Section of the IEC since 2007, died in Eugene, Oregon, USA, on 15 December 2020. He was born in Barcelona on 13 June 1926 and studied an ecclesiastic degree at Montserrat from 1952 to 1958, where he served as a professor until 1966. At the monastery, he worked on the team researching the parchments of Saint Benedict of Bages and Sant Cugat del Vallès. To further his English studies and pursue higher education, in 1966 he went to the United States, where he earned two Master's of Arts degrees from the University of Louisville (Kentucky) in 1968 and Princeton University (New Jersey) in 1973.

His doctoral thesis was submitted to Princeton University in 1975, defended in 1976 with the title of *The Costumary of 'Sant Cugat del Vallès' (Study and Edition)* and pre-published in Xerox copy by the Xerox University Microfilms of Ann Arbor, Michigan in 1975. The text of the *Costumary* and an introductory study also written by Compte, along with a preface written by Anscari M. Mundó, was published by the Institut d'Estudis Catalans in 2009, as number LXXXII of the *Memòries* of the History-Archaeology Section. The importance of this *Costumary* lies in its length, which is longer than the costu-

maries of Cluny and Farfa from the eleventh and twelfth centuries, and because it reflects the everyday life of the monastery and Catalan society in the period. The liturgy, organisation of work, vestments, food, cultural production, music and other forms of material and spiritual life are described in its contents.

On the other hand, Compte's palaeographic knowledge and practice, which he learned at Montserrat, enabled him to work at the Institute of Canon Law at the University of California Los Angeles (UCLA) from 1975 to 1978. Similarly, he also worked at the University of California, Berkeley, on the Catalogue of Mediaeval Documents and Manuscripts on Canon and Civil Law at the Vatican Apostolic Library, photographed copies of which were lent to the United States.

He was a professor of Catalan at UCLA from 1976 to 1977. His noteworthy publications include: *Guide to the Medieval and Renaissance Manuscripts in the Huntington Library*, Baltimore, Maryland, 1989; *Els necrològics antics de Sant Cugat del Vallès*, in 'Analecta Montserratensia', 10, 1964, pp. 131-164; *Influència de l'escriptura de les Cancelleries franques en els documents de la Marca Hispànica* in the 'Primer Col.loqui d'història del monaquisme català', vol. II, 1969, pp. 51-57, co-written with his colleague Joan Recasens; and the aforementioned publication and study of the costumary of the monastery of Sant Cugat del Vallès, the crowning achievement in his career.

* Text prepared by TOMÀS DE MONTAGUT (Universitat Pompeu Fabra)