

## Olimpio Musso (1941-2022)\*



He was born in Casale Monferrato (Piedmont) in 1941. He earned a PhD in Classical Humanities (1964) and was a professor of Greek and Latin philology and classical dramaturgy at the universities of Pavia, Florence, Munich and Barcelona. He was a professor of Greek and Latin theatre history at the University of Florence since 1992. He served as a cultural attaché in Munich (1979-1982) and Barcelona (1982-1992). He died on 12 October 2022 in Colle di Val d'Elsa (Italy).

He is the author of more than 100 scholarly works in different fields, especially classical antiquity: Greek and Latin literature, epigraphy, papyrology, archaeology, numismatics and the history of ancient and modern theatre. He particularly studied and published on the fragments of papyrus from Callimachus and Apollonius of Rhodes discovered on Montserrat. He published and commented on a Greek plomo coin from Empúries, and studied Iberian, Etruscan and Latin epigraphs in Tossa de Mar and Tarra-

\* Text prepared by ALBERT BALCELLS (Institut d'Estudis Catalans). Photo: Archive of the Institut d'Estudis Catalans.

gona. He oversaw the celebrated *Anònim enamorat*, a twelfth-century manuscript from Ripoll, and wrote a recent essay on *Curial e Güelfa* accompanied by a study on the lands of Montferrat in the fourteenth century, an imaginary place and time in which the anonymous author sets the lovers' adventures.

In addition to his fascination with the origins and history of the guitar, especially since the era of Fernando Sor, his interest in classical theatre led him to be asked to develop the staging for the Josep Soler opera *Èdip i Jocasta*, inspired by Seneca's *Oedipus and Jocasta* and performed at Barcelona's Liceu in 1986. That same year, he completed the Italian version of Salvador Espriu's *Antígona*, which was broadcast by RAI to fervent praise and published in Palermo in 1988.

While he lived in Barcelona as a deputy at the Institut Italià de Cultura, he directed its Historical Studies Section, at that time adopting the name Alberto Bóscolo. From there, he made a decisive contribution to organising around 25 conferences, colloquia, round tables, lectures and other events on Catalan topics. He also provided assistance for Catalan professors and students to travel and stay outside Catalonia to attend scholarly gatherings with the goal of forging bonds, especially among Catalan and Italian scholars. Since 1990, the aforementioned Section has published 'Quaderni di Studi Storici' under his stewardship with interesting brief monographs.

He had been a corresponding member of the Institut d'Estudis Catalans since 16 December 1996.

## Joan Sanmartí i Grego (1955-2022)\*\*



Joan Sanmartí i Grego was a full member of the History-Archaeology Section of the Institut d'Estudis Catalans and the treasurer of its governing board at the time of his premature death.

He was a full professor of Archaeology at the Universitat de Barcelona and the director of the Classical Archaeology, Protohistory and Egyptian Research Group; a member of the scientific committee of the Archimède laboratory of excellence (*Université Paul-Valéry Montpellier 3*); a member of the Archaeology and Palaeontology Research Committee of the Ministry of Culture of the Government of Catalonia; and a member

of the Advisory Committee for the law on locating and identifying persons who disappeared during the Spanish Civil War and the Franco dictatorship (2007). He had served as a guest professor at the University of Chicago (2009) and the Université de Montpellier (2013). In 2009, the Institució Catalana de Recerca i Estudis Avançats granted him the ICREA Academia Award.

This brief obituary would be incomplete without including an important fact in his academic career: professor Joan Sanmartí was a favourite student of the illustrious Miquel Tarradell and succeeded him in his position years later. His lifelong achievements may not have been inherited from his master, but they were at least shared with him, thus making Sanmartí Tarradell's worthy successor.

He earned a doctorate in Geography and History with a specialisation in Prehistory and Ancient History from the Universitat de Barcelona in 1986 with a thesis entitled *La Laietània ibèrica. Estudi d'arqueologia i d'història*, directed by Miquel Tarradell. This launched him on a road that coloured all his research on the territory and the northern Iberian world, or 'els Ibers del Nord', to paraphrase the title of one of his important synthesis books on the topic (Barcelona, 2005).

\*\* Text prepared by MARTA PREVOSTI (Universitat de Barcelona) and JOAN RAMON (Universitat d'Alacant). Photo: Jordi Pareto. Archive of the Institut d'Estudis Catalans.