

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.

He and Joan Santacana started the studies on the Iberian settlement in the Baix Penedès. The Argilera excavation was paradigmatic and focused on a small rural settlement consisting in a small house and silos. They were followed by other local surveys and small excavations, and parallel to that they undertook the project of the Iberian citadel in Les Toixoneres or Alorda Parc. This was an experimental excavation in Iberian building techniques, a topic around which they created a school. Joan Santacana, professor of Social Science Education at the Universitat de Barcelona, made a complete reconstruction of the Iberian settlement, which became the first archaeology park in the country.

Driven by the desire to interpret the Iberian settlement in the Baix Penedès, Laietània and other regions, he took an interest in Johnson and Earle's interpretative theories, which were built upon a strong ethnographic documentary foundation within American neo-evolutionist thinking. This led him to adapt them to Iberian societies and establish an interpretative model with a classification of sites into hierarchical order, all framed within the interpretative proposals suitable to archaic proto-states.

The excavations in Ribera d'Ebre showcased contacts with the Phoenician world, which had also interested Miquel Tarradell. The Phoenicians had penetrated the Ebro's upriver region with their trade and had a huge cultural influence on the gestation of Iberian culture. He excavated at Barranc de Gàfols in Ginestar, Barranc de Sant Antoni (Ginestar), the Phoenician site of Aldovesta in Benifallet, Castellot de la Roca Roja and Castellet de Banyoles in Tivissa.

In recent years, he and the impressive team he had created also worked at the Iberian settlement of Masies de Sant Miquel in Banyeres del Penedès, which is a second-tier nucleus with a concentrated population. His geophysical surveys enabled him to learn about the site before excavating it. It is a city in the middle of the Baix Penedès plain in an area measuring around 4-5 hectares that is extraordinarily well-conserved except for a bit of recent destruction. Its powerful walls and stratigraphy are impressive and promise to yield a great deal of information as they are excavated.

Joan Sanmartí also ventured into the dangerous terrain of demographics and estimated around 15 inhabitants per square kilometre for the 2,800 km² covered by Cossetània, that is, a total of 42,000 inhabitants. Calculations on Laietània and Ilergècia yielded similar figures, so he deduced that the Iberian population in what is today Catalonia was around 15 inhabitants per square kilometre. However, Marta Prevosti believes that these figures are overstated.

Joan Sanmartí also worked at the Mallorcan sites that Miquel Tarradell had excavated. He excavated the proto-historic sites of Son Real and Illa des Porros and partnered in the excavations of the Roman city of Pollentia (currently Alcudia), where he studied the black ware.

In 2004, Joan Sanmartí's career took a substantial turn when he and Joan Ramon i Torres undertook an international research project in Tunisia centred in Althiburos, a city in the Kef Governate that dates from the Punic and Roman periods.

The project's main goal was to define the sequence and essential features of the city's Numidian period, which at that time was virtually only known through classical texts, most of them from late antiquity, recounting Carthage's conflicts with both this culture and with the Greeks and later Romans. The research found that the site's initial location on virgin land dates from the tenth century BC. It also revealed the mechanics of its urban evolution and established coherent sequential periods, in addition to its major contributions to material culture.

Beyond the numerous articles presented at international colloquia and published in scholarly journals, the culminating publication of this work was the three monographic volumes on Althiburos published by the ICAC, which are one of the most solid scholarly references on a Numidian city today.

Just like his mentor Miquel Tarradell, Joan Sanmartí felt a keen love for the Catalan language, took great care with it in his countless texts and worked on the Catalan version of a specialised vocabulary in his profession. He was thus a fervent lover of the language, the country and its history.