

Abstracts

MICHAEL R McVAUGH, *The Medical World of Castelló d'Empúries in The Early Fourteenth Century*

On the grounds of extensive research in the Arxiu Històric Provincial de Girona, McVaugh follows the traces of the professionals providing health services in Castelló d'Empúries, categorized as surgeons, barbers, apothecaries and physicians, while comparing this situation with that of the Crown of Aragon. This enriches the understanding of the development of medical practice in a crucial moment, under the growing prestige of university training.

ANTONI CONTRERAS MAS, *Marginal Proteins in Majorca: Cooking Turtles, Hedgehogs and Albufera's Water Voles*

The cooking uses of these three species in Majorca are analysed in the wider context, both of their changing appreciation since Ancient times (including the therapeutic properties that were attributed to them) and of the various factors in evolving culinary habits, from availability to fashion.

XAVIER LAMUELA, *Occitan Language: Characterization and Current Situation*

After characterizing Occitan as a Romance language and highlighting both its structural similarities with Catalan and how the two languages have currently adopted divergent forms, this article offers a brief history of the Occitan language, with particular attention to the regression it has experienced in terms of speakers and to its current sociolinguistic situation, based on the available surveys on current usage and attitudes towards Occitan.

MARJOLAINE RAGUIN, *Women and Gardens in the Anonymous Part of the «Song of the Albigesian Crusade», or the Art of Manipulating the Lyrical Tradition*

The detailed analysis of two examples of the rhetorical *topoi* used by the anonymous author of the second

part of the *Song of the Albigesian Crusade* reveal the extent of his skilfulness in manipulating literary conventions. In the service of his ideological agenda, he uses and subverts several lyrical motifs in order to give a positive courtly connotation to his portrait of the Meridional *ressistantes*.

ENRIC BASSEGODA PINEDA, «E só content combatre-us-ho»: *Battles and fights at Castelló d'Empúries*

Pere de Vilagut and Pere de Rocabertí provide Enric Bassegoda with two excellent examples of the attitudes of the nobility in the late fifteenth-century Crown of Aragon. Free from close royal scrutiny, subject to social changes and educated in courtly and chivalric values, they resorted to violence to deal with their peers. These attitudes were justified as their lawful right and formulated in a chivalric language, which draws an idealized image of knighthood somehow at odds with such petty fights.

GEMMA PELLISSA PRADES, «Com plaure l'«enamorada generació»: *Sentimental Fiction, A Literary Fashion*

By comparing *París e Viana* and mossèn Gras' *Tragèdia de Lançalot*, two 15th-century Catalan works with the French original texts, this article shows how the same love story may have very different narrative treatments, resulting in its inclusion or exclusion within the sentimental fiction corpus. While the Catalan *París e Viana* does not allow for the sentimental reading of the French story, mossèn Gras highlighted the sentimental aspects in his translation of *La mort le roi Artu*.

LOLA BADIA, JOAN SANTANACH AND ALBERT SOLER *Language and Literature, According to Ramon Llull*

Thanks to the results of recent research, the authors propose an interpretation of Llull's figure that discards many critical common-place notions. They particularly focus on the idea of Llull as «the father of the Catalan literary language» and the analysis Llull's

selfcommentary and rhetorical notions. Although he emerges as an author of great originality in his use of literary resources, this explains his lack of literary followers.

ELENA PISTOLESI, *Language and Literature, According to Dante*

This article presents some key moments regarding the relationship between Dante's use of the vernacular and of literature, emphasizing the evolution from his theoretical works, written after his exile (*Convivio* and *De vulgari eloquentia*), to the solution adopted in the *Commedia*. Recent scholarship on the *Commedia* suggests two controversial points: the genre to which it has to be ascribed and the construction of Dante's character, both of which are discussed here in parallel with Lull's works.

SIMONE SARI, *740 Years of Lullian Poetry. Textual Tradition and New Perspectives*

Ramon Lull shows a concern about the transmission and conservation of his works similar to that of some late troubadours, but paradoxically the studies of his textual transmission have almost exclusively focused on his prose. Under a title that evokes the celebration of 800 years of Catalan literature, this article outlines the history of the manuscripts and editions of Lull's poetic works, thus opening up new avenues of research on this field of Lullian studies and discarding some critical misconceptions.