

ABSTRACTS

TRADITIONS AND FOCAL POINTS OF HISTORICAL GEOGRAPHY: A BIBLIOGRAPHICAL GUIDE.

Joan Vilagrassa

This article presents the diverse traditions of historical geography ever since it began to be conceived as a discipline, in the first three decades of the 20th century. There are three objectives to this study. First, to synthesize, by tracing its broad evolutive and conceptual traits, the genesis of international historical geographies, especially the various Anglo-Saxon, and the French traditions. Secondly, the article explores the relationship between history and geography in Spain during the last fifty years, relating them to the evolution of geography in Spain during the last fifty years, relating them to the evolution of geographic thought. Thirdly, an extensive bibliography is given, which will enable the reader to pursue lines of investigation, provide topics for projects, and inform with respect to approaches and traditions.

GEOGRAPHY IN CATALONIA IN RENAISSANCE TIMES

Mariàngela Vilallonga

Geographical description, understood as one of the facets of scientific and erudite prose, was something cultivated by the Ancient Greeks and Romans, both in monographic treatises, and also as extensive sections of other, larger works of encyclopaedic nature. When the Italian Humanists discovered this legacy from the ancients, they imposed, in imitation of these, the "fashion" of geographical description. In 15th-century Catalonia, the humanists Joan Margarit and Jeroni Pau assimilated the currents which the italians proposed, and situated themselves in the vanguard of the production of geographical works in the Iberian Peninsula a process which culminated in the publication, in the mid-sixteenth century, of Francesc Tarafa's geographical dictionary.

AN APPROACH TO THE EVOLUTION OF THE COUNTRYSIDE IN THE "COMARQUES" OF LA SELVA AND EL VALLÈS

Josep Gordi and Josep Pintó

This article presents and approach to the great historical periods in the evolution of the landscape of the "comarques" of the Vallès and the Selva. The study begins with the quaternary period. The authors point out the scarcity of data as yet available concerning this geological period, both for the regions under investigation, and for neighbouring regions, which in their turn are indicative of a similar process of*

evolution with the advent of Romanization, much more data on the areas of our research are available, such as: the pollinic and palinologic analyses made at the archeological site of Can Trullàs (Granollers). As for the Middle Ages, we make use of the abundant existing historical bibliography which has enabled us to make a brief overview of how plant life evolved in these regions. Concerning the modern and contemporary eras, we have used, in the main, the testimony of the numerous travellers who crossed these lands. One of the conclusions of this article is to give a first-step picture of the way in which plant life in this region has evolved, enabling us at the same time to see how the economic role of agricultural communities has varied through time.

* A "comarca" is an area of land akin to a county, although generally smaller in size. Catalonia is divided into four provinces, which are further subdivided into "Comarques", each of which has its own district capital, but is subjugate to the provincial capital.

THE COUNTRYSIDE, NATIONALISM, AND THE "RENAIXENÇA"*

Joan-Lluís Marfany

The countryside has played a fundamental role in the ideology of "Catalanism", as it does in all nationalisms: the Catalan nationalists see in it an external and perceivable manifestation of the very essence of the Catalan nation, of "the soul of Catalonia". Is this a simple projection of an ideology onto the countryside, or does it reflect, perhaps, the reality of the historical process of one of the ways in which a "national conscience" is acquired? With the introduction into Catalonia of the Romantic mentality, was it through learning to look at the countryside of Catalonia that caused some Catalans to acquire a sense of nationalism? This article examines this question through literature, and comes to a negative conclusion: the "vuitcentista" literature which was produced in Catalonia shows very little interest in the countryside and very little sensitivity towards it. It is always treated in a stereotyped manner, and in this treatment there is nothing that can reasonably be considered to be potentially nationalistic. The first clear examples of a nationalistic attitude when dealing with the countryside are strictly contemporary with the first "Catalanista" formulations.

* "Renaixença": Literally, re-birth. Not to be confused with "renaixement", (Renaissance), it was a particular re-birth of interest in the Catalan language and culture after many years of Castilian/French domination, which occurred in the 19th century.

** "vuitcentista": this kind of word usually denotes a movement, "school", or clearly defined style. It is the Catalan form of, for example, words like the Italian "cinquecento". Here, however, this word is used to define a temporal grouping of literary works, dating from the 1800s.

THE CITY, THE COUNTRYSIDE AND THE NATION. AN INTERPRETATION OF THE WORK OF PERE COROMINAS.

Àngel Duarte

Pere Corominas, a notable politician and man of letters of the Catalonia of the final years of the 19th century and the first decades of the 20th century, built up a

doctrinal corpus which, though not very original, is strongly representative when one tries to establish the use which was made of the countryside, from the point of view of Republican nationalism, as a formative element in the creation of the nation. This article analyses the value given in his writings and in his speeches to the city as a Catalan and Mediterranean metropolis, to Nature and to its elements, to mythical "comarques" such as the Empordà, and to the Mediterranean as the ideal setting for Catalan expansion. The limitations of this reasoning became evident as Corominas acceded to places of responsibility within the Republican Generalitat government, and also with the need to find concrete answers to the social problems existent in rural areas.*

** A "comarca" is an area of land akin to a county, although generally smaller in size. Catalonia is divided into four provinces, which are further subdivided into "Comarques", each of which has its own district capital, but is subjugate to the provincial capital.*

FROM THE BISHOPRIC TO THE PROVINCE. THE TERRITORIAL CONFIGURATION OF THE REGION OF GIRONA

Jesús Burgueño

This article summarises the historical evolution of the territorial ambit of the region of Girona, which in general has been much more stable and constant than is the case with other regions of Catalonia. In Girona, the spatial consolidation of existence as a region dates from the time of the counties, a period when certain limits were defined which remained "in a fossilized state" for centuries under the Episcopal demarcation. In particular, analysis is made of the circumstances which gave rise to the establishment of the province of Girona in 1822 and again in 1833. Finally, some points for debate are raised with respect to the possible reform of the Catalan territorial division in as far as it affects the area of Girona.

THE HISTORICAL FORMATION OF THE ROAD NETWORK IN CATALONIA (1761-1935)

Jaume Font

This article is a work of historical geography which summarises the most notable aspects of a doctoral thesis dedicated to the study of the process of formation of the road network in Catalonia. It consists of two parts: the first of which gives an explanation and appraisal of the methodological aspects of the research. The second is an exposition, in abbreviated form, of its results, with respect to those aspects which had influence in the general configuration of the Catalan road network, and also in relation to the sequence of territorial implantation which was followed. Finally, a few brief conclusions are drawn to underline the most relevant aspects of the research, which concentrates on the period between 1761 and 1935, owing to the fact that

between these two dates the basic traits of the Catalan road network were established. The results of this research are given in a series of maps showing the evolution of the road network.

CORK-MAKING AREA OR INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT. HISTORICAL GEOGRAPHY OF A PRODUCTION-BASED URBAN MODEL

Xavier Paunero

This article offers a retrospective view of the cork-making industry of Girona during the last quarter of the 19th century, from the perspectives of historical geography, economic geography, and industrial geography, in accordance with the Marshallian industrial district-MID- model. These disciplines allow us to reconstruct the social and economic life of the territory and to gain insight into the kind of lifestyle existent during the period of maximum manufacturing activity. The article is also a reflection upon the roles of the men and women of that time, as configurating agents of the industrial territory. The methodological and territorial aspects dealt with in the article confirm the presence of an industrial district during the Golden Age of bottle-cork production, as well as a new geographical interpretation of the historical events that took place.

ECONOMIC GROWTH AND MOVEMENT OF REVENUES. THE DOWRIES IN THE ALT EMPORDÀ AND LA SELVA DURING THE FIRST HALF OF THE 19TH CENTURY.

Rosa Congost

The aim of this article is to approach -in an indirect manner; through a study of the "movement of dowries" - the analysis of the 'movement of revenue of the population of certain defined territorial and temporal ambits, in order to be able to perceive therein signs of economic growth, or indeed, of the opposite. It is an attempt, therefore, to approach in a concrete way a subject, namely, economic growth, which is often considered in an abstract way. The character of the movement of dowries, different in each of the two areas examined, and which was something clearly positive for the working classes of the Alt Empordà in a climate of lowering of prices-which has tended to be seen as a moment of "agricultural and rural crisis"-invites us to imagine new ways of undertaking the historical analysis of economic growth.

AGRICULTURE IN THE BAIX EMPORDÀ REGION IN THE MID-NINETEENTH CENTURY: AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION AND LAND-USE

Enric Saguer

The objective of this article is to reconstruct and describe the typical main patterns of land use, and the agricultural output structure, in the region of the Baix Empordà (Girona)

in the middle of the nineteenth century. The first question dealt with is the stagnation which occurred in the process of expanding the area of arable land. This stagnation corresponds closely to the notable decrease in the area's population, which began in the 1860's.

Secondly, an attempt is made to quantify the relative importance given to different land uses, and to describe their geographical distribution.

Finally, we examine the growth of more intensive farming as a consequence of the decline in fallow methods and the spreading of new crop rotation systems.

VULNERABILITY AND ADAPTATION TO THE RISK OF FLOODING IN THE CITY OF GIRONA: A HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE.

Anna Ribas

This article discusses the problem of fluvial flooding in the city of Girona, through a historical and geographical approach which gives precedence to the study of the human and social dimensions of risk. It is an approach made through what is termed contextual focussing, the aim of which is to study the two basic parameters in the analysis of the human dimension of floods (the vulnerability and adaptation of societies to this risk) within the framework of the territorial and social organization of Girona during different historical periods. The objective, then, is simply to advance a little further our understanding of some of the least well-known aspects in the study of the historic floods that have taken place in the city of Girona: the historical dynamics of the occupation of floodprone areas, the links between models of organization and risk and the historical and geographical dimensions of vulnerability and of adaptation to the problem of flooding.

THE "EIXAMPLE" IN GIRONA AND URBAN PLANNING IN THE SECOND HALF OF THE 19TH CENTURY

Joan Vicente and Rosa Maria Fraguell

In this article the authors measure the degree of adjustment of the "Eixample Campllong"* in Girona and the different theoretical contributions towards city planning which were made in the second half of the 19th century. It is obvious that the urban development carried out on Girona's centre enters into contradiction with many of the principles governing the model of urban growth in other cities. The reasons for this are various: first, this urban development was not something dictated by the needs of industry, nor was it due to demographic growth. Secondly, its chief characteristic is its simplicity. The urban spread which resulted from it is indefinite, and far from regular, respecting the structure of pre-existing property and ignoring local lines of communication, i.e. roads. This urban spread is, however, totally lacking in "architectural jewels". The conclusion reached is that the "eixample" in Girona is an area without originality, obsolete and badly designed.

* "Eixample" - literally and enlargement or widening out of something. It is an elastic term depending on the context in which it occurs. Some of its meanings are: extension, urban development, new suburb(s). Here it means the parts or the city built around the old, original urban nucleus.

*INTERIOR REFORM AND THE BEGINNING OF PRESERVATION OF THE
HISTORIC CENTRE OF GIRONA (1850-1920)*

Joan Ganau Casas

This article studies the change in the concept of town planning which occurred in Girona at the beginning of this century concerning the treatment given to this city's historic centre. From 1850 onwards, for seventy years, modifications to many of the streets in the city centre were approved. While the aim of these changes was to improve conditions of hygiene and traffic circulation, they would also have brought about a radical transformation of the streets ' appearance. The excessive cost of these reforms, however, prevented them from being implemented. At the same time, in the first years of this century, new ideas on the preservation of historic city centres were introduced. From the year 1915, there was strong opposition to the changing of street alignment, a movement led by the architect Rafael Masó. This led to the cancellation, in the year 1921, of these old projects and permitted the slow process of restoration of the old quarters of the city to begin.