

1986

## The first Catalan Renaixença in the late 18th century

by Dr. J.M. Batista i Roca, University of Cambridge

Towards the middle of the 18th century the old Catalan society, mainly represented by the ecclesiastics and the nobility, was exhausted, while a new society was emerging represented by merchants and industrialists. The Acadèmia de Bones Lletres and the Junta de Comerç (1763) respectively represent the two societies.

In 1768 came the decree ordering the teaching of Castilian in all schools in Catalonia. Consequently, Bishop Climent asked the Academy (1769) to compile a dictionary of the Catalan language, which, he feared, was then bound to disappear. Paradoxically, its preparation undertaken by the Academy marked a revival of interest in the Catalan language.

Other contributory causes to a revival came with the overhaul of the schools and the University of Cervera following the expulsion of the Jesuits, a renewed interest in classical education mainly represented by the Schola Pia, and the stir caused by the war with revolutionary France (1792-93).

This is a period of intense activity: development of trade and industry, founding of various Academies, young men studying abroad, new schools and Chairs of Arts and Crafts established in Barcelona, development of sculpture and architecture under neoclassic influences, and the appearance of a number of prominent opera composers.

Many popular poems in Catalan appear during the war with France. A debate on Catalan orthography (1796), the Comunicació Literària, Dr. Ferrera's Apologia de l'Idioma Català, Fr. Bada's poem La Glòria en lo Parnàs are signs, among others, of this first Renaixença in the 18th century under the influence of neoclassicism. Later products of this line are Ballot's Gramàtica (1810-1814), Puig Blanc's Temple de la Glòria (1814), and even Cabanyes' Preludis de mi Lira (1833).

This first neoclassic Renaixença is broken by the Napoleonic War (1808-1813), and by the two absolutist restorations (1814-1820, 1823-1833). But the march forward is continued by the younger generation that emerges during the liberal period of 1820-1823. The new industrialists, the liberals, the romantics and the renaixentistes form one group of people. The second romantic Renaixença springs from them.

## The commercial revolution in Barcelona in the mid-13th century

by A.B. Hibbert, Fellow of King's College, Cambridge.

This paper draws attention to the critical and dramatic nature of a very short period, the middle decades of the thirteenth century (the 1230s to 1260s) in the commercial history of Barcelona. The earlier achievements of the citizens of Barcelona in the field of trade, and their power to influence the circumstances of trade, are briefly mentioned and their limitations suggested. Attention is drawn to the striking progress made in various fields during the period under review - the rejection of foreign influence, the development of monetary and commercial techniques, the increasing control over the coinage, the development of consular organization and soundly based overseas contacts, the winning of a large amount of autonomy in the direction of commercial affairs and so on. It is argued that this is probably the period in which the original 'good customs of the sea', the nucleus of The Book of the Sea Consulate, were written down.

Some of the reasons underlying this striking transformation in Barcelona's economic position are suggested, and particular emphasis given to the rôle of co-operation between the city and the King of Aragon.

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The Karlsruhe miniatures and the structure of the Lullian universe

by R. D. F. Pring-Mill, University of Oxford.

Ms. St. Peter perg. 92 of the Badische Landesbibliothek (44 ff. 350 x 277 mm.) contains the Breviculum ex artis Remondi ascribed to Thomas le Myésier, followed by a modified version of the Lullian Ars brevis and preceded by a brief biographical introduction. This introduction is illustrated with twelve full-page illuminations, intended "ut sciretur origo a quo et quomodo orta est ars ista et alie Remondi artes et libri."

That is also the primary purpose which they will serve in this talk: after a brief discussion of the biographical plates, the speaker will concentrate upon the allegorical representations, using them as visual aids in an exposition of the underlying assumptions of the Lullian art. He will be particularly concerned with the Divine Dignities and their innate 'correlatives', and with the way in which their dependent terminological apparatus provides the Trinitarian structure of the Lullian world-picture.

Vicens Clement (m. 1474)

by Dr. R. B. Tate, The Queen's University, Belfast.

The paper will consist of a brief glimpse of the contact existing between the kingdoms of Aragon and England in the 15th Century - through the biography of Vicens Clement, native of Valencia, student at Oxford, envoy of Duke Humphrey, Henry VI, to Rome. Clement was subsequently Papal Collector in England (from 1450), as well as King's Proctor in the Vatican. The part Clement played in the Wars of the Roses, and later in the international policies of John II of Aragon during the Civil War in Catalonia, will be outlined.

The paper will also discuss his relations with English and Italian scholars and ecclesiastics, and some light will be thrown upon the problem of Martorell's stay in England.

18th century Spain as seen by Foreign Travellers, with special reference  
to Catalonia

by G. W. Ribbans, University of Sheffield.

The purpose of this paper is to show that the foreign travel-books, about 35 in number, written in the years immediately following Father Caimo's Lettere di un vago italiano (1764), are not always as unreliable as such historians as M. Jean Sarrailh and Julián Juderías have supposed. The following are given as brief examples of the usefulness of some of the foreign observers:

Charles II as described by James Harris and D. G. Moldenhawer; Joseph Townsend's description of Toledo, compared with that of Antonio Ponz (Viaje de España, vol. I); Sir John Talbot Dillon on Bilbao; the travellers' general impressions of Valencia as compared with Abbot Cavanilles in his Observaciones; the accounts of Mataró by Townsend and Ponz (Viaje, vol. XIV), Townsend's being the more detailed and the more critical; and finally, descriptions of Barcelona by Townsend and others, especially as regards economic and educational conditions.

The conclusion is, firstly, that these travel-books give useful information which confirms or supplements other sources of knowledge, and, secondly, that they give a largely true impression of the Catalan-speaking lands, together with the Basque Provinces, as the most advanced and progressive regions of a backward country.

Some of the material for this paper has already been published in Catalunya i València vistes pels viatgers anglesos del segle XVIIIè (Barcelona, 1955). The part of the paper referring directly to Catalonia and Valencia is to appear in Catalan in Vida Nova.

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G. Ribbans