

## IN MEMORIAM

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**DR. PRIM BERTRAN ROIGÉ (BELLCAIRE D'URGELL, 28 DECEMBER 1948- BARCELONA, 29 DECEMBER 2014)**

Dr. Prim Bertran Roigé, a professor of the Department of Medieval History, passed away just last December. His death is a great loss to his family, but also to the field. Prof. Bertran was deeply involved in the academic life of the University: through his classes and publications, his implication in various academic committees, and his participation in multiple conferences and scientific meetings. His dedication to students and colleagues extended well beyond the classroom and the meeting room. He knew his students by first name, and knew also where they came from. He was a friend to them, often talking to them in the hallways or sharing a cup of coffee in the faculty's cafeteria, but also to his fellow department and faculty members.

He started as an elementary school teacher in Lleida (1968), an experience that he proudly recounted over the years and that reflected in his classes. A few years later he earned a B.A. in Philosophy from the University of Barcelona (1973) and a PhD (1976), also from the University of Barcelona, after a three-year stay in the Collegio di Spagna (1973-1976). After completing his PhD he served at the faculty of the Estudi General in Lleida (1976-1983), when this institution was dependent on the University of Barcelona. After a year as associate lecturer at the University of Barcelona, he became a reader (July 1984). In 2010 he became professor (accredited as such by the ANECA-Ministry of Education) but he could not act as such because the University of Barcelona did not create a new professor position in the Department.

As for his scientific production, he developed several research lines, some of them during specific periods, and others during his whole career. Nonetheless, all these research lines shared two common places: the Middle Ages and Catalonia. He began as a medieval archaeologist, working in various archaeological sites directed by him or in collaboration with other specialists. This first research line led to several publications related to tombs (particularly relevant is a paper about the Jewish graveyard in Lleida, 1981) or to sites such as the one in Santa Coloma d'Àger. During these first years Dr. Bertran also focused on poverty and assistance to poor people, with particular attention to the *Almoina* of the Cathedral of Lleida. It is also worth noting his interest, during these years, in the history of Spanish Jews, but he abandoned this research line around the mid-80s. In parallel, he started to pursue other interests such as ecclesiastical taxation, military orders, food, and the Catalan church and its relations with the papacy. These interests crystallized in collaborations in multiple research projects on markets, cereals, food, famines and shortages, financial elites, public credit and debt, royal taxation, and ecclesiastical taxation. Dr. Bertran was always willing to collaborate with his colleagues, and he did so in projects coordinated by scholars such as Pere Benito, Pere Verdés, Antoni Riera, Francesco C. Casula, Flocel Sabaté, Max Turull, Jesús Contreras, Manuel Sánchez, and Maria Teresa Ferrer. As a result of these collaborations he also became involved in many research groups, either at the University of Barcelona (e.g. *Observatorio de la alimentación*) or at other institutions (e.g. *Renda feudal I fiscalitat a la Catalunya baix-medieval*, CSIC).

Dr. Bertran addressed many national and international scientific meetings, with a total of around sixty contributions. Most of them are published in the corresponding proceedings and journals. He was usually invited to these meetings due to the scientific quality of his work, but he was also involved in many of them as chair of a session, as part of the scientific committee, or as collaborator in their cultural activities. For instance, he played a key role in the organization of the International Medieval Meeting (University of Lleida) since its first edition in June 2011.

His first publications, where he addressed different topics related to Church history or Military Orders, appeared in the journals *Hispania Sacra*, *Boletín de la Real Sociedad Arqueológica de Tarragona* and *Analecta Sacra Tarraconensis*.<sup>1</sup> Among these articles, it is worth noting those related to the Collegio di Spagna, published in the journal *Studia Albornotiana*; articles that were the result of the research carried out during his stay at the Collegio, and which demonstrated his deep affection for his *Alma Mater Studiorum*, the place that had hosted his PhD studies.<sup>2</sup>

The journals *Urgellia* and *Ilerda* also published several of his articles, this time related to his most immediate environment: the county of Urgell, the Western Catalan territories, Lleida or his

<sup>1</sup> "Gregori IX i la canònica de Santa Maria de Mur," *Analecta Sacra Tarraconensis*, 46(1973), pp. 37-41; "Notas en torno al cuerpo religioso-militar fundado por J. P. Constans," *Hispania Sacra*, 26(1973), pp. 373-386; "Donacions de la comtessa Dolça d'Urgell (1184-1210)," *Analecta Sacra Tarraconensis*, 50(1977), pp. 41-51.

<sup>2</sup> "Voto del Colegio de España en defensa de la Inmaculada," *Studia Albornotiana*, 35 (1979), pp.779-794 ; "Ceremonias fúnebres por los monarcas españoles en el Colegio de San Clemente," *Studia Albornotiana*, 36 (1979), pp.401-424; "Huéspedes ilustres del Colegio de España: Pío VI y la familia real de Etruria," *Studia Albornotiana*, 36 (1979), pp. 425-464.

beloved village of Belcaire. Among these articles we find documentary sources<sup>3</sup> that mention different settlements in the county of Urgell, the region of La Noguera,<sup>4</sup> or the bishopric of Urgell,<sup>5</sup> and sources that contain information of the county or the counts of Urgell,<sup>6</sup> and the aforementioned *Almoina* of the Cathedral of Lleida.<sup>7</sup>

Dr. Prim Bertran also published numerous articles in the journal of the Department of Medieval History, Palaeography and Diplomatics of the University of Barcelona, of which he had become secretary just a year ago. In this journal, *Acta Historica et Archaeologica Mediaevalia*, we find articles about onomastics,<sup>8</sup> archaeology,<sup>9</sup> food history, taxation, the Church, and the history of the University.<sup>10</sup> He also published many articles in the *Anuario de Estudios Medievales* (he was part of the Editorial Board), and in the *Miscel·lània de Textos Medievales*.<sup>11</sup> He also collaborated with the journal *Índice Histórico Español*, where he published numerous reviews and other type of contributions.

He also published many books on different subjects: Church history,<sup>12</sup> the county of Urgell,<sup>13</sup> and local history.<sup>14</sup> Among the latter, it is worth mentioning those books related to his village,

<sup>3</sup> "El 'Liber Feudorum Viccariae Pallariensis'," *Ilerda*, 38(1977), pp. 77-94; "Per a un diplomatar d'Ermengol VII (1154-1184)," *Ilerda*, 45(1984), pp. 147-174; "El capbreu-llevador de la comanda de Susterris (1378)," *Urgellia*, 8(1987), pp. 379-419.

<sup>4</sup> "Notes sobre l'origen i expansió de la moneda d'Agramunt," *Urgellia*, 3(1980), pp. 307-318; "Notes de demografia i onomàstica del Baix Urgell al 1415," *Urgellia*, 4(1981), pp. 369-385; "Tàrrega en la revolta catalana contra Joan II," *Ilerda*, 43(1982), pp. 359-375; "Notes sobre els orígens d'unes poblacions urgellenques: la Fuliola, Boldú i Belcaire," *Ilerda*, 42(1981), pp. 237-272; "La fundació de Vilaplana (Baronia de Rialb, la Noguera) 1171," *Ilerda*, 46(1985), pp. 329-334.

<sup>5</sup> "La dècima del bisbat d'Urgell corresponent a l'any 1391," *Urgellia*, 2(1979), pp. 257-346; "La col·lecta del 'maridatge' de 1496 al bisbat d'Urgell," *Urgellia*, 5(1982), pp. 305-330.

<sup>6</sup> "Dolça, comtessa d'Urgell i els orígens del monestir de les Franqueses," *Urgellia*, 1(1978), pp. 291-300.

<sup>7</sup> "El menjador de l'Almoina de la Catedral de Lleida. Notes sobre l'alimentació dels pobres lleidatans al 1338," *Ilerda*, 40(1979), pp. 79-114.

<sup>8</sup> "Notes sobre demografia i onomàstica lleidatanes (1491)," *Acta Historica* ..., 1(1980), pp. 143-171.

<sup>9</sup> "Hallazgo de sepulturas antropomorfas y de una ollita gris en Bergús (Cardona)," *Acta Historica* ..., 3(1983), pp. 171-182; (amb F. Fité) "Primera aproximació a la ceràmica grisa als graffiti del castell d'Oronens (Àger)," *Acta Historica* ..., 5-6(1985), pp. 385-41.

<sup>10</sup> "La fiscalitat eclesiàstica en els bisbes catalans (1384-1392)," *Acta Historica* ..., 18(1997), pp. 281-300; "L'alimentació dels pobres, ostes i servidors al palau pontifici d'Avinyó (1375)," *Acta Historica* ..., 20-21(2000), pp. 369-380; "Estudiants catalans a la universitat de Bolonya (segle XIII)," *Acta Historica* ..., 5(2003), pp. 123-144; "L'almoina pontificia d'Avinyó i els seus inicis (1316-1324)," *Acta Historica* ..., 25(2004), pp. 291-316; "Els llibres del batlle de Cervera, Galzeran Sacirera (1459-1460)," *Acta Historica* ..., 26(2005), pp. 875-901; "La feudalització de la societat catalana," *Acta Historica* ..., 30(2012), pp. 515-518; "La cuina pontificia sota Bonifaci VIII," *Acta Historica* ..., 31(2013), pp. 189-196.

<sup>11</sup> "Les despeses del gran Prior de Catalunya (1419)," *Miscel·lània* ..., 6(1992), pp. 165-197; "La dècima del bisbat de Barcelona 81391-1392)," *Miscel·lània* ..., 7(1994), pp. 371-498.

<sup>12</sup> *El santuari de Santa Maria de Salgar*, Lleida, Instituto de Estudios Ilerdenses, 1973; *Sant Miquel de Cellers i els canonges regulars de Sant Agustí*, Lleida, Instituto de Estudios Ilerdenses, 1975; *El bisbe Ferrer Colom: la llum i els tapissos de la Seu Vella*, Lleida, Amics de la Seu Vella/Pagès Editors, 1992; *Mil·lenari de la butlla del papa Silvestre II (1001-2001)*, Andorra la Vella, Serigraf, 2001.

<sup>13</sup> *La dinastia condal de Urgel, desde los orígenes hasta su unión a la corona*, Barcelona, Real Cuerpo de la Nobleza de Cataluña, 1997.

<sup>14</sup> *Notícies històriques del Palau d'Anglesola*, Lleida, Institut d'Estudis Ilerdencs, 1981; *El rector de Vallfogona*,

Bellcaire d'Urgell.<sup>15</sup> He was a talented researcher, able to connect, through the analysis of the papal tenth, the history of a small parish to that of the Universal Church. He always interpreted local history in a wider context, thus giving it the importance it deserves. These analyses show his deep knowledge of historical sources, to which he devoted several works,<sup>16</sup> and archives, particularly the Vatican Secret Archives, which he visited on several occasions.

In addition to his academic achievements, Dr. Prim Bertran was a great communicator. He was often required to give talks, and participate in round table discussions and book presentations. His presence was particularly demanded at any event related to the Western Catalan Territories, and his village, Bellcaire d'Urgell. His strong roots in Bellcaire led him to a commitment to the dissemination of its culture and history. His erudite talks, full of references to historical sources and concepts, were accessible to all audiences thanks to his great ability to make the past understandable. He was member of the Editorial boards of journals such as *Medievalismo*, *Anuario de Estudios Medievales*, *Acta Historica et Archaeologica Mediaevalia*, *Índice Histórico Español*, *Tamid*, *Urgellia*, *Boletín de la Real Sociedad Arqueológica Tarraconense*, and *Miscelánea Medieval Murciana*. He was also a member of the Institute for Research on Medieval Cultures (IRCVM) of the University of Barcelona, the Institut d'Estudis Ilerdencs, and the Spanish Society of Medieval Studies, of which he was Secretary.

Dr. Prim Bertran leaves a vast legacy of numerous reviews, more than two hundred journal articles and book chapters, sixteen monographs, and ten book prologues. He was a great educator, and his classes were always crowded with students. However, his legacy goes beyond his academic achievements and his engaging classes: an unquantifiable legacy of smiles, informal talks with his students—his friends—walks around Barcelona, Cardona, Poblet, Montblanc, and Rome—moments of conviviality, and shared friendship. Dr. Prim Bertran was generous with his time and knowledge, kind and thoughtful of others' needs, and that is why we will vividly remember the always-open door of his office.

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<sup>15</sup> *Bellcaire d'Urgell. Perfil històric*, Bellcaire d'Urgell, Ajuntament, 1982; *Cròniques de Bellcaire d'Urgell (1912-1919)*, de Jaume Arqué, Bellcaire d'Urgell, Ajuntament, 1992.

<sup>16</sup> *Catálogo del Archivo del Colegio de España*, Bolonia, Real Colegio de España, 1981; *El libro del baile real de Daroca (1383-1385)*, Lleida, Estudi General, 1981; *Aportació al butllari de l'Estudi General de Lleida, 1345-1460 per Vicente Beltrán de Heredia y Ruiz de Alegría (+) O.P.*, Lleida, Institut d'Estudis Ilerdencs, 1985.