

IN MEMORIAM

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*De pareïs li seit la porte uverte***MARTÍ DE RIQUER I MORERA, MAY 3, 1914 - SEPTEMBER 17, 2013**

On Tuesday, 17 September 2013, Martí de Riquer passed away, *may [his soul] find the gates of paradise wide open* (v. 2258 *Chanson de Roland*).

Medievalists have lost one of our great masters, one of the last great humanists.

Professor of History of Romance Literatures, Martí de Riquer taught at the Universitat de Barcelona from 1941 to 1970, at the Universitat Autònoma de Bellaterra from 1970 to 1976 and again at the Universitat de Barcelona from 1976 until his retirement. He devoted his life to teaching literature, especially medieval literature, in several Romance languages, in particular Castilian, Catalan, French, Italian and Occitan. He retired in 1984 and became emerit professor.

He held the position of president of the *Reial Acadèmia de Bones Lletres* of Barcelona, was a member of the *Real Academia Española*, of the *Real Academia de la Historia*, the *Hispanic Society of America*, the *Institut de France* at the *Académie des Inscriptions et Belles Lettres*, the *Académie Internationale d'Héraldique* and the *Accademia di Scienze, Lettere e Arti*. He was the honorary president of the *Sociedad Española de Literatura General y Comparada* and the *Société Rencesvals*, which he founded together with professors from several European universities;

an association addressed at the promotion of the study of Romance epic and the publication of the *Bulletin bibliographique de la Société Rencesvals*.

He was awarded with several prestigious prizes, such as: the prize *Michel de Montaigne* (1988), the prize *Menéndez y Pelayo* (1990), the *Premio Nacional de Ensayo* (1991), the *Premi Crítica Serra d'Or* for a literary study (1991), the prize *Creu de Sant Jordi* (1992), the *Príncipe de Asturias* in Social Sciences (1997), the *Premi Lletra d'Or* (1999), and the *Premio Nacional de las Letras Españolas* (2000).

His bibliographical production is abundant. He started it with *Humanisme Català* in 1934 and was permanently and absolutely committed to it during his whole life. His works are many, they are centred on topics that became from the very beginning a constant interest for the professor. Many of his works have been edited more than once, which attests to their unquestionable excellence and usefulness.

His first years as philologist already herald the topic that would constantly accompany his research: editions of authors such as Jordi de Sant Jordi, *Poesies* (1935), the works of Antoni Canals, *Scipió e Anibal...* (1935), his first attempts at Occitan troubadour poetry with a translation of one of the compositions of Bernart de Ventadorn, *Poesías* (1940) and the first complete edition of the works of a troubadour, *El trovador Cerverí de Girona* (1946), the first works on heraldics, *Manual de heráldica española* (1942), and his work on the *Quijote*, *Don Quijote de la Mancha* (1944) and the *Tirant*, *Tirant lo Blanc*, and *Tirante el Blanco: traducción castellana de 1511* (1947).

From the decade of the 1950s, his commitment to the poetry of Provençal troubadours and medieval French literature gained ground, especially French epic and the *Perceval*. He wrote *Los cantares de gesta franceses* (1952), the only work dealing with the major cycles of the genre at the time, which was quite unknown here by then. The work was translated into French by the Nizet house in 1957 and several generations of philologist learnt from it -and still learn today thanks to the Spanish reedition of 2009- the stories of epical heroes than circulated around Europe. As regards troubadour poetry, in 1948 he had published an anthology entitled *La lírica de los trovadores*, which was the precedent for one of his most important works: *Los trovadores, historia literaria y textos*, in 1975. The following reeditions of 1983 and 2011 evince the significance of this work for the study of medieval Occitan poetry. It is the most important and complete compilation of Occitan troubadour poetry and an indispensable tool for any scholar devoted to medieval literature. Between both anthologies, he did not stop working on the editions of the complete works of several troubadours: in 1971 he published the works of *Guillem de Berguedà*, reedited in 1996 and, several years later, the works of the troubadour Arnaut Daniel, *Poesías* (2004), as well as a compilation of the lives of several troubadours, *Vidas y amores de*

los trovadores y sus damas (2004). As for French literature, his contributions increased with the editions and reeditions of the *Chanson de Roland*, *El cantar de Roldán* (1960), *El Cantar de Roldán y el Roncesvalles navarro* (1983 and 2003) and those of the *Perceval*, *Perceval o el Cuento del Grial* (1961), *Li contes del Graal* (1985 and 2003), *El cuento del grial de Chrétien de Troyes y sus continuaciones*, with his daughter, Isabel de Riquer (1995).

In parallel, he devoted himself to fundamental encyclopedic works together with other experts: the *Historia de la literatura universal*, with José María Valverde, published in 1957 and the *Història de la literatura catalana*, with Antoni Comas, in 1964. He also kept insisting on his usual topics on knighthood and weaponry, *Cavalleria: fra realtà e letteratura nel Quattrocento i L'arnés del cavaller: armes i armadures catalanes medievals*, both in 1968; on heraldics, *Heràldica catalana des de l'any 1150 al 1550* (1983), *Heràldica castellana en tiempos de los Reyes Católicos*, (1986); on knights-errant tales, *Caballeros andantes españoles* (1967), *Estudios sobre el Amadís de Gaula* (1987); on the *Tirant*, *Aproximació al Tirant lo Blanc*, in 1990 and *Tirant lo Blanch, novela de historia y de ficción*, in 1992; on Cervantes, *Cervantes, Pasamonte y Avellaneda* (1988), *Cervantes en Barcelona* (1989 and 2005), *Para leer a Cervantes* (2003), without leaving out other matters, such as the study of his family's genealogy, *Quinze generacions d'una família catalana*, published in 1988, and other works and editions of Catalan poets and classic Spanish authors that testify to a constant, painstaking and never interrupted effort.

Martí de Riquer discovered early on a solid vocation as a medievalist that he knew how to pass on, enthusiastically, to his disciples. A tireless intellectual worker, the owner of an acuteness and analytic ability out of the ordinary, he left us a good deal of magnificent works, from which all medievalists are beneficiaries.

With these few words, the members of the IRCVM want to express to his family, friends and colleagues our most sincere condolences.

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