Catalan Studies 2014

Forthcoming

Cristòfol Despuig: Dialogues
A Catalan Renaissance Colloquy Set in the City of Tortosa
Cristòfol Despuig
Translated by Henry Ettinghausen

Despuig's Dialogues, written in 1557, offer a critical review of a host of issues that were topical at the time. The main features of the dialogue, which typify the revival of the genre in the Renaissance, lie in the way it expresses differing opinions, creates multiple perspectives and constructs a consistent plot that imitates a spontaneous conversation whilst providing a structure for the speakers’ reflections. Both the ways in which it articulates the discussion and the specific ideas that it allocates to its speakers make of Despuig's Dialogues a text that exemplifies the Renaissance in Catalonia. Published in association with Editorial Barcino, Barcelona.

$34.95/£19.99; April 2014
978 1 85566 275 9

New & Recent

Portraits of Holy Women
Selections from the Vita Christi
Isabel de Villena
Edited by Joan Curbet
Translated by Robert D. Hughes

The Life of Christ (Vita Christi) written by the abbess Isabel de Villena is the only literary work to have been preserved in Catalan and to bear the signature of a woman during the Middle Ages. It was composed to provide spiritual direction for the nuns within the community of Poor Clares which Isabel oversaw at the Convent of the Holy Trinity in Valencia. It has often been interpreted as a response, delivered from the serenity of the cloister, to the misogyny and satire against the female gender emanating from certain books written at that time. Sor Isabel's work is a re-evaluation of the role women played in the life of Jesus Christ, a role at variance with the subsidiary one ascribed to them by the majority of commentators.

$34.95/£18.99; June 2013
978 1 85566 259 9
184 pp, paper

The Book of the Order of Chivalry
Ramon Llull
Translated by Noel Faltows

Ramon Llull (1232-1316) composed The Book of the Order of Chivalry between 1274 and 1276 as both an instrument of reform and an agent for change. His aim was to create and codify the rules for a unilateral Order of Chivalry. The book was an immediate success and widely disseminated across Europe, eventually reaching a medieval English audience, though through a fanciful translation of a translation by William Caxton, in which most of the stylistic nuances of the Catalan original were lost.

This new translation is directly from the original Catalan, so capturing for the first time in English the concise, austere style that characterises Llull’s prose; it is presented with introduction and notes. It will be essential reading for all scholars and enthusiasts of medieval chivalric culture.

$29.95/£16.99; July 2013
978 1 84383 849 4; eISBN: 978 1 78204 216 7
11 color illus; 120 pp, paper

The Fabric of Marian Devotion in Isabel de Villena’s Vita Christi
Lesley K. Twomey

Isabel de Villena (1430-1490) is one of the most fascinating women of the Spanish middle ages. Related to the royal family, she became abbess of the Poor Clare convent, the Santa Trinitat, in Valencia in 1462, a position she held until her death. Her treatise on the religious life, Vita Christi, was the first book by a woman to be printed in the kingdom of Aragon.

This is the first full-length survey in English of Isabel's life and literary works. The author pays particular attention to the way in which devotion to the Virgin Mary is manifested and described through material culture, on her rich fabrics, brocades, silks, shoes, and crown.

$90.00/£50.00; March 2013
978 1 85566 248 3
33 b/w illus; 320 pp, cloth

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BOOK OF FORTUNE AND PRUDENCE
Llibre de Fortuna i Prudència
BERNAT METGE Translated by DAVID BARNETT
This fantasy in verse, written around 1381 by Bernat Metge, the most important Catalan writer of the fourteenth century, draws on Boethius in its portrayal of the redemption of its discontented protagonist by Prudencia who convinces him to trust in providence and renounce material possessions.

$34.95/£19.99; November 2011
978 1 85566 228 5
224 pp, paper

A COMPANION TO CATALAN CULTURE
Translated by DOMINIC KEOWN
This fantasy in verse, written around 1381 by Bernat Metge, the most important Catalan writer of the fourteenth century, draws on Boethius in its portrayal of the redemption of its discontented protagonist by Prudencia who convinces him to trust in providence and renounce material possessions.

$95.00/£55.00; April 2011
978 1 85566 227 8
7 color, 7 b/w & 4 line illus; 284 pp, cloth

LITERATURE AS A RESPONSE TO CULTURAL AND POLITICAL REPRESSION IN FRANCO'S CATALONIA
JORDI CORNELLÀ-DETRELL
This book is a thoroughly researched and documented study of Catalan literature under the Franco regime. The author focuses on four important post-Civil War novels: Incerta glòria by Joan Sales, El Testament by Xavier Benguerel, Laia by Salvador Espriu, and Tino Costa by Sebastià Juan Arbó. It draws on an impressive range of literary criticism and contemporary critical theory to examine internal differences and struggles within Catalan culture during the period, offering a more nuanced interpretation of the various means of preserving Catalan literature and identity in the face of the Castilian-centric policies of Franco's Spain.

$99.00/£60.00; August 2011
978 1 85566 206 3; eISBN: 978 1 84615 980 0
184 pp, paper

AUSIÀS MARCH
Verse Translations of Thirty Poems
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Translated by ROBERT ARCHER
Ausiàs March (1400-1459) was one of the greatest poets writing in Europe in the fifteenth century. While March has previously been translated into English prose, this anthology offers translations that, more than an aid to understanding the medieval Catalan, aspire to be poems that can be enjoyed in English without constant reference to the original. This selection includes poems on love, a cycle of six compositions on grief, a long poem on God and predestination, others of praise and vilification, or on philosophical themes.

$29.95/£16.99; July 2006
978 1 85566 130 1
184 pp, paper

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THE BOOK OF SENT SOVÍ
Medieval recipes from Catalonia
Edited by JOAN SANTANACH
Translated by ROBIN VOGELZANG

Composed around the middle of the fourteenth century, this is the oldest surviving culinary text in Catalan, a reliable source of information on the cookery of the territories of the Crown of Aragon before the revolution caused by the arrival of products from the Americas.

$29.95/£16.99; October 2008
978 1 85566 164 6
200 pp, paper

THE CATALAN RULE OF THE TEMPLARS
A Critical Edition and English Translation from Barcelona, Archivo de la Corona de Aragón, ‘Cartas Reales’, MS 3344
Edited and Translated by J. M. UPTON-WARD

This Spanish version is a follow-up to J.M. Upton-Ward’s highly successful edition of the French Rule. The introduction to this Catalan Rule discusses the content, language and dating of the manuscript. There is a brief description of the provincial organisation of the Order; a summary of clauses; and a concordance with de Curzon’s 1886 edition of the French Rule. Footnotes to the English translation elucidate the text; give biographical information on the named officers of the Order where possible; and indicate significant differences compared with the French Rule.

$90.00/£50.00; October 2003
978 0 85115 910 2
two line illus; 144 pp, cloth

THE POETRY OF SALVADOR ESPRIU
To Save the Words
D. GARETH WALTERS

The structural implications of symmetry and numerology, and the tension implicit in his poetry between involvement and detachment are the twin bases of this approach to the poetry of Salvador Espriu. Central to the study is an awareness of the precarious status of the Catalan language in the period when Espriu wrote most of his poetry, and of how his work represents, by dint of its linguistic character, an act of defiance and affirmation.

$90.00/£50.00; October 2003
978 1 85566 132 5
224 pp, cloth

ESCRIBIR LA CATALANIDAD
Lengua e identidades culturales en la narrativa contemporánea de Cataluña
STEWART KING

This study, charting the construction of a Catalan identity from the nineteenth-century cultural renaissance until the present day, explores the interaction of language, culture and identity in contemporary Catalonia. The exclusion of Castilian as a language capable of expressing ‘Catalan-ness’ is challenged and the author proposes redefining traditional understandings of Catalan literature to take into account texts produced by all members of Catalan society.

$90.00/£50.00; September 2005
978 1 85566 116 5
208 pp, cloth

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RULERS AND RULED IN FRONTIER CATALONIA, 880–1010
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JONATHAN JARRETT
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$90.00/£50.00; December 2010
978 0 86193 309 9; eISBN: 978 1 84615 922 0
6 line illus; 224 pp, cloth
Royal Historical Society

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RUTH HARVEY & LINDA PATERSON
This three-volume critical edition makes available for the first time the entire corpus of 160 tensos and partimens involving real speakers. The material is of compelling relevance to linguists, cultural historians and literary historians, offering a mine of largely untapped information on the medieval Occitan language, on contemporary politics, courtly and judicial mores, and on attitudes to gender, class, and ethnic stereotypes.

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