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Ad lectores

This issue brings together a number of papers originating in the courses and seminars that our Higher School of Mediaeval and Franciscan Studies dedicates every year to the person and work of Ramon Llull, under the direction of Sara Muzzi, the Secretary of the "Centro Italiano di Lullismo 'E.W. Platzek'" (CIL), and the successor, in teaching these courses, of Josep Perarnau i Espelt, who had taught them, at the School, for more than twenty years. Indeed, it is to the enterprise and commitment of Perarnau, as well as to his authoritativeness in the field of the thought of the *Doctor Illuminatus*, that credit is due for the establishment of the CIL at the Higher School of Mediaeval and Franciscan Studies.

Since one of the purposes of the School is that of promoting interdisciplinary research – involving literature, philosophy, theology, law, with particular attention to Mediaeval Franciscan authors and texts, and to the respective manuscript tradition – to benefit from it are, most of all, doctoral students, and those seeking to specialize further, from various Faculties and disciplines. These enrich the study of Llull by bringing to it their diverse backgrounds and sharing their own perspectives.

These papers deal with a range of subjects: Llull's work is here examined across the board, in order to stimulate study of an Author who is as yet little known in Italy and in many other places. Thus some of these papers focus on the *Vita coaetanea* and begin with the manuscript tradition (Maria Cardillo), others train their focus on those who inspired Blessed Ramon (Marcos Alejandro Quesada Navarro) and those who have, in effect, promoted approval of his work (Emanuele Carletti); some of the papers treat of the *studia linguarum* (Alexa Bianchini), others of the communicative ability of this man of the Middle Ages who still fascinates today, also beyond the halls of academe (Carlotta Ciarrapica). There is research into Llull's masterful use of the literary *genres* of his time (Stefano Gelain e Luca Pieroni) as well as research on the

Ars, where opposite positions are staked by "secular Llullists" and "Llullian theologians" (Paolo Mucciante); the constants are here identified of Llull's method of disputation (Ernesto Dezza), and light is shed on the use of biblical references by one who had refused any recourse to authority (Tomasz Karol Mantyk). Examined likewise are questions connected with the significance of Llull's anti-Averroist work (Pietro Mele), and under *Les essais*, there is a note on the presence of "Llullism" in Orthodox Russia (Paulina Drozdova). Indeed, by the time it ends, this issue of *Antonianum*, though centred on a single Author, does not feel to be that at all, and proves rather to be wholly faithful to this journal's multidisciplinary vocation. There surely are not many other authors who could command enduring close attention across such a broad range of disciplines and through the centuries, on a par with Ramon Llull.

The multiple book reviews, to which the last pages of this issue are dedicated, are preceded by Orlando Todisco's *Relatio Bibliographica* on the new book by Dario Antiseri, the well-known Italian philosopher, who for almost twenty years now (since 2003) has been teaching Epistemology at our Antonianum University. Writing in the far from simple context of these years, while we live "between absurdity and hope," Antiseri issues the call to "become aware of the primacy of the faith, explicit or implicit, which plays a role in the theoretical assumptions of those who speak of God, whether to affirm or to deny."

Returning once more to the vast range of subjects that study of Ramon Lull represents, a mention is in order that (over the last six years or so) this is the third time that an issue of *Antonianum* is dedicated to Llull and "Llullism": The first was number 3° of 2015 (Year XC), and the second – designated: *Lullo, laicus illuminatus* – was number 4° of 2017 (Year XCII). Jointly and severally, we trust, they will be seen as a much appreciated resource, not only by specialists in the study of Llull, but also by scholars in any one of the distinct disciplines involved in such study. We wish *ad lectores* that reading this issue, too, of our interdisciplinary journal may prove both as enjoyable and as profitable as they have come to expect.

Stéphane Oppes