

UNIVERSITAT OBERTA
DE CATALUNYA

DOCTOR HONORIS CAUSA

Aina Moll

2012

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PROGRAMME

- Processional entrance of the UOC's senate of doctors
- Opening of the ceremony by Her Excellency Imma Tubella i Casadevall, UOC President
- Reading of the Governing Council's resolution by Dr Joan Pujolar, UOC professor
- The doctoral candidate comes before the tribunal
- Musical interlude
- Oration for Aina Moll by Isidor Marí, lecturer in the UOC's Arts and Humanities Department and president of the Language and Literature Section of the Institute of Catalan Studies
- Conferment of the honorary doctorate on Aina Moll
- Musical interlude
- Speech by Aina Moll
- Musical interlude
- Closing of the ceremony by Her Excellency Imma Tubella i Casadevall, UOC President
- *Gaudeamus igitur*

GOVERNING COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Resolution of the Governing Council of the Universitat Oberta de Catalunya (Open University of Catalonia, UOC), by virtue of which Ms. Aina Moll i Marquès is to be invested as an honorary doctor.

In its ordinary session in Barcelona on 12 January 2012, the Governing Council of the UOC unanimously resolved to invest Ms. Aina Moll i Marquès as an honorary doctor. This is the highest academic honour that can be bestowed upon an individual in recognition of their work and achievements.

Ms. Moll has always had family and professional ties with the study and dissemination of the Catalan language and Catalan literature as expressions of universal culture. As long ago as 1947 she contributed significantly to the production of the *Atlas Lingüístico de la Península Ibérica* alongside Francesc de Borja Moll and Sanchis Guarner. She obtained a degree in Romance languages and literature from the University of Barcelona in 1953, earning an award for outstanding achievement in the process, and went on to study further in Paris, Frankfurt, Zürich and Strasbourg. She later stood out for her cultural activism, particularly as director of the *Biblioteca Raixa* collection, which published *Cap d'any*, a miscellany on current cultural and intellectual output in all the Catalan-speaking territories, at a time when censorship and prohibition were rife. She also participated in the writing, revision and reissue of the *Diccionari català-valencià-balear* whilst directing the Editorial Moll publishing house's collections. In the 1960s she began teaching Catalan on an extracurricular basis at the Institut Joan Alcover secondary school and the Estudi General Lul·lià education and research institution. She was the first director of the Estudi General Lul·lià School of Languages (1961) and organised Majorca's first summer courses in Catalan (1978-1980). Many of her undertakings set a precedent for the creation of the institutions Òmnium Cultural, Obra Cultural Balear (of which, in 1962, she was a founder) and Acció Cultural del País Valencià.

In the democratic era, she has been the Catalan government's director-general for language policy (1980-1988) and an adviser

on language issues to the government of the Balearic Islands (1990-1995). It would be difficult to overstate her contributions in those roles to the Catalan language and culture, and to the field of language planning in general. She was the first person appointed to a position of responsibility for language policy in Spain's history, and the '*El català, cosa de tots*' campaign, the first she oversaw in that capacity, laid the groundwork for the so-called 'Catalan language model'. While most multilingual regimes opt for separate services and institutions for different communities of speakers, Ms. Moll firmly backed territory-wide bilingualism, with Catalan afforded a position of symbolic and institutional pre-eminence. It is largely thanks to her that Catalans are today in a position to face the challenge of globalisation with two languages that unite rather than separate us, as well as with others likely to come into play in the future.

It is in that light that we feel it necessary to bestow an honorary doctorate from this university upon Ms. Moll, to add to the Creu de Sant Jordi (1989) and the Premi Ramon Llull (1997) already deservedly conferred upon her by the Catalan government and the government of the Balearic Islands respectively.

As General Secretary of the UOC, I hereby attest this agreement, with the approval of the University's President.

Llorenç Valverde
General Secretary of the UOC
Barcelona, 12 March 2012

LAUDATIO

SELFLESSNESS, TENACITY AND COURAGE

I would like, from the outset, to emphasise how right and fitting it is that our university should confer this academic and public recognition upon a lady who, as we shall see, has stood out due to the selflessness, tenacity and courage which have characterised her lifelong work for the Catalan language.

As the eldest daughter of the eminent Minorcan philologist Francesc de Borja Moll, Aina Moll grew up in an environment ideally suited to the path her career would take, an environment in which she undoubtedly acquired the principles and values which have constantly guided her over the years.

It is well known that, in addition to other important works, her father, an illustrious disciple of Antoni M. Alcover, had the tenacity to continue and complete, in highly adverse conditions, the masterpiece that is the *Diccionari català-valencià-balear*. Without Francesc de Borja Moll's perseverance, notably aided by Manuel Sanchis Guarner and Aina Moll in the project's final years, Alcover's extraordinary undertaking might not have been completed in 1962. Just on 50 years have gone by since then, and 150 since Alcover's birth.

We have mentioned tenacity. We have mentioned perseverance. In a play on words based on his own name –*moll* means 'soft' in Catalan–, Francesc de Borja Moll adopted a rather meaningful line of Ovid's poetry as his publishing house's motto. "*Dura tamen molli saxa cavantur aqua*". Despite being soft, water perforates rock.

That same gentle tenacity has been just as typical of Aina Moll, although she combines it with a highly selfless outlook, which soon revealed itself when she had to establish initial priorities in her promising career.

Even before graduating from the University of Barcelona in 1953, with a degree in Romance languages and literature and an award for outstanding achievement, Aina Moll had taken her first steps in dialectological fieldwork, accompanying Manuel Sanchis Guarner in conducting research for the *Atlas Lingüístico de la Península Ibérica*. She had also helped to organise the 7th Interna-

tional Romance Languages, Literature and Linguistics Conference, which was held in Barcelona in April 1953, and had joined the Société de Linguistique Romane.

Not long after, while embarking on her PhD thesis on the Ibizan dialect, she spent time abroad, furthering her studies under first-rate scholars of Romance languages and literature at the Sorbonne and in Strasbourg, Frankfurt and Zürich. She also began working, as mentioned earlier, with Sanchis Guarner on the publication of the last two volumes of the *Diccionari català-valencià-balear*, an enormous, painstaking task that entailed organising and selecting information from over 3 million documents submitted by some 1,300 contributors.

Then came the pivotal moment. In 1959, Manuel Sanchis Guarner returned to Valencia and Aina Moll, with characteristic selflessness, decided to devote herself fully to the dictionary, the family publishing house, where she directed the *Les Illes d'Or*, *Raixa* and *La Balanguera* collections, and secondary education, to the detriment of what was already on its way to being a brilliant career in research in the field of Romance languages and literature.

Having made that decision, in 1961 she won a competitive recruitment process to become head of the French Department at the Institut Joan Alcover secondary school in Palma, where, semi-clandestinely, she started running the first courses in Catalan alongside her official French classes. Apart from that audacious, pioneering initiative, her authorship of some 13 widely used French language textbooks and, above all, the mark she made on generations and generations of disciples and the esteem in which they hold her bear testimony to the transcendence of her teaching activity.

As we know, the early 1960s were a crucial time in terms of re-establishing the public presence of the Catalan language and culture. It was against that backdrop that Aina Moll began to demonstrate her courage in civic activity. She took a leading role in the cultural recovery's most outstanding initiatives, including joining her father in founding Obra Cultural Balear, an institution that has also been with us for 50 years, throughout which time it has continually set an example to others.

Her involvement with the cultural resistance movements of the era led to her becoming one of the first members of the Catalan Sociolinguistics Group and participating ever more actively in that new discipline's development, as well as in pro-Catalan language mobilisations. Together with Josep M. Llompart, Aina Moll was a key figure in the hectic years of political transition. In addition to her articles in *La columna de foc*, a column in the daily newspaper *Última Hora*, her contributions to the Catalan Culture Conference's language section and Majorcan secretariat as of 1977 were of singular importance. Having witnessed them in person, I think it is worth remembering, from the perspective of the present, that even in those days Aina Moll was firmly of the view that only by securing co-official status for Catalan in Spain, alongside Spanish, Galician and Basque, could we be guaranteed an egalitarian, multilingual future.

It was probably Aina Moll's committed, lucid involvement in the sociolinguistic debate of the time that prompted President Jordi Pujol and Minister Max Cahner to invite her to take on the role of director-general for language policy in the government that emerged from the first Catalan elections held after the implementation of the 1979 Statute of Autonomy.

Aina Moll's selflessness was once again put to the test. She was heavily involved with Majorca's cultural dynamics at the time in question. In addition to many other activities that there is not enough time to mention, she was a member of the State / General Inter-island Council Transfer Committee, promoted and coordinated the Ramon Llull Chair's summer courses in the La Porciúncula church, and was general secretary of the Organising Committee for the 16th International Romance Languages, Literature and Linguistics Conference, which took place in Palma in April 1980.

Assuming responsibilities within the government was undoubtedly a difficult decision, but, once again, her selflessness and courage prevailed. Aina Moll took up office as the first director-general for language policy on 3 June 1980. She held the post until 1988, spanning two terms of office, and literally devoted herself to it body and soul, with results whose extraordinary nature and worthiness of public recognition have become increasingly evident with the passage of time. There is now virtually unanimous consensus in that respect. Similarly, the Catalan parliament was virtually unanimous in passing the first Language Normalisation Act

in 1983, legislation to the preparation and dissemination of which Aina Moll made an absolutely vital contribution.

That was a special time, with Catalonia's reconstruction generating a tremendous collective buzz. To paraphrase Martí i Pol's well known poem, there was everything to do and everything was possible. It should be noted, however, that nothing was simple, and the powers and resources available were rather limited.

Without exceptional intelligence and skill, things could have turned out very differently. Some actually went to considerable lengths to try to make that happen, a month after the attempted coup d'état of February 1981, with an insidious manifesto questioning the logical ambition of seeing Catalan recover its full range of social uses throughout the territory in which it has traditionally been spoken, putting it on a par with all the other languages of the free peoples of the world.

Aina Moll played an essential part in ensuring that the initial foundations of Catalonia's language policy were solid and enduring. She did so in an accessible, persuasive manner that filled everyone with boundless confidence in the collective ability to construct a society in which everybody would know, use and appreciate Catalan. That notion was summed up by the slogan of the '*La Norma*' campaign (1982), '*El català, cosa de tots*' ('Catalan, a matter for everyone'). It was the first clear, comprehensible expression of the idea of social cohesion and general commitment to Catalan as a common public language, something that remains an indispensable aspect of intercultural coexistence.

It was also at that time that language immersion experiences began and consensus was formed regarding the model of combined education, with no language-based separation. Appropriately improved and fine-tuned, those two cornerstones have proven to be a guarantee of general proficiency in both Catalan and Spanish, and, thus, of the construction of a society in which unfamiliarity with an official language is not detrimental to equal opportunities or coexistence between different language and cultural communities. We would do well to keep that in mind at a time when there are calls to prioritise some people's personal preference for minimising learning in Catalan over the aforementioned principles, which are in the general interest.

Aina Moll also began advocating bilingual conversation back then, the notion that all Catalan speakers should use the language rather than unnecessarily switching to Spanish when addressing someone who understands Catalan but does not actually speak it. That change of habits where language use is concerned is still not sufficiently established and ought to be constantly insisted upon if we are to overcome the psychosocial trauma caused by Catalan's lengthy linguistic subordination.

Countless solid bases were put in place in that first stage in the development of Catalonia's language policy, which Aina Moll oversaw. The Permanent Catalan Council's language proficiency certificates, the *Digui, digui* multimedia course, the beginnings of the TV3 television channel, the first films dubbed into Catalan, the TERMCAT terminology centre and the Consortium for Language Normalisation are other well known examples. Significantly, the first resolute policy on the codification, teaching and dissemination of Aranese Occitan, based on the *Normes ortogràfiques* established in 1982, is attributable to Aina Moll. The same is true of the international renown that Catalonia's language policy quickly achieved. All that and much more, in just eight years.

Before moving on from this important part of Aina Moll's career, I would just like to point out that we are also indebted to her for the first analysis of the situation and proposal for the future of the Catalan language, in the form of the proceedings of Area 1 –'Language Normalisation Approaches and Processes'– of the 2nd International Catalan Language Conference in 1986. It is a publication well worth going back to, to see the suggestions being made even then in relation to language planning, coordination between the Catalan-speaking territories and the duties of the state with regard to linguistic diversity.

Aina Moll's time as director-general came to a close in late 1988, when her selflessness took her back to Majorca, with deserved recognition from the Catalan government in the shape of the Creu de Sant Jordi with which they honoured her in 1989.

Back in the Balearic Islands, and bridging political divides in a way difficult to comprehend in today's context, Aina Moll used her renown to pave the way for an institutional agreement for language normalisation between the government of the Balearic Is-

lands, the islands' respective councils and Palma Municipal Council in late 1989. Local authorities, civic and cultural organisations and the Spanish Ministry of Education itself later signed up to the agreement. Aina Moll became the general coordinator of the resulting complex organisation, which was governed by an inter-institutional committee and supported by a small technical office.

Aina Moll's intense awareness-raising and public education work at the forefront of the inter-institutional campaign up until 1995 is accurately reflected in her book *La nostra llengua* (1990) and the various volumes that make up the *Línia directa* series (1991-1997).

It was in that period, specifically in 1993, that Aina Moll joined the Language and Literature Section of the Institute of Catalan Studies. She has participated efficiently and rigorously in the Section's work ever since, and, whenever necessary, has courageously spoken out in public to defend our academic institution's regulatory activity and a language model that is both geared to unity and respectful of diversity.

It was only right, then, that Aina Moll's work was publicly recognised when the government of the Balearic Islands issued the first Ramon Llull Awards in 1997.

The Language and Literature Section has also paid tribute to her, marking the occasion of her 80th birthday by setting up a specific web page (<http://taller.iec.cat/filologica/Moll.asp>) via which all her articles have since been available to everyone interested in them.

A vast number of people are now united in our gratitude, respect and great appreciation for Aina Moll's work. In the light of the example of selflessness, tenacity and courage she has set, she unquestionably fully deserves to be invested as an honorary doctor by our university today.

Isidor Marí

Lecturer in the UOC's Arts and Humanities Department and president of the Language and Literature Section of the Institute of Catalan Studies

**ACCEPTANCE SPEECH BY AINA MOLL
AS DOCTOR HONORIS CAUSA**

REMEMBERING THE *DICCIONARI* ADVENTURE

President, faculty of doctors and lecturers of the Universitat Oberta de Catalunya, ladies and gentlemen,

The year 2012 marks the 150th anniversary of the birth of Antoni M. Alcover and the 50th anniversary of the completion of the *Diccionari català-valencià-balear*. It thus seems a good opportunity to remember the *Diccionari* adventure and examine the vitality of the spirit that led to its creation.

The word ‘adventure’ is defined as a “*Cas perillós o ple de peripècies extraordinàries*” [“Set of circumstances involving danger or full of extraordinary incidents”] in the *Diccionari català-valencià-balear* itself, and as an “*Empresa de reeixida dubtosa*” [“Undertaking whose success is uncertain”] in the *Diccionari Fabra*.

The dictionary that we are today considering as an example of a great adventure is that of which Father Alcover conceived as the *Diccionari de la llengua catalana*, and that was how he referred to it in his ‘Letter of Invitation’ “to all those who love this language”. The same dictionary would later be called the *Diccionari català-valencià-balear*, and is nowadays known as the ‘DCVB’ or the ‘*Diccionari Alcover-Moll*’. To Father Alcover, however, and to all of us who were in any way involved in its production –from writing out index cards and arranging them in alphabetical order to the highly laborious task of text composition for printing– or in publicising and spreading information on it, it was always, antonomastically, ‘*el Diccionari*’.

Several years ago, at the headquarters of the Institute of Catalan Studies, during an act of homage representing the Institute’s permanent reconciliation with the first president of its Language and Literature Section, I said that in order to gauge the importance of this masterpiece it is necessary to consider the exceptional circumstances in which it was produced.

As I said back then, we are not talking about a great linguist who conceived of an ambitious dictionary that would surpass those that had arisen from a firmly established lexicographical tradition, and set to work on it with his team of specialists, backed by a university or a government. It was a case of an ‘utter mad-

man’ –like Ramon Llull– who, enamoured of the language, decided to bring together all its richness, old and new, dialectal and literary, the forms of the language spoken in each part of its territory and those slumbering in archives, literary works and scientific documents. It was a tremendous undertaking, of which extracting information from all pre-existing dictionaries was but a very small part.

Not only did he not have a team of specialists to carry out the task; he himself lacked the necessary knowledge to oversee it. Not only was he initially unable to offer to pay those who pledged to send him material; they even had to provide their own paper, until he secured funding enabling him to supply it for those who could not run to such an expense.

With all that and the project’s eventual positive outcome in mind, it is tempting to apply a witty remark I once heard about an entrepreneur succeeding against all odds to Father Alcover: ‘he achieved the impossible because he did not know it was impossible’.

Father Alcover, on the contrary, *knew* it was possible, and he transmitted his belief to the Catalan masses, who answered his call.

Preparing the project

Having discovered the great richness of Majorca’s language through the island’s tales, Father Alcover conceived and developed the most ambitious dictionary project ever undertaken in the case of a Romance language, and maybe of any other. He presented the idea to a group of distinguished Majorcans on 6 May 1900 at a gathering in the library of the bishop’s palace in Majorca. Despite the enormous difficulty it entailed, it met with enthusiastic acceptance.

Following a series of meetings, Father Alcover composed a text to publicise his idea. The document was approved on 5 November of the same year. Beforehand, however, from 21 July to 26 August, he travelled around Old Catalonia (including 14 places in Northern Catalonia), carrying out dialectological research and spreading the word regarding his initiative. On his journey, he gained first-hand knowledge of the Catalan spoken in the territories from which it

had reached Majorca, practised recording dialectal information on cards and enlisted the services of people willing to assist him.

Feeling ready to embark on his adventure, he published his manifesto for the project:

The Dictionary of the Catalan Language. LETTER OF INVITATION to all the friends of this language from Father Antoni M. Alcover, Priest, Vicar-General of Majorca.

Let's look at some passages of the letter, many of which have acquired new meaning in today's context:

“With the generous, audacious, ever growing, invincible movement in support of our most beloved language, for so many years disparaged, dishonoured and unknown to its own children, everyone, desirous of being able to write and speak it correctly, is calling for its grammar and its dictionary.” [...]

Father Alcover noted that Tomàs Forteza had already produced a complete grammar. He then said that:

“The dictionary is not complete at present, nor remotely close to being so. Some were produced in Catalonia and Valencia centuries ago. While notable for their time, they are incomplete. They left the task half done and do not cover the imponderable progress made by the new philological science, nor the salvational, far-reaching, radical revolution that the said admirable science has brought about in the study of languages.

In Majorca, to the best of our knowledge, no dictionary was composed or published until the 19th century.

The first such works to reach the public, as far as we are aware, are from 1835 and belong to the ‘Economic Society of Friends of the Country’. That Society, a little excessively affected, like many others at that time, by the utopian spirit that prevailed in Europe in the 18th century [...] set out, in around 1835, to produce a Majorcan-Spanish dictionary... To redeem the mother tongue? To lift it out of its depression? To return to it that which once belonged to it? To restore to it the sceptre and crown iniquitously taken away from it by centralist, uniformity-seeking absolutism? For none of those reasons; quite the contrary. Observe what the Society itself has to say, through its secretary, in a circular inviting men of letters to participate, using the following terms, which characterise that generation of learned people perfectly:

The Society, desirous of contributing to the generalisation of the national language among us and to THE DISAPPEARANCE, AS FAR AS POSSIBLE, OF THE MAJORCAN DIALECT, AT LEAST IN INTERACTION WITH CULTURED PEOPLE, SOMETHING IT REGARDS AS A STEP TOWARDS FURTHERING THE CIVILISATION OF THE PROVINCE, [...] has decided [...] to create the Majorcan-Spanish Dictionary.

What a very... special, to put it mildly, concept those people had of civilisation! What a very novel way of being friends of the country, looking to strip the country, the Majorcan people, a civilised, established people, of something as intimate and as close to the heart, of such transcendence for the life of a people, as its language, nurtured with its milk for centuries and centuries! With a group of friends like that, the country might have taken a great step forward... towards the cemetery. Poor country, had it not had more common sense than those friends!

Thanks be to God, that enterprise did not proceed or prosper due to its flaws and defects. With all the years that have passed since then, far from falling into decline as, God forgive them, those friends wished, our language is growing stronger, and more so than ever. It is increasingly loved, celebrated and exalted even by those who previously disregarded it entirely. It is no longer merely a sheep before the shearers, as it was in 1835, but defends itself courageously, is acquiring immeasurable strength, and is extending, securing and consolidating its domain. There are no longer human forces capable of holding it back, let alone overthrowing or defeating it."

Father Alcover wrote those words about a century ago, not envisaging the re-emergence of the same class of *friends*, prepared to crush and bury our language, against whom we again have to battle. He went on to criticise other unsatisfactory precedents and the unfinished Aguiló dictionary:

"Dictionaries have again been published in Catalonia and Valencia in recent times, but they all unfortunately have the same defects we have identified: they specifically focus on the Catalan or Valencian variant and the current era, omitting the other regions and periods corresponding to the old Catalan nationality, and the language is thus reduced, mutilated, truncated [...]. The great maestro, Don Marian Aguiló, the purest glory of Majorca and the Catalan land, the shining star of Spanish lyrical poetry, patriarch of the literary renaissance in Majorca and Catalonia, had a broader, more rational, more complete concept of the lexicographical book. Don Marian soon began the glorious task of producing the dictionary of not the Majorcan, Catalan, Valencian or Northern Catalan variant, but the language spoken in all those regions, which is one and the same, and the same language written in those regions centuries ago. He

devoted much of his life to that labour. He gathered words, sentences and idioms during his trips to many of the language's old territories, as well as in libraries and archives, and came to have many thousands of them, with the cards on which he had noted them down forming a daunting mass. Unfortunately, Don Marian, may he rest in Heaven, left this world in 1897, with much material accumulated but without having begun the immense construction. [...]

And there is no dictionary. And if we wait for it to spring up all by itself, as mushrooms do, or for it to appear out of thin air, our wait will be in vain. If nobody actually works on it, it will never be completed and will never appear.

With that in mind, and seeing that nobody else was taking steps to carry out the task, and having been harangued a thousand times for not doing so, I have, in the end, decided to stand up, appeal to the friends of our beloved language and suggest undertaking the great dictionary project.

This dictionary should not just be of the language spoken in Majorca and spoken at present, but also of the language that, with the name Limousin or Catalan, has been known and famous in the literary world since the 12th century [...]; of the glorious language that, even prior to the 16th century, boasted writers as sublime as King James the Conqueror, Beat Ramon Llull, Francesc Eiximenis, St. Vicenç Ferrer, Bernat Metge, Ausies Marc and Joanot Martorell; of the language that, in France and Spain, has withstood the terrible, furious, redoubled assaults of the centralism and uniformism which have seized Europe's thrones and implacably oppress peoples; and has triumphed over the absorption and rout which the so-called official languages had in mind for it; of that language of the cradle and of the dying breath, that language of the heart, that most beloved language, with all its variants from Roussillon, Catalonia, the Balearic Islands and Valencia, with every aspect of its evolution and growth since the 11th century. The great Catalan language, thus defined, must be the subject of the dictionary that we want to create, that we are going to begin. We want to bring together, as far as possible, this marvellous treasure. We want to make as complete an inventory as we can of the richness, the stupendous, imponderable opulence of our language, which, through words, sentences, proverbs, idioms and forms, has been dispersed and spread, ever since the 11th century, in its children's numerous written monuments, stored in libraries and archives; a richness and an opulence which still gush forth rapidly, loudly and unstoppably from the mouths of the thousands and thousands of inhabitants of Spanish Catalonia and French Catalonia, the Balearic Islands and the former Kingdom of Valencia."

We can highlight a number of points based on those passages of the 'Letter of Invitation':

1.- The solid foundations upon which literary Catalan has been built were laid in Majorca, with Tomàs Forteza, Marian Aguiló and Father Alcover. Additionally, Father Alcover's entire project was organised from Majorca.

2.- All three of them had a very clear idea of the language's geographical territory, and unequivocally viewed the works of writers from every part of that territory as a shared heritage.

3.- The group that began the *Diccionari* project was organised on a participatory basis. There was no hierarchy. Father Alcover called for the assistance of all those "who want to be involved" and for "he who is most able to do so to work for a project of such transcendence".

He thus concluded his appeal for assistance with the following words:

"It is precisely because we know that the enterprise is gigantic, colossal, and are fully aware of how short and small we are, that we are looking for, are begging for the assistance, the cooperation of all the friends of the language. If we all just combine our efforts, forming a body between us, we can carry out and complete this great project.

We propose the aforementioned idea and form of realising it to all the friends of Majorca, Catalonia, Valencia and Roussillon, to all the friends of the glorious, the powerful, the brave, the most beloved mother tongue, spoken so many centuries ago in these heroic and most noble regions of the old, famous Catalan nationality.

All those who speak, all those who love this language, whether we call it Majorcan, Catalan, Valencian, Limousin or Northern Catalan (there is no need to fall out over its name), we call on all of you, we ask you all for help, aid, cooperation, support and assistance."

The beginnings

In 1901, the 'Letter of Invitation' was circulated throughout the language's territory. Father Alcover took a trip for research and publicity purposes, encompassing Catalonia, Northern Catalonia, Valencia, eastern Aragon and a brief stay in Minorca. In May, he travelled to Madrid to discuss his plans with Menéndez y Pelayo, who applauded the project. On 17 November, a general meeting of collaborators was held at the bishop's palace in Ma-

gorca to inaugurate work on the *Diccionari*. There, a decision was made to publish the *Bolletí del Diccionari de la Llengua Catalana*, a bulletin intended to serve as a means of communication between Father Alcover's collaborators from Catalonia, Valencia, Roussillon and the Balearic Islands, "and for issuing such instructions and passing on such information as may be necessary or expedient to all those participating in the great undertaking".

Firstly, the *Bolletí* contained lists of correspondents and collaborators, with registration numbers and addresses; specific instructions for those working in archives, for those working on the living language, for collecting toponyms, etc.; a list of books from which information was being extracted and of areas corresponding to the living language, and of the collaborators working thereon; basic explanations regarding the language's name, its geographical territory, etc.; and a 'Diccionari Project Chronicle', which became a means of disseminating details of Father Alcover's territory-wide lectures and promotional acts.

The *Bolletí* was also a dialectological journal –Spain's first, chronologically speaking– that was acclaimed by foreign scholars of Romance languages and literature and heightened their interest in Catalan. Father Alcover used the *Bolletí* to engage in debate with those advocating ideas or stances detrimental to the Catalan language. He did so very forcefully, unleashing a barrage of rather irrefutable arguments. In 1903, for example, he published an almost 350-page treatise on the origins of the Romance languages, under the title *Questions de llengua i literatura catalanes*, in response to Menéndez Pidal's article *Cataluña bilingüe*. Similarly, in *Una mica de dialectologia*, a 110-page eulogistic commentary on the *Das Katalanische* chapter in Gröber's *Grundriss*, he presented such a great quantity of information that Meyer-Lübke was prompted to say that the text had "founded Catalan dialectology".

Additionally, the *Bolletí* served to promote a series of initiatives that, backed by Prat de la Riba, had significant results. They included the International Catalan Language Conference (1906), sending grant holders –Griera, Barnils and Montoliu among them– to study language and literature in Germany (1908), and establishing the orientation of the Language and Literature section of the Institute of Catalan Studies.

The way all those activities were prepared and carried out can be followed step by step in the *Bolletí*, complete with names, dates, details of the distribution of tasks, etc.

For many years, as of the time of the conference, Father Alcover was known as ‘the apostle of the Catalan language’.

In 1911, Prat de la Riba established the Language and Literature Section within the Institute of Catalan Studies, itself founded in 1907. As Schädel had recommended in a memorandum for the *Diccionari*, it was originally named the ‘Section for Language and Literature Studies and the Expansion of the Catalan Language’. Father Alcover was chosen to be its president.

Our debt to Alcover

We owe all that and much more to Antoni M. Alcover and the initial impetus he gave the collective *Diccionari* adventure. Because that adventure is, essentially, the adventure of the Catalan language, which lives on today and, as was the case a hundred years ago, is crying out for us to be more active and committed in relation to it.

We are indebted to Alcover, in short, for his example of total devotion to the study and promotion of Catalan, viewed as the national language of all those who speak it, and the courage to radically champion it as our authentic language, regardless of political and administrative divisions.

Had we drawn greater inspiration from him, perhaps we could have introduced and applied a much tougher language policy with few vulnerabilities. Perhaps, even now, from his impassioned writings, we could glean a suitable ‘doctrine’ for revitalising the spirits of Catalans today, so that we could all believe that the language’s total recovery is possible, as it undoubtedly is, if all Catalans want it to be and, as Father Alcover preached, we prove it through action and not just through words.

Aina Moll

CLOSING SPEECH
IMMA TUBELLA, UOC PRESIDENT

CONVINCING RATHER THAN CONQUERING

Let me begin with a personal anecdote. The first time I heard of Aina Moll was in the mid-1970s. I was working at the *Convergència Democràtica de Catalunya* party's Studies Service, where I shared an office with Francesc Homs, who was expecting his first child. When he found out he would be having a daughter, he told me he was going to call her Aina. It was a name I had never heard before, and I thought it was beautiful. He had not chosen it because it sounded lovely or melodious though, but because Aina Moll, who had been his 'Akela' when he was a cub scout in Majorca, had become a role model for him, and he wanted his first daughter to always remind him of that.

Not long after, I met Aina Moll herself at the Catalan government's Ministry of Culture, where she was director-general for language policy and I was in charge of external relations. At that time, many of us were closely following developments in Quebec and the language law being prepared there. We pored over the Gendron Report and read all about the French speakers hailing the introduction of the law, which would completely alter the relationship between French and English in the territory, as a great historic event. The *Charte de la Langue Française*, better known as *Loi 101*, its official name, was passed in 1977, a year after the *Parti Québécois* came to power. I would just like to highlight the three main focuses of the law passed and implemented in Quebec 35 years ago:

1. Avoiding French speakers undergoing assimilation and minoritisation in their own territory.
2. Ensuring the socioeconomic predominance of the French-speaking majority.
3. Establishing the 'French cause'.

In 1971, there was great concern that English might become Quebec's *lingua franca*, despite 80.8% of the territory's population being French speakers and 14.7% English speakers. That resulted in opposition to official bilingualism, which was regarded as a major threat to the vitality of French, as it entailed the decline of the language of the majority and was thus conducive to monolingualism.

Quebec's Charte de la Langue Française served as a model for Catalonia's Language Normalisation Act, which was passed in 1983 after having been the subject of countless debates in the Catalan parliament over a period of two and a half years. Back then, I remember our honorary doctor tirelessly pointing out, with the gentle tenacity that Isidor Marí mentioned, the need for consensus to ensure the viability of the normalisation process and avoid any damage to social cohesion. The language issue caused a certain degree of tension in Catalonia, not on the streets, curiously, but in the media and the political arena. That was what made consensus so necessary and prompted Aina Moll, in an article in *Debat Nacionalista*, to borrow the famous words of Jordi Carbonell to reiterate that the prudent are not necessarily traitors and add that the imprudent do not necessarily have a death wish.

Where are we almost 30 years later? Let me quote some data from our research, specifically Project Internet Catalonia. In the survey that provided us with the data on which the project was based, we asked different questions to get different perceptions. Firstly, we asked subjects which language they wanted to use to answer the questionnaire. Secondly, there was a more direct question on what they regarded as their own language. Thirdly, there was a set of questions on their use of language at home, in work and with friends. Our intention was to compare subjective perceptions, such as in the case of the use of the language respondents considered their own. People might not be able to choose which language they use in all circumstances, but there are certain situations, such as at home and, possibly to a lesser extent, with friends, in which their language use ought to reflect their choices.

44.3% of respondents identified Spanish as their own language and 41.1% picked Catalan. The remaining 14.6% felt that both tongues were their own to an equal degree. The greatest cause for concern was the data's distribution by age group. 50% of those aged 64 or over regarded Catalan as their own language. In the case of the youngest group of respondents, aged 15 to 24, the corresponding figure was 36%. The use of Spanish at home was predominant in every age group except that comprising people aged 64 or over, who mainly used Catalan. In contrast, it was in the youngest group that the use of Spanish was most common, with a figure of 58.6%.

Spanish was also the language most respondents used with their friends, with only 29% of the youngest age group using Catalan. Another worrying point is that the survey clearly showed that immigrants from the rest of Spain were not adapting to Catalan. Despite them understanding their host society's language, 86.5% of them continued to speak Spanish with their friends. Large-scale immigration from outside Spain had not yet begun in 2002. While the sample included some people from outside Spain, they made up a relatively insignificant proportion of the survey's respondents.

With our data showing that almost 97.6% of the population understood Catalan and 80.2% were able to use it to an acceptable level, the question we were asking ourselves back then, and continue asking today, is what the reasons are for the low level of use of the language, despite regulatory initiatives geared to its normalisation. The answer seems clear to me. Language use is not only a matter of knowledge, but also of awareness, decision and family background. In addition to normalising knowledge of Catalan, it was necessary to normalise its use, to which end we need not only laws, but also a nationwide objective, a dream, and the ambition and will to transmit pride in having ties with Catalonia. As Bertolt Brecht said, "A language does not vanish due to it not being used by those who do not speak it, but to those who do speak it not using it".

"Language and history are the most highly prized spoils when subduing a nation", according to Àngel Guimerà. To language and history, I would now add the development of a social imaginary, that being the factor that leads us to forge ties. Language is linked to the state of mind of its speakers and their ability to nurture a shared dream. Language is not identity, but it is an extremely important element thereof. That is why "... [states] desperately strive to obtain that sought-after linguistic unity by violent means, and they thus favour the expansion of a language, that to which they attribute official status, and fiercely oppose others until they cause them to fall into decline and vanish". That sounds perfectly applicable to the present, don't you think? While that is sadly the case, those words were spoken by Enric Prat de la Riba at the first International Catalan Language Conference, over a century ago.

In the issue of the interactive journal *Diàleg* devoted to language and identity (I have been unable to determine its date, although I think it must be from 2006), Aina Moll wrote: "In today's

globalised, secularised world, in which other important signs, such as religion or belonging to a state, have lost value in terms of identity, the main sign of identity of people and of human communities is still their own language. Here, we cannot go into the complicated historical process through which a language is formed and comes to shape the system of thought and expression of a human group and the way it views the world; nor into the problems that the often socially conflictive coexistence of two languages in a single territory has posed for centuries; nor into the vast mosaic of countries, languages and cultures which make up the “global village”, as the world is tritely referred to today. We are simply stating that in this world, the sign *par excellence* on the basis of which people and human groups identify themselves and are identified continues to be their own language, despite the fact that there are no longer monolingual countries and practically no monolingual individuals. We are also affirming that this state of affairs can no longer be based on war or on force, but on pacific coexistence instead; not on conquering but on convincing.”

Language is, or tongues are, as Aina Moll is very aware, humankind’s major distinguishing characteristic, as well as the most powerful ideological instrument, from both a quantitative (number of speakers) and a qualitative (what is said and how it is said) perspective. Remember that in Orwell’s *1984*, with a view to restricting thought, Big Brother ordered that each edition of the standard dictionary should contain fewer words than its predecessor.

Aina Moll has devoted her entire life to saving words for us and to giving us back the name of each thing. Far from taking offence at me having dared to appropriate his words, I feel that Salvador Espriu would be deeply satisfied that I have done so in reference to Aina. As an activist, Aina Moll is as quiet and pacific as she is solid and forceful, and is perfectly aware that if you fight you might lose, but if you do not fight you have already lost. Catalonia could do with many Aina Molls to help it out of the blind alley down which the state has led it. We need people who are perseverant, rigorous, composed and tenacious.

In any case, the UOC community is extremely proud to have her as one of its members and a role model. Thank you, Doctor Moll. Thank you, Aina.

GAUDEAMUS IGITUR

*Gaudeamus igitur
Iuvenes dum sumus,
post iucundam iuventutem,
post molestam senectutem,
nos habebit humus (bis).*

*Ubi sunt qui ante nos
In mundo fuere?
Adeas ad inferos,
Transeas ad superos,
His si vis videre (bis).*

*Vivat academia,
vivant professores!
Vivat membrum quodlibet,
vivant membra quaelibet,
semper sint in flore (bis).*

BIOGRAPHY
AINA MOLL

Aina Moll Marquès

Biographical details

I was born in Ciutadella (Minorca), on 14 August 1930, to Minorcan parents living in Majorca.

My father, Francesc de Borja Moll, devoted his life to writing and publishing the *Diccionari Català-Valencià-Balear* (also known as the ‘Alcover-Moll’ dictionary), and to promoting the Catalan language and culture, through the Editorial Moll publishing house and intense teaching, research and dissemination activities in a range of organisations. Every member of his sizeable family—he had eight children—was always very aware of the vicissitudes of the dictionary’s progress, and came into contact with important Catalan and foreign linguists and the whole Catalan cultural resistance movement of the Franco era. That undoubtedly had a bearing on my career path, to the extent that I came to work with my father in all his activities.

When the civil war broke out I was in Minorca, where I had gone to spend the summer holiday period with my second sister, just after we had learned to read and write. We spent the war on a patch of land belonging to my grandfather, living an unstructured lifestyle. Nonetheless, we studied the *Elementos de varias asignaturas* textbook, a copy of which had appeared from who knows where, and devoured Majorcan tales and the entire *Patufet* collection. When the war ended, I went to primary school for two years, before beginning to attend the Institut Joan Alcover secondary school in Palma at the age of 11.

Towards the end of my secondary education, my sister Francesca and I worked on a Joaquim Ruyra vocabulary collection, which received the Marian Aguiló Award from the Institute of Catalan Studies (1948). Additionally, I took my first steps in the field of dialectology, accompanying my father and Manuel Sanchis Guarner on a three-month dialectological research expedition covering the length and breadth of Catalonia for the *Atlas Lingüístico de la Península Ibérica* (ALP I).

I completed my secondary education with an award for outstanding achievement in 1948, and went on to study philosophy and arts at the University of Barcelona, as an auditor for the first year and as an official student as of the second. In June 1953 I obtained a degree in philosophy and arts, with a specialisation in Romance languages and literature, plus an award for outstanding achievement.

In 1953 I was one of a group of Romance languages and literature students who helped to organise the 7th International Romance Languages, Literature and Linguistics Conference (whose general secretary was Dr. Badia i Margarit), which was held in Barcelona in April. Like some of my fellow students, I became a member of the Société de Linguistique Romane, the body behind the conferences in question.

Having completed my degree, in summer 1953 I set out on my first dialectal research expedition to Ibiza, for the PhD thesis I was planning to write, under the supervision of Dr. Badia i Margarit, on the Ibizan dialect. I also took part for the first time in the Summer Course in Spanish for Foreigners organised by the Estudi General Lul·lià education and research institution and the University of Barcelona. I had ties with those courses and other activities of the Estudi General Lul·lià for many years. I taught on its Catalan courses, which my father directed, and went on to found, teach French at and be the first director of the Estudi General Lul·lià School of Languages. I also collaborated with the Ramon Llull Chair, a body of the Estudi General Lul·lià and the University of Barcelona.

In the first four months of 1954, I undertook further French language and literature studies at the Sorbonne, with a grant from the French government. I followed that with a month studying phonetics at the University of Strasbourg and a summer course in German at Frankfurt/Main. I received grants from those universities on the recommendation of professors Straka and von Richthofen respectively, both of whom had taken part in the aforementioned conference in Barcelona. In addition to those grants, and offers of others that I was unable to accept, being personally acquainted with the conference participants enabled me to get much more out of my study periods abroad than a grant holder without such connections normally would. I gained access to places to

which admission was highly restricted, such as the *École des Chartes*, and to circles of favoured students of important lecturers, such as Fouché, Straka and Hoepffner, with whom they met beyond the confines of university classrooms.

In 1956 I attended the 10th International Romance Languages, Literature and Linguistics Conference, which took place in Florence (I would later attend those held in Strasbourg in 1959, Madrid in 1965 and Naples in 1974 too). I also undertook another study period abroad, a semester-long stay at the University of Zürich, where, with an inter-ministerial exchange grant, I chiefly worked with Professor Steiger (I have also taken part in various ‘stages’ for teachers of French, in Paris, Besançon and elsewhere, which have had considerably less influence on my training).

I was appointed a trainee lecturer for practical classes run by the University of Barcelona’s Chair in Historical Spanish Grammar in the academic years 1953-54, 54-55 and 55-56, and a teacher in the same capacity at Institut Joan Alcover in the following three academic years. However, I only occupied those positions, on an intensive basis, as temporary, unremunerated cover for their respective tenured holders, Dr. Antoni M. Badia i Margarit and Manuel Sanchis Guarner, as I began working with my father in a much fuller role in 1954.

I worked on the dictionary (volumes 9 and 10) from 1954 to 1961, initially sharing the task of preparing materials with Sanchis Guarner and then performing it alone as of 1959 (my father did all the actual writing work). At Editorial Moll, I was a proof reader for the dictionary and director of the *Les Illes d’Or*, *Raixà* and *La Balanguera* literary collections, and was thus in constant contact (particularly as a result of coordinating *Raixà’s Cap d’Any* publication, an annual volume of chronicles and miscellany) with numerous writers from throughout the Catalan-speaking territories. I also collaborated with Sanchis Guarner, with a grant from Spain’s Scientific Research Council, on preparing the first volume (the only one ever published) of the *Atlas Lingüístico de la Península Ibérica*. I found myself utterly absorbed by the tasks in question, to the detriment of my PhD thesis, for which I travelled to Ibiza on occasions and did a great deal of work extracting data from questionnaires and organising materials. Given the sheer volume of those documents, it seemed prudent to reduce the

project (initially encompassing the entire dialect) to a study of the dialect's lexis and to use the rest of my data for articles for publication in scientific journals. However, I would only find time to write up a study of suffixes, which appeared in *Revista de Filología Española* (195-8) under the title *Sufijos nominales i adjetivales en ibicenco*.

In 1959 Sanchis Guarner returned to Valencia for good, and Institut Joan Alcover's headmaster persuaded me to cover the resulting vacancy by taking French classes as a tenure-track teacher. Soon after, a competitive recruitment process was held for the position of head of department, which I obtained as the highest-ranked candidate (April 1961). That was a turning point in my life, the focal point of which steadily shifted from research to teaching and dissemination. From 1959 to well into 1962, I combined my teaching activity with my work on Editorial Moll's dictionary (my work on the ALPI had ended when Sanchis departed). Upon the dictionary's completion in May 1962, however, I left more and more of my tasks at Editorial Moll to Josep M. Llompart, who had started working there in 1961, and increasingly devoted my time to education and producing textbooks, so much so that I gave up on my PhD project once and for all.

I performed a number of roles over an 11-year period, including head of studies at Institut Joan Alcover, panel member for various competitive recruitment processes and tutor to trainee teachers, as well as publishing 13 widely used French language textbooks, covering every level encompassed by two different syllabuses. Additionally, ever since my time as a tenure-track teacher in the academic year 1960-61, I had taught Catalan, as well as French, at Institut Joan Alcover, unofficially and with small groups until the end of the Franco regime, and officially thereafter. I taught Romance languages and literature at the Faculty of Arts in Palma for a single academic year (one of the reasons I did not do so for longer was that it was incompatible with "working exclusively" for the secondary school). On a private and purely amicable basis, I also coached three Majorcans in Hispanic language and literature studies (not taught at Palma at the time) and, later, another in French language and literature studies, to degree level. They sat exams as auditors at the University of Barcelona, achieving notable success.

Since the age of 15, I had taken part in cultural activities in Majorca (virtually clandestine at first, and later tolerated), including literary gatherings, meetings of ‘Friends of the Arts’ and, in particular, activities organised by the dictionary’s three secretariats, which, based in Barcelona, Majorca and Valencia, coordinated by the distinguished and tireless Joan Ballester i Canals, were a focal point for much of the cultural resistance in the Catalan-speaking territories in the 1950s. The Majorca secretariat closed down once the dictionary had been completed, making it necessary to establish another body to continue its work in the field of cultural promotion. That body was Obra Cultural Balear, which I and a group of others founded in December of the same year, following the model of the Òmnium Cultural association. I gave up working at the Estudi General Lluís V. Aracil School of Languages (as well as with the scout movement, with which I had collaborated for a number of years at the request of Eladi Homs) and devoted what free time I had outside teaching to the activities (Catalan language courses, lectures, etc.) of ‘l’Obra’ and its subsidiary CENC (a coordinating body for teachers, inspired by the Rosa Sensat Teachers Association).

Civic activities to promote the Catalan language and culture intensified substantially in the 1970s. In 1975, at the Catalan Summer University in Prada, Lluís V. Aracil invited me to join the Catalan Sociolinguistics Group. I accepted and soon began to attend its meetings each month. When work on the Catalan Culture Conference started, I took part in the tasks corresponding to the event’s language section, organised by the Catalan Sociolinguistics Group, as well as those corresponding to the conference’s secretariat in Majorca, which was initially based on the premises of Obra Cultural Balear. In Majorca, we established a campaign to call for co-official status for the Catalan language, unanimously backed by everyone working for the conference. The daily newspaper *Última Hora* provided us with a weekly column, which we named *La Columna de Foc*, to raise awareness of the campaign. However, our desire to extend the initiative to the rest of the Catalan-speaking territories gave rise to disagreements over its name, specifically over the use of ‘co-official status’ or ‘official status’. A lengthy debate ensued in Majorca, which we eventually settled by compromising on ‘Campaign for the Official Use of Catalan’ (as a result, *La Columna de Foc*, which I coordinated and assiduously edited, lost certain contributors, but would continue to be published after the conference, until I moved to Barcelona in May

1980). In 1977, I actively participated in the final acts of the conference's language section in Vic and of its literature section in Majorca, especially preparations for the major pro-autonomy demonstration (the largest in memory in Palma) staged on 29 October of that year.

Possibly as a result of those activities, in which independent figures and representatives of all political parties participated, I found myself deeply involved with a number of groups in the pre-autonomy era. I was a member of the State / General Inter-island Council Transfer Committee (1978); of the body that produced a draft statute, which was presented to Minister Clavero; of the General Inter-island Council's Cultural Advisory Committee (1977-1980), which played an important role in preparing the so-called 'Bilingualism Decree' (1979); and of Palma Municipal Council (a circumstance that aided relations between the two committees, which had common goals but belonged to institutions governed by different parties).

Additionally, I was coordinator of the Ramon Llull Chair's Summer Courses in Catalan in Majorca, in the first years in which they were held in the La Porciúncula church (1978-80); chair of the first panel of senior lecturers in Balearic Catalan in Catalonia (1979); and general secretary of the 16th International Romance Languages, Literature and Linguistics Conference's Organising Committee, chaired by Dr. Badia i Margarit, also under the auspices of the Ramon Llull Chair.

The conference took place in Palma, from 7 to 12 April 1980. On 16 May I was appointed the Catalan government's director-general for language policy. I took up office on 3 June 1980 and remained in the post until September 1988.

In those eight years, I interacted a great deal with the public, with a view to promoting the normalisation of the Catalan language against a backdrop of general consensus and respect for everybody's rights. That involved lectures, articles, round tables, cultural events and other public acts, especially after the publication of the so-called 'Manifesto of the 2,300' (1981), which opposed the Catalan government's language policy, and during the campaign to explain the Language Normalisation Act (1983). I also prepared, amid a host of difficulties, the publication of volumes I

(1982) and 11 (1985) of the Romance Languages, Literature and Linguistics Conference Proceedings, and coordinated area 1 ('Language Normalisation Approaches and Processes') of the 2nd International Catalan Language Conference (1986).

In addition, I represented the Catalan government's Ministry of Culture on the Inter-ministerial Technological Innovation and Research Committee and the Inter-ministerial Committee for the Promotion of Females. I also engaged in intense external relations work following a conference on bilingualism and education organised by the CMIEB (Centre Mondial d'Information sur l'Enseignement Bilingue, an institution established under the auspices of UNESCO), which took place from 7 to 11 September 1980 in the Aosta Valley (I had to leave on the evening of 10 September to appear on Joaquim M. Puyal's television programme *Vostè preguntat*, an extremely effective means of introducing myself to the Catalan public). Catalonia's legal framework and the Catalan government's initiatives for the normalisation of the Catalan language were presented at the conference, generating great interest among both experts and government representatives from countries or communities with problems related to the coexistence of languages.

The international relations work I carried out after the conference included me presenting the Directorate-General for Language Policy at the World Sociology Conference (Mexico, 1982) and participating, as a member of the CMIEB, at the Villes Jumelées-Cités Unies World Conference (Montreal, 1984). I visited Quebec (1982, at the behest of the Catalan government), Belgium (Walloons and Flemish), Sweden, Slovenia, Israel (three countries to which I travelled as part of President Pujol's entourage on official trips), Galicia, the Basque Country, Valencia, Asturias, Brittany, Corsica and Sardinia, among other territories, and forged ties with their academic and political institutions.

I stepped down from my position at the Directorate-General in September 1988. In October, I resumed my duties at Institut Joan Alcover, following eight years of special sabbatical leave, as well as my work with Obra Cultural Balear and numerous activities geared to raising awareness of and promoting Catalan (especially, in the first half of 1989, a weekly half-hour television programme broadcast by TVE-Balears, on the basis of which I wrote the book *La nostra llengua*, Editorial Moll, 1989).

In 1989 the Catalan government awarded me its highest civilian honour, the Creu de Sant Jordi.

In late 1989, by virtue of an institutional agreement for language normalisation between the government of the Balearic Islands, the islands' respective councils and Palma Municipal Council (to which the Spanish Ministry of Education and Science, local authorities and many civic, political and cultural organisations also later signed up), I was appointed general coordinator of the Balearic Islands Language Normalisation Campaign, an atypical body governed by an inter-institutional committee. The campaign's programmes (which, according to the appendix to the agreement, "must last for several years") are partly 'general', managed by Obra Cultural Balear with a budget provided by the institutions that have signed the agreement, and partly the exclusive responsibility of each of those institutions.

I have been working full-time for the campaign and based at its office since September 1990. Part of my work consists of ongoing interaction with the public, through articles, radio and television programmes, lectures, etc., aimed at spreading knowledge on the Catalan language and the sociolinguistic situation, and at heading off troubling manoeuvres. Another part consists of nurturing relations with the other Catalan-speaking territories and elsewhere. That aspect of my work encompasses the Catalan Summer University and various events, such as those organised by the Valencian parliament and the Valencian government on parliamentary language and sociolinguistic issues respectively, those held in Galicia on education, the Brussels symposium on the role of Catalan and Dutch in Europe in the future, and the International Catalan Language and Literature Association's conference in Alicante.

The campaign's office promoted the first awareness-raising campaign using modern advertising media, under the slogan *No et mosseguis la llengua* ('Don't bite your tongue'). It was in the context of that campaign that the Catalan Assessment Council was established, a body that officially accredited Catalan language skills in competitive recruitment processes (until it was dissolved in 2004) and was responsible for *Línia directa amb la Campanya de Normalització*, the longest-running press section for language-related awareness raising and queries to have existed in the Balearic Islands to date. Cristòfol Soler's resignation as president of

the government of the Balearic Islands in May 1996 hastened the end of that organisational system.

I joined the Language and Literature Section of the Institute of Catalan Studies in 1993, since when I have participated in its activities, particularly those related to lexicography, the Balearic Islands and the Antoni M. Alcover Year (2001) and Francesc de B. Moll Year (2003) commemorations. In 2004 I published the biography *Francesc de B. Moll: la fidelitat tossuda*.

During the period in question, I also provided language-related advisory services for the Balearic Islands edition of the *Bíblia catalana interconfessional*, which was published in 1994.

The government of the Balearic Islands issued me with a Ramon Llull Award, its highest honour, in 1997, the year in which the accolades were introduced.

Similarly, one of the Pompeu Fabra Awards, issued by the government of Catalonia in recognition of contributions to enhancing Catalan's social status, was bestowed upon me in 2008, the year in which they were introduced.

Also in 2008, Sencelles, the Majorcan town in which I currently live, paid me a tribute, promoted by the local Obra Cultural Balear office, and asked me to give the opening speech for the Assumption of Mary feast day celebrations.

In November 2010, on the occasion of my 80th birthday, the Institute of Catalan Studies organised a tribute for me in Palma, where a new centre had just been established. Issue 876 of the journal *Lluc* features the speeches made at the event.

More recently, in May 2011, the Col·legi Eugenio López primary school in Palma honoured me by changing its name to Escola Aina Moll i Marquès. At the corresponding ceremony in the school, the Ministry of Education and Culture of the government of the Balearic Islands presented me with the Medal of Merit it had conferred upon me in 2010 in recognition of my civic, cultural and educational work.

[March 2012]