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Literary news about Ponç Pons on Lletra, the UOC's virtual space devoted to Catalan literature

< <http://lletra.uoc.edu/en/author/ponc-pons> >

Ponç Pons



They Have Said...

Ponç Pons defines his poetry as classical in its rhythm, modern in its expression and forceful in its content. In other words, firstly, Ponç Pons only writes poems that respect metrics, with a rhythm that is pleasing to the ear when they are read. Secondly, he uses a literary language that, while cultured in its register, also reflects the present-day use of Minorcan. Finally, he does not conceive of poetry as a simple rhetorical or formal word game but rather believes that the poem must always have something to say and that what is to be conveyed must be powerfully conveyed.

[...] On the one hand we have varied and heterogeneous sources of inspiration - or "pretext" (pre-text), as it might more aptly be named, one suggests - and, on the other, the application of this variety to equally diverse stylistic recipes. In effect, there is hardly a single poem in which we cannot find the tradition that Ponç Pons claims as his own: Vladimir Holan, Franz Kafka, Graciliano Ramos, Montale, Pessoa, T.S. Eliot, Walter Benjamin, W.C. Williams, Nerval, Marcel Proust, Wittgenstein, Matsuo Basho, Seamus Heaney, [Ramon Llull](#) ..., a tradition which is that of a Poundian Digest but now updated thanks to the culture and readings of a modern-day man. Pons is modern-day because he writes for his equals, for an anonymous public that is represented by himself above all. And it is this sum of entelechian individual readers that is precisely what makes the modern world what he understands it is: a Babel of multiple and disparate interests before the fact of culture, and a global village of human affinities, a mosaic that, the more it grows and the bigger it gets, the smaller and less significant are the pieces that comprise it, and the more homogenous it becomes from a sufficiently distanced perspective. (...) This great anthology of literature that Ponç Pons offers us also has, as is to be expected, all the possible forms: that of the narrative exposition of a Central-European story set in Menorca ("Milena"), of the delicate Oriental watercolour ("Les Petjades Escrites" - Written Footprints), of the May-'68-rock-just-under-the-water list of "Divagavari" (Divaguely), of the dialogue in the rhymed quartets dedicated to "Bernat Huguet, the eighteenth-century Minorcan poet ?", of the epigram ("*De Gravitate Mundi*") ... Hence we have a collection that achieves its own tone and colour, its precise gamut, thanks to the variety of voices that are mingled in it. The sum of the cobblestones has brought into existence a path that leads to this point - where the track ends. [...]

[Francesc Parcerisas](#), Prologue to Ponç Pons, *On s'acaba el sender* (Where the Track Ends) (Barcelona, Edicions 62, 1995)

[...] In the case of Ponç Pons, a writer who is open to transcendence, with work of a perceptible spiritual content, there is a fruitful coming together of a huge knowledge of the cultural world that characterises European modernity and a full identification with his island territory. In his work we find the familiar presence of Gauguin, or Van Gogh, or Eliot, Pound, Rilke, Pessoa, Montale and many others. Ponç Pons, although he eschews being called a scholar, seeing himself rather as a man of letters, does, however, passionately inhabit the rich literary world that pervades his books, endowing them with numerous references. However, the work of Ponç Pons is no simple inventory, a kind of drawer where time and literary concerns have been accumulating all the books he has read. Ponç

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Pons is an imaginative writer of great creative power, who is felicitously constructing an intense and crystal-clear personal voice.

[...] Among his writings we find these lines: "My eyes are so worn from living in the pages of others, / my heart so weary of living the lives of others, / that I now take up my pen and try to write some lines / to save this day that is about to expire". On one occasion Ponç Pons said, "I write for me or for an invisible reader who has all the combined features of the authors I love". This reflection moves me to recall some words of Blai Bonet in the Prologue of his book *Cant de l'arc* (Song of the Arch, 1979): "If I had to write a book that was the description and the expression of the human being installed in me, the title could possibly be *La Casa en obres* (House Under Construction) (...). I let myself be. I let myself be made. I am happy to see and hear that I am being built (?). Let yourself be constructed and you'll know what transcendence is all about".

[...] One of the most significant qualities of Ponç Pons' literary work is the rigour with which he conducts his relationship with language, whether he resorts to a colloquial or popular expression or his aim is to re-create the poetic language of a long-gone writer or, as is more often the case, to write an intimist poem.

Carles Duarte i Montserrat, "Ponç Pons: Una illa de paraules" (Ponç Pons: An Island of Words), speech given at the launch of *Estigma* (Stigma) (Barcelona, 1995)

El que en diem principi és tot sovint el final / I arribar al final és començar. / La fi és d'on partim.
(What we call the beginning is often the end / And to make an end is to make a beginning. / The end is where we start from.)

T.S. Eliot

With the appearance of *El salobre*, Ponç Pons closes not only the poetic cycle formed by his last three books but also a whole period in his production. However, in closing a trilogy and a stage, *El salobre* also opens up new horizons and perspectives on Pons' work. In brief, *El salobre* is a "hinge" book that joins past, present and future in the poet's literary project.

Pons' already-extensive poetic work can be clearly classified into three periods. The first runs from 1978 to 1988 where the poet is wrought, his vocation confirmed, his voice consolidated (after quite a variety of attempts), and his first works of a certain ambition are published (*Al marge* (In the Margin), in 1983, and *Lira de Bova* (Bulrush Lyre), in 1987). The second period falls between 1989 and 1997 and this is where we must locate the vital commitment that Pons established with poetry and with his own work, and his achievement of an impressive maturity as a literary artist starting with the collection *Desert encès* (Desert Alight), published in 1989. Throughout this second stage, Ponç Pons rendered passionate and expansive homage to literature itself and very especially to all the writers who have been decisive in his apprenticeship as a poet.

This tribute has frequently taken the form of assimilated quotes, embedded quotes, imitations, variations, dramatic monologues, etcetera. In this regard, the more recent works of Ponç Pons should be situated in the tradition of modern poets, from Browning and Whitman to Eliot and Pessoa, which has fragmented and dynamited the poetic "I" of the western tradition.

The epicentre of the second phase of Pons' production is the trilogy consisting of *On s'acaba el sender* (1995), *Estigma* (1995), and now *El salobre* (1997). Within Pons' work as a whole, *El salobre*

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has the function of closing this period of "tributes" and inaugurating a new stage, the third, which is marked by a progressive abandonment of the cultural emphasis of his previous poetic style and the emergence of a more naked, more authentic and more penetrating voice that is nourished more by the poet's own moral life than by literature.

D. Sam Abrams, Prologue to Ponç Pons, *El salobre* (Barcelona, Proa, 1997).

[...] Any one of these [fictional] texts testifies to the fluidity of Ponç Pons' prose. His prose is personal, ambitious and unerringly finds just the right word to seduce the reader. It is no coincidence that some of his books have been both enthusiastically received by school students and lauded by the critics.

[...] Since he was ten years old, when he set out on the adventure of reading and writing out of biological necessity and the need to broaden his horizons, Ponç Pons has not stopped journeying through the exuberant and abundant universe of the great writers of all cultures and all times. Since then, "I always sleep with pencil and paper next to my bed". However, not everyone can cover the distance that lies between beauty and our own eyes without falling into the abyss of vertigo or impotence. Especially when this beauty has been revealed to us by the elect. One would have to be oblivious or have the hide of a rhinoceros not to be defeated by the clarity irradiated by the lines of the great poets. It is either that or one has not lost that initiate's purity that Ponç Pons had when he was still in short pants, when he used to climb up to the attic of his family home to be Cervantes writing with an old pen in pale candlelight. He describes a night when he came in from playing and, from the street, through the windows of the house of a well-off family, he saw a scene that was like something on the screens of the first television sets that had come to his village, and he decided then and there that he would devote his life to words. Which he has done, even though he has sometimes had the same experience as Marcel Proust had in his novel *Swann's Way*. "I have nothing in mind but want to write", he says in one of the poems of *Al marge*. At that point, he was aware of a certain immaturity. Yet this reality, instead of discouraging him, became a stimulus.

To put it precisely, if Ponç Pons is one of the best poetic voices we have at present, it would not be so much because of his quality as a resolute and devoted reader of the great works but rather because he has known how to conserve the pure, clean water of his early childhood paradises. [?]

Toni Vidal Ferrando, "Els mots d'àlgebra i llum de Ponç Pons" (Ponç Pons' Words of Algebra and Light), speech given at the launch of *El salobre* (Barcelona, 27/5/97)

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A selection of texts

Text



WEB: Ponç a la Biblioteca Joan Lluís Vives

Selecció de textos dins el Portal de Poesia Catalana Contemporània de la Biblioteca virtual Joan Lluís Vives.

<http://www.lluisvives.com/FichaObra.html?Ref=25922&portal=190>



WEB: Selecció de Poesia Catalana

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Reprodueix tres poemes d'*El salobre*.

<http://www.uoc.edu/lletra/especials/folch/ppons.htm>



WEB: Cinc poemes...

... de *Pessoanes*, a *The Barcelona Review*, núm. 44 (setembre-octubre 2004).

http://www.barcelonareview.com/44/c_pp.htm



WEB: "L'univers poétique de Ponç Pons"

Recull de poemes de Pons Pons al site multilingüe *Jardins des Muses*.

<http://www.pierdelune.com/page12a.htm#Pons,%20Pon%C3%A7>



WEB: Magisteri Teatre-Mag Poesia

Inclou el poema "Roser".

<http://www.mallorcaweb.com/mag-teatre/poemes-solts/ppons.html>



WEB: Al Daltabaix Poètic!

Un poema inèdit de l'autor en aquest web independent de poesia que acull poetes de tendències ben diferents.

<http://www.sant-cugat.net/daltabaix/ppons.htm>



WEB: Publicacions i premis

El web del Festival de Poesia de Sant Cugat recull una llista d'obres publicades i de premis rebuts, així com una selecció de poemes.

<http://ilma.orgfree.com/poesiasantcugat/Pons2.htm>



WEB: Traduït a l'hongarès

Un poema de Pons traduït a l'hongarès a *La Il·lustració Poètica Metropolitana & Continental*.

<http://perso.wanadoo.es/lipmic/Pluricat/mag/ponsp.htm>



WEB: Selecció de poemes

Tres poemes de l'autor al web *Viu la poesia*.

http://www.viulapoesia.com/membrespocio/arxius/lletra/ppons_index_poemes.html



WEB: Pons Ponç

Five poems in Catalan, English and German.

http://www.escriptors.cat/autors/ponspo/pagina.php?id_sec=2120



WEB: Translated into Hungarian

A poem of Pons is translated into Hungarian in *La Il·lustració Poètica Metropolitana i Continental*.

<http://perso.wanadoo.es/lipmic/Pluricat/mag/ponsp.htm>



WEB: "L'univers poétique de Ponç Pons" (The Poetic Universe of Ponç Pons)

A collection of poems by Ponç Pons at the multilingual site *Jardins des Muses*.

<http://www.pierdelune.com/page12a.htm#Pons,%20Pon%C3%A7>

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WEB: Five Poems...

... from *Pessoanes* (Pessoans) to *The Barcelona Review*, N° 44 (September-October 2004).
http://www.barcelonareview.com/44/c_pp.htm



WEB: Selection of Catalan Poetry

Reproduces three poems from *El salobre* (The Salt Marsh).
<http://www.uoc.edu/lletra/especials/folch/ppons.htm>



WEB: Magisteri Teatre-Mag Poesia

Includes the poem "Roser".
<http://www.mallorcaweb.com/mag-teatre/poemes-solts/ppons.html>



WEB: Publications and Prizes

List of published works and prizes the writer has received, at the web page *Poesia a Sant Cugat*.
Includes poems.
<http://ilma.orgfree.com/poesiasantcugat/Pons2.htm>



AUDIO: Deu poemes recitats per l'autor

Deu poemes recitats per l'autor
http://lletra.uoc.edu/anterior/noms/ppons/html_especials/pponsrecitapoemes.html

Other



TXT: "Exordi"

"Exordi"
http://lletra.uoc.edu/anterior/noms/ppons/html_especials/filiusinsulae.html



TXT: "Exordium"

"Exordium"
http://lletra.uoc.edu/anterior/noms/ppons/html_especials/filiusinsulae.html

Bio-bibliography

Biography



WEB: A la Hiperenciclopèdia

http://www.enciclopedia.cat/fitxa_v2.jsp?NDCHEC=0245247



WEB: Fitxa al "Qui és qui a les lletres catalanes"

<http://cultura.gencat.net/ilc/qq/FitxaAutors.asp?nom1=pons&cerca=Cercar&quiform=form1&NRegistre=8&idregistre=2866>

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WEB: A la Viquipèdia

Nota biogràfica i obra de l'autor al web de l'enciclopèdia lliure.

http://ca.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ponç_Pons



WEB: Ponç Pons a l'Institut Ramon Llull

Nota biobibliogràfica dins l'espai dedicat a la Fira Internacional del Llibre de Guadalajara 2004.

http://fil04.llull.cat/cat/02protagonistes/pons_ponc.shtm



WEB: The author in the Who's Who of Catalan Literature

<http://cultura.gencat.net/ilc/qeq/fitxaAutorsuk.asp?nom1=Pons&cercauk2=Search&quinform=form1&NRegistre=8&idregistre=2866>



WEB: Ponç Pons in the Ramon Llull Institute

Biobibliographical note on this author on a page devoted to the Guadalajara International Book Fair.

http://fil04.llull.cat/eng/02protagonistes/pons_ponc.shtm

Bibliography



WEB: Què hi ha a la Biblioteca de Catalunya

http://cataleg.bnc.cat/search*cat/?searchtype=a&searcharg=Pons+Pon%C3%A7&sortdropdown=-&searchscope=13&searchscope2=13&SORT=D



WEB: Què hi ha a les biblioteques universitàries catalanes (CCUC)

http://ccuc.cbuc.cat/search*cat/a?SEARCH=Pons+Pon%C3%A7&sortdropdown=-&searchscope=23



WEB: Què hi ha a les biblioteques públiques

<http://argus.biblioteques.gencat.cat/iii/encore/search/C|SPons+Pon%C3%A7%7COrighresult|U1?lang=cat&suite=pearl>



WEB: Per comprar-ne llibres

<http://www.llibres.cat/ca/detall-autor/pons-ponc>



WEB: Per llegir a internet (BVJLV)

<http://www.lluisvives.com/FichaAutor.html?Ref=13804&portal=1>



WEB: Articles de l'autor (Traces)

<http://traces.uab.cat/search?f=author&p=Pons%20Pon%C3%A7&sc=1&ln=ca>



WEB: Articles sobre l'autor (Traces)

http://traces.uab.cat/search?ln=ca&p=Pons%2C+Pon%C3%A7&f=keyword&action_search=Cerca&c=Traces+%3A+base+de+dades+de+lengua+i+literatura+catalanes&sf=&so=d&rm=&rg=10&sc=1&of=hb

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WEB: Works in the Biblioteca de Catalunya

http://cataleg.bnc.cat/search*eng/?searchtype=a&searcharg=Pons+Pon%C3%A7&sortdropdown=-&searchscope=13&searchscope2=13&SORT=D



WEB: The author in The European Library

<http://search.theeuropeanlibrary.org/portal/en/search/%28%22creator%22+all+%22pons+pon%C3%A7%22%29.query>



WEB: The author in the Congress Library (US)

<http://catalog.loc.gov/cgi-bin/Pwebrecon.cgi?DB=local&PAGE=First>



WEB: The author in the COPAC Catalogue (UK)

<http://copac.ac.uk/search?&au=Pon%C3%A7+Pons>

Comments on the author

Criticism



WEB: Ponç Pons a l'AELC

Inclou biografia, obra, premis, transcripció d'articles, fragments de la seva obra i enllaços.
<http://www.escriptors.com/autors/ponspo/>



WEB: "Encara les paraules"

Resum poètic de 1998 llegit als Jocs Florals de Barcelona.
<http://campus.uoc.es/lletra/articles/pons1201.html>



WEB: Ponç Pons on the Lletra website in Catalan

Including more resources and reading suggestions.
<http://www.uoc.edu/lletra/noms/ppons/index.html>



WEB: Ponç Pons in AELC (Association of Catalan Language Writers)

Includes biography, works, prizes, interviews, fragments of some of his works and links.
http://www.escriptors.com/autors/ponspo/pagina.php?id_sec=926



WEB: "The Words Still"

A poetic summary of 1998 read at the Barcelona Jocs Florals.
<http://campus.uoc.es/lletra/articles/pons1201.html>

Comments



PDF: Col·loqui virtual amb Ponç Pons

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<http://lletra.uoc.edu/uploads/lletra/noms/ppons/pdf/poncpons.pdf>

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PDF: Virtual colloquium with Ponç Pons

Virtual colloquium with Ponç Pons

<http://lletra.uoc.edu/uploads/lletra/noms/ppons/pdf/poncpons.pdf>

Comments



PDF: Sobre Dillatari

Jordi Llavina escriu sobre aquest llibre de Pons, a l'*Avui* (09/06/05).

<http://www.traces.uab.es/tracesbd/avui/av06078.pdf>



PDF: "El desè cercle"

Ressenya de Susanna Rafart sobre el llibre *Pessoanes*, a l'*Avui* (05/02/04).

<http://www.traces.uab.es/tracesbd/avui/av02411.pdf>



PDF: On Dillatari (Dislandary)

Jordi Llavina writes about this book of Pons in *Avui* (9/6/05).

<http://www.traces.uab.es/tracesbd/avui/av06078.pdf>



PDF: "El desè cercle" (The Tenth Circle)

Review of the book *Pessoanes* by Susanna Rafart in *Avui* (5/2/04).

<http://www.traces.uab.es/tracesbd/avui/av02411.pdf>



WEB: Activitats per treballar poemes

Tres poemes amb propostes al web *Viu la poesia*.

http://www.viulapoesia.com/membrespocio/arxiu/lletra/ppons_index_props.html
