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< <http://lletra.uoc.edu/en/author/maria-barbal> >

Maria Barbal



Who I Am And Why I Write?

Maria Barbal

Maria Barbal (Trempe, 1949). Born in the region of Pallars Jussà, she moved to Barcelona in the mid-sixties –in what she calls "a cultural migration"– and graduated with an Arts degree from the University of Barcelona. She first became known as a writer with *Pedra de tartrera* (Mountain Scree - 1984), which won the Joaquim Ruyra prize in 1984, among other major awards. Her other works include *Càmfora* (Camphor - 1992) winner of the National Catalan Literature Prize 1993, awarded by the Catalan government, *Carrer Bolívia* (Bolívia Street - 2000), *Bella edat* (Beautiful Age - 2003) and *País íntim* (Intimate Country - 2005). The clarity with which she writes of human relations and the effects of time on one's life experiences has earned her critical acclaim and a wide readership.

I am a woman. I was born in Trempe so they call me "Trempolina". I spent my childhood and early adolescence in the Pallars region. Hundreds of days in Jussà and hundreds of hours in Sobirà.

My parents gave me what they were unable to have themselves: an education from an early age, but that was in the 1950s, the schools breathed submission and Catalan was ignored. Again, unlike my parents, I wasn't bothered by any necessary work that wasn't studying. My brother and I, like most kids from Trempe, learned to swim in the Sant Antoni reservoir. I'm speaking about holiday time, but the best holidays we had were in the early years, in the Àssua Valley, in my godmother's house when there were still cultivated fields and livestock to be taken out. Not far away from home, as if it were an effortless game, I learned the tasks of summer. Reaping, binding the sheaves, threshing? It was the end of an epoch which, when I was twelve years old, had already finished for my mother's family with the great flow of people going from the mountains to the cities.

Mine was only a cultural migration. I arrived in Barcelona in 1964 when I was fourteen to continue my secondary school studies. I didn't know then that it would become my city. This occurred much later when I finished my Arts Degree at the Central University of Barcelona and I decided to find a job in teaching.

I'd liked writing for some time but this was an instinctively intimate endeavour that I tended not to talk about.

I remember writing some verses on a pad with squared paper when I must have been about thirteen or fourteen. From this stage there are also some notebooks where I wrote a diary. Before I went with my classmates from the Institut Montserrat on a trip to Castile my father had asked me to write a report. His love for the land, people, reading, anecdotes, and words I regard as definitive in the fact of my beginning to write. But now I'm being asked why I write, in present tense.

There's more than one answer so each one covers only a part of the reasons, although any one of these parts alone is sufficient reason for me to write.

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I write because I like it.

Because it's a way of getting inside other skins. By which I mean it enables me to be who I'm not, and to do what I don't do. No doubt it's an attempt at transvestitism and nonconformity.

I write to have the freedom to say what I wouldn't say in conversation.

Sometimes I write out of need.

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AUDIO: Escotar Maria Barbal a la ràdio en català

A selection of texts

Text



AUDIO: "A la bestreta"

Maria Barbal llegeix un conte del reu recull *La pressa del temps*.

<http://www.columnaedicions.cat/docroot/grup62/includes/llobres/fitxers/11710/la-pressa-del-temps.mp3>



PDF: "Bella, bruixa, estimada"

Relat publicat a *Els Marges*, n. 78 (2006).

<http://www.raco.cat/index.php/Marges/article/view/142413/193967>



WEB: Fragment de *País íntim*, premi Bertrana 2005

A Vilaweb Lletres (28/11/05).

<http://www.vilaweb.com/www/lletres/l libre?llibre=1634607>



WEB: Fragment of *País íntim* (Intimate Country), Winner of the 2005 Bertrana Prize

At Vilaweb Lletres (28 November 2005).

<http://www.vilaweb.com/www/lletres/l libre?llibre=1634607>

Bio-bibliography

Biography



WEB: A la Hiperenciclopèdia

http://www.enciclopedia.cat/fitxa_v2.jsp?NDCHEC=0241052

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

<http://cultura.gencat.net/ilc/qeq/FitxaAutors.asp?nom1=bar&nom2=&cerca=Cerca&quiform=form1&NRegistre=4&idregistre=634>



WEB: A la Viquipèdia

Breu biografia, obra i enllaços sobre l'autor al web de l'enciclopèdia lliure.

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



WEB: The author in the Catalan Encyclopaedia

<http://www.grec.cat/cgi-bin/hecangcl2.pgm?&USUARI=&SESSIO=&NDCHEC=0241052&PGMORI=E>



WEB: Maria Barbal a l'Institut Ramon Llull

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

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



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

<http://cultura.gencat.net/ILC/qeq/FitxaAutorsuk.asp?nom1=barbal&cercauk2=Search&quiform=form1&NRegistre=2&idregistre=634>



WEB: In Wikipedia

Brief biography, works and links on the author in the free encyclopaedia.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maria_Barbal

Bibliography



WEB: Què hi ha a la Biblioteca de Catalunya

http://catalag.bnc.cat/search*cat/?searchtype=a&searcharg=Barbal+Maria&sortdropdown=-&searchscope=13&searchscope2=13&SORT=D



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

http://ccuc.cbuc.es/search*cat/a?SEARCH=Barbal+Maria&sortdropdown=-&searchscope=23



WEB: Què hi ha a les biblioteques públiques

<http://argus.biblioteques.gencat.cat/iii/encore/search/C|SBarbal+Maria|Orightresult|U1?!lang=cat&suite=pearl>



WEB: Per comprar-ne llibres

<http://www.llibres.cat/ca/detall-autor/barbal-maria>



WEB: Articles de l'autora (Traces)

<http://traces.uab.cat/search?f=author&p=Barbal%20Maria&sc=1&ln=ca>



WEB: Articles sobre l'autora (Traces)

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< <http://lletra.uoc.edu/en/author/maria-barbal> >

http://traces.uab.cat/search?In=ca&p=Barbal%2C+Maria&f=keyword&action_search=Cerca&c=Trace s+%3A+base+de+dades+de+llengua+i+literatura+catalanes&sf=&so=d&rm=&rg=10&sc=1&of=hb



WEB: Works in the Biblioteca de Catalunya

http://catalog.bnc.cat/search*eng/?searchtype=a&searcharg=Barbal+Maria&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+%22barbal+maria%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=Maria+Barbal>

Comments on the author

Criticism



WEB: 25 anys de Pedra de tartera

L'autora reflexiona sobre "la novel·la que la va convertir en escriptora", amb motiu dels 25 anys de la seva publicació. Al butlletí n. 5 de l'associació Sobirania i justícia (maig de 2010).

<http://www.sij.cat/article.php?id=86>



PDF: "Els errors d'Emma"

Ressenya de Xavier Pla sobre la novel·la *Emma*. A *l'Avui* (3/4/2008).

http://www.traces.uab.es/tracesbd/avui/av080403_07.pdf



WEB: L'autora a Traduccions de literatura catalana

Pàgina del PEN Català que conté una aproximació a l'autora, bibliografia, ressenyes de la seva obra i un llistat de les traduccions que se n'han fet.

<http://www.visat.cat/traduacions-literatura-catalana/cat/autor/116/maria-barbal.html>



WEB: Pàgina de l'AELC

Biografia, publicacions i altres materials.

<http://www.escriptors.com/autors/barbalm/>



WEB: L'autora al Corpus Literari Ciutat de Barcelona

Biografia, enllaços i transcripció d'articles sobre Barbal.

http://www.ducros.biz/corpus/index.php?command=show_news&news_id=116



WEB: "Nimietats històriques"

Melcior Comes recull una ressenya sobre *País íntim* publicada a *Presència* (11/12/05).

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< <http://lletra.uoc.edu/en/author/maria-barbal> >

<http://melciorcomes.blogspot.com/2005/12/ressenya-presncia-11desembre2005.html>



PDF: Ressenya de País íntim

Per Josep Sanz. A *Els Marges*, n. 81 (2007).

<http://www.raco.cat/index.php/Marges/article/view/142111/193639>



PDF: "Cicle del Pallars"

Crítica de Susanna Rafart sobre el cicle que formen les novel·les *Pedra de tartera*, *Mel i metzines* i *Càmfora*.

<http://www.traces.uab.es/tracesbd/avui/av04678.pdf>



WEB: Maria Barbal on the Lletra website in Catalan

Including more resources and reading suggestions.

<http://www.lletra.cat/noms/mbarbal/index.html>



WEB: AELC Website

Biography, publications and comments on the page of the Association of Catalan Language Writers.

http://www.escriptors.cat/autors/barbalm/pagina.php?id_sec=908



WEB: Maria Barbal in the City of Barcelona Literary Corpus

Biography, works, links and a transcription of articles on Barbal.

http://www.ducros.biz/corpus/index.php?command=show_news&news_id=116



WEB: Reading Guides

Extensive educational dossier prepared by SEDEC (Catalan Language Teaching Service of the Department of Education of Catalonia), with material on *Pedra de tartera* (Mountain Scree), *Ulleres de sol* (Sunglasses), *Escrivia cartes al cel* (Writing Letters to Heaven), *Bari* and *Carrer Bolívia* (Bolivia Street).

http://www.xtec.es/cgi/mediateca_crp?NU=CREL0394

Miscellaneous



PDF: "Vull creure que el millor llibre encara no l'he escrit"

Eva Piquer entrevista Maria Barbal. A *l'Avui* (3/4/2008).

http://www.traces.uab.es/tracesbd/avui/av080403_06.pdf



PDF: "Qüestions a Maria Barbal"

Carles Cortés dialoga amb l'autora sobre la seva trajectòria vital i literària.

http://www.google.com/url?sa=t&source=web&ct=res&cd=33&ved=0CAwQFjACOB4&url=http%3A%2F%2Fdescargas.cervantesvirtual.com%2Fservlet%2FSirveObras%2F68071519906139506300080%2F029642.pdf%3Fincr%3D1&rct=j&q=%22maria+barbal%22&ei=PaqfS_-oAsX54Ab8vJH8DQ&usg=AFQjCNGTr9SCdc5mTMzuiRQDqzrBedx7gg

http://www.audioencatala.cat/Escoltar_maria%20barbal.html

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< <http://lletra.uoc.edu/en/author/maria-barbal> >



WEB: Maria Barbal i el Pallars

Descripció de la ruta literària dedicada a l'autora (Vilaweb Lletres).

http://www.vilaweb.cat/www/noticia?p_idcmp=3618934



WEB: País íntim, premi Bertrana

Maria Barbal va rebre el premi Prudenci Bertrana l'any 2005. Gerard Bagué en va fer la crònica a *El País* (09/09/05).

http://www.elpais.es/articulo/20050909elpcat_14/Tes/elpepiautcat/



PDF: Maria Barbal, guanyadora del Bertrana

Notícia sobre el lliurament del premi, a Girona. *Avui* (09/09/05).

<http://www.traces.uab.es/tracesbd/avui/av06315.pdf>



WEB: Pedra de Ileron

Pàgina informativa sobre l'edició de *Pedra de tartera* en asturià.

<http://www.asturshop.com/asturshop/infoprod.asp?idproducto=623>



WEB: Centre Català del PEN

Maria Barbal és membre del Comitè d'Esriptores del PEN Català.

<http://www.pencatala.cat/comites/escriptores>



PDF: "La societat no perdona els qui se n'aparten"

Maria Barbal parla sobre els orígens de la novel·la *Emma* i sobre la seva participació a la Fira de Frankfurt. A *El País. Quadern* (27/3/08).

http://www.traces.uab.es/tracesbd/elpais/pais080327_03.pdf



WEB: País íntim, Winner of the Bertrana Prize

Maria Barbal received the Prudenci Bertrana Prize in 2005. Gerard Bagué writes about the award in *El País* (9 September 2005).

http://www.elpais.es/articulo/20050909elpcat_14/Tes/elpepiautcat/



WEB: Maria Barbal in "Alexandria"...

... on the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of the publication of her first novel *Pedra de tartera*.

<http://www.tvcatalunya.com/alexandria/programes/prog176508939.htm>



WEB: Pedra de Ileron (Mountain Scree)

Page on the publication of *Pedra de tartera* in Asturian.

<http://www.asturshop.com/asturshop/infoprod.asp?idproducto=623>



WEB: Catalan PEN Club Centre

Maria Barbal is a member of the Women Writers' Committee of the Catalan PEN Club.

http://www.pencatala.cat/comites/comite_descriptores/index.php

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< <http://lletra.uoc.edu/en/author/maria-barbal> >



WEB: Proposta de lectura sobre *Pedra de tartera*

Recursos de lectura per als estudiants d'ESO al web de l'edu365.
<http://www.edu365.cat/eso/muds/catala/lectures/pedra/index.htm>



WEB: *Pedra de tartera*

Proposta de lectura a Biblionet, la guia interactiva de literatura catalana.
<http://www.xtec.es/~lrius1/barbal/contenedor.htm>



WEB: Guies de lectura

Extens dossier pedagògic elaborat pel SEDEC, amb material sobre *Pedra de tartera*, *Ulleres de sol*, *Escrivia cartes al cel*, *Bari* i *Carrer Bolívia*.
http://www.xtec.es/cgi/mediateca_crp?NU=CREL0394
