

## Professor Peter Ricketts BA, PhD, OBE

Honorary Professor

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### About

Peter T. Ricketts, Honorary Professor at the University of Birmingham, died suddenly on the 6th May 2013, at the age of eighty. He was in the midst of several major projects. To name but two: the completion of volume 3 of his vast database of medieval Occitan texts in verse and prose, the *Concordance de l'Occitan Médiéval* (Brepols); a French translation of Martín de Riquer's three-volume anthology, *Los trovadores*.

Peter Ricketts was formerly the James Barrow Professor of French in the University of Liverpool and subsequently, until his early retirement, Professor of Romance Philology in the University of London, Queen Mary and Westfield College, of which he was an Honorary Fellow, as well as Emeritus Professor.

A tribute has been posted on the site of the Association internationale d'études occitanes. He was the AIEO's first President, from its foundation in 1981 to 1990:

[http://www.aieo.org/aieo\\_nou.htm](http://www.aieo.org/aieo_nou.htm) ([http://www.aieo.org/aieo\\_nou.htm](http://www.aieo.org/aieo_nou.htm))

Peter Ricketts had just been awarded the title of *maître-ès-jeux* of Toulouse's Académie des Jeux Floraux, a poetic society founded in the city in the year 1323, on May 3<sup>rd</sup>.

### Qualifications

- Awarded the Chevalier dans l'Ordre des Palmes Académiques
- Awarded the Chevalier dans l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres
- Given the Docteur honoris causa (Université de Toulouse - Le Mirail) in 2010

Professor Peter Ricketts was formerly the James Barrow Professor of French in the University of Liverpool and subsequently, until his early retirement, Professor of Romance Philology in the University of London, Queen Mary and Westfield College, of which he was an Honorary Fellow, as well as Emeritus Professor. He was also Honorary Fellow in the Institute for Advanced Research in Arts and Social Sciences of this University.

### Biography

His research interests included Romance philology and French linguistics, Medieval French language and literature and Medieval Occitan language and literature. He was a member of the International Courtly Literature Society and the Medieval Academy of America, and was the founding president of the Association Internationale d'Etudes Occitanes, where he was General Editor of its publication series until 2005, and was re-elected to its Council in 1996. Apart from the recognition of his services to French culture awarded by the French government, and by the British as O.B.E., his position as one of the leading scholars in the field of Medieval Occitan language and literature has been marked by the following distinctions: the Médaille de la Ville de Montpellier (effectively making him a freeman of the city), Sòci of the Felibrige (the poetic academy founded by Frédéric Mistral), Member of the Comité d'Honneur of the *Revue des Langues Romanes* and (until 2005) Vice-President of the Centre de Recherche et d'Expression des Musiques Médiévales, Pennautier (Carcassonne). A homage volume of articles by colleagues marking his contribution to the field of Romance studies was published in 2005. He was Visiting Professor at the Ecole Nationale des Chartes, Paris, in 2006-2007. Last year, in 2010, he was given an honorary doctorate by the University of Toulouse Le-Mirail.

### Research

Before his death, he was pursuing his research on several fronts. He was collaborating with Ann Buckley (Maynooth, Eire) on an edition of the texts and music of the lais of Medieval French, Franco-Occitan, Latin and German, shortly to be published in three volumes. A further collaboration with Barbara Walters (CUNY) and Vincent Corrigan (Bowling Green, Ohio) led to a study of the Corpus Christi movement in 13th century Liège, along with the edition of text and music of 21 poems, published in 2006. His work towards the completion of the edition of the *Breviari d'Amor*, in collaboration with Cyril Hershon, a huge encyclopaedic text in verse, has advanced and the totality of the text is now available, with a re-edition of vol.5 to appear shortly, to be followed by the two remaining volume, containing the introduction, bibliography and glossary. Also with Cyril Hershon, a critical edition of the second half of the *Vida de Sant Honorat* has just appeared in 2007. He had also been working on a critical edition of the Occitan translation of the Old French *La Somme le roi*, the *Libre dels vicis e dels vertutz*, which has never been published. In collaboration with Alan Reed, FRP Akehurst, John Hathaway and Cornelis van der Horst, the *Concordance de l'Occitan Médiéval* has now moved beyond its second phase, which has added to tranche 1 (troubadour poetry) a further tranche (narrative texts in verse), published by Brepols in 2005: the third tranche (prose), for which work is well advanced, should be out by 2012. Leading an international team, the edition of the *Elucidari*, the Occitan version of the *De proprietatibus rerum* by Bartholomeus Anglicus, is progressing.

### Publications

#### Books

- *Les Poésies de Guilhem de Montanhagol, troubadour provençal du XIIIe siècle* (Studies and Texts, 9). Toronto: Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies, 1964, pp. 175.

- (with Frank Hamlin and John Hathaway) *Introduction à l'étude de l'ancien provençal* (Publications Romanes et Françaises, XCVI). Genève: Droz, 1967, pp. 312. Deuxième édition entièrement refondue, Genève: Droz, 1985, pp. 324.
- (with John Hathaway, CA Robson, AD Wilshire), *Fouke le Fitz Waryn* (Anglo-Norman Text Society Nos. XXVI-XXVIII). Oxford: A.N.T.S., 1975, pp. cxxv + 137.
- *Le Breviari d'Amor de Matfre Ermengaud*, tome V (27252T-34597). Leiden: Brill, 1976, pp. xv + 346.
- *Le Breviari d'Amor de Matfre Ermengaud*, tome II (1-8880) (Publications de l'A.I.E.O., 4). Westfield College, London: A.I.E.O., 1989, pp. xii + 440.
- (with the collaboration of Cyril P Hershon) *Le Breviari d'Amor de Matfre Ermengaud*, tome III (8880T-16783) (Publications de l'A.I.E.O., 5). Royal Holloway, London: A.I.E.O., 1998, pp. xiii + 479.
- *Contributions à l'étude de l'ancien occitan: textes lyriques et non-lyriques en vers*, édités par Peter T Ricketts (Publications de l'A.I.E.O., 9). Birmingham: A.I.E.O., 2000, pp. 118.
- (with the collaboration of Cyril P Hershon) *Le Breviari d'Amor de Matfre Ermengaud*, tome IV (16783T-16783) (Publications de l'A.I.E.O., II). Turnhout: Brepols, 2004, pp. xii + 592.
- (with Barbara R Walters and Vincent Corrigan) *The Feast of Corpus Christi*. Pennsylvania: The Pennsylvania State University Press, 2006. ISBN 0 271 02924 2.
- (with the collaboration of Cyril P. Hershon) *La Vida de sant Honorat* (Publications de l'A.I.E.O., IV). Turnhout: Brepols, 2007, pp. 772. ISBN 2-503-52404-7
- (with Luc de Goustine and Dominique Billy) Martin de Riquer, *Ebles de Ventadorn, Bernart de Ventadorn, Gui d'Usseil*, notices critiques et choix de chansons occitan-français: extraits de « *Los Trovadores – Historia literaria y textos* » (traduit de l'espagnol par Françoise Crémoux), & *Maria de Ventadorn*, (présentation et notes par Luc de Goustine, Peter Ricketts et Dominique Billy), *Cahiers Carrefour Ventadour* 2008 [2009], pp. 155.

#### Edited books

- *Proceedings of the First Conference on Medieval Occitan Language and Literature*. Birmingham: University of Birmingham, 1979, pp. 134. (with John Hathaway), *Proceedings of the Second Conference on Medieval Occitan Language and Literature*. Birmingham: University of Birmingham, 1982, pp. 179.
- *Actes du Premier Congrès International de l'Association Internationale d'Etudes Occitanes* (Publications de l'AIEO, 2). Westfield College, London: AIEO, 1987, pp. 572.

#### CD ROM

- (in collaboration with Alan Reed, FRP Akehurst, John Hathaway and Cornelis van der Horst) *Concordance de l'Occitan Médiéval*, Turnhout: Brepols, 2001.
- (in collaboration with Alan Reed, FRP Akehurst, John Hathaway and Cornelis van der Horst) *Concordance de l'Occitan Médiéval (COM2)*, Turnhout: Brepols, 2005.

#### Articles (more recent)

- (with Felicity Rash) 'Le reflet de joi et *jauzimen* chez les Minnesänger', *Perspectives Médiévales* 16 (1990), pp. 35-46.
- 'Plantes et recettes médicales dans le *Breviari d'Amor* de Matfre Ermengaud de Béziers' in *Mélanges pour Robert Lafont*, Montpellier, 1990, pp. 255-66.
- 'L'estribot: forme et fond' in *Mélanges de langue et littérature occitanes en hommage à Pierre Bec*, Poitiers, 1991, pp. 475-83.
- 'Les poésies de Peire Espanhol: édition critique et traduction' in *Studies in Honor of Hans-Erich Keller*, Kalamazoo, 1993, pp. 383-95.
- 'L'édition des textes médico-botaniques', *Atti del Secondo Congresso Internazionale della "Associazione Internazionale d'Etudes Occitanes" (Torino 31 agosto - 5 settembre 1987)*, Torino, 1993, vol. II, pp. 1037-42.
- 'The Image of Late-Thirteenth Century Occitan Society in the *Breviari d'Amor* of Matfre Ermengaud', *Romance Languages Annual*, 1994, Volume VI, West Lafayette (Indiana): Purdue Research Foundation, 1995, pp. 141-3.
- 'Le problème du ms. H du *Breviari d'Amor* de Matfre Ermengaud', *Atti del XXI Congresso Internazionale di Linguistica e Filologia Romanza*, a cura di Giovanni Ruffino (Tübingen, Niemeyer, 1998), vol VI, pp. 439-44.
- (with Cyril P Hershon), 'Les textes hébraïques du *Breviari d'Amor* de Matfre Ermengaud', *Revue des langues romanes* 103 (1999), 55-97.
- '*Venguz soi a bon/mal port*: A Metaphor for Pleasure and Pain in the Lyrics of the Troubadours', *Rivista di Studi Testuali* 1 (1999), 197-205.
- 'Peire Bremon Ricas Novas, problèmes lexicologiques', *Actes du Colloque La Poésie de langue d'oc des troubadours à Mistral (17-19 décembre 1998)*, textes présentés et édités par Suzanne Thiolier-Méjean, *La France latine* (Paris: CEROC, 1999), pp. 161-169.
- 'Une nouvelle citation dans le *Breviari d'Amor* de Matfre Ermengaud', *Revue des langues romanes* 105 (2000), pp. 421-425.
- 'Le *Breviari d'Amor* de Matfre Ermengaud de Béziers: un texte et une passion', *Bulletin de la Société Archéologique, Scientifique et Littéraire de Béziers*, neuvième série, vol. V (2000-2001), pp. 17-20.
- '*VENGUZ SOI A BON/MAL PORT* ["ΚΑΙ ΒΓΗΚΑ ΣΕ ΚΑΛΟ/ΚΑΚΟΛΙΜΑΝΙ"]': ΜΙΑ ΜΕΤΑΦΟΡΑ ΤΗΣ ΧΑΡΑΣ ΚΑΙ ΤΟΥ ΠΟΝΟΥ ΣΤΗΝ ΠΟΙΗΣΗ ΤΩΝ ΤΡΟΒΑΔΟΥΡΩΝ, transl. Victor Ivanovitch, *Themata Logotechnias* 16 (Nov. 2000 – Febr. 2001), pp. 190-201.
- '*La Concordance de l'Occitan Médiéval* et les chansonniers des troubadours', *Le Rayonnement de la civilisation occitane à l'aube d'un nouveau millénaire* (6e Congrès International de l' A.I.E.O., 12 - 19 septembre 1999, Wien: Praesens, 2001), pp. 119-122.
- 'L'éthique de Matfre Ermengaud dans le *Breviari d'Amor*', *ibid.*, pp. 464-468.
- 'Deux textes occitans portant sur la vie de la Vierge Marie, une chanson de la nativité et une plainte', *Revue des langues romanes* 105 (2001), pp. 235-246.
- 'Le Roman de Daude de Pradas sur les Quatre vertus cardinales', *France Latine* 134 (2002), pp. 131-183.
- 'Matfre Ermengaud, un homme de son temps?', *Biterris: Beziers et son rayonnement culturel au Moyen Âge*. Actes des Xlles 'Rencontres de Béziers' (Centre Du Guesclin – Université Montpellier III, 8 décembre 2001), Perpignan: Ville de Béziers / P.U. de Perpignan, 2003, pp. 13-24.
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- 'La chanso de Ricau de Tarascon (PC 422, 1): édition critique, traduction et notes', *Romance Philology* 57 (2003 [2006]), pp.65-70.
- (with M. Roy Harris) 'Une paraphrase du Pater Noster en occitan médiéval', *Revue des langues romanes* CVIII (2004), pp. 527-35.
- 'Prayers/Prayers in Medieval Occitan: Critical Edition, Translation and Notes', *Studies on Ibero-Romance Linguistics dedicated to Ralph Penny*, edited by Roger Wright and Peter Ricketts (Newark: Juan de la Cuesta, 2005), pp. 127-51.
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- 'Foilla ni flors, ni chautz temps ni freidura de Bernart de la Barta: édition critique et traduction' *La France latine* 142 (2006), pp. 141-5.
- 'La lexicologie de l'occitan médiéval: un champ inculte', "Ab nou cor et ab nou talen": *Nouvelles tendances de la recherche médiévale occitane. Actes du Colloque AIEO (L'Aquila, 5-7 juillet 2001)*, textes édités par Anna Ferrari et Stefania Romualdi (Modena: Mucchi Editore, 2004 [2006]), 207-14.
- "Quant eu cavalcava l'autr'an" (PC 461, 200): édition et traduction', *Revue des langues romanes* 110 (2006), 451-6.
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- 'Bernart de Ventadorn et le drame de la fin'amor', Ventadour: passé, présent, avenir (Cahiers de Carrefour Ventadour 2006), pp. 95-113.
- 'Le lexique des plantes médicinales en occitan médiéval', *Il linguaggio scientifico e tecnico (medico, botanico, farmaceutico e nautico) fra Medioevo e Rinascimento. Atti del convegno internazionale, Pisa, 7-8 novembre 2003*, a cura di M. Sofia Corradini e Blanca Perifán (Pisa: Edizioni ETS, 2007), pp. 173-9.
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- "Une traduction en occitan médiéval des *Meditationes* sur la Passion, MS. Rodez, Bibliothèque Municipale, 60", *La France latine* 144 (2007), 328-43.
- "Un décalogue retrouvé, *Lo Premier Comandamen*: le texte occitan du ms. Paris, B.N.F., lat. 5030", *Studi di filologia romanza offerti a Valeria Bertolucci Pizzorusso*. (2 vol., Ospedaletto (Pisa): Pacini, 2006), tomo II, 1383-95.
- "Associations entre concordanciers et dictionnaires : le cas d'anc. occ. *barutell*", *Actes du XXIVe Congrès International de Linguistique et de Philologie Romanes* (Aberystwyth, 2004), édités par David Trotter (Tübingen : Max Niemeyer Verlag, 2007) tome I, 443-8.
- "Le vocabulaire chez Bernart Marti, Cercamon et Marcabru", *Le troubadour Marcabru et ses contemporains* (Cahiers de Carrefour Ventadour 2007), pp. 13-26.
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