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## s if my soul's salvation depended on it, or the luck of the City: Introduction to the theoretical work of Eugeni d'Ors related to the students' pension from the Diputació: The process of Creation and Awarding

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### summary

This article is a general introduction to the theoretical work of the philosophical formation of Eugeni D'Ors; that related to the ranting of a scholarship from the Diputació Provincial de Barcelona. It shows the process of creation and awarding starting with a quaint Commission of New Services formed ad hoc to publicize these scholarships. It then reviews the newspaper coverage which was published in parallel, which suggests a more or less direct intervention of d'Ors in the writing of the project writing. Finally, it incorporates a previously unpublished document which shows the importance that Eugeni D'Ors gave to this theoretical production, which is still unpublished and almost completely unknown.

### key words

Eugeni d'Ors; Catalan Philosophy; Noucentisme.

Any introductory approach to the work of Eugeni d'Ors has to face the problem of dealing with a personality who, if not undeniably a classic, is not unknown, either. The name circulates – discretely and with more or less prestige, or eccentricity – through a wide spectrum of European culture; no one knows when the news became tediously propaedeutic or, on the other hand, excessively specialized. Therefore, instead of guessing what might be pertinent in the introduction, it might be more interesting and appropriate to go directly to the *chiara-oscuro* character of the subject and his work, without any further background.

To deal with the topic, the first thing to keep in mind is that Eugeni d'Ors originally expressed himself in three different languages: Catalan, Spanish

and French, enjoying a good reception in each of the literary systems. At the same time, each of the communities considered him an unusual element. Eugeni d'Ors is considered a tangential part of the literary traditions which could have considered him one of their own. In the case of Spanish and French literary culture the alienation is natural and easily explained; he is an adopted member of the family; French readers who know Eugeni d'Ors, normally a specialist in questions of aesthetics and art theory, associate his work with a theory of art which, while written in French, proposes an aesthetic vision which often is nurtured by archetypes which the French reader associates with Spain; he is one of the leading theorists of Baroque and considers Picasso as a pivotal figure in twentieth century painting. On the other hand, the Spanish readers see, from the beginning of his career, collected works presented as translations from Catalan and clear, specific examples of the cultural renovation in Catalonia, and of the Catalan language. In both cases, and despite the success of the works of Eugeni d'Ors, they are not received as a local product.

The case of Catalan culture, however, is different and more complex. They cannot ignore Eugeni d'Ors as a central, local product. His name, as journalist or cultural activist, is too present in the web of Catalan culture in the first quarter of the twentieth century to ignore the fact that he is part of it. On the other hand, in contrast to his work in French or Spanish, his work in Catalan is almost never brought together in books; it appears in the form of newspaper articles. The few books published are collections of articles reworked and presented on the assumption that the reader has read them in their original format. His books published in Catalan are a subproduct of a prior relationship between reader and writer; their goal is not to be read, but to be reread or to be possessed.

This is an extraordinary accomplishment, for although collections of articles by great authors are not rare, it is unusual that the value of an author be based exclusively on his journalistic work and his cultural activity, without which one could not understand the fascination with Eugeni d'Ors. The journalistic nature of his work and his eagerness to intervene make a normal literary evaluation impossible; the relationship between Eugeni d'Ors and the reader leaves the strictly literary dimension to add a social dimension.

Therefore, if one wants to approach the phenomenon of Eugeni d'Ors in the framework of Catalan culture, it is not enough to read his works; remember that the collected works hide the original periodical dialogue which inspired him. It is essential to search, whenever possible, the specific movements and cultural intentions of the man who wrote them.

This article tries to explain the processes and bureaucracy which created the conditions under which a scholarship from the Diputació de Barcelona, gravited to Eugeni d'Ors on April 21, 1908, had to be returned. This

scholarship motivated the start of his theoretical work, set the framework for his intellectual and academic training and, as a result, shape the teaching material for the classes taught by the professor of “Logic and Methodology of the Sciences” in the Catalan University Studies; although unpublished these notes had an important impact and notable repercussions.

Whenever a reference might be too remote for the reader, and to minimize adulteration in reporting on the awarding of the scholarship, this article prefers to transcribe the unpublished documentation stored in the archives of the Diputació de Barcelona or published in the *Boletín Oficial de la Diputación de la Provincia de Barcelona* or *La Veu de Catalunya* (*The Voice of Catalunya*, a newspaper of the era) rather than summarize or interpret information. Following this line, besides noting the close harmony and synchronization of official decisions and writings by Ors, we consider of special interest the publishing of a letter signed by Eugeni d'Ors in February 1910 and addressed to Prat de la Riba. This letter, surprising in its bureaucratic style unthinkable in Ors, is a true curriculum vitae of Eugeni d'Ors' academic and intellectual life during the time he was on scholarship.

## 1. The Commission of New Services

First, it is necessary to consider the creation of the quaint Commission of New Services, an organ created, just after Prat won the elections, for the purpose of facilitating the renovation of the most urgent and perhaps delicate<sup>1</sup> questions without having to pass through one of the ordinary permanent commissions. On the one hand, it is clear that this was a way to speed up the hot issues without the customary bureaucratic red tape, and on the other, a procedure which would keep the opposition always on guard. In this sense, it is interesting to highlight Prat's astuteness because the natural invective of the Diputació assembly, which ended up repealing the commission<sup>2</sup>, didn't stop the pushing

- 1 Proposed and approved May 21, 1907 and constituted May 28 (divided in five reports: 1. Secondary rails, 2. Transformation of Provincial Schools in the Autonomic sense, 3. Creation of New Establishments, 4. Foundation and encouragement of institutions related to language, history and other elements of Catalan culture, 5. Encouragement of Socioeconomic institutions (CENSP4:1). The scholarships are part of 4.
- 2 Joan Pelfort proposed the repeal on July 7, 1907 so that every report would go to the corresponding permanent commission. In the public session on March 9, 1909 “the central department repealed the preceding order” certified secretary Parés. It is a reference to an order against Pelfort's proposal of February 20, 1909, because some of the problems which justified its creation, such as lack of time, continued. The document stressed that the DPB should do the best it could. The best it could was to ignore the repeal of the order. Months went by, it was finally admitted, upon Pelfort's insistence, on August 1, 1909. with the strategy of one who lets the days go by effortlessly, it was not repealed until the end of 1910 (CENSP4: 1).

of the principal actions for which it was created, including the scholarships in this article. We transcribe the proposal of its creation, which clearly defines the urgency which inspired Prat de la Riba:

Proposition:

All innovation, all reform, any project which is novel in the functioning of a corporation, collides with obstacles: the obstacles of routine, precedent, tradition, that is, the obstacles the old set against the new.

This general sort of obstacle, in important corporations, is increased by special ones such as being absorbed in an office so busy with its day-to-day affairs that it has no time to consider and resolve the problems that any new enterprise entails, and on the other hand, the circumstance that these problems almost always include complex questions which involve more than one permanent commission, and so they cannot be solved by one without infringing on the rights and prerogatives of another.

Therefore some corporations have successfully followed the procedure of trusting a special commission to study this sort of affair when there is a desire to respond quickly to public demands about important issues.

Public opinion expects of this provincial corporation a period of intense activity, and we must respond to their demands. Public opinion expects a vigorous push behind the problem of branch lines, that we deal decisively with the problems of Catalan culture and the transformation of the province's schools system, to the extent that it depends on the Diputació. It is our duty to provide immediate satisfaction to these expectations.

Based on the considerations, the deputies undersigned have the honor to propose to the provincial body the adoption of the following agreements:

First. A special commission will be created to propose to the Diputacio the agreements it considers necessary with regard to secondary train lines, the transformation of the province's schools in question of autonomy, the creation of new establishments and the foundation of or support for institutions related to the language, history or other elements of Catalan culture.

Second. The commission will be made of the provincial parliament president and eight deputies.

Third. This commission may request speakers, request information and advice from specialists and people with technical expertise.

Diputació Palace, 21 May 1907 (CENSP4: 3-4)

Signed: Ramón Albó, Luís Argemí, Jaime Brutau, Jaime Cruells, Santiago Gubern, Buenaventura M<sup>a</sup> Plaja, Francisco Pi y Suñer i Joaquín Sostres Rey and the President Prat de la Riba.

## 2. D'Ors' contribution to the spirit of the writing of the Diputacio scholarships proposals

With respect to the fourth report of the commission of new Services on a competition for three scholarships to study the methods of teaching (technical, secondary and higher) in foreign countries (cf. AHDPB 2282 P 3-4), Jardí affirms that “Everything leads one to think that the president of the provincial corporation has a special interest in economically favoring the reporter (not well paid, to tell the truth) of the LVC, and no one was unaware of his role as inspiration” (Jardí 1990, p 84).

In regard to economic favors, we know that the scholarship nearly doubled Eugeni d'Ors'<sup>3</sup> income; he, from his position as Paris correspondent for the *Voice of Catalonia*, was not only accumulating merits to win the scholarship, but was also contributing to the writing of the structure of the competition.

Simply taking into account his inspirational function, we must highlight two series of articles: four commentaries about the usefulness of forming students in methods of higher education in other countries and three “chronicles” which describe the scientific life in Paris, which were recycled for the report which he would present to the Diputacio as part of his application.

### 2.1. Commentaries about the importance of methodology in university studies

This series of commentaries, written three months before the scholarship competition (GI 29/10/1907; 30/10/1907; 9/11/1907; 11/11/1907) show that Eugeni d'Ors contributed powerfully in the definition of the scholarship which would be awarded and established some of the criteria evaluating the scholarship in a foreign country. Specifically, there is the need to send the scholarship holders out of the country for a long period of time, and a preparatory seminar for future grantees, all for the benefit of optimizing resources and for a scientific structure for Catalonia (Mes: MP, p42).

Ors presents the case of a student who plans to stay in Berlin for eight months to finish his studies. The commentary asserts that eight months is hardly enough time to open one's eyes, and that he will have to return home, pretending he has acquired the methodology and knowledge which, in fact, he has only sniffed from a distance. He will think that the intellectual capacity and scientific knowledge of his colleagues is superior to his own. Xenius (nickname of Ors), to the contrary, insists that the only thing lacking is an easily acquired proficiency: “the moral and sentimental preparation for

3 Cf. Castellanos 1981, p. 78, says he will collect 150 pesetas per month, and AHDPB, 2282: an agreement, where it states he will receive 1750 pesetas per year.

the scientific life, previous possession of scientific instruments and methods” (Gl 29/10/1907), abilities that the Spanish university has never supplied (Gl 30/10/1907). a few days later, in an untitled commentary “which talks about something as necessary for reading Pliny the Younger in Latin as for doing physiology experiments” (Gl 9/11/1907), he gives a journalist named Vidal Tarragó, angered by his previous commentary, some advice for taking advantage of his stay in Berlin. First, he insists on using the phrase “blessed attempt” (Gl 8/9/1906) which he used in his commentary on Beerbohm’s “The Happy Hypocrite”. Second, he insists on the utility of as long a stay as possible in the grant, so that the student can adjust to the new place without worrying about the imminent return home. Then he can leave aside the vain attempt to try to learn the science by streaks of genius, by the force of intuition<sup>4</sup>. Xenius says that the “living word” has made us think that words must come by intuition, but if one doesn’t understand declinations, one can’t read Pliny... That is, both method and discipline are needed (Gl 9/11/1907). Finally, he demands an introductory seminar on scientific life which can facilitate, from the home country (cf Mes:MP: p 5-45), the scientific teaching methods used in Europe to optimize the integration of young Catalans who, more and more, opt to finish their studies in other countries (Gl 11/11/1907). Altogether this is much in harmony, and especially in sync with the writing in the fourth report of the Commission of New Services.

## 2.2. Three scientific “chronicles” about scientific life in Paris en The Voice of Catalonia

In the spring of 1906 Eugeni d’Ors inherited the Paris column which Pere Coll i Ratflutis’s transfer had left vacant. We must mention that at first, Eugeni d’Ors not only took over his byline, but also followed Coll’s style and selection of topics, leading the reader on an almost imperceptible change from life in Paris to scientific life in Paris. The chronicles (LVC 12/11/1907, 19/11/1907, 23/11/1907), published in the time between the acceptance of the fourth report by the Commission of New Services to the writing of the rules for public competition for the scholarships are a good example (cf. AHDPB 2282: 3-4 and BODPB 29/2/1908 number 52, p 2 right column). According to Jardí, “these three articles must be interpreted beyond the anecdotal, as they show the author’s intent in giving the local reader a vision of the scientific life in Paris, which can contribute to forming the atmosphere needed for the rigor and demands necessary for the work which will have to be done by the new Institut d’Estudis Catalans” (Institute of Catalan Studies) (Jardí 1990, p 82).

4 Cf. Mes:MP: [1-4], deals with the need for systematic tools which, because they are always handy, are not necessary to reference, such as the Baldwin dictionary.

Certainly these three chronicles distill fervor, not so much for science as for the customs of the scientific community. It is not science's rigor and demands which are highlighted, but the mystic aura and sacred respect for the surrounding claptrap:

I have not been able to enter Madame Curie's office without a sense of terror invading my soul. Imagine, although it's midday siesta time, the great physics amphitheater is artificially lit. Vast, rigid, thick curtains cover the length of the windows, thus giving a funereal decoration to the room. The electric light descends from metal screens, also black. In the back, strange reflections the shiny blackness of three huge wax figures. With all that, there is a taste of clarity, aided by the shady dress of the multitude, a true multitude, with an air of a public meeting, more intuited than seen in the semidarkness of the long benches. Below, far away, the doctoral table decorated with four scientific apparatuses, poor, skeletal things without glass, no gold, no shine. Among them, the lean specter dressed in mourning lowered her reddish face to the quiet applause of the confused multitude. The specter was Madame Curie (LVC 12/11/1908; Ors 1915, p 370).

It is not vanity which makes him force all three chronicles in his *Msmcc*, the third in the appendix, under the title: "About discipline in the scientific community". Ors describes the passing of the chair in urology from Dr Guyon to Dr Joaquín Albarran as if it were the seating of an abbot; he compares the scientific community with the Benedictines:

The new master enters the order with all his power. As he and his own works illuminate the name of his master, Guyon, the young urologists' work will illuminate the name of Albarran. Like him, he dedicated time and energy to collective work, the interns and residents of the Necker Hospital will examine the ill, analyze substances, work with statistics in anonymous Benedictine labor for the greater glory of French academe. All, in this disciplined harmony, have their place and they know it. Each has his place in the hierarchy and knows which tasks are obligatory, which permitted and which forbidden (LVC 19/11/1907, cited Ors 1915, p 368).

Then he describes the extraction of a kidney with the religious fervor of a devout in a trance when he sees the splendor of a Montserrat Eucharist liturgy:

(...) This morning I saw the sacred legion in the clean, white amphitheater of the Necker... Albarran was surrounded by aides, interns, residents, students and Motz was there, too... A young woman was on the operating table, whining lightly under the influence of the chloroform. The aides had washed her and had placed her as Titian painted Venus. Then the body disappeared under white cloths. Only a small section was exposed, a bit of the side... there the master made his incision. The hands and tools dug in there... It was a difficult case. We got up from the benches to see better. There was silence in the hall. From time to time it was interrupted by three or four words from the master.

The operation had lasted seven minutes. In the end, as the aides took away the patient, the master came to our area, with the bloody piece in his hand. It was a kidney, horribly misshapen due to illness. And he said, with traces of a Spanish accent, summarizing twenty years of renal studies in a single phrase: “As this kidney serves no more, I have not hesitated to remove it” (LVC 19/11/1907; also in Msmcc; cited from Ors 1915, p 369.

During this time the parallel between scientific and devout or religious life is evident<sup>5</sup>; the coining of the phrase “scientific life” comes shortly after a series of commentaries on *Introduction to the Devout Life* by Francesc de Sales<sup>6</sup>. Later he will publish, first in the *Glosari* and then in a volume in Spanish, *Flos Sophorum*, which will be the work with the most editions in the author’s life (Gl 12/8 – 7/10/1912; Ors 1914).

It is even more interesting to note that, once he had received the scholarship the chronicler will take the reader further, from the scientific life in Paris to the scientific life, no longer needed; he will eliminate almost immediately the chronicles of Paris and will only report, occasionally, in first person, chronicles and later direct debates on international scientific congresses<sup>7</sup>.

### 3. The process of the competition

Below we present the opinion which proposed the creation of three scholarships; this will allow us to trace points in common with the previously analyzed work, which will show Ors’ implication in the design of the scholarships; not on an executive level, but on an intellectual level.

Opinion:

If the initiatives adopted by this Diputació are to produce the desired effect of raising general cultural levels, and not just a slight increase in the number of our scholars, they must align their forces with systematic regulation, destined not so much to provide lucid training for a few young people as to definitively install among us the scientific life which fills and moves the souls of advanced nations and which is found in the organs and institutions which we are bereft of, and without which the energy and heroism expended in study is reduced to an atomized individual benefit and a complete inefficiency for the people

5 For information about religion and mysticism in Ors’ thinking, see Rius 2010, p 337-8.

6 Cf. LVC (12/11/1907; 19/11/1907 i 23/11/1907) i Gl (7/03/1908; 13/03/1908; 20/03/1908; 27/03/1908; 3/04/1908; 10/04/1908; 17/04/1908).

7 After receiving the scholarship he only published a few more chronicles on Paris life (LVC 19/5/1908; 30/5/1908). the following chronicles signed by Eugeni D’Ors are “El III Congrés de Filosofia” (LVC 8/9/1908; 9/9/1908; 10/9/1908; 14/9/1908; 16/9/1908 i 18/9/1908) and “ElVI Congrés de psicologia” (LVC 19/08/1909; 24/08/1909; 31/08/1909; 2/09/1909). It is curious that the few chronicles published between the congresses (LVC 30/10/1908; 11/11/1908 i 17/11/1908) are signed Octavi de Romeu, an Ors heteronym.

as a whole. Recognizing the increasing complexity of human knowledge, science is at this time social work, for which a few well educated people can do little with their personal efforts; coordination, collaboration and discipline of the whole organism is needed.

The most appropriate medium for this is use of scientific methods, powerful intellectual instruments absolutely indispensable for any local research, attempt to invent or discover, as they are the base of scientific life.

In our present schooling science is taught as something already finished and the doctrines are repeated constantly; no one shows or teaches the students how to do science, which is precisely the goal of instruction in middle and higher level education in more educated countries, for there are sufficient books and magazines to find the results of scientific endeavors already obtained.

Even during primary education one must try to awaken and develop the tendency toward personal investigation replacing, whenever possible, mechanical rote exercises with activities which observe and experiment with the physical and moral world. But that, which we are just starting to apply, disappears in secondary education where all is reduced to mnemonic repetition and, in the university our pedagogical tools are limited almost entirely to the text books. Despite all this, modern peoples have given more importance and preparation to the theory and practice of methodology and to individual research.

It is, therefore, both convenient and urgent to establish a base for a scientific lifestyle by studying the organization and research methods in other countries. And as this city government has studied the option of satisfying part of this need by sending a group of young primary teachers to a European capital to study modern pedagogical methods at that level, it is essential that the Diputació do the same at secondary, superior and technical levels of education, which are presently orphans deprived of educational methodology. These scholars, in addition to receiving training and discipline in modern scientific methods, must also constitute a sort of advisory commission situated close to the academic authorities and the foreign centers of formation, so that they can provide news and facilities needed to make our plan of cultural expansion develop in the most favorable manner possible toward its goal.

Therefore this presentation has the honor to propose to the Special Commission of New Services, so that it can propose to the Diputació, the adoption of the following agreements:

First: Three scholarships will be created to be given by a qualified jury, so that the recipients can be sent to a foreign country to study the organization, procedure and methods of technical, secondary and higher education.

Second: These scholarships will last for two years, that is, four semesters. The value is fixed at 3500 pesetas.

Third: Every semester the students must present a report, in which they must indicate what they have accumulated in pursuit of their objective of study and considerations of what it might imply.

Fourth: To request a scholarship there will be a public competition, in which applicants will do the exercises which the jury determines and will consist principally in the demonstration of knowledge of the language of the country they are destined to and general knowledge of the subject they will study.

Fifth: The jury will be formed by “Fundació i Foment de Instruccions de Cultura Catalana” (Foundation and Promotion of Teaching of Catalan Culture), adding people as deemed convenient, and

Sixth: In the next special budget fifteen thousand pesetas will be assigned to cover these costs.

Barcelona 3 de febrer de 1908 (AHDPB 2282: 1-3).

This opinion, which includes every one of Ors’ concerns about the scientific life and methods of teaching, was approved by the Commission on February 3, 1908 (signed by José Parés), ratified by the Dipuració on February 4, 1908 (signed by José Parés) and by the Civil Governor (signed by Blanquer) on February 7, 1908, ordering it to be published in the *Boletín Oficial de la Provincia de Barcelona* (BODPB, 29 de February 29, 1908, num. 52, p. 2, right column).

Anyway, although there is no doubt about Ors’ inspiration in the establishment of these scholarships it is important, to not arouse suspicions, to make it clear that Eugeni d’Ors fulfilled all the requirements and passed tests with excellent scores: of the twelve candidates who applied, Eugeni d’Ors is the one who best met the requirements of section four (AHDPB, 2282, pp. 47-52). This is not so impressive if one considers that the competition planned to favor him. In addition, however, as far as point six, and ignoring the fact that he is the only candidate for higher education<sup>8</sup>, a quick glance at the other applicants shows that his application has the clearest expression, is the most original and well construed and by far the best informed. The same thing happened with the language test: on April 15 they called the candidates and jury to celebrate the language test. Ors did a test in English which, while not an excellent translation, was the only one translating into Catalan. Besides, he presented both a literal and a literary translation (AHDPB, 2282, p. 90).

8 AHDPB, 2282, 6, pp. 7-76. A list of the candidates —Eugeni d’Ors is seventh— and the title of the report: “1. Alfredo Elias i Pujol (who lived in New York and only presented a baptismal certificate) ; 2. Emilio Vallés Vidal – Pge Domingo 5, 2n 2a (who didn’t apply, or if he did, left no record of his report or language exam); 3. Juan Matabosch Basols – Bruc 33 4t 4a; 4. Antonio Llorens Clariana, Balmes 61, 3r, 1a (report in Catalan: Notes on the organization of teaching) ; 5. Guillermo Busquets Vastravers – Rda. Universitat 29, 2a; 6. Enrique Jardí Miguel – Claris 35, 1r (report in Catalan: Notes on the organization of secondary education- general problems- The type of secondary education most appropriate to Catalonia); 7. Eugenio Ors Rovira – Rda. St. Antoni 57, 3r 1a (report: Critique and methods of contemporary science); 8. Cebrián Montoliu Togores – Carril 141 (St. Gervasi); 9. Juan de Dalmau Domingo – Professor auxiliar d’arts...; 10. Juan Vidal Martí – Corts 596 – 4t.”

According to the expert Kroener, Ors made “af half mistake and a three quarters mistake in French and a fourth of a mistake in English “ (AHDPB, 2282, pp. 95-96). According to this report, he has the smallest number of mistakes and therefore, the highest grade. His candidacy was impeccable. The same cannot be said for the other candidates: for example Enric Jardí, father of the biographer often cited here, didn't pass the French examination but (AHDPB, 2282, p. 96), was given the secondary scholarship anyway.

Finally, on April 21, decisions were made regarding the secondary and higher education scholarships:

After a careful examination of the merits and abilities of the candidates, and with the advice from the people named for this purpose by the jury, the jury agrees unanimously to designate Eugeni Ors Rovira for the scholarship for higher education and Enric Jardí Miquel for the secondary grant. It will not decide on the technical education scholarship until it has the report from the three experts (AHDPB, 2282, p. 97).

One should note the unanimity of the jury, which is not repeated in the last scholarship. The third was not resolved until June 19. The jury formed by Prat, Plaja and Corominas – Gubern excused himself – gave the scholarship to Antoni Llorens (AHDPB, 2282, pp. 104 i 98). The process of awarding the scholarship for technical studies showed a certain lack of agreement among the jury: Prat and Plaja, and later Corominas, on one side and Gubern on the other.

Be that as it may, the order to leave for their destinations was immediate; on the same page of the resolution there is a space to fill in name and destination “Mr Eugeni Ors Rovira (Paris), Mr Enrique Jardí Miquel (Brussels)”, “in accordance with the stipulation in point 8 of the aforementioned competition, prepare to leave for (Paris-Brussels), the destination designated, to begin the referred to studies and indicating the date of verification...” (AHDPB, 2282, p. 98).

On May 11, Ors tells Prat de la Riba that he has settled in Paris, 27 Rue Jasmin (XVIe), and would he please pay the first stipend to his father or to Francesc d'Assis Amau i Ors to cover the costs of the trip, settling in and living costs for the first few months. On May 21, Prat approves the expenditure of 865 pesetas requested by Ors (AHDPB, 2282, p. 100). It seems that the payments were normally made punctually. At the end of the scholarship, in April 1911 Ors notes a delay in payment when he is in Florence (Ors 1997, p. 240), but it is due to the “poste restante”(Ors 1997, p. 245).

Therefore we can affirm that, despite the slight arbitrariness in the granting the scholarship to Jardí and Llorens, precisely because such anomalies appear in the public record, the public competition for and the distribution of the scholarships was, administratively a transparent process.

#### 4. Eugeni d'Ors' curriculum vitae presented to the Diputació

Equally noteworthy is Ors' scrupulousness in meeting the bureaucratic demands during the period of his scholarship. In this sense, his letter to Prat de la Riba requesting a six month extension is a capital document for structuring the theoretical body of Ors' work we mean to show. On the one hand, from a bibliographic point of view, this document is a very detailed presentation of the merits, tasks, research, publications and activities that the scholarship holder did during the time he was on scholarship; it's a true curriculum vitae. On the other hand it is also important from a biographical viewpoint: both the extreme formality and the exhaustive detail of the author's merits are fundamental traits of his personality. We will also have a chance to show his ability to profit from his merits, something essential in writing a curriculum:

The undersigned, commissioned by the Excellent Diputació of Barcelona, in relation with the public competition celebrated April 1908, with the mission of studying methods of higher education in foreign countries, comes to your excellency respectfully today to request that there be an extension, until December 31 of this year, of the scholarship which according to the limits of the agreement in the competition previously cited, should finish in May of 1910.

During the time he has carried out this mission, and to comply with its goals, the undersigned has visited the Universities of Paris and Toulouse in France, Brussels (free and new), Gant and Louvain in Belgium, Heidelberg in Germany, Geneva and Lausanne (old and new) in Switzerland, having informed himself carefully in each on the organization and educational procedures. In the University of Paris the undersigned has finished various stays for study, as well as in other centers of higher learning in the French capital, dedicating himself especially to logic and methods of philosophical, biological and psychological science. He has attentively followed classes, in the Sorbonne and the College of France, devoted to epistemology, methodology and biology. In both of these establishments, as well as in the Catholic Institute of Paris and the laboratories of Assil de Sainte Anne and Assil de Villejuif associated to the Ecole d'Arts, he has worked in psychology and especially in experimental psychology. He has followed, as well, as a foreign assistant, the sessions and occasionally the tasks of the "Société de Philosophie", the "Société de Biologie", and the "Institut général psychologique" in Paris.

As he did these tasks, the undersigned, considering the duty he had established with his compatriots, and not wishing to delay the communication to his country of the knowledge gained in some of his journeys, nor of the results of his personal research, has taught, within the limits of available time, public classes in Barcelona. Named in August 1908 professor of Logic and Methodology of Science at the Institut d'Estudis Catalans, he inaugurated his teaching in April 1909 with four introductory lectures presenting the theory and methods

of biological logic; he continued in December 1909 with four more lectures about the psychology of attention, a preface to later lectures to be given about the logic of attention. In addition, and taking into account the practical character which, in the pedagogy characteristic of foreign universities is customary for such teaching, and to accustom the students to the use of experimental methods, the undersigned has organized, with the cooperation of a group of amateurs and well deserving staff, an annex to the class at *Estudis Universitaris Catalans*, "A Seminar in Biological Logic" which to date includes three experimental works: a psychological survey on the aims of Catalan youth, which now includes over 500 documents, classified and organized; a test according to the American style of tests on attention, using copy editors as subjects; a laboratory session, verified by the physiology group of the medical faculty for the study of the influence of mental processes on respiratory movements. The programs and documents about these courses have been or will be published in the *Review of Catalan University Studies*. A summary to the introductory lectures has appeared, as well, in the *Archives de Neurologie* in Paris.

Complying with the conditions of the mission confided to him, the undersigned has periodically remitted reports referring to the objects of his studies to the Diputació of Barcelona. The report of the competition, where the ideas of modern authors on Epistemology are presented, was deposited in the Diputació archives in March 1908 and others have followed, corresponding to the past three trimesters: one details the organization and program of an introductory survey course which will serve to introduce students of university teaching to the study of scientific specialties; the second includes two works presented at the Philosophy Congress at Heidelberg and the third is on biological logic.

The undersigned has, on the other hand, represented Catalonia in two scientific congresses: Philosophy Congress III in Heidelberg 1908 and Psychology Congress IV in Geneva 1909 (In Heidelberg he presented two communications; one, "The residue of measurement in the science of action" offers a criticism of modern pragmatism. This was printed separately by the publisher Karl Winter of Heidelberg and was translated in the bulletin of the *Estudis Universitaris Catalans* in Barcelona and the *Boletín de la Institución Libre de Enseñanza* in Madrid; summarized in the *Revue de Métaphysique et de Morale*, in Paris and cited in several other journals. The second communication to the Philosophical Congress, "Religio est libertas", indicates from an exclusively epistemological perspective, the necessary limits of scientific determinism, claiming to study religion as a psychological phenomenon. This was discussed at the congress by Mr Waldapfel, professor from the University of Budapest, and M Norero of Paris. It was inserted, translated by Prof Giovanni Vidari, in *Rivista filosofica italiana* (March – Abril 1909); printed as a booklet by the publisher Formiggini, in Modena; summarized in the *Revue de Métaphysique et de Morale* in Paris and the *Annales de Philosophie Chrétienne*, also Paris, and has been discussed and cited in other journals<sup>9</sup>.

9 (...) Indicates a paraphrased fragment from McIlhills.

At the psychology Congress, the undersigned presented a summary of his research on logical facts considered as an immunity phenomenon. This was discussed by Prof Madâý from the Univeristy of Geneva and Anthrops from Paris. It was published in the Archives de Neurologie in París, and is being reprinted as a booklet by Blond and Bougault. It will also appear, like the two from the Philosophy Congress, in the respective volumes of Comptes-rendus.

Besides these written works, the undersigned dares to indicate some laboratory work done by him in the male section of the assil de Villejuif, on the logic of mental illness, the logic of dreams, logic and spoken language, as well as his collaboration on articles and bibliographic notes for various Spanish journals; a Spanish version of Blaise Pascal's philosophical work, presently being published by Garnier in Paris, a psychological essay in French on the relationship between logical activity and phonetic articulation, which will be part of the "Biblioteque de Pyscologie experimentale et de Metapsychie" published by Blond, in París.

The undersigned presents this list of works to his Excellency in the hopes that he will approve the requested extension which he plans to use, if approved, for a stay in Germany, visiting universities and continuing his work on logic and biology, and preparing a dignified national representation in the Bologna Philosophy Congress.

The undersigned gives thanks for any recognition this may bring

May God keep your Excellency for many years.

Paris, 1 [...] February, 1910

Eugeni d'Ors

27, rue Jasmin

París – XVIe

Excm. Mr. President of the Diputació Provincial de Barcelona (AHDPB, 2282, pp. 142-145).

On March 23, Prat accepted Ors' petition and decided to extend the scholarship half a year more, with funding of 1500 pesetas which came from an allotment of 6000 pesetas for a German professor which had money left over (AHDPB, 2282, pp. 146-148).

Without establishing comparisons, we can consider that the exhaustive curriculum and the distant, hygienic tone of Eugeni d'Ors' letter correspond to the demands of bureaucracy necessary in public administration, but it seems that, in the name, we suppose, of greater executive speed and efficiency, that the provincial offices move faster and faster until they run the risk of losing their protocol: we know that on March 15 E Jardí, in London with empty pockets, decided to write a very personal letter to Prat (AHDPB, 2282, p. 149); he also requests, if not an extension, some sort of

advice, support or aid from the president of the corporation. In fact, it seems a personal letter addressed to a close friend more than to the president of the Excellent Diputacion, and tells the story of his extremely precarious situation and asks advice about what to do... There is not a specific request for an extension of the scholarship. Just the same, Prat accepts the letter, we repeat, a desperate one, as a formal communication to the administration and on March 23, 1910 accepts, in fact offers without a formal request, an extension to be paid in the same way as before, but in this case for only three months (AHDPB, 2282, pp. 150-151).

We want to clarify that the scrupulousness and detail of Ors' request are in response to the demands he sets for himself, and not requirements set by the administration. In our view, this shows the importance Ors gave to the task associated with the scholarship and the great care in presenting the results. Therefore, we feel that the works cited in the preceding document are important.

There is testimony to the effort and dedication used in writing these reports. Ors writes to Maragall, in a letter dated March, 1909:

Until recently I have been writing as hard as I can the first of the semester reports required by my Diputació scholarship, and which has been delayed since New Year's. A sad task because one puts, despite all precautions, his effort, spirit and love into something no one will ever read... and there's no solution to the problem. I've tried to do it differently: I tried to breathe life into a hundred pages which will rot in the provincial archives, and I can't. A strange imperative of scruples obliges me constantly to do the most hateful things, diligently, as if the salvation of my soul depended on it, or the luck of the city (Ors 1997, p. 187).

So we don't discard the possibility, as exaggerated as it may seem, that by resurrecting these documents, half forgotten, from the Diputació archive, we are helping to save the soul of the author, which would do him well, and offer a better future to the luck of the city, equally invisible and equally necessary.

## 5. A sort of conclusion

We take into account that the concern to start a reform in university education appears as a central element, dominating Ors' action from the start of his career; his first documented public act is about this subject (Pérez 2014, pp. 30-42). In addition, he deals with it constantly throughout the years, and in whatever publication he writes for. Contrary to the normal view one has of Ors, it is not an exaggeration to say that Eugeni d'Ors subordinates his jour-

nalistic talent to his academic ambitions. And this places the documents we have just presented and the related theoretic body of work, especially that form his curriculum vitae, in the epicenter of his production.

From his start as a public figure in the first Catalan University Congress in 1903, Eugeni d'Ors appears linked to programs of university renovation and is the representative of the *Federació Escolar Catalana* (Federation of Catalan Schools), a group linked to Prat de la Riba's *Lliga Regionalista*. The affinity between his considerations of studies in other countries and the opinion of the *Diputació* is long standing. So it seems that his influence and intervention in the *Lliga's* public education program is prior to the publishing of his *Glosari*, which presents him, from the start, as an active, programmatic intellectual more than a populizer of ideas, and especially link him to the study of application of university models and methodologies designed for higher education. This is the topic defended in the presentation at the first Catalan University Congress and coincides with the mission assigned by the *Diputació* to the scholarship recipients. It is this *Lliga* project which leads him to *The Voice of Catalonia*, and not the other way around.

The granting of a scholarship, and as a later result, becoming a professor of *Estudis Universitaris Catalans*, give Eugeni d'Ors the possibility to go from a mere observer of things to an institutional delegate. This put him in contact with the most important academic environments. Ors knew how to take advantage of the possibility: he participated in international congresses with his own papers; in compensation for the scholarship he taught in Catalonia what he learned elsewhere. The first hand acquisition of scientific, literary and cultural knowledge that he got in other lands and the transmission of this to the *EUC* gave Eugeni d'Ors a prestige unknown at the time in Catalonia.

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## Abbreviations

AHDPB, 2282: Memòria de les pensions per a l'estudi dels mètodes d'ensenyança a l'estranger, AHDPB, lligall 2282.

BODPB: Boletín Oficial de la Diputación Provincial de Barcelona.

CENSP4: Dictamen de la Ponència 4 de la Comisión Especial de Nuevos Servicios. AHDPB, lligall 2282.

Gl (dd/mm/aaaa): *Glosari*.

Disponible a: <http://mdc2.cbuc.cat/cdm/search/collection/veup1/searchterm/Any/field/title/mode/exact/conn/and/order/title/page/3>.

LVC: La Veu de Catalunya.

Disponible a: <http://mdc2.cbuc.cat/cdm/search/collection/veup1/searchterm/Any/field/title/mode/exact/conn/and/order/title/page/3>.

MclIIIs: Eugeni d'Ors, Memòries corresponents als I i II semestres. AHDPB, lligall 2282.

Mes:MP: Eugeni d'Ors, Els mètodes de l'ensenyança superior: Missió a París. AHDPB, lligall 2282.

Mscmcc: Eugeni d'Ors, Memòria sobre la crítica i els mètodes de la ciència contemporània. AHDPB, lligall 2282.

*Translation from Catalan by Dan Cohen*

