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## Foreword

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R. SALAS and A. TRAVÉ

This is the first issue of **Geologica Acta** dedicated to the memory of Professor Francesc Calvet, whose life was cut short in January 2002 when he was only 54.

Francesc was a man with great human qualities, a distinguished scientist and an inspiring teacher who was held in high esteem by all those who knew him. His academic achievements, talent and friendly personality attracted numerous colleagues and students. Unfailingly courteous and polite, he was passionately committed to social justice and was a staunch defender of freedom of conscience and tolerance.

Francesc graduated in geology at the Universitat de Barcelona in 1973 and completed his MSc thesis with distinctions in 1974. Soon he developed a deep interest in continental carbonates, especially in their diagenetic aspects. In 1979 he obtained his PhD in Geology with a brilliant exposition on the diagenetic evolution of the Pleistocene carbonate sediments of Mallorca, for which he was awarded the 'premi extraordinari de doctorat' in 1980. Later, his attention turned to calcretes and paleokarsts. He was especially interested in the Triassic basins of the north east of the Iberian Peninsula. He also studied the Neogene basins of the eastern Iberian Peninsula and the Eocene platforms of the southern Pyrenees. In 1994 Francesc began a new line of fruitful research in the field of Geofluids. He made extraordinary contributions in all the different fields of carbonate rock research he was involved in: sedimentology, petrology, diagenesis and geofluids. The results of his scientific activity are embodied in more than sixty articles in journals, eleven chapters of books, more than ninety communications at congresses and meetings, and the supervision of seven PhD theses and seven MSc theses.

After several years as assistant lecturer, Francesc occupied the post of senior lecturer at the Universitat de Barcelona in 1985, and in 1994 he became chair professor of Petrology and Geochemistry of Sedimentary Rocks. He was firmly committed to the democratization of the uni-

versity and worked tirelessly towards introducing a systematic evaluation of teaching and research methods. His commitment to the three facets of university life—research, teaching and administration— was exemplary.

Francesc was a gifted teacher who was able to explain the most complicated phenomena in simple terms with schemes and original models. He provided his students with invaluable lecture notes and made a significant contribution to a collection of rocks and thin sections. His broad knowledge together with his special interest in updating teaching methods led him to cover a wide range of academic subjects. At the time of his death he was responsible for a new subject —Advanced Petrology— which is part of the syllabus of Engineering Geology.

As vice-dean of the Faculty of Geology from 1981 to 1984, and dean from 1990 to 1993, Francesc helped to bring about the reform of the geology syllabus. His conciliatory skills enabled him to implement the programme, which was approved by an overwhelming majority and which is still offered today.

Outside academics, he was an entertaining conversationalist, an excellent gourmet cook, and an enthusiastic football player. Francesc will long be remembered with affection and gratitude by all his friends and colleagues, and by his many students.

This issue contains 6 articles from colleagues dealing with specific fields of research Francesc was involved in. The first three contributions concern *Sedimentology, Petrology and Geochemistry of Carbonates*. Maurice Tucker and Jim Marshall describe the diagenesis and geochemistry of Upper Muschelkalk (Triassic) buildups and associated facies in La Riba (Catalunya) area and material that they started to work on with Professor Calvet. Lluís Pomar, Hildegard Westphal and Antoni Obrador discuss oriented concretions in Upper Miocene carbonate rocks of Menorca. This work is regarded as a continuation of the

diagenetic evolution study of the Pleistocene carbonates of Mallorca begun by Francesc Calvet with his PhD thesis. Paul Wright and Lesley Chens present a conceptual paper with a suggestive title —“Are there “black holes” in carbonate deposystems?”— and a tantalising point of view in relation to the possible bias in the carbonate platform record caused by the different preservation of the diverse carbonate mineral phases.

Francesc’s long lasting interest in *Triassic Basins* and their sedimentary fills is reflected in two papers. Federico Ortí and Josep Maria Salvany carry out an exhaustive description of the coastal salina evaporite lithofacies of the Triassic-Liassic boundary in the Alacón borehole (Iberian Range). Alfredo Arche, José López-Gómez, Mariano Marzo and Henar Vargas suggest a correlation of the siliciclas-

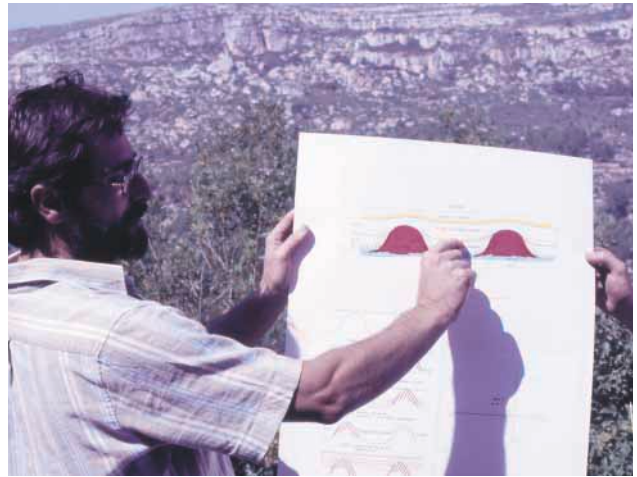
tic Permian-Triassic deposits of the Iberian, Ebro and Catalan basins and discuss their meaning in the geological framework of central and northeastern Iberian Peninsula.

The last contribution of this issue, *Geofluids Modelling*, is an estimation by Klaus Bitzer of the Paleogeographic, paleohydrological and paleoclimatic conditions for the transitional coastal-sabkha succession of the Upper Burdigalian in the Vallès-Penedès half-graben.

The guest-editors wish to thank the referees who actively participated in the preparation of this issue by their detailed reviews and numerous suggestions. A second volume of **Geologica Acta** dedicated to the memory of Francesc Calvet, containing contributions about more diverse topics, is already in preparation.



Francesc waste-deep in a batch of Posidonia in the Mallorca littoral.



Francesc Calvet explaining the geometries of the La Riba reefs during the field trip "Triassic of the Catalan Coastal Ranges". Triassic Congress held in La Seu d'Urgell 1985. Photo by Josep Maria Salvany.



Francesc in the Catalan Coastal Ranges. 1988. Photo by Maurice Tucker.