



This morning at offices of the Formentera Council, details were announced regarding the fifth annual edition of *Jornades Joan Marí Cardona*, a series of conferences dedicated to promoting research on Formentera's cultural heritage. Councillor of culture and local patrimony Sònia Cardona was on hand to explain the calendar of events, scheduled to take place from 16 to 28 March.

Cardona prefaced the presentation by reminding the audience that the *Jornades* event “also serves to provide source material for a scientific journal, released annually, that we hope will one day soon become a reference in local scientific research.”

The conference series will get under way with an exhibition - “*Pedres escrites. Testimonis epigràfics àrabs de Formentera*”
(‘Written stones. Arabic epigraphical testimonies on Formentera’) – slotted for 8:30pm, 16 March in the sala d'exposicions of the old town hall. The event aims to promote Formentera's archaeological patrimony on display at the Museu Arqueològic d'Eivissa i Formentera.

Pedres escrites will showcase the four gravestones with inscriptions in Arabic that were found on Formentera and now form part of the Museu Arqueològic's permanent collection. The exhibition will also feature a fifth gravestone found in Es Ca Marí by Mr Rolph Suanberg and recently donated to the FiC by Suanberg's daughter and grandson: Mrs Lena Joy and Mr Michael Warner.

Conferences

The first conference will be given 17 March at 8:30pm in the multipurpose room (*sala polivalent*) of the office of culture, located next to the Sant Francesc library [All but Dr Enamorado's conference dealing with gravestones will have the same time and location]. Heading a project entitled “

Les Primeres escoles a Formentera: mestres pioneres

” (‘The first schools in Formentera: pioneer schoolteachers’), Fanny Tur Riera, graduated with a

bachelor's in History and on the technical staff of the Arxiu Històric d'Eivissa, will share information from her research on the first Formentera schools.

The second conference will be held the very next day, 18 March, with the title, “Des de Formentera, la lluita per la protecció i difusió del dret civil de les Pitiüses” ('The struggle in Formentera to defend and promote Pitiüsa civil law'). Àngel C. Navarro Sánchez, graduated with a bachelor's in Law and employed on the FiC staff as deputy secretary on national affairs, associate professor at the Universitat de les Illes Balears (UIB) and member of the Consell Assessor del Dret Civil d'Eivissa i Formentera (Eivissa and Formentera Assessorial Council on Civil Law), will take the opportunity to discuss his research work on civil law in the Pitiüsa Islands.

19 March brings a conference entitled “*El seguiment arqueològic a la casa rectorial de l'església de Sant Francesc Xavier*” ('Archaeological process at the Sant Francesc Xavier church rectory') to be restoration expert Maria José Escandell Torres. Graduated with a bachelor's in History, Torres has been indispensable to restoration work on the Sant Francesc Xavier church rectory.

Francesca Tugores has many honours to her name – a doctor in Art History employed on the staff of the Mallorca Council as technical specialist in historical patrimony, Tugores is also an associate professor at the UIB. She was chosen this year by the Jornades organising committee to share details of her research on nineteenth-century travellers in the Balearic Islands and her thoughts on historical patrimony. On 20 March she will lead the conference “*L'obra illenca de l'Arxiduc Lluís Salvador: mètode, aportacions, transcendència*” ('Archduke Lluís Salvador's island work: method, contributions, transcendence').

The 2015 series will close with an evening led by Virgilio Martínez Enamorado, doctor in History. Enamorado has become known for his research on al-Andalus epigraphy, the topic on which he will base his conference, “*Epigrafia àrab de Sharq al-Andalus. El cas de les Pitiüses*” ('The Arabic epigraphy of Sharq al-Andalus. The case of the Pitiüses'). This special closing portion of the conference series will be held at the ajuntament vell (old town hall) at the normal 8:30pm start time.