

## CARMINA VIRGILI (1927–2014)

Carmina Virgili died in Barcelona on the 21st of November, 2014 where she was born 87 years ago.

During her academic career she lectured in Stratigraphy at Barcelona (1949-1963), Oviedo (1963-1968) and Madrid (1968-1996).

She was a pioneer on the modern studies of the Permian and Triassic in Spain, starting with her Ph.D. Thesis (1956), in which she made the first correct interpretation of the Triassic successions of the Catalan Coastal Ranges and remains the reference work for the Triassic of Northeastern and Central Spain.

In 1968, she created a research team at the Complutense University of Madrid dedicated to the Permian and Triassic stratigraphy and paleogeography, still active. Under her direction, fundamental new data were discovered: the presence of Permian sediments in the Iberian Ranges and Central System (Central Spain), the correct description and dating of Early Permian, Late Permian and Triassic sediments in Central and Eastern Spain, the interpretation of their mutual relationship, boundaries and subdivision into Formations and Members, changing radically the previously accepted interpretations, among many others. Her strong leadership ensured the activity of this group up to now, starting a network of correspondent researchers all over Europe that was at the origin of many collaborative projects.

She introduced in Spain the palynological techniques in collaboration with the Laboratories of the Universities of Strasbourg (France) and Utrecht (Holland) with great success, as all the main continental and shallow marine formations of the Permian and the Triassic were dated and the inter-basinal correlations were refined up to European standards. She encouraged many of the members of the research team to have long periods of study at French and English Universities, a very unusual practice in Spain in the 70's and 80's as part of her concept of international collaborative research effort.

She acted as the Spanish representative in several IUGS-UNESCO Research Programs and in the IUGS-UNESCO Sub-commissions on Permian and Triassic Stratigraphy.

She published more than one hundred scientific articles and books. At the end of her scientific career she became interested in the History of Geology and wrote a book on Lyell and several articles on the relationship of the english



geologist and Spain (See selected publication list below).

She was the first woman to be Professor (1963) and Dean of a Faculty (1977) after the Spanish Civil War. She was Junior Minister for Universities and Research (1982-1985), Dean of the College d'Espagne, Cité Universitaire, Paris (1987-1996) and Senator for Barcelona, Labour Party (1996-2000). She also was a strong militant of women's rights in the society fighting against enormous odds in a male-dominated academic world in the 50' and the 60'.

She will be dearly missed by her former students, disciples, friends and colleagues in different institutions.

Alfredo Arche  
Madrid, Spain

## SELECTED PUBLICATIONS OF CARMINA VIRIGILI

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