

## Who married whom in the late XVth Century at the Barcelona Area

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Our contribution will focus on marriage and social reproduction in the Barcelona area at the end of the Middle Age, using the information relative to 3.828 marriages celebrated in all the 90 parishes of the city of Barcelona and its close environment between May 12<sup>th</sup>, 1481 and April 29<sup>th</sup>, 1499. These parishes constitute the then called *Oficialitat de Barcelona* and will be referred from now on as the Barcelona Area.

The data are extracted from the *Barcelona Historical Marriage Database* (BHMD) built through the project *Five Centuries of Marriages* (5CofM) in which all the authors are participating. 5CofM is an ERC Advanced Grant project having as one of the first aims the digitalization and exploitation of a unique source of historical information, the 291 books of marriage licenses conserved at the Archives of the Barcelona Cathedral and recording over 550.000 marriages celebrated in the Barcelona Area between 1481 and 1905. At the submission of this abstract, all the marriages pertaining to the XV Century have been fully transcribed and transformed into verified and harmonized data. Occupations have been codified with a HISCO system adapted by the authors to the characteristics of the times being the object of study.

It should be underlined that our source, created for the control of the marriage licence fees, antedates in more than one century the classical parish archives of marriages, baptisms and burials, which became ubiquitous after the Council of Trent (1545-1563). We have thus the rare opportunity to carry for such an ancient date a statistical study including the whole population, which professed almost universally the Catholic faith at that time. It is also remarkable that the social and economic level of the couples are signalled by the different tiers of the licence fees, thus making possible the assimilation of cases showing different occupations but identical fees and the discrimination of cases with the same occupation but different fees.

In order to approach intermarriage, social reproduction and intergenerational mobility, we will compare the occupations of the groom and the bride's father, when she is a maid (1.908 cases) and the occupations of the groom and the deceased husband when she is a widow (399 cases). The number is sufficient to allow the study of the social and geographic characteristics of marriages among equals and those obviously unbalanced.

Among the examples that we are now presenting, with the original image, its literal transcription and the English translation, we can observe a majority of strictly homogamous marriages among families of merchants, peasants, sailors and ropemakers (cases 1 to 5). Marriages are not uncommon between persons of different occupational extraction but same social level (cases 6 and 7), such as

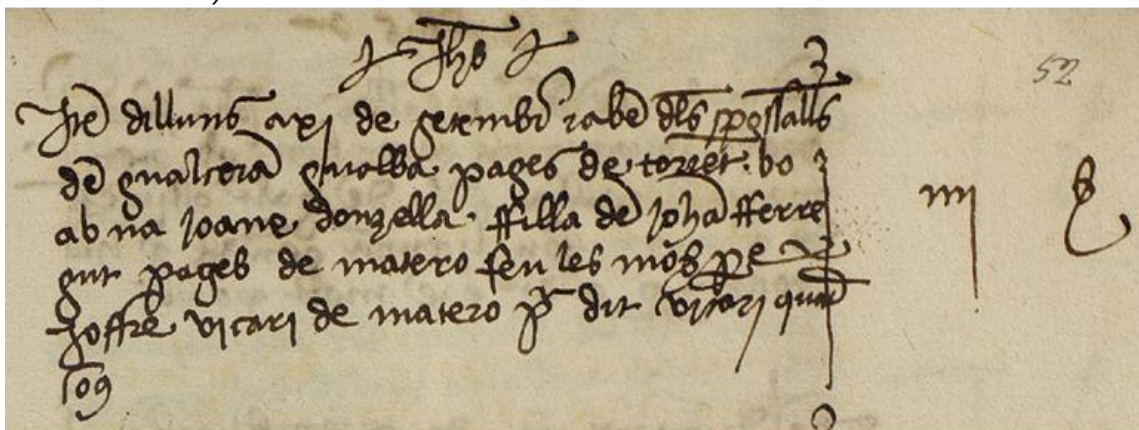
temporary labourer with daughter of gardener or with widow of wool comber (in this case the two of them explicitly described as poor). Nevertheless, some cases show marriages clearly heterogamous, such as case 8, when the temporary labourer Bernadí Castelló marries Catharina, daughter of the notary Pere Oliver. Considering that in this case the paid fee is 4 shillings instead of the 2 sh. paid by other labourers, it seems that we are in front of a clear case of upward social mobility.

Our contribution aims to transcend the qualitative study of cases, as those here presented, to engage in a statistical analysis of all the marriages. We have already analysed the period 1481-1493, to which belong the examples shown below and will soon extend our study up to 1499.

A secondary purpose of the study, that is still on-going, is the comparison of the geographic origins of the spouses along three consecutive six-year periods, searching for possible effects of an event of great historical consequences. The Sentence of Guadalupe, dictated in April 1486 by the King Ferdinand II (the Catholic King), made possible for peasants to buy their freedom and leave the service of feudal lords and so migrating to the cities. We will compare the period previous to the sentence with the two following periods, in search of short-term and longer-term possible effects of the Sentence. The findings will be shown in the poster only in case of relevance.

### Case examples

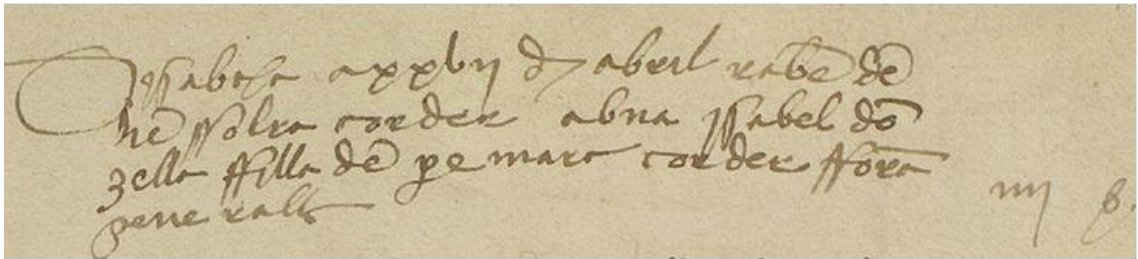
- **Case 1:** Peasant with daughter of peasant (1485: *Volume 5. Page 52. Number 1*)



Ite(m) dilluns a XI de setembr(e) rabe(m) d(e)l(e)s (e)spossall(e)s  
de gualcera(n) gualba pages de torre(n)t bo  
ab na joane donzella ffilla de(n) joha(n) fferre  
gut pages de matero feu les moss(en) pe(re)  
joffre vicari de matero (per) dit vicari quat(re)  
so(us)

*Monday XI of month of september we received the fees of Galceran Gualba, peasant of Torrentbo with Joana maiden daughter of Joan Ferregut peasant of Mataro taken by monsignor Pere Jofre vicar of Mataro by said vicar four shilling*

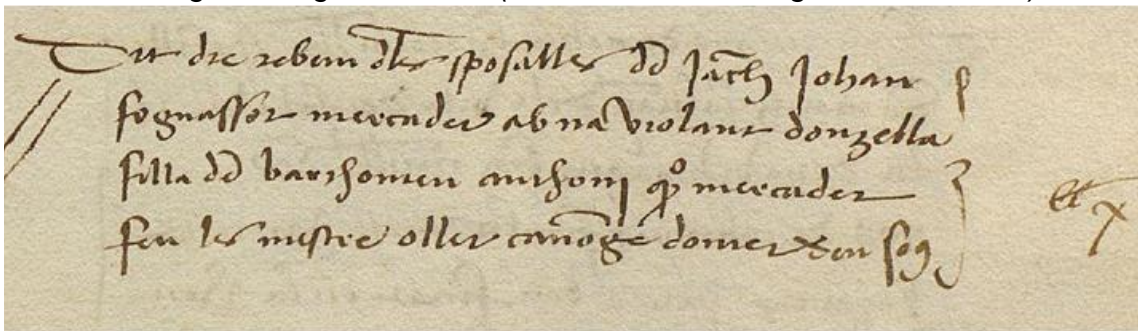
- **Case 2:** Ropemaker with daughter of ropemaker (1491: Volume 6. Page 83. Number 1)



Disabta a XXVII de abril rabe(m) de(n)  
 he(ronim) ssolra corder ab na isabel do(n)  
 zella ffilla de(n) pe(re) marc corder ffora(m)  
 generall

*Saturday XXVII of April we receive from Hieronim Solra ropemaker with Isabel unmarried daughter of Pere Marc ropemaker it was general fee four shillings*

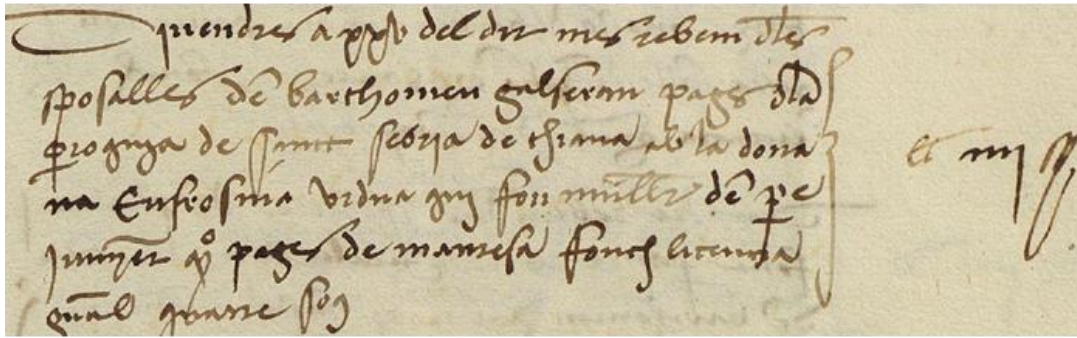
- **Case 3:** Marriage among merchants (1481: Volume 3. Page 18. Number 5)



Dit die rebem d(e)l(e)s sposalles de(n) jach(me) johan  
 fognassot mercader ab na violant donzella  
 filla de(n) barthomeu anthoni q(uondam) mercader  
 feu les mestre oller cano(n)ge domer deu so(us)

*Said day we received the fees from Jaume Joan Fognassot merchant with Violant unmarried daughter of Bartomeu Antoni deceased merchant taken by master oller canon ten shillings*

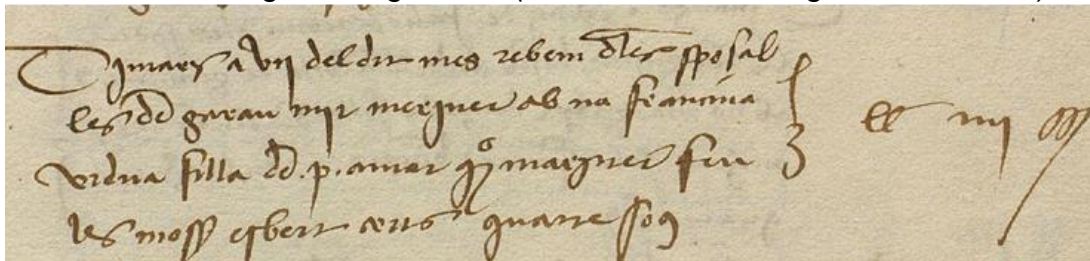
- **Case 4:** Marriage of peasant with peasant's widow (1483: Vol.4, Page 53. Number 2)



Divendres a XXV del dit mes rebem d(e)l(e)s  
 sposalles de(n) barthomeu galseran pages d(e)la  
 p(a)roquya de sanct sebria de thiana ab la dona  
 na eufrosina vidua qui fou mull(e)r de(n) pe(re)  
 junye(n)t q(uandom) pages de manresa foncs licentia  
 g(e)n(er)al quatre so(us)

*Friday XXV of said month we received the fees de Bartomeu Galseran peasant at the parish of Sant Cebria de Tiana with dona Eufrosina widow who was the wife of Pere Junyent deceased peasant of Manresa it was a general license of four shillings*

- **Case 5:** Marriage among sailors (1481: Volume 3. Page 9r. Number 5)



Dimarts a VII del dit mes rebem d(e)l(e)s sposal  
 les de(n) garau mir meriner ab na francina  
 vidua filla de(n) p(ere) amar q(uandom) mariner feu  
 les moss(en) eibert arus quatre so(us)

*Tuesday VII of said month we received the fees from Garau Mir sailor with Francina widow daughter of Pere Amar deceased sailor it was monsignor Eibert Arus four shillings*



**Case 6:** Temporary Labourer with widow of gardener (1485: Volume 5. Page 36r. Number 1)

Ite(m) dilluns a XVII d(e) abril rabe(m) d(e)l(e)s spossall(e)s den anthoni comte brass(er) ab la dona anthonie vidue mull(e)r q(ui) ffou marti ortola fou licentia gen(er)all pagua dos reyalls (III sous IIII diners)

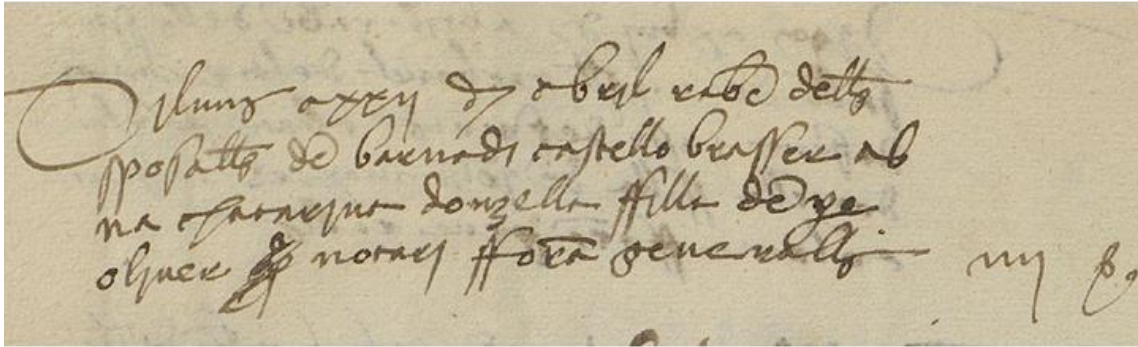
*Monday XVII of April we received the fees from Antoni Comte temporary labourer with dona Antonia widow who was the wife of Marti gardener it was general license paid two shillings*

- **Case 7:** Marriage between poors (1485: Volumn 5. Page 44. Number 2)

Ite(m) mes rabe(m) d(e)l(e)s (e)spossall(e)s de(n) pasqual fige rola bras(er) ab la dona mig(e)lla vidua mull(e)r q(ui) fou de(n) marti donya pe(n)tinador de lana pobres fou lice(n)tia gen(er)all p(er)

*We received the fees of Pascual Figuerola temporary labourer with dona Micaela widow who was the wife of Martí Donya wool comber poors it was general license two shillings*

- **Case 8:** Temporary labourer with daughter of notary (1491: Volume 6. Page 82r. Number 1)



Dilluns a XXII de abril rabe(m) d(e)ll(e)s  
 sposall(e)s de(n) barnadi castello brasser ab  
 na chatarina donzella ffilla de(n) pe(re)  
 oliver q(uandom) notari ffora(m) general

*Monday XXII of April we received the fees of Bernadi Castelló temporary labourer with Caterina unmarried daughter of Pere Oliver deceased notary it was the general four shillings*