known variety of Creole French. *Taya* in New Caledonia. This was a significant event since *Taya* is the only French-lexicon Creole not to have originated in a plantation setting. C.‘s first article on this (1989) was followed by dozen more which appeared in the following decade, thus then returning to their former period of publication.

The book which displays the full breadth of C.’s expertise in Creole French, Pidgin French, other French-related contact languages, and overseas varieties of French is undoubtedly *From French to Creole* (1999). It was published in 1999, shortly before his death, just a few days before the first copies reached New Zealand. Overall, C.’s list of publications runs to more than 70 titles (excluding book reviews and brief notes), with as many in French as in English.

His reputation and continuing influence within Creole studies is largely based on his unrivalled familiarity with the whole field of French-lexicon contact languages. Indeed there appears to be no variety on which he did not publish at least something in the course of his career. The fact that half his published output was in English was also important for it meant that, for more and more of his career, Creole scholars provided major sources of information on Creole French. His status might have been the greater had he ventured outside his native New Zealand more often to attend international conferences but he largely made up for this by his vast, energetic and entertaining correspondence over many years with creolists of all shades of opinion.


Philip Baker

Corominas (Coromines), Joan (Juan), b. Mar. 21, 1905, Barcelona, Spain. Died Jan. 2, 1997, Pineda de Mar, Barcelona, Spain; Romance philologist, scholar of Catalan and Spanish languages and cultures. Joan Corominas i Vigneaux was the son of the Catalan politician and writer Pere Corominas (1876–1939). The variation Corominas / Coromines in the family name corresponds to a dialectal morphological alternation in Catalan. He spent his early years in a Catalanist cultural and political environment, which exerted a deep influence on the development of his life. The choice of a philological orientation in his studies was determined by the opinion of P. → Fabra, the reformer of Catalan grammar. C. finished his M.A. studies in 1927 and went to Montpellier, then to Paris, to continue his training. In 1928, while in Madrid, he completed his doctoral dissertation on the lexicon of Aranese and met R. → Menéndez Pidal, who introduced him to the Centro de Estudios Históricos. He studied in Zurich in 1929, where he contacted the great Swiss scholar J. → Jakobson and R. → A. Steiger, who oriented him towards etymology and historical grammar. In 1930, he moved temporarily to Paris. The family tradition of Republican and Catalanist allegiance favored his admission to the Toponymy and Onomastics section of the Institut d’Estudis Catalans, and in 1931, he started what would become years later the Onomasticón Catalá, the most complete study of proper names in any language.

In 1939, at the conclusion of the Spanish Civil War, the young professor of the University of Barcelona and his father were persecuted. Thanks to Menéndez Pidal he secured a position in Cuyo, Mendoza, Argentina, where his father died. In Cuyo he founded the Linguistic Institute and the prestigious journal *Anales de Lingüística*. He started working on Spanish etymologies and began his *Diccionario Crítico etimológico de la lengua castellana* [DCELC]. In 1939, in collaboration with A. Antonio Pascual. The University of Chicago offered him the Chair of Romance Philology in 1946, and he became a US citizen in 1953. This relocation allowed him to continue in parallel his research on Spanish and Catalan. In 1952 he was able to travel back to Catalonia, for the first time since the war. From then on, he traveled regularly, which gave a decisive impulse to the *Onomasticón*, with surveys in some two thousand Catalan municipalities. After retirement in Chicago, C.’s trips became more frequent, and in 1976 he moved to Pineda de Mar in the Marès region of Barcelona, and remained there until his death. In 1989 he launched the first of the ten volumes of the *Diccionario crítico etimológico de la lengua catalana* [DECLC], which included not only his notes taken in parallel to the compilation of the Castilian dictionary, but also contributions of a select international cohort of scholars.

The central axis of C.’s work comprises his Catalan studies (mainstream between 1930 and 1939, and after 1954), supported by two strong lines: (1) Spanish (Castilian) and other Romance varieties, such as Aragonese, particularly between 1939 and 1954, and (2) Basque studies, linked to pre-Roman linguistic research. The *DCELC* was a dress rehearsal for the *DECLC*; however, it was no confined to that, and, with its expansion as *DECH*, it still is the main work of Catalan etymology. Many of his Basque studies are fundamental, although none have the dimension of the dictionaries or the *Onomasticón*. His role in respect of Basque studies was predominantly that of a model and inspiration, particularly through his strong personal connection with Koldo Mitxelena.

C.’s main contribution to philology was the joint consideration of Catalan, Basque and Catalan, together with pre-Latin elements and contact languages such as Greek and Arabic, as a clue to understanding how the Iberian languages grew. The scholar misses a deeper attention to the Galician-Portuguese language bundle, compared with what can be found in the seminal work of Y. → Malkiel. Perhaps the roots of that initial restriction may lie in the fact that his view of Iberian, conflict with some of the author’s social or socio-cultural ideas or prejudices. Late in life he became a member of the Royal Academy of the Galician language; an honor he could add to his doctorate honoris causa from the Université de la Sorbonne, Paris, in 1978, the gold medal of the Generalitat of Catalonia in 1980, the Premi d’Honor de les Lletres Catalanes, in 1984, the Premio Nacional de las Letras Españolas, in 1989, and, in 1994, his appointment as Membro de Honor of the Academy of the Basque Language, Euskaltzaindia.

Corominas (Coromines), Joan (Juan), b. May 2, 1905, Barcelona, Spain. Died Jan. 2, 1997, Pineda de Mar, Barcelona, Spain; Romance philologist, scholar of Catalan and Spanish languages and cultures.

