

Figure 3.5.a. Dilla R. & Nasarre A. (2015) Brief study of the stamps, shields and brands of the UB (1450-2015). [pdf] Universitat de Barcelona.

Estudi General de Medicina (1401-1450)



Martí l'Humà King wax seal

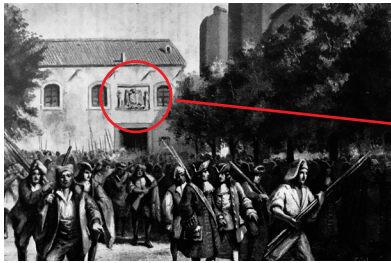


Alfons V el Magnànim King wax seal

1401 Martí l'Humà King grants the founding privilege

1450 El Rei Alfons V grants the founding privilege

Studi General de la ciutat de Barcelona (1450-1714)



1536 Carles I King establishes the first university building in La Rambla street



Carles I King shield

ORDINACIONS PER REFORMACIO, Y PERPETVA FVNDACIO DELA VNIVERSITAT DEL ESTVDI GENERAL DE LA CIUTAT DE BARCELONA.



1560 Ordinances



1596 Ordinances



Most important documents do not include its own coat of arms, but that of the city of Barcelona



1629 Ordinances



1714 Succession war ends



1718 Universitat de Cervera shields layouts.

1717 Estudi General de Cervera royal decree

Universitat Literària de Cervera adopts in a seal and in a shield Immaculada's effigy; with the motto: Mirabilis facta est scientia tua ex me

Studium Generale of Barcelona 1450-1714

As stated by Claramunt (2008, p.12), the university institution has its roots in the medieval world of trades and, as happens in almost all medieval university centres, in the case of Barcelona we find its origin in the Cathedral school, established in 1366. Due to continuing demands to establish a Studium Generale (place of higher education) in the City, and in order to revitalise the city's economic life, the Consell de Cent (historic governing body in the city) agreed to the request. This privilege was granted in 1450 by King Alfons the Magnanimous. This allowed the Consell de Cent to grant the right of patronage, although its governing board had to be established with the participation of the ecclesiastical authority. From documents and epigraphic testimonies of the conserved buildings we can trace the symbols associated to the institution during this period. This can be done specifically with the document certifying the privilege granted by King Alfons the Magnanimous, the ordinances that were subsequently published, documents that constituted the bylaws of the Studium Generale, and with the royal coat of arms of Carlos I, who instigated the construction of the first building, and appeared on the façade of the building that housed the university from 1536 to 1714, and which has been preserved to the present day. The most important documents do not include its shield, but that of the city of Barcelona. There is a logical absence of documents given the relatively recent invention of the printing press. We cannot appreciate the use of symbols in relation to the institution, but rather the codes for the uses of the printing press. To an extent, some symbols can be identified in the building and certain documents, yet rather than identifying the institution they represent

the city or the kingdom. In no way can these identity devices be directly related to the institution, but rather with public institutions such as the monarchy or the Consell de Cent. We cannot speak of identity elements, and at best symbolic resources that are more closely linked to the publishing culture of the moment, or to architecture. Although they are symbols associated with the identification of the Studium Generale, they cannot be associated with the institution itself, but with the spheres of power that governed its existence. As outlined by Claramunt (2008) and Soldevila (1938), the Studium Generale of Barcelona in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries is characterised as a decadent institution, of little distinction and stagnant due to a lack of resources and poor criteria for selecting teachers. These facts prevented it from competing with schools and Studia created by religious orders, as well as in the struggle between the universities of the Principality at the end of the 17th century (Lleida, Girona, Tarragona, Vic, Solsona and Tortosa).

The Universitat de Cervera (1717-1842)

Under the flag of the Immaculada, patroness of the university, the Studium Generale of Barcelona actively participated in the defence of the city during the War of Succession, until 1714, when the siege ended and the Bourbon troops entered the city. As Claramunt (2008, p.23 ) points out, the shortage and decline of all Catalanian universities was a fact in the early eighteenth century. This allowed the reformers to advise Philip V, after his victory in the War of Succession, and following the ideas of enlightened despotism, an ideology that was already beginning to

prosper at the time, a new university project was put into operation, where central political power rationalised the higher education system. These reforms or attempts at reform occurred throughout an enlightened Europe. The result was the creation of a new centre located in the city of Cervera, located about 80 km from Barcelona. This decision was even taken against the Royal Board of Justice and the Government of Catalonia, aligned with the pro-Bourbon sectors resident in Catalonia. The Literary Universitat de Cervera adopts the image of Immaculada, the university patroness, as its seal and shield, with the motto: Mirabilis facta est scientia tu ex me. Claramunt (2008, p.22) notes that during a one hundred and twenty year period in which Barcelona did not have a university, a series of new or existing institutions were charged with imparting high culture, sponsored by the Board of Commerce, thereby creating an important resurgence of higher studies in Barcelona. In Cervera, on the other hand, a series of ideological struggles among sectors of the teaching staff, conservatives in the face of reformers, led the Universitat de Cervera's seat to become a stronghold of the Old Regime.

The restoration of the Literary Universitat de Barcelona (1836-1863)

As Casassas and Ymbert (2008, p.28-29) describe, the final triumph of the liberal process, upon the death of Ferran VII, led to the transfer of the Universitat de Cervera to Barcelona once again, in 1837. Although it is popularly considered the righting of a historical injustice, it should not be forgotten that the Universitat de Cervera did not only replace Barcelona, but all of the Catalanian universities. While its return to Barcelona was protected by population

growth during the 18th century, and the fact the city had become prosperous and industrial, former university centres had declined demographically, playing a very secondary role in the new economic and social panorama of the nineteenth century. The centralist university system was definitively closed under the Moyano Law of September 9, 1857, which normalises the use of the motto Perfundet Omnia Luce and the sun as the insignias of Spanish universities. This law establishes the university district of Barcelona, which includes the provinces of Barcelona, Lleida, Girona, Tarragona and the Balearic Islands, coinciding with the disappearance of the old private chairs of Barcelona, hence leaving the literary university as the only body of higher education. The shield of the new university district of Barcelona is created, which contains the sun and the motto at the top of the shield, with the quartered insignias of the provinces it represents below. Despite the centralist uniformity and the existence of many professors that are set in their ways, it should be noted that a new profile of very active and dynamic people, closely linked to the cultural, particularistic renaissance of the country, emerges from the Universitat de Barcelona.

Universidad de Barcelona (1864-1929)

As the city grows, so does the university and the demand for places aggravates the problem of space, which has always been one of the most important encumbrances of the Universi-

tat de Barcelona. On June 7, 1859, town planner Ildefons Cerdà presented the city's Eixample Plan and new urban possibilities for Barcelona were opened up. The Civil Government and the University agree on the construction of a new building, which will be designed by the architect Elies Rogent, and located in the new Expansion Plan for the city. Work began soon after, with the structure of a neo-Romanesque palace, clearly inspired by Germanic romantic classicism (Rundbogenstil), a style of round arches, which was to be applied almost literally. As Solà-Morales (1988, p.83) argues, Rogent belongs to the "romantic" and "floral" generation of architecture, a generation that broke with academic authority and treatises. Travelling to rediscover Gothic and Romanesque architecture and to formulate an eclectic conception of architectural languages, Rogent, as Pere Hereu (1988, p. 124-125) points out, was also a representative of the cultural revival that took place in Catalonia in the second half of the nineteenth century. Enthralled in researching the medieval monuments of Catalonia and reading the Principles of Civil Architecture by Francesco Milizia, Rogent was formed in Gothic constructive logic and the way classical beauty could represent a valid path for architecture. He contemplated a complete overview of the buildings that made up the city and how his organisation should be adapted to its intended use. A dynamic vision of the city characterised as a place of activity and exchange, in which architecture is no longer exclusive to the palace and temple, but has transformed into the organiser of civil buildings: universities, stock exchanges, markets, slaughterhouses,



Document corresponding to a center added to the university, corresponding to the course 1856-1857

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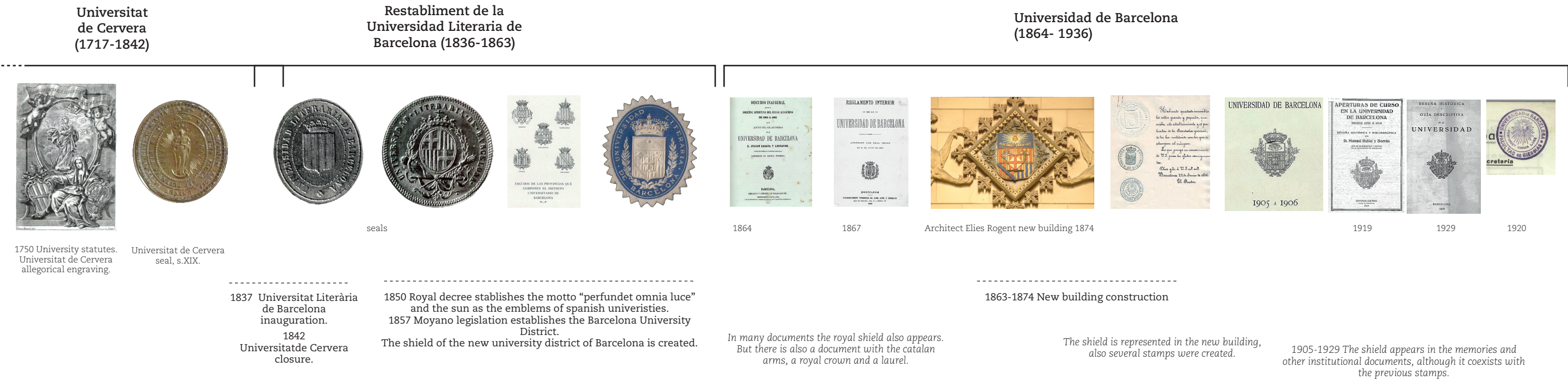


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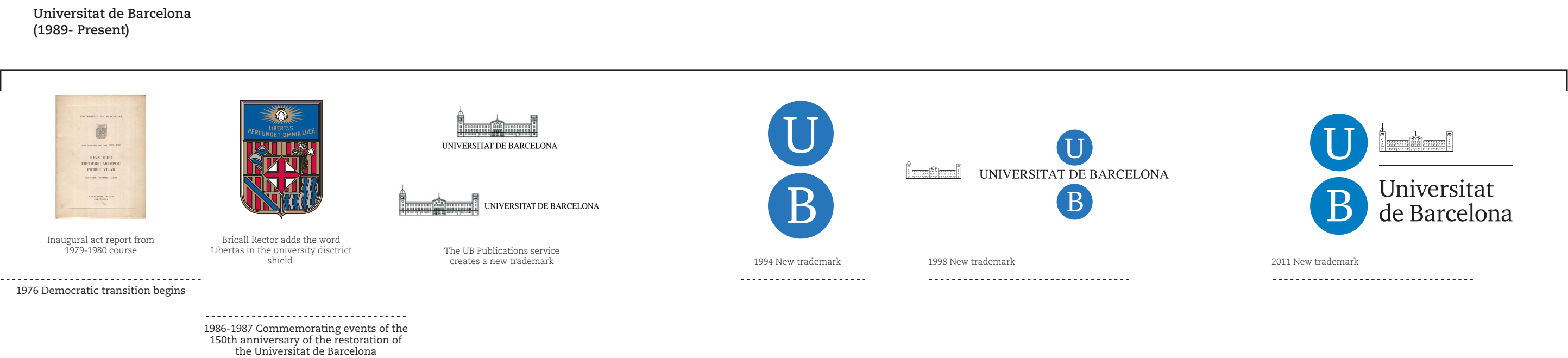




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