

**Antoni Maria Alcover Sureda.** Manacor, February 2nd 1862 – Palma, January 8th 1932) was born in a manor house called Santa Cirga, located between Manacor and Porto Cristo. His parents were wealthy farmers and when he was 15 he was sent to a diocesan seminary in Palma. It was there where he started to collect the *Rondalles Mallorquines*, popular stories that he published from 1880 onwards, under the pseudonym of *Jordi des Racó*. These tales were transmitted orally and it is because his compilation and publication that he has become one of the most leading folklorists in Europe, easily comparable to Andersen and the Grimm brothers. For that reason, his stories have been translated into Spanish, German, English, French, Romanian, Czech and Russian.

Gradually, Alcover became one of the most important Romanesque philologists of his time. He was in touch with the best researchers in Europe. His aim was to create a work related to the Catalan language using the lexicon of all its linguistic varieties, dialects, registers and eras. The result was the *Diccionari català-valencià-balear*, which was created with the help of Francesc de Borja Moll. This is such a unique masterpiece that only a few languages in the world hold.

He also published other works related to the Mallorcan history such as *Los Mozárabes baleares* (1922) and *Estudios sobre la historia de Mallorca antes del siglo XIII* (1893). As a lecturer of History in the Mallorcan seminary he wrote *Lecciones de Historia de Mallorca inéditas*.

Antoni M. Alcover was also a drawer, painter and architect. He designed the churches of Calonge (Santanyí), Son Carrió or the Chapel of the Sacred Stone (Santa Ponça, Calvià), among others.

