

Documents, books and furniture of Carles Rahola



Carles Rahola Llorens (1881-1939) was born in Cadaqués in 1881. After moving to Girona in his youth, he began his career as a writer and journalist in 1900 by writing for *El Autonomista*, a newspaper run by his brother Darius. He went on to write for many other Catalan journals and newspapers, as well as publishing biographies, collaborating on encyclopaedias and authoring several historical studies, especially about Girona. His extensive literary works and journalism were mostly intended to be instructional. At the same time he was active in cultural life, focusing mainly on the *Ateneu de Girona*, founded in 1922, of which he was president. He never joined any political party, but identified with republican, socialist and Catalan nationalist ideas. He was arrested a short time after the fascist troops of General Franco entered Girona, condemned to death by a military court and shot on the 15th March 1939 in the cemetery of Girona.

After the death of Carles Rahola, his office and library at his home in Ronda de Ferran Puig were preserved intact by his family. In June 2016, Carles Rahola's grandchildren, Emili, Maria Rosa and Francesca, the children of Carolina Rahola and Emili Ros, donated the documents and furniture from his office to the Girona City History Museum.

This donation allows the public to view this setting, which is emblematic on both a physical and conceptual level. This space was a witness to the hard work and mental effort that this educated, honest and good-hearted man put into everything he wrote. Thanks to this donation, anyone who is interested can now see the desk which he wrote at, the bookshelves and the books he consulted, the ink wells and the quills from which his calm and measured prose emerged, flowing with culture, respect and a peaceful spirit. During the civil war, the texts he wrote in this office were a cry of protest, of resistance and hope against savagery, ignorance and intolerance.

This emotive and emblematic setting, so closely associated with the life and work of the exemplary citizen that Carles Rahola was, contains a lesson from a tragic period in the city and the world's history when horror of violence struck Girona, but also of the time before that, when humanity, culture and civility prevailed, creating one of the most brilliant legacies of our history.