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***Recording decision-making processes in municipal councils of Late Medieval Catalonia:
the cities of Barcelona and Girona (c. 1330-1510)***

The aim of this paper, which follows the one presented at the *Journée d'Études Au travers des registres la deliberation* on 12 October 2018, is to examine the sources produced by decision-making processes in city councils of Catalonia during the years between c. 1330 and 1510. During this long period the municipal assemblies were consolidated, and with them all the documentation they produced. Since focusing in all Catalan towns would be an almost impossible task (among other reasons, the level of documentation preserved is absolutely higher than the studies devoted to it), here we will put our attention to two of its main cities: Barcelona and Girona. Throughout this chronology they present some diverging features.

After presenting the composition and functioning of the deliberative structures of both cities, we will analyze the common origin of the primitive sources produced by municipal authorities: notaries acting as clerks of the city councils, who applied models used in their private activity for the purposes of corporations and other bodies. This way the volumes they signed resulted in a miscellaneous collection of different types of contracts and acts, generally in Latin, as this was the main language of Catalan notaries.

At any rate, special attention will be paid to the turning point that represents the decade of 1430, when the first registers exclusively devoted to sessions of municipal councils emerge in Barcelona. This was a process experienced by the capital of Catalonia but, despite some previous tendencies in other Catalan towns, not by Girona and smaller localities of the northeastern region. Focusing on the so called “Cap i Casal” (roughly translated as “Head and House”), some hypothesis will be discussed in order to explain these changes.

At first glance, they appear to be tightly connected to profound renovations ordered by the council itself at the end of the 14th century, when the whole municipal institutions consolidated their competences and influence. At the same time, these innovations in registers recording the activity of assemblies might also derive from or combine with the increasing number of official sources in vernacular serving as diaries or chronicles of the municipal government. In the case of Barcelona they were written -in Catalan- by the members of a very specific office: that of the *racional*, in charge of controlling and auditing the municipal accounts. It was in this office where the first city chronicles were born, along with other works that aimed to register the activity of Barcelona's municipality or its main officers, as well as to project a certain image of it within the daily life of the city and the country. All these came into being during the last decades of the 14th century, which allow us to suppose that by the 1430s, when the new Deliberations registers appeared, they were part of a consolidated tradition that could influence other instances of the municipal government.

Unfortunately, some of the registers of assemblies of the end of 14th century and the beginning of the following one are lost. Consequently, we should consider the fact that the innovations appearing in the 1430 might have not been as radical as some scholars have thought and practically attributed to the personal action of a clerk elected in 1433. In other words, we

will try to show that the first registers recording in detail and in Catalan the agreements reached by the municipal assemblies of Barcelona might not be something really revolutionary, but instead the end of a more progressive evolution, of which some steps are gone. Moreover, several actors of the growing administrative instance developed around the local authorities of the main Catalan city played a part in it.