



SANT DOMINGO'S GIANTS; THE GIANTS OF MANACOR



MANACOR
BALEARIC ISLANDS

SANT VICENÇ FERRER'S ABBEY



The church's construction lasted for 20 years, from 1597 until its opening in 1617. All along the XVII century the rest of the abbey's rooms, the church, the Rosario's chapel and the cloister were finished.

The church of Sant Vicente Ferrer responds to the basic typology of the Majorcan abbey church:

Ground Basilica with a nave with chapels between the buttresses

Persistence in gothic schemes, although the use of the barrel vault, the pillars, the décor, the coffered apse and plant motives remind us of the Baroque

Notwithstanding maintaining sense of restraint and austeritie, except the Rosario's chapel, in its façade and interior ornamentation.

Despite the impressive architecture, it does not give the feeling of anguish or heaviness, as their capacity and breadth maintain the correspondence between mass and void. Everything is ready to experience a large proportion effect. We also note a balance between the length and the center of the

celebration, which is achieved with wide offsetting length. Its dimensions are 35 meters long, 18'25 wide, in addition to churches that have a depth of 4'50 meters with a height of 18'70 meters

His baroque, though discreet, comes from the application of gold on the walls, ornate gilded capitals of the pillars, the holes in the arches of the chapels and the central barrel vault, divided into five arches, on a ledge powered by columns and capitals, run through the church, above the altar topped with bovedista craft going from high to low.



SANT DOMINGO'S GIANTS



In 1823 there is already written documentation confirming that there are giants in Manacor. They are present in the celebrations that the Dominican Fathers of the Convent to mark the end of Liberal Triennium (1820-1823). From here onwards we find references to giants in the city, always linked to the festival of Santo Domingo de Guzman and always related to “Moretons” and “s'Alicorn”. Manacor giants have been renewed in several stages.

Along with s'Alicorn, the giants have become throughout our century in Moretons inseparable companions. Documented, their presence at parties in Santo Domingo is earlier; in the book "*Obrerías de la Iglesia del suprimido convento de Manacor*" we find in the year 1886 with an expenditure of 15 pts. (0'09 €) for musicians and cossiers, another of equal value which reads as follows “ **for the costumes of the (giants)**”.

It should be noted with respect to the

giants in the plural, which would show that even at that time were two: the giant and giantess.

Four years later (1890) "La Verdad" (The Truth – local paper) reported as the civic part of the party: “**there were the Moretons , the giant and giantess who, accompanied by the music, marched through the streets of Manacor**” Thus, its function was to accompany the dancers during collection of alms.

The misfortune occurred in 1926. According to the "Lumen Domus" of the convent: “**At the end of the party, misfortune occurred, the giantess got burned. A spark detached from the Valencian fireworks took the giantess suits and, within minutes, was reduced to ashes**” This event is preserved in the following gloss:

*El dia de Sant Domingo
sempre m'enrecordaré:
sa geganta s'encengué
i el gegant va quedar viudo.*

It's Santo Domingo's Day
I will always remember;
the giantess lit
And the giant widowed.

Therefore, between 1927 and 1932 the giant did not participate in the festivities. The "Lumen Domus" written in 1929: “**We miss giants output, which do not participate in the**

festivities because the giantess got burned out in 1926.” These years the giant hung a sign in a conspicuous place which read:

*Este pobre viudo está muy desconsolado,
Pide una limosna para ser casado*

This poor widower is very disconsolate,
asking for alms to be married

The recovery was made effective in 1933. In "Lumen Domus": **“this year, the reappearance of the giant (renewed) and a new giantess built in Valencia (bust) by sculptor D. Cuesta and MRP funded by Provincial, who had served time in charge of this house Priorat, replacing that burned for seven years because of a spark of the fireworks” (...)** **“From these pages is that to record our appreciation to the young Jaime Perelló by how much he has worked for free in the settlement of the giants in terms of carpentry as well as concocted several ladies suits and dresses”.**

In 1942 the party responsible for scoring in the book of accounts that: **“the excessive weight of the giant forces a repair of relief, under penalty of not being able to carry”.** In fact, they had to pay the bearer. That same year, today’s giant premiered, so happened to be three: the giantess (“payesa” dressed), the new giant (medieval style dress, with a cape and a handkerchief for the head) and the old man who started to absence until eventually disappeared. The two current giants make about 3.80 meters tall, and weigh about 50 kilos. Their names Vicente (1942) is given by St. Vincent Ferrer, OP, Catherine (1933) by St.



Catherine of Siena, op You can learn more about the giants in the book: “El ball dels Moretons. Descripció, origen i història” (The Dance of the Moretons. Description, origin and history) (A. Carvajal, J. LLiteras and A. Gomila, 1999).

After many years of dating parties only in Santo Domingo, founded the “Colla gigantera Sant Domingo”, to participate in "First Meeting of Giants" of Manacor, within the framework of the Fair Manacor Spring 2001. the month September of the same year begin feats of the giants participating in the meetings of Mallorca and beyond. In 2003, the Colla gigantera de Sant Domingo merges with the “Colla gigantera Sant Salvador de Guardiola”

Els Moretons



If we analyze one by one the square dances throughout the island will not find any that have become so ingrained and so strong within a group, in a neighborhood, in a town with only a century and a half of existence. Keep in mind that, according to the latest research, the dancing is a dance Moretons modern building made in 1855 and danced for the first time this year under the convent of San Vicente Ferrer of Manacor on the occasion of the proclamation of the dogma of the Immaculate Conception of the Virgin. We know nothing of its creator, although little documentation preserved appears headed toward Caldentey Perello Brother Pio, one of the great defenders of the dogma in Manacor.

The dance could be established and continued in subsequent years under the protection of the Immaculate Obrería, Perhaps until 1881. After six years of inactivity, the group was adopted by the Obrería of Santo Domingo. From then would Have to Live the Most Important and dangerous stages of his long career.

The first years (1887-1908) the outputs are limited only to August 4, the day of Saint Dominic. But with the restoration of the Dominicans in Manacor was opened heyday (1908-1926) in which Moretons part in other celebrations, even out of town. However, the fact of being so tied to a party passed them the first difficulties. Between 1927 and 1940 the political problems of the time caused the popular acts were very simple. The dancers came annually, although his was a presence almost symbolic.

Fortunately, it was time they end. Since 1942 the effort made by “conventers” and Moretons regained its former splendor. In August, the manacor citizens preferred to remain in Porto Cristo, a coastal town; and party finally disappeared in 1963. After some exits the years 1970, 1971, 1974 and 1977, in 1985 a handful of friends drove again convent Moretons , which have since gone out on time each year.

S' Alicorn

We do not know when the friars of Manacor adopted “s'Alicorn” to be part of their celebrations. We can only say it must have been prior to 1829, because that same year , it appeared during the celebrations that made the occasion of the beatification of the Venerable Joan of Aza.

However, documented speaking footnote we find s'alicorn oldest is the program of celebrations of Saint Dominic in 1908, in fact, the same year "La Aurora"(local paper) published a documented historical account about it, perhaps to make it known to people.

Since then he has always had the same function: walking the streets with Moretons and suffer the impertinence of children.



Mossèn Alcover



The “gegantó” Antoni M. Alcover is a tribute to Manacor illustrious philologist, born in Santa Cirga, possession located between Manacor and Porto Cristo, yeomanry son. After studying Latin and classical culture, he moved, when being 15 years old, to Palma to study at the seminary. Very quickly became known as intransigent polemicist, as his strong character made him furious intervene in controversies.

His first literary vocation awoke in Spanish, and from 1879 in Catalan. From that year onwards, he began the task of collecting in the colloquial Catalan of Mallorca the “Rondaies Mallorquines” (Mallorca's Tales), which began publishing in 1880 under the pseudonym of “Jordi d'es Raco”. The first “rondaia” appears in the journal “La Ignorancia” (The Ignorance – local paper). In 1885 he published a collection of narratives of popular theme. In 1886 he was ordained priest. He was vicar of the parish of Manacor, and in 1888 became professor of Church History Seminary. Later to become Vicar General and Canon of the Cathedral of Mallorca.

In 1906, his initiative and under his presidency was held the First International Congress of the Catalan language. When the Philological Section of the Institute of Catalan Studies was established, he was named president.

His magnum opus was the “Diccionari Català-Valencia-Baleàr” (Dictionary Catalan – Valencian –Balear), which he could not see finished , and was ended by his collaborator Francesc de Borja Moll, 1963.

Among others, he became correspondent of the Academy of Fine Arts in Barcelona and maintainer of the Floral Games of Barcelona

Domingo



The giant Domingo (2005), has become a sympathetic figure and indispensable in “trobades” (meetings) for all children who attend. This figure created by the youth group of the moment, is a jester, in order to celebrate and revelry

Catalineta

The gigantess Catalineta, represents the character of the Rondalla "Sa Fia des Carboneret", found in the first volume of the Rondaies Mallorquines. This figure is the first of a project currently developed to disseminate Rondaies, with the particularity that the giant's face or gigant / gigantess be a person of recognized standing in Manacor. Therefore, we considered that the first was to be a woman who take the side of our great friend and managing director of the Public Institution Antoni Maria Alcover





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