

Arbres (Trees), 1953

It is necessary to preserve the image of an up-to-date, serious Catalonia that set high standards for itself, especially from exile. This intention is made explicit in a volume like *Arbres* (1953), with a title harking back to one of the sections of *El cor quiet* (The Quiet Heart). This is also—and by no means coincidentally—the first book Carner published inside Spain during the Franco regime, and complying with all the legal conditions. The volume makes clear, for the first time, the criterion for thematic division we once again find in 1957 in *Poesia* (Poetry). Basically, this is a collection of material that was already known. It includes few previously unpublished poems—only fifteen in a total of sixty-five—and does not allow one to construe any great innovation with regard to treatment of the theme.

The poem titled “Arbres” is one of the unpublished fifteen and acts as the introductory text for the volume. “A un auró” (To a Maple) another poem in the anthology, and also one of the fifteen unpublished ones, exemplifies the usual approach quite well: the tree as a reference provides deep-rooted moral support. The only novelty to be highlighted about this treatment would be the more meditative nature of some of the texts and the changes of perspective at different points. These changes, in keeping with the treatment of landscape one sees in the immediately previous books, turn the scene into a correlate of the inner world in such a way that it is not Carner who seeks identification with the rootedness of the tree, but the tree that helps to determine the observer’s spirit.

Jaume Aulet. Introducció a *Josep Carner. Supervivent d’un cant remot* (Introduction to Josep Carner: Survivor of a Distant Song), Barcelona: Grup 62 (2011).