

cends the normal boundaries of the mystery story to reach the heights of the novel.

In the way of Sir Walter Scott, Caroline Roe presents a story set in medieval times whose characters possess a strong credibility for today's reader. The characters in *Remedy for Treason* are, without exception, believable and human; their motivation is accessible. That the events take place in fourteenth century Girona, that several of the protagonists actually existed and that the medieval atmosphere is reproduced in all its detail, does not stop the reader from experiencing an attraction to the characters, from identifying with them and, thus, being carried along by the narration, a narration which, made up of diverse scenes gradually falling into place, captures the interest of the reader by forcing her in a sense to participate in the unfolding of the text.

In conclusion, it is only necessary to add that the choice of medieval Girona as the setting for *Remedy for Treason* was no mere chance. Fourteenth century Girona, as Caroline Roe herself explains, "was a very progressive city, as indicated by its laws and its judicial system."³ With its events unfolding in a progressive medieval city, its easily accessible characters, its narrative construction of great swiftness, *Remedy for Treason* creates a complicity that takes hold of the reader from its very first page.

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Les Mémoires de la Méditerranée. Préhistoire et antiquité. Fernand Braudel. Edited by Rosalynne de Ayala and Paule Braudel. Preface and Notes by Jean Guilaine and Pierre Rouillard. Paris: Editions de Fallois, 1998. Pp. 399.

Fernand Braudel (1902-85) had a brilliant career. *Agrégé* at the age of 21, he taught in Algeria and Brazil; his early research in the archives of Ragusa (Dubrovnik) introduced him to maritime and commercial records; he was closely associated with the *Annales d'histoire économique et sociale*, founded in 1929 by Lucien Febvre and Marc Bloch. After the war, he presided over the "jury de l'agrégation," held a chair in the Collège de France, and pioneered area studies in France. His passionate love-affair with the Mediterranean (inspired, perhaps, not only by his Algerian experience but also by an early meeting with Henri Pirenne) was a constant of his career. His doctoral thesis *La Méditerranée et le monde méditerranéen à l'époque de Philippe II* (1947) became a best-seller when published in 1949 (revised second edition, 1966). In this fundamental work, Braudel introduced, with reference to the Mediterranean area between 1550 and 1600, his theory of "les temps différents du passé," the different rhythms, long and short term, that form the structure of *l'histoire globale*. Braudel affirmed the primacy of agricultural life in the Mediterranean region, the overwhelming importance of "le temps long qui finit par l'emporter," and his "structuralist" approach: "Je suis 'structuraliste' par tempérament, peu sollicité par l'événement, et à demi seulement

³Mónica Fernández, "Caroline Roe: escritora de libros de misterio." *La Vanguardia* 19 June 1999: my translation.

par la conjoncture, ce groupement d'événements de même signe" (1966 edition, II, 520).

His concepts of *espace* (the constraints and challenges imposed by geography) and *longue durée* (as opposed to the short-term emphasis on events and persons of the *histoire historisante*, which he strongly rejected), his search for a global history that would include economics, demography, and social structures as well as geography and climate, his detailed exploration of pre-capitalistic world trading networks and market economies (the three-volume *Civilisation matérielle, économie et néocapitalisme (XVe-XVIIIe siècle)*, 1979), made Braudel the most internationally-famed French historian of the 20th century. But Braudel failed to find acceptance with the French historical establishment. Rejected by the Sorbonne, he was marginalized in the non-degree-granting *Ecole pratique des Hautes Etudes* and the *Collège de France*; he was dismissed from the "jury de l'agrégation" by a socialist government; he failed to create a *Faculté de sciences sociales* at the Sorbonne; his *Grammaire des civilisations* (1963) proved too difficult for the *lycée* terminal classes for which it had been written. Politics also isolated Braudel. Blamed by the French right for the *événements* of 1968 (!), he was castigated by Marxists for stressing market economies and for privileging distribution over production. Furthermore, intellectual fashions changed after 1968. *Annales* was no longer interested in *longue durée*; Foucault emphasized *ruptures* and *discontinuités* rather than Braudel's deep structures. (For a recent appraisal of Braudel, see Pierre Daix, *Braudel*, Flammarion, 1995.)

Numerous works by Braudel have appeared posthumously. *Les Mémoires de la Méditerranée. Préhistoire et antiquité* (1998) was written in 1969 for a series of illustrated works on the Mediterranean to be published by Albert Skira. The project was abandoned with Skira's death in 1973, by which time Braudel was deeply involved in the composition of the second volume of *Civilisation matérielle, économie et néocapitalisme*. Rather than update Braudel's manuscript, the historian Jean Guilaine has chosen to publish Braudel's original text; Guilaine (for prehistory) and Pierre Rouillard (the millenium preceding the birth of Christ) have added notes to indicate changed historical findings; Françoise Gaultier (the Etruscans) and Jean-Louis Huot (the East) have also checked the present text.

Braudel separates the Mediterranean into numerous sub-regions, with major divides between east and west and north and south. The poverty of fishing resources, the scarcity of arable land, and uncertain rainfall led to the cultivation of hill sides (wheat, figs, olives, vines). Braudel examines the massive geological and climactic changes that occurred during the interminable paleolithic period. Man appeared in the region some 40,000 years BC. Braudel describes the art, weapons, and tools of our early hunting ancestors. The neolithic revolution (from some 8,000 years BC; first in Anatolia and the Fertile Crescent, millenia later in Egypt, the Indus Valley, and China) brought agriculture, irrigation, ceramics, weaving, the domestication of animals, a passage from matriarchy to patriarchy, disciplined societies (Egypt, Mesopotamia), and prosperity. Writing and numbers were in use in Egypt and Sumeria circa 3,000 BC, in Phoenicia and Greece circa 1,000 BC. The search for metals and wood (the cedars of Lebanon imported into Egypt) led to the development of long-distance commerce. Braudel (with information much modified by Jean Guilaine) describes megalithic cultures (Atlantic coast, Malta, Sardinia,

Balearic Islands, etc.), bronze age civilizations, the unitary culture of Egypt, the prosperity of Minoan Crete, Indo-European invasions of Asia Minor, the Achaean invasion of Greece, the domestication of the horse and its use in warfare (first chariots, mounted warriors a millenium later), the collapse of the Hittite Empire. The 12th century BC initiated the dark ages of the eastern Mediterranean (decades-long droughts, famine, Anatolian earthquakes, the deterioration of Mesopotomanian, Mycenaean, and Egyptian societies). At the same time, Indo-European, corpse-burning populations moved into the west; iron age cultures developed in Hallstatt (9th century BC) and La Tène (6th century BC).

Part II of *Les Mémoires de la Méditerranée. Préhistoire et antiquité* describes the Mediterranean after the dark ages of 1100 to 700 BC: the Phoenician colonization of North Africa, the Carthaginians, the flourishing Etruscan civilization, "le miracle grec," Alexander the Great (who, underestimating the west, led the Greeks into an ultimately futile adventure in the east), and the Roman Empire up to Constantine's construction of Constantinople. Rome (which rapidly became hellenized) established a unified Mediterranean culture (*mare nostrum*, Roman engineering and cities, Roman law, the Latin language and religion) in a vast but insufficiently populated economic space.

Les Mémoires de la Méditerranée. Préhistoire et antiquité is fascinating for its coverage of vast time scales of prehistory and antiquity, a million years (Braudel's count), two million years (Guilaine's revised view of the paleolithic). *Longue durée* with a vengeance! With remarkably fine color illustrations of ships and figures of worship, crammed with information of every sort (ship construction, navigation routes, agricultural innovations, artefacts, inventions, methods of warfare, art), Braudel's work —admittedly a joyously hasty romp at times—teases the reader into a craving to know ever more about the civilizations so fleetingly evoked. Particularly riveting for this reviewer were the demonstration of the devastating effects of climate change, the extraordinarily slow diffusion of knowledge in antiquity (a matter of millenia, as opposed to the seconds to which the information age has accustomed us), the major movements of peoples, and the marked changes in plant and tree cultivation. Most informative also are Jean Guilaine's annotations: he extends the *durée* of the paleolithic and middle paleolithic by some million years; he places human settlement in Sardinia some ten thousand years before Braudel does; he massively revises Braudel's treatment of megalithic cultures. Thus, Guilaine does not link megaliths with metallurgy and the cult of the mother goddess; he claims that the Atlantic megaliths (Brittany) have no connection with Mediterranean constructions; he dates the abandonment of the Hal Tarxien temple complex of Malta at circa 2500 BC (Braudel 1500 BC); he denies an Aegean influence on the megalithic structures of Los Millares (Almería); he doubts Braudel's explanation of the crisis of the 12th century. Guilaine's placing of many of Braudel's dates some millenia earlier is based on carbon 14 dating. We look forward to a future edition of this tantalizing work with the results of the DNA tests at present being applied to prehistoric remains and which will surely resolve many mysteries of early population movements in the Mediterranean.

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