

88

The experience of the transition

MARGARITA RIVIÈRE

The author offers an “unavoidably subjective and inevitably limited” review of her professional phase in the “Diario de Barcelona”, where she worked as “local” writer from February 1974 until January 1978. During all that time, the “Diari” was “a certain instrument of liberty”, “something which nowadays has a special value and which can define an entire professional generation”. Rivièrè remembers those who made the newspaper under those circumstances. They were young professionals recruited by Josep Pernau, such as: Antonio Franco, Enric Sopena, Pere Oriol Costa, Josep Faulí, Josep Maria Cadena, Carles Pérez de Rozas, Enrique Arias Vega, José Luis Ervití, Salvador Alsius, Xavier Vidal Folch, Lluís Bassets, Xavier Batalla and many others.

Rivièrè recalls that the combination of those people was the element which defined that “Brusi” of the transition, when they were clearly fighting for freedom. The old “Brusi” thus responded to what a wide sector of democrats and anti-Franco elements expected of it. The municipal information was used as a veritable metaphor against the dictatorship. The majority of the staff of the “Diari” during the transition had left-wing sympathies in general and above all towards the communists. The newspaper’s character became progressively vindictive, marking the disappearance of three directors: Martín Ferrand, the first one, then Josep Pernau and finally Tristán la Rosa. When he left the newspaper some thirty journalists went with him. The fight was against the imposition of the impresario and the establishment, in a clear case of “clause of conscience”. Nowadays, the possibility of resorting to the “clause of conscience” still stands. But that was and will be remembered as “combat journalism”.

119