

# Raimon Panikkar Collection University of Girona Library

**In 2008, the philosopher Raimon Panikkar donated his personal library, centered on philosophy and religions, to UdG, with a collection on Hinduism and Buddhism that is unique in Europe.**

*The inauguration of the Library during the International Symposium of the Ferrater Mora Chair of Contemporary Thought «Raimon Panikkar, Intercultural and Interreligious Dialogue», held at Tavertet and Girona between the 20th and 22nd May, 2015, consolidates the University of Girona as a reference for the study of the Catalan thinker and the dialogue between religions and cultures.*



During the ceremony of awarding Raimon Panikkar a honorary doctorate from the University of Girona on 28th April 2008, it was announced that the philosopher would bequeath his ample personal library to the University Library.

**Raimon Panikkar receiving the doctorate honoris causa from the UdG (2008)**

Following his death on 26th August 2010, the documents of the collection were transferred to the Library. The process of cataloguing the collection started in 2011, and was completed thanks to the contributions of the Social Council and the Ferrater Mora Chair of the University of Girona.

The collection consists of nearly 13,000 books and over 700 collections of journals. Besides copies of his abundant production in the different languages in which he wrote and was published, the sections on philosophy and religion account for two thirds of the collection. While this distinction may not be coherent with the personality, life and work of Panikkar, it may be useful for us when ordering and analysing his library.



**The transfer of Raimon Panikkar's library to the UdG (2010)**

We will find in it the main representatives of western philosophy, from Plato to Heidegger, taking in Leibniz, Kant and Kierkegaard. Among them we will already notice the strong presence of spirituality in the collection, with many of the works of Saint Augustine, Thomas Aquinas, Meister Eckhart, Teilhard de Chardin, Maritain, Eliade...

The collection of philosophy reveals Panikkar's interest in philosophy of the mind and metaphysics, mysticism, epistemology and the philosophy of science, with a smaller but notable group of works on social and political aspects of philosophy and ethics, showing his interest in pacifism, which is not unusual for a man who lived through the Cold War and the 1960s and 70s in the United States.

**Raimon Panikkar's library (Tavertet)**



Another revealing aspect of the collection, though hardly surprising, is the absence or scant presence of currents such as materialism, atheism, empiricism, logic, nihilism, scepticism, agnosticism, realism or analytic philosophy.

As regards religion, or rather religions, which forms the real core of the Panikkar Collection, we find once more the same concern with science and its relation with spirituality, the powerful presence of mysticism and, within the ample section on theology, a special interest in Christology and theological anthropology.

Logically, it is Christianity, and especially Catholicism, which lies at the heart of this section, but the material on the history of religion and comparative religion is, through Panikkar's



**Hindu section in Raimon Panikkar Collection**

expertise and dedication, uniquely rich. This section in particular includes most religions, but it is the extensive coverage of the spirituality of the Indian subcontinent, essentially dealing with Hindu and Buddhist beliefs, that gives this collection its outstanding character.

Once again, we find an apparent lack of interest in areas such as atheism and laicism, as well as in subjects like the worship of saints, religious practices, pastoral function, the role of priests, and orders or congregations, including Opus Dei, and the relatively minor presence of other currents of Christianity (orthodox, protestant).

Beyond philosophy and religion, there is evidence of a certain interest in sociology, politics and anthropology, and an important selection of literature in a wide range of languages (English, Spanish, Catalan, German, French, etc.), as you would expect from a polyglot. In this area we should not be surprised by the abundance of poetry and religious and spiritual themes.

**Raimon Panikkar's works at the UdG Library**



Many of the books in Panikkar's collection are signed and dedicated by the authors (E. M. Cioran, Martin Heidegger, Hans Küng, Octavio Paz, Peter Sloterdijk, Ramon Xirau et al.), and include references to the works of Panikkar. We are therefore not dealing with a collector's library, but with a working library which has been read, reread and commented by a prolific thinker.

Raimon Panikkar's collection of serials is also large and singular. Most of the titles, in several languages and from

a diverse range of sources, are not available in any other university libraries, and the collections of journals in the fields of religions and philosophy are outstanding: *Daedalus*, *Eastern Buddhist*, *Ecumenical Review*, *Esprit*, *Journal of Consciousness*, *Journal of Dharma*, *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*, *Philosophy East and West*, *Philosophy Today*, *Revue Philosophique de Louvain*, *Theological Studies*, *Harvard Theological Review*, *Thomist*, *Zeitschrift für Religions- und Geistesgeschichte*, etc.



**The Raimon Panikkar Collection at the UdG Library**

The collection is being visited by many researchers interested in Panikkar because his library is closely linked to his thought, his work and his life, and was influenced by the different places where the Catalan thinker lived: Barcelona, Bonn, Madrid, Salamanca, Rome, Milan, Benares, Santa Barbara, Tavertet.

Panikkar's generous legacy converts Girona too into *terra panikkeriana* and adds depth to the international and intercultural vocation of the University of Girona.

**Raimon Panikkar Collection Ex-Libris**

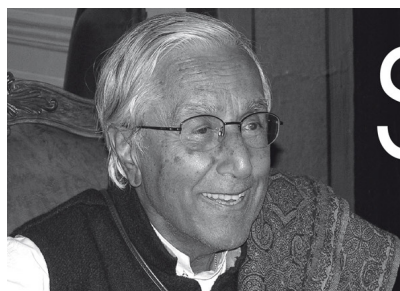
The Panikkar Collection is one of the Special Collections of the University of Girona Library. Which has already acquired the archives and libraries of personalities such as Josep Ferrater Mora, Jaume Vicens Vives, Pierre Vilar and Prudenci and Aurora Bertrana.

Ex-libris



**Raimon Panikkar**

Universitat de Girona



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**Symposium Internacional  
Càtedra Ferrater Mora**

**RAIMON PANIKKAR  
Intercultural and Interreligious Dialogue**

Tavertet i Girona, 20 i 22 de maig del 2015