

# el Periòdic News

## WOMEN'S REPORT FOR THE RECORD

# Women's power has shown throughout history that it knows no limits

There are only six street names in Andorra dedicated to women, who managed to create a fairer society

PARIS

Mameghani



Walking through the streets of the Principality, you can read up to a hundred street names, some of which are known to tourists, such as Avinguda Carlemany, Meritxell, Príncep Benlloch, Prat de la Creu or Tarragona, as they are among the busiest and most affluent. However, there are others that are not so obvious, even to locals, such as Carrer Camp Pauet, Roureda Tapada, La Creu Grossa or Font de Ferús. The most curious and relevant thing of all, however, is that there are only six streets in the country that are named after a woman... and of these, only three belong to Andorrans, such as Antònia Font Caminal, Maria Pla Grau and Lúdia Armengol.

### Antònia Font Caminal

Starting with the first, Font Caminal managed to forever engrave her name on a passage in Escaldes-Engordany thanks to having run, together with her husband, the Hotel-Balneari Muntanya, a central accommodation located in the upper area of Escaldes. It is worth noting that the establishment was founded by her father, and offered visitors the possibility of



The historian, researcher and linguist born in Andorra la Vella, Lúdia Armengol, during her youth.

### The old Hotel-Balneari Muntanya was the only thermal center in the country in the first half of the 20th century, the work of Font

taking baths with thermal water, which was characterized by its naturalness as it came from the deepest layers of the earth and was rich in trace elements. In addition, the first shopping center in the parish and the co-

untry, Illa Carlemany, was inaugurated by Font's relatives three years after his death. Her passage is located in front of what was the Monsa.

### Maria Pla Grau

The second of the protagonists with her own nomenclature is Pla Grau, an Escaldes native born in 1913 and a native of Cal Prat d'Escaldes. Thus, she began her studies at the school run by the sisters of the Sagrada Família in Urgell and then continued her education in Per-

pignan. In 1934, she married Josep Babot, a couple with whom she had five children. It should be mentioned that Maria Pla always had to take care of the housework, conditioned by the sexist norms of the time; however, when she had free time, she went to enjoy her favorite musical genre, zarzuela. The street Na Maria Pla has been forever imprinted in the sight of Andorrans in the Fener area.

### Lúdia Armengol Vila

The third and no less important person noted and honored in a place in the country was the historian and linguist from Andorra la Vella, Lúdia Armengol, who was responsible for promoting the creation of national research institutions such as the National Library or the National Archive itself. That is why her decision was mainly motivated by the fact that all the institutions at that time were foreign and maintained only a collaborative relationship with the Principality, it was therefore necessary to create organizations that put Andorra at the center of research. This is what Armengol did, publishing up to seven books with the history of our valleys and being the promoter of the Andorran School together with Antoni Ubach. In her tribute, the Lúdia Armengol square was inaugurated in 2012 on Prat de la Creu street in the capital.



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### Arnalda de Caboet

Continuing now with the three remaining honorees, and as foreign women, but with their nomenclators and links to the Principality, we find de Caboet, born in Lleida in 1165 and who became the first “pubilla” of the Valls of Andorra when her father died. So, after her first marriage, she decided to marry Viscount Arnau I of Castellbó. Her daughter Ermessenda married Roger Bernat II of Foix, thus uniting the houses of Caboet, Castellbó and Foix. It should be noted that both marriages were key to the foundation of the current Andorran Co-Principality. The Arnalde de Caboet passage, which is not Arnalda, is located in Escaldes-Engordany and runs from Prat del Roure to Avinguda Carlemany.

### Anna Maria Janer

The following was born in Cervera in 1800 and was the founder of the Institut de Germanes de la Sagrada Família d'Urgell in 1859, which was a religious congregation primarily dedicated to education. Her time in the Principality allowed the creation of the first school in Canillo in 1882. Despite this, and thanks to her career, Anna Maria Janer Street is located in the historic center of the capital, specifically between the Old



The plaque of honor located in Andorra la Vella with the name of Lídia Armengol to commemorate and designate her place.

### The French journalist and author Isabelle Sandy left in a collection of three novels the Andorran customs

Carrer Major and Carrer de la Vall.

### Isabelle Sandy

The last of the women to have written her name in the Pyrene-

an territory is the French writer and journalist, Isabelle Sandy, who arrived in Andorra in 1922 as a correspondent for the left-wing French newspaper La Dépêche. In this sense, and in the same way as Armengol, the reporter wrote up to three costumbrist novels about the Valleys of Andorra, two of which were made into films in the 1940s. For this reason, Isabelle Sandy Street is located in Escaldes-Engordany, between Avinguda del Fener and Avinguda Carlemany,

thus leaving her mark.

### Rupturism, dynamism and a social perspective in artists

In other fields such as art and culture, other Andorran names have also stood out, such as Helena Guàrdia, a professor of painting and plastic arts at the Escola d'Art of the Municipality of Andorra la Vella and a graduate of the University of Fine Arts in Barcelona, as well as author of the didactic book 'MAU, Esco-

### The Andorran education system was driven by Armengol's linguistic and historical ideas

la d'Art d'Andorra' published in 1999. Guàrdia is especially relevant for having founded the first association of artists in the country, Xarranca. Otherwise, another of the local plastic artists who has sold the most inside and outside the borders of the Principality was the painter born in Lleida Carme Massana, expanding her works in Madrid, Paris and the United States. They are not the only ones, but on such a special day, remembering the female imprint on the development of society is always appropriate. ●

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