

## Celebrating Sant Jordi at Brown



### What is 'Sant Jordi'?

On April 23rd the streets of Catalan cities are filled with bookstalls and roses. People take the afternoon off to walk around, smell the flowers, buy the latest publications and enjoy one of the most beautiful Catalan spring days.

UNESCO instituted the date as the World Day of Books because it so happens that both Miguel de Cervantes, the great Spanish writer, and William Shakespeare died on this very day, both in 1616. In Catalonia this coincides with the celebration of the region's patron saint, Sant Jordi.

Legend says that Sant Jordi (Saint George) was a holy knight who killed a dragon in order to save a princess. From the blood of the magic animal flourished a rose tree showing the purity of the saint's love.

The combination of these two events has created a new tradition in Catalan society. Nowadays people celebrate this day by buying a book and a rose for their loved ones-- a book to celebrate the joys of literature and a rose to celebrate the power of love.



## The Literary Contest

One of the holiday's hallmark traditions is organizing literary contests. In keeping with that tradition we want to have our own, so we ask you to participate in it by sending us your short-short story in English. The winner will receive a surprise award and the fervent applause and admiration of the whole Sant Jordi's Day audience.

For the terms and conditions of the contest go to: [http://brown.edu/Departments/Hispanic\\_Studies/documents/JordiRules.pdf](http://brown.edu/Departments/Hispanic_Studies/documents/JordiRules.pdf)

All submissions should be sent to [Carlota Benet Cros@brown.edu](mailto:Carlota_Benet_Cros@brown.edu)



## The event at Brown: April 23<sup>rd</sup>, Casa Machado at 7 pm.

We want to celebrate this event at Brown with a party open to everyone. It is going to take place at Casa Machado (87 Prospect Street) at 7pm and we will have:

- A welcome rose
- Traditional Catalan food and drinks
- A short introduction to the meaning of the festivity
- A reading of Catalan texts in English translation.
- The announcement of the winners of the literature contest
- A book lottery for party guests.

(SafeRide stops at the Machado front door!)