



### Jaume Bot i Arenas

Jaume Bot i Arenas (1904-1983), born in Vilassar de Dalt (Catalonia), amassed a large collection of mollusc shells. This collection — private but created with the public interest in mind — was eventually made available in a building open to the public: Cau del Cargol.

### History of Cau del Cargol

Jaume Bot i Arenas started collecting mollusc shells around 1950. His collection acquired significance with the acquisition of a set of shells from New Caledonia. These important examples of marine molluscs were collected by Father Montrouzier and preserved by his religious community until purchased by Jaume Bot i Arenas. Another important addition was the Couprie collection containing molluscs from Île d'Yeu off the French Atlantic coast. The specimens in these collections were gathered starting in around 1850.

With these collections and other acquisitions made over his lifetime, Jaume Bot i Arenas founded the Cau del Cargol Malacology Museum, housing his collection in a special pavilion (with an exhibition room and a work area) located in the garden of the family home in Vilassar de Dalt. A significant part of the collection was displayed in special glass cases for the benefit of visitors.

In fulfilment of the express wish of Jaume Bot i Arenas, his heirs have maintained his custom of receiving school visits by appointment during the week and the general public on the first Sunday of each month. In 2017 a large proportion of the collection, consisting of some 1,500 lots of specimens, was donated to the Natural Science Museum of Barcelona. Our thanks to Jaume, Maria Teresa and Montserrat Bot.