



Rosa Codina

July 26, 1946 – November 26, 2007

By Verónica Albin

I can't help but smile when I think of what Rosa's birth must have been like in Barcelona sixty-one years ago. I'm quite certain that the ground must have shook and a tsunami spawned, for Rosa always thundered through life.

She attended the Institut Montserrat and obtained her BA in history and literature from the Universidad Autónoma de Barcelona. She enrolled in the Broadcasting School of Barcelona and got a degree in scriptwriting. Always looking at doing things better and faster than anyone else, she got a diploma in English proficiency, and, pretty much on a lark, convinced her cousin Angel to hop on a plane with her bound for New York, New York! María Rosa, as her family called her, immediately fell in love with the city because it was just like her, a marvelous riot. She also fell in love there and decided to make it her home. She moved to the Big Apple permanently in 1974 and got odd jobs teaching Spanish. She had a good head for finance, so she enrolled in New York University and got another degree, this time in International Business Management. By this time, however, computers were hitting the scene and Rosa Codina was not going to be left behind. So she got yet another degree from NYU, this time in computer programming. All this while holding a full time job at the United Nations as Finance Assistant (1974-1981) and Computer Programmer (1982-1990) and serving as New York correspondent for *Diari de Barcelona*, Radio Barcelona and Com Radio. Oh, and I almost forgot, she was also doing freelance journalism for the Associated Press and serving as Editor for *The World of Jazz* magazine of the UN Jazz Society. Rosa Codina did not have an off button.

In 1990 she left the UN and started freelancing as a translator as well as a journalist. In addition to English and Spanish, Rosa was fluent in Catalan and French. She obtained her certification in translation for English into Spanish from ATA and was also a certified court interpreter for the Unified Court System in New York State. In translation, she specialized in international affairs, finance, data processing, news media, criminal justice, and health care. Rosa also authored *ÉXITO Student Manual*, a user's manual for a multimedia Spanish course for officials in the U.S. government and was a writer and member of the Editorial Committee for *Apuntes*. In 1998, I invited her to apply for a position as a grader in the ATA certification program from English into Spanish. With her formidable knowledge of grammar, style, and syntax, Rosa Codina was a tremendous asset to the group. At the time of her death, Rosa was Senior Translator, Director of Training and Testing for Metropolitan Interpreters & Translators in New York and Los Angeles. And for my ultimium vale, querida Ro, New York City will never be the same without you. You shall be sorely missed.