

"El Caganer" is a figurine depicted in the act of defecation appearing in nativity scenes in Catalonia.

The name "El Caganer" literally means "the crapper" or "the shitter". Traditionally, the figurine is depicted as a peasant, wearing the traditional Catalan red cap (the "barretina") and with his trousers down, showing a bare backside, and defecating.

The exact origin of the Caganer is unknown, but the tradition has existed since at least the 18th century.

The traditional caganer is portrayed as a Catalan peasant man (a farmer or a shepherd), wearing "la barretina" At least since the late 1970s, the figure of a traditional Catalan peasant woman was also added, wearing traditional garb including the long black hairnet.

The Catalans have modified this tradition a good deal since the 1940s. In addition to the traditional caganer design, you can easily find other characters assuming the Caganer position, such as Santa Claus, Obama, Messi, Artur Mas (our president)... and a lot of times we include the urinating man called "the pixaner".

