

CATALONIA NEWS

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CATALONIA, A WELCOMING LAND
HOW 7 MILLION CATALANS LIVE TOGETHER

NEW GOVERNMENT: THE FIRST FEW DAYS, THE FIRST NEW LAWS

CATALONIA, TAKING PART IN UN MEETINGS

AGUSTÍ CENTELLES, A PHOTOGRAPHER FOR THE RECORD

CATALAN CULTURE GOES TO NEW YORK

SALVADOR GINER: "CATALANS MUST EXPLAIN THEMSELVES WITH PATIENCE"



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MEETING AGAIN AND MOVING FORWARD

It is with great satisfaction that I find myself once again in touch with those readers I got to know indirectly in the first issue of this magazine, when the Support Programme for Catalan Communities Abroad, then part of the Secretariat for Cooperation Abroad, laid the foundations of *CATALONIA News*. The Support Programme is now found within a much broader range of the Catalan Government's work abroad: the Secretariat for Foreign Affairs, part of the Vice Presidential Department led by Josep-Lluís Carod-Rovira, head of Catalan foreign policy. The Secretariat's main mission is to promote the country abroad and therefore fits perfectly with the aims of *CATALONIA News*: to raise awareness of what Catalonia is today and the relationship it wants with the outside world.

For this reason, these pages seek to bring together diverse aspects of Catalonia today, concerned as much with Government information for those abroad as with the point of view of independent journalists who contribute by writing articles and opinion pieces about Catalonia or its place in the world. There will also be space for explaining Catalan foreign policy, which is coordinated and driven by the Secretariat, but which is also expressed through the work of those great exporters of Catalan culture, trade and tourism: the Ramon Llull Institute and the Ministry of Innovation, Universities and Enterprise, amongst others. Not to mention the contribution abroad of other key players, especially those within Catalan civil society. The Catalan Government, to be precise, wants to give them the fullest support and for this reason it has created the Department for International Promotion of Catalan Organisations, within the Secretariat for Foreign Affairs.

All this activity will be showcased, for the first time, in an English print edition of the magazine, a project with the same origin as the *CATALONIA News* project which finally makes sense of its name. There will also be another version in Spanish. *CATALONIA News*, therefore, will be speaking in two of the most used languages in the world, without losing its identity and the reason for its very existence: the Catalan language.

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THE FIRST FEW DAYS, THE FIRST NEW LAWS

JUST A FEW WEEKS AFTER TAKING POWER THE NEW CATALAN GOVERNMENT HAS ALREADY PASSED IMPORTANT LAWS COVERING SOCIAL SERVICES, HOUSING, CULTURE AND THE COUNTRY'S DEMOCRATIC HISTORY. IT HAS ALSO BROUGHT FORWARD THE FIRST LAW UNDER THE NEW STATUTE: AN ACT TO SET UP A CATALAN TAX AGENCY.

The three political forces that make up the 'National Accord for Progress' coalition government set to work as soon as the government's organisational structure was confirmed; at its head are the President, José Montilla, and the Vice President, Josep-Lluís Carod-Rovira. At their second meet-

ing, the Executive approved a social-services bill to guarantee to all the right to social services. The project was conceived during the first three-party government (made up of the Catalan Socialist Party / Citizens for Change, Catalan Republican Left, and Catalan Green Initiative), and once approved by the Coalition Government, will move into the parliamentary phase.

In addition, the Government has also begun to roll out the new Catalan Statute, approved by referendum on 18 June 2006. The first bill to come to fruition within this new autonomous framework concerns the creation of a Catalan Tax Agency. In tandem with this, meetings to discuss other arrangements relating to primary Catalan regulations have been agreed with the Spanish government.

Some of the main legislative projects approved by the Government, and which will now pass through the Catalan Parliament, are the following:

SOCIAL SERVICES

As the Government emphasised by approving this law in December, these services will move from an assistance-orientated model to a new guaranteed, universal, model.



Group photo of the new Government

Current Affairs



José Montilla Aguilera
President



Josep-Lluís Carod-Rovira
Vice-President



Joan Saura i Laporta
Minister of Home Affairs,
Institutional Relations
and Participation



Antoni Castells i Oliveres
Minister of Economy
and Finance



Joan Puigcercós i Boixassa
Minister of Governance
and Public Administration



Joaquim Nadal i Farreras
Minister of Town and Country
Planning and Public Works



Montserrat Tura i Camafreita
Minister of Justice



Ernest Maragall i Mira
Minister of Education



Joan Manuel Tresseras i Gaju
Minister of Culture and the Media



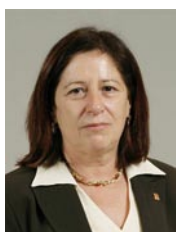
Marina Geli i Fàbrega
Minister of Health



Joaquim Llena i Cortina
Minister of Agriculture,
Food and Rural Action



Ma. del Mar Serna Calvo
Minister of Employment



Carme Capdevila i Palau
Minister of Social Action
and Citizenship



Josep Huguet
Minister of Innovation,
Universities and Enterprise



Francesc Baltasar i Albesa
Minister of Environment
and Housing

For example, until now, when analysing the income of elderly people in order to place them in a residential nursing home, their children's economic position has been taken into account. Under the new law, this will no longer be the case and only the income of the person using the service will be evaluated.

Another key element is that officialdom will no longer be able to pass the responsibility for meeting requests from citizens from one administration to another because there will be a single network of social services with public responsibility. Moreover, all the people and families who go to social services will have one specific professional assigned to them - someone who will guide them through the system throughout their life and will notify them when they have to submit new applications or when a new type of assistance becomes available.

In this way, people with serious physical disabilities will be able to choose between continuing to live at home with professional, domestic help, living in a residential centre, or making use of a personal assistant who can help them organise their life, according to their own choices. The aim is to empower individuals.

Another important change is that it will be easier for people who believe that they are not being dealt with properly, or whose statutory or legal rights are not being respected, to demand that their rights are observed.

THE COUNCIL FOR CULTURE AND THE ARTS

The Government intends to give a more prominent position to the world of culture and the arts when defining and managing public cultural policy. For this reason, it

PEOPLE WITH SERIOUS PHYSICAL DISABILITIES WILL BE ABLE TO CHOOSE BETWEEN CONTINUING TO LIVE AT HOME WITH PROFESSIONAL, DOMESTIC HELP, LIVING IN A RESIDENTIAL CENTRE, OR MAKING USE OF A PERSONAL ASSISTANT WHO CAN HELP THEM TO ORGANISE THEIR LIFE, ACCORDING TO THEIR OWN CHOICES. THE AIM IS TO EMPOWER INDIVIDUALS

THE COUNCIL FOR CULTURE AND THE ARTS WILL GIVE A MORE PROMINENT POSITION TO CREATIVE ARTISTS IN DEFINING AND MANAGING PUBLIC CULTURAL POLICY

has set up the Council for Culture and the Arts, the result of a long process of debate with the Catalan cultural sector. The Council will decide how to allocate the funds the Government sets aside for promoting and encouraging artistic and cultural creativity. It will help draw up strategies and national cultural objectives, and will award the Catalan Government's National Cultural Prizes.

Moreover, the Council will work to improve dialogue with the cultural sector. It will also draw up an annual report on the state of Catalan culture and keep the Government informed about draft bills that have an impact on cultural or artistic policy and on the appointment of managers to government cultural facilities.

Council members will be put forward by the President of the Catalan Government and appointed by the Catalan Parliament.

LOWERING TOLLS FOR FREQUENT USERS

Frequent users of the Cadí tunnel, approaches to Mollet (C-33 motorway), and Alella (C-32 motorway), as well as those who take the Fonts de Terrassa (C-16 motorway), will no longer have to pay tolls. This is one of the first measures approved by the Coalition Government.

FOURTH ROUND OF APPLICATIONS FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD IMPROVEMENTS

In its first few weeks, the Government also gave the green light to a new round of applications under the Neighbourhood Improvement Act, which envisages an investment of €99 million. Up to fifteen neighbourhoods will receive a grant. As a result of the previous three rounds, financial aid has already been distributed to 46 neighbourhoods with a population of more than 800,000 people.

HIGHER SAFETY AND QUALITY STANDARDS IN PUBLIC WORKS

The Government has brought in new regulations on carrying out public works, as a result of the collapse of buildings in El Carmel neighbourhood. The bill stipulates relevant

Current Affairs

construction methods and the quality of projects, materials and the work itself. It also aims to ensure that projects comply with social legislation, that the work is suitable for the intended public purpose, and that appropriate options are chosen with respect to characteristics of the site. The new legislation will allow for increased public awareness of plans, programmes and projected works; increased transparency and public awareness of the contracting processes; and increased sustainability and environmental protection. In addition, the bill places limits on the responsibilities of each actor. Regarding underground projects, the bill will lay down the compulsory geological and geotechnical surveys, set up continuous supervision, and establish a tunnel-assessment council, as well as an arbitration procedure in case disputes arise.

REFORM OF THE CATALAN HEALTHCARE INSTITUTE

The draft bill approved by the Government transforms the Catalan Healthcare Institute (ICS) into a public company and establishes a more flexible structure which will allow it to improve healthcare services, coordination, and staff working conditions. One of the keys to this reform is territorial decentralisation and better independent decision-making at each centre, as well as cutting bureaucracy. Currently, the ICS is the largest public healthcare provider in Catalonia, with eight hospitals, more than 450 primary healthcare clinics and almost 40,000 healthcare professionals working for it.

CREATION OF A DEMOCRACY ARCHIVE

In its first few weeks, the Coalition Government also approved a bill to set up a Democracy Archive, an institution which will carry out public policies aimed at recovering,

THE DEMOCRACY ARCHIVE WILL BE THE GOVERNMENT'S WAY OF ENCOURAGING PEOPLE TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THE DICTATORSHIP'S POLICY OF REPRESSION, EXILE AND DEPORTATION, THE VALUES AND ACTIVITIES OF THE RESISTANCE TO FRANCO, AND, AS A RESULT, ALL THE TRADITIONS OF DEMOCRATIC CULTURE

THE HOUSING ACT INCLUDES INNOVATIVE ASPECTS COVERING AREAS SUCH AS REAL-ESTATE 'MOBBING', THE UNDER- OR OVER-OCCUPATION OF BUILDINGS AND THEIR PHYSICAL DETERIORATION



The new law ensures a new guaranteed, universal model for social services

commemorating and promoting awareness of the country's democratic history. It will be the Government's way of encouraging people to know more about the dictatorship's policy of repression, exile and deportation, the values and activities of the resistance to Franco, and, as a result, all the traditions of democratic culture. In a press release, the Government recalls that "thirty years after the end of



Promotion of flats with protected rents

Franco's regime, there is still no government institution like this in the Spanish state. By contrast, states with a longer democratic tradition have carried out public policies to commemorate and raise awareness of their democratic history".

THE INTERNATIONAL CATALAN INSTITUTE FOR PEACE

The Institute aims to make Catalonia an international benchmark for peace, both in the academic sphere and in terms of taking action. The Institute will be aimed at promoting the culture of peace, mediating conflicts, supporting social organisations and movements, promoting scientific research in this area, advising government administrations, and training experts in conflict resolution.

HOUSING ACT

This is the first law to deal comprehensively with this subject. It reaches Parliament after eight months of work with the sectors involved. It includes innovative aspects covering areas such as real-estate 'mobbing', the under- or over-occupation of buildings and their physical deterioration. It pushes for the creation of affordable housing and protects those sectors disadvantaged by the free market in housing.

TAX AGENCY

The first law to emerge from the new Statute of Autonomy. It creates an autonomous tax agency that will manage, settle, inspect and collect its own - fully devolved - taxes.

Catalonia News

NEW POLICY TOWARDS FOREIGN AFFAIRS

The Vice President of the Catalan Government, Josep-Lluís Carod-Rovira, has put forward key strategies relating to foreign affairs, which, with the exception of relations with the EU - considered internal policy and the responsibility of the Presidential Department - will fall within the remit of the Secretariat for Foreign Affairs.

ORDER. Logical organisation of all facets of international relations, with institutional loyalty to and collaboration with the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

STATES AND REGIONS. Developing relations with the governments of EU member states and of the main regional and world powers. Striving to achieve a Catalan presence in multilateral organisations like UNESCO. Supporting the EuroMediterranean process, the Euro zone, the Four Motors, and the Pyrenees Work Community. Opening new government delegations abroad. Supporting the Ramon

Llull Institute in gaining a foothold abroad. Working for the creation of a Euro-district between the Languedoc-Roussillon region and the counties of Girona.

COOPERATION. Achieve the 0.7% threshold for cooperation in 2010 from Catalonia's own resources. Approval of the Catalan Cooperation Master Plan until 2010, which foresees greater support for Mediterranean and sub-Saharan countries. More direct cooperation with the administrations of aid-receiving countries whenever possible. Support for UN organisations. Opening further technical offices. Pushing for electoral observation missions.

CIVIL SOCIETY. Supporting the international presence of Catalan associations and their members. Updating the Act giving support to Catalan communities abroad. Increasing Catalonia's sporting presence wherever possible.

A BIOMEDICAL MAGNET

EUROPE'S MOST IMPORTANT BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH IS BEING CARRIED OUT IN BARCELONA. HEALTH PROBLEMS ARE INVESTIGATED BY BIOLOGISTS WHO HAVE STUDIED THE ORIGIN AND EVOLUTION OF LIVING MATTER. THIS THE BARCELONA BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH PARK (PRBB), A HUB OF ONE THOUSAND RESEARCHERS OF MORE THAN 30 NATIONALITIES.

It is barely a year since the Barcelona Biomedical Research Park was opened (www.prbb.org) and it is already working at full capacity. Its objective is as clear-cut as it is ambitious: to act as the driving force for scientific development in Catalonia, another step forward in the consolidation of Catalonia as a bio-region.

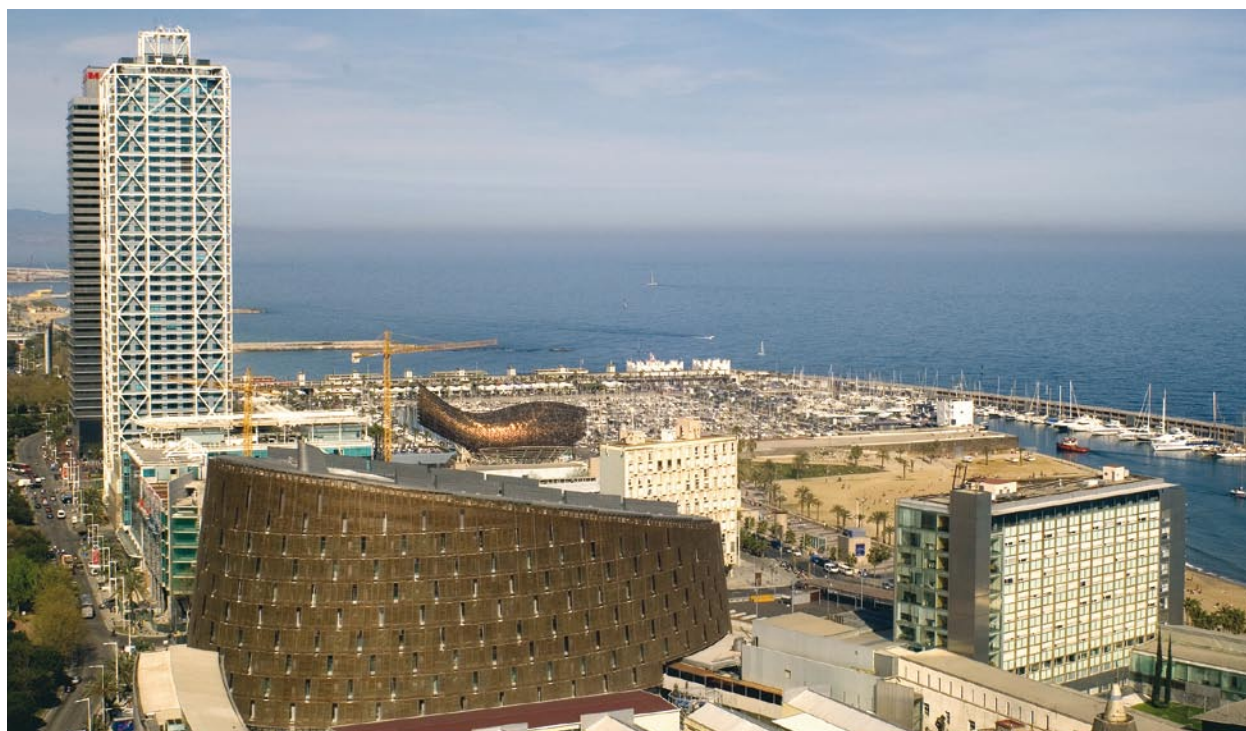
The park covers more than 55,000 square metres and stands in a privileged setting: right next to the beach at the Olympic Village. It is a large, elliptical building

clad in red cedar and equipped with a state-of-the-art information and communications infrastructure, as well as communal spaces such as a modern auditorium. According to its director, Jordi Camí, it can be compared to “a vessel with its prow pointing out to sea”. And this vessel has a fleet sailing along with the hospitals, universities and the healthcare industry. Various departments, institutions and independent research centres work as a team with the Park to study the life of atoms, molecules and the cells which make them up. Penetrating this microscopic universe is the key to detecting diseases and designing treatments.

Everything is ready for 2007, which has been declared Year of Science in Barcelona (www.bcn.es/ciencia2007). The City Council and the Catalan Government aim to consolidate research and innovation as the key elements of development, peace and the creation of wealth. Moreover, the Year of Science will encourage strategic collaborations and international alliances, especially with the rest of Spain, Europe and the Mediterranean region.

INTERNATIONAL SCIENTISTS AND RESEARCHERS

The park is a magnet for both Catalan and foreign scientists. Some of these professionals are returning after having worked abroad, such as Luis Serrano, who has swapped the European Laboratory of Molecular Biology in Heidelberg (Germany) for research on living beings using mathematical models.



Barcelona Biomedical Research Park is situated in a prime location near the port



The Park is an attractive destiny for Catalan and international scientists

All the staff working here have gone through an exhaustive recruitment process based on their scientific competence. These researchers have adopted a common code of conduct: the Code of Good Scientific Practice (CGSP). The Code is another step forward in improving the quality of scientific research and practices above and beyond those established by legislation.

To complement the Code, a committee has been set up to oversee the integrity of research, a body made up of professionals – both insiders and outsiders - to which researchers can resort if there is any doubt or dispute when it comes to applying the Code of Good Scientific Practice.

SCIENTIFIC CENTRES, DEPARTMENTS AND SOLUTIONS

The scientists work as a network in order to generate practical knowledge for the biomedicine of the future and its transfer to industry. The various independent institutions and centres which make up the Park include the Municipal Institute of Medical Research (IMIM) and the Environmental Epidemiology Research Centre (CREAL) which studies the influence of the environment on the origin of diseases. Examples include the way pollution affects people with asthma; the Department of Experimental and Health Sciences at the Pompeu Fabra University (CEXS-UPF), which offers an exclusive degree course in Human Biology and a doctorate in Health and Life Sciences, in line with the European Higher Education Area; the Centre for Genomic Regulation (CRG), which sets standards for treating diseases by the insertion of genes, cells and tissues; the Barcelona Centre for Regenerative

Medicine (CMRB), which searches for new treatments for degenerative diseases such as cancer, Alzheimer's and diabetes; and the Institute for Advanced Technology (IAT), with technologies to facilitate research.

The scientific activities of these centres are broadly grouped under several main themes: biomedical informatics, genomic regulation, cellular biology, pharmacology, human genetics and public health. Only this research giant has the ability to separate biomedicine so precisely for the benefit of the population.

The Park's intention is to keep everything under control: the research and its professionals, the centres which collaborate in the network, and the various thematic departments. To tackle the challenges involved in developing new drugs, it has also created *PRBB Solutions*, which provides a link between the activities undertaken at the Park and pharmaceutical companies. The tools for fulfilling these needs range from sponsorship of research projects through to intellectual property licences and participation in seminars and conferences.

The Barcelona Biomedical Research Park thus encompasses all the processes and branches of molecular research. The Catalan bio-region, through this vast fleet, is consolidating itself as an advocate of this sector and as a network of collaboration between the main actors in the field of biotechnology.

Sara Bosch

Report: Immigration into Catalonia

A LAND OF TRANSIT, A LAND OF WELCOME

ITS GEOGRAPHICAL POSITION, ECONOMIC SITUATION, HISTORY ITSELF... HAVE ALL MADE THE CATALONIA OF TODAY ONE OF THE EUROPEAN AREAS WITH THE HIGHEST INFLUX OF IMMIGRANTS. YET AT THE SAME TIME IT HAS MANAGED TO RETAIN ITS OWN SPECIFIC CULTURAL PERSONALITY. THE KEY LIES IN KNOWING HOW TO INTEGRATE NEW ARRIVALS AND CULTURALLY ENRICH THE COUNTRY. A COMBINATION WHICH, WITHOUT LOOKING TOO FAR AFIELD, HAS GIVEN CATALONIA A PRESIDENT, JOSÉ MONTILLA, WHO WAS BORN OUTSIDE THE REGION.

BY ISABEL LUNA*

If music is one of the forms of expression most in harmony with the spirit of a people, there is no doubt that Catalan music reflects the contributions made by the foreign cultures that have taken root in these lands: from the medieval Occitan troubadours to the creators of the Catalan rumba and the artists of today who forge a fusion of all kinds of rhythms from around the world.

What was a millenary process, however, accelerated during the 1950s and 1960s and is still very much alive today. In 1964, the writer Francesc Candel wrote *Els altres catalans* (The Other Catalans), a work which, at that time, opened the eyes of many people to the arrival of hundreds of thousands of people in Catalonia from all over Spain. Candel's mission was to portray and explain an unknown and marginalised reality, always under the umbrella of the uncomfortable question: "Does the immigrant community integrate in Catalonia or not?"

Thirty-seven years later, in 2001, Candel resurrected the title of his most famous book and published *Els altres catalans del segle XXI* (The Other Catalans of the 21st

Century) in collaboration with Josep Maria Cuenca. What has changed? A great deal. Today, we're facing a new migratory phenomenon which, once again, needs to be portrayed and explained. Candel has not shied away from the challenge and calls on all the country's citizens to continue working to achieve a plural, integrating Catalonia.

The latest figures provided by the Catalan Government's Secretariat for Immigration show that 13.7% of Catalonia's citizens are of immigrant origin. A percentage which, just a few months earlier, the Jaume Bofill Foundation had already noted in its study "The State of Immigration. 2005 Yearbook". Apart from this particular figure, there are others which may also be surprising, such as the fact that every day some 279 new arrivals sign on at town hall registers in Catalonia; that the foreign population has grown fivefold in the last six years; and that despite the most recent regularisation process, trade unions put the number of people without papers at 250,000. All in all,



A shop selling Argentinean products in the Gothic Quarter in Barcelona

CARLES C. GARCIA



CARLES C. GARCIA

Two Uruguayan immigrants wait their turn in the queue

it concludes that more than seven million people are now living in Catalonia, whichever way you look at it: whether according to council registers or counting the number of healthcare cards issued. By nationality, Moroccans, Romanians and Ecuadorians head the list of new arrivals.

This population increase makes itself felt in almost every strata of society. The faces in schoolrooms are now a rainbow of colours, and the 100 grams of Catalan sausage could well be sliced by Nancy, Anissa or Fatumata. And the Catalan Government's Citizenship and Immigration Plan for 2005-2008, developed by the Secretariat for Immigration, also focuses on every layer of society. The person responsible, Oriol Amorós, indicates the main instruments available to promote social cohesion: "Basically, we have more resources. In the last two years the resources have grown significantly thanks to a petition from the ERC parliamentary party in the Spanish Congress of Deputies during negotiations for the General State Budget. This has enabled us to give the go-ahead to more than 1,628 actions in support of integration, including programmes run by various Catalan Ministries, actions through local councils and other local entities, and pro-integration projects and activities by immigrant

associations to support immigrants and returnees. It has also allowed us to strengthen areas and services which have seen their user numbers increase due to new arrivals".

The foundations of this structure are local administrations and services. They are the ones at the front line when dealing with the problems that crop up on a daily basis. One example of this are the mosques in Catalan towns and cities. In two decades the number of mosques has gone from four to more than 150, which has led to neighbourhood disputes and conflicts which each town council has tried to resolve in the best possible way. For example, Badalona City Council (Barcelona) has drawn up a specific directive to regulate places of worship to ensure public health and safety standards are met in full. And that, at the same time, these places of worship are fully compatible with the principle of religious freedom.

Achieving a social balance is no easy matter, however. Amorós points out that one of their main concerns is "strengthening public services so that the new arrivals do not represent any kind of reduction in the quality or quantity of those services, such as public health, social welfare and educa-

Report: Immigration into Catalonia

tion". For example, more than 1,000 'induction classrooms' have been set up in Catalan schools". An essential part of the educational system, these classrooms enable children to go through a process of adaptation and language learning which will help them follow the school curriculum normally. "Despite everything", says Amorós, "the new Statute will very soon give the Catalan Government the official capacity to process and resolve an extremely important issue: the initial authorisation to be able to work".

This last issue is perhaps one of the key factors in the present-day migratory process. Because, at the end of the day, for many people obtaining the prized 'work papers' is

just as important as the welcome and integration.

The different versions of the Immigration Act have not yet fully resolved the problem which links the residence permit to the work permit. But what is true is that the most recent regularisation process launched by the Spanish government at the beginning of 2005 has helped normalise the situation, and therefore life, of many new arrivals - as many as 100,000 of the almost 350,000 people who it is estimated are currently without papers. There are close to a million of them in Spain. The main condition was that they had to have a job contract. This ensured legitimacy and a correlation of job supply and demand, though we can well imagine that subterfuge, mafias and abuses by many employers were also part of the famous process. This policy was largely designed to bring to an end the status of 'non-citizen' that so many people were labouring under and was accompanied by a determination to continue hiring workers in their countries of origin. In this respect, the Catalan Government's overseas offices play a major role which needs to be consolidated in the future.

Similarly, we should not overlook the criticisms of this plan: from those who think it has a new 'magnet effect' (such as the rightwing People's Party), and those who believe it is not facilitating the tools to attract skilled workers, but aims to bring in cheap labour to keep the economy competitive (the Catalan trade-union federation). Moreover, statistics confirm that immigrants' contributions to the Social Security fund amount to €8 billion, an amount equivalent to the surplus forecast by the Spanish government for 2007.

This point sparks off two issues which tend to fill the pages of newspapers and minutes of television news space. One the one hand is the idea that immigrants do the jobs that the native population doesn't want to do. According to recent figures from the Active Population Survey, most new arrivals find work in the construction and hotel and restaurant industries and as domestic staff. And on the other hand, this summer we have borne witness to heartrending media coverage of the arrival of boatloads of paperless immigrants on the Canary Islands. The so-called 'cayuco crisis' overwhelmed the Spanish Government at the height of August and once again highlighted the urgent need to harmonise immigration and cooperation policies between EU governments and the countries from which these immigrants mainly originate. We will need to see what measures are taken with regard to this problem. Meanwhile, we should also pay heed to calls from many NGOs, including the Catalan Refugee Aid Association. A call to the Catalan Government and the EU for action: "It isn't enough to come up with border-control policies; we want governments to get actively involved in setting up genuine development programmes for the southern countries, so that immigration is not the only way out for these people".



CARLES C. GARCIA

Immigrants and tourists live alongside each other in the Raval district of Barcelona



CARLES C. GARCIA

The mixing and fusion of cultures is a fact of life on the streets of our towns and cities

MOVING FORWARD, LEARNING FROM MISTAKES

At school, at work, on the train and the bus, during leisure activities, at the shopping centre, at the market, in the town square, while having a coffee... Wherever you are, at whatever time of day, you can stop for a moment and see that diversity is already one of the most essential features of our times. And the fact is that there are currently some 170 nationalities living in Catalonia. This proliferation of cultures enriches society with new customs and new practices. Gastronomy is a good example, and we can see in our markets and restaurants how products and recipes from other countries are increasingly being incorporated.

Today in Barcelona it is possible to buy all the essential ingredients to prepare a fish foutou from the Ivory Coast, a moro de guandule from the Dominican Republic, or a mutton curry from India. Music, dance, literature and fashion are also good cultural barometers... The initiatives to promote exchange, encourage harmonious coexistence and break down cultural barriers are limitless. But they cannot be effective unless we work to ensure that

everyone, no matter where they come from, has the same opportunities. In this respect, Ignasi Amorós says that “we need to ensure that everyone who comes to Catalonia and wants to settle here has the means to do so, without being held back because they are an immigrant or the child of immigrants. The lack of opportunities to improve their lot encourages them to reject the host society”.

The events in France in 2005 simply corroborate this theory. The death of two young Frenchmen of African origin in the Paris suburb of Clichy-sous-Bois sparked off the situation known as the Revolt of the Suburbs. According to many analysts, the problem was latent and it was simply a question of time until violence broke out among groups of young French people stigmatised by the feeling of not belonging to the country where they were born, and with no hope for the future. Without pointing the finger at any country or its history, we need to learn from others’ mistakes and move forward, looking at the positive rather than the negative.

**Journalist, expert on immigration*

“I’VE MADE THE REGION PART OF MY OWN IDENTITY”

THEY HAVE COME FROM CHINA, MOROCCO, PAKISTAN, ECUADOR, ITALY, FRANCE... AND GIVE A PERSONAL ACCOUNT OF THEIR EXPERIENCES SINCE THEY ARRIVED IN CATALONIA.

“Very often we just can’t understand each other. We don’t know your culture and you don’t know ours, and that creates a lot of conflict”. She speaks perfect Catalan and you can occasionally pick up an Ibizan accent. But Kangyun Xiao left China ten years ago. She went first to Ibiza with her parents who set up a restaurant there, and now lives in Barcelona. Kangyun is studying Law at the Autonomous University. She is an example of the new generation of Chinese immigrants who have studied at Catalan schools. As she puts it: “It’s the best place for getting closer to each other; mixing with local children is what helps you to learn and adapt”. Kangyun adds that the problem many Chinese people have is the language, “because they work very long hours and have no time to learn it”.

This student is one of the 20,000 Chinese people living in Catalonia. Young people like her fight the stereotypes surrounding immigrants, just like Shahbaz Akhpar, of Pakistani origin. He arrived in Catalonia in 1990 at the



Fati Balhouli and Francesc Prats in their wedding day

age of 8. He runs a grocery store with his father. Shahbaz says: “The ‘92 Olympics were the best; I’ve got fantastic memories of them”, he says, while serving Moroccans, Dominicans, Argentines, Catalans...” He loves the Barça football team and sport in general, but also keeps his own culture and religion alive: he is a Shiite Muslim. For the last two years the community has held the Aixura procession to commemorate the martyrdom of the Imam Hussein, Mohammed’s grandson. “People always ask us: why do you beat yourselves like that?” he says. “We explain that this is our way of expressing our pain, something like Holy Week”. However, when we ask where the Pakistani women are on such an important day, Shahbaz claims that they celebrate it at home because the mosque is too small to hold everyone. Barcelona City Council authorises the procession under the premise of freedom of worship, but on the condition that there are no flagellations or blows which might lead to injury. As a result, the community celebrates the Aixura peacefully with the approval of its neighbours - although there have been some hitches, such as in February 2006, when the procession coincided with controversy sparked off when the Danish newspaper *Jyllands-Posten*) printed caricatures of the prophet Mohammed. Shahbaz was afraid that the crisis would stop the procession, and used the media to call for people not to be afraid: “We disassociate ourselves from any controversy; we want people to see that we’re peaceable. Because we understand that you can’t go and parade in front of people and expect respect for your religion while not being capable of demonstrating your respect for theirs”.

Two people who have always felt respected are Fati Balhouli and Francesc Prats. Their relationship has never encountered any problems, apart from the surprise of some family members and friends, which, they explain “disappeared little by little”. They met each other in Figueres, where both of them are from. Fati came from Morocco when she was 5 and now works as a receptionist at the Garbi school in Barcelona. Even so, Fati points out that “Moroccan immigration has been a fact of life for many years in Catalonia, but it’s still rare to see mixed marriages because we Moroccans tend to marry within the community”. Unlike her sister, for example, Fati wanted a ‘European’-style civil marriage. For this reason, she says “I didn’t wear a veil, but put a pretty flower in my hair”.

Another couple who, for the time being, are not thinking of marrying are William and Tania, of Ecuadorian origin. This is the second largest group of immigrants in Catalonia. They are happy because things are going well for them: “We’ve got jobs, we can pay our rent and above all we can send money back to our families”. For some countries, the funds sent back by immigrants are their main source of income. These funds are estimated to amount

to \$100 million a year. Both William and Tania belong to the Catalan Association of Ecuadorians, an entity which promotes their culture but, most importantly, is a source of support for any problems that might crop up. "When I arrived six years ago there was not so much immigration. I was lucky enough to find a job, but the most important thing is that I don't have to worry any more because I've got my residence papers". Like William, many new arrivals have had to deal with another bureaucratic odyssey: family reunion. "Nobody can possibly imagine what it's like to have your children so far away and have to wait for years to get them over here".

But as well as the non-EU population, there is also a significant collective of Europeans who have decided to come and work in Catalonia. Indeed, it is worth noting that Barcelona is now the fourth most popular city with European executives, after London, Paris and Frankfurt. This

is the case of Manuela Chiapponi, an Italian, and Jordan Bertsch, from France. Manuela has been in Barcelona for six years and is a creative technician in a new-technologies company. For her, integration is a process and a dialogue, but also a conflict: "First of all, I had to integrate in a region and a culture, and then adapt them to my own region - in other words, my roots and my identity". Jordan, who has been working as a statistician at the Hospital de Sant Boi de Llobregat for a year, believes that Catalans are welcoming, but also stresses that new arrivals need to show an interest in their new culture. That's why they're learning Catalan. He points out that in France, friction with immigrants goes a long way back: "It may be true that the country has let in too many people, but it is also true that very little effort or resources have been invested in important issues like education and housing".

Isabel Luna



Left to right: Kanyun Xiao (China), Manuela Chiapponi (Italy) and Jordan Bertsch (France), Shahbaz Akhpar (Pakistan), William and Tania (Ecuador)

THE GREAT WAVE

“CATALONIA TODAY, BOTH ECONOMICALLY AND IN TERMS OF ITS CULTURAL IDENTITY, CANNOT BE UNDERSTOOD WITHOUT REFERENCE TO THE WAVES OF IMMIGRATION IN THE 1950S AND 1960S”. THAT’S THE CONCLUSION REACHED BY ANDREU DOMINGO, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF THE CENTRE FOR DEMOGRAPHIC STUDIES AND AUTHOR OF NUMEROUS WORKS THAT SEEK TO HIGHLIGHT THE IMPACT IMMIGRATION HAS HAD ON CATALONIA AT ALL LEVELS.

From the start, the phenomenon of migration has interested experts of all disciplines: historians, sociologists, anthropologists, and, of course, demographers. But academic studies also encompass education, politics, economics and the media. In short the movement of people has a bearing across the whole of society.

Nevertheless, it’s demographers who have been particularly interested in analysing what, for many, was the last great wave of Catalan migration - the wave that originated in other parts of Spain. Its origins take us back to the start of the 20th century. According to Domingo: “We can see three great waves: the first took place in the 1920s, when slightly more than 320,000 people arrived and ended with the outbreak of the Civil War.

The second we can date from 1950 until 1975. And the third which is taking place now, led by international immigration, really began in 2000.” Domingo points out that French immigrants had already begun to arrive here in the 17th century. Here we can highlight the excellent work of historians Jordi Nadal and Emili Giralt, who published work on the subject in the 1960s. And also The Catalan System of Reproduction (1999) by Anna Cabré (geographer and director of the Centre for Demographic Studies), which explains how the contributions made to population growth by migrations (in the 19th century) were fundamental and endogenous, in other words, “generated by the evolution of Catalonia itself”.

This evolution is also related to the reasons behind the 20th century’s two great waves of immigration, the so-called attraction factors: “On the one hand, the driving forces of public works and industry in the 1920s, like the urban development of Montjuïc, the construction of the metro and the Barcelona International Exhibition in 1929. And, on the other hand, the abandonment of autarchy and the industrial growth of the 1960s, sustained by increases in the active population which were, in turn, fed by immigration”.

Nowadays, those who took part in these waves of immigration and their descendants have spread out across, and mingled with, the whole Catalan territory. However, it is in the urban zones and greater Barcelona where we still find the highest levels of concentration. Towns like L’Hospitalet de Llobregat, Santa Coloma de Gramenet, Cornellà, Badalona and Sant Adrià de Besòs have been populated primarily by newcomers. And it is in this last town, Sant Adrià, that the Museum of the History of Immigration in Catalonia project began in 2004, (www.mhic.net). Located in the farmhouse Can Serra, it houses the



JOAN GUERRERO

The second wave of migration took place in the 1950s and the 1960s



JOAN GUERRERO

One of the most important challenges was the integration of the newcomers

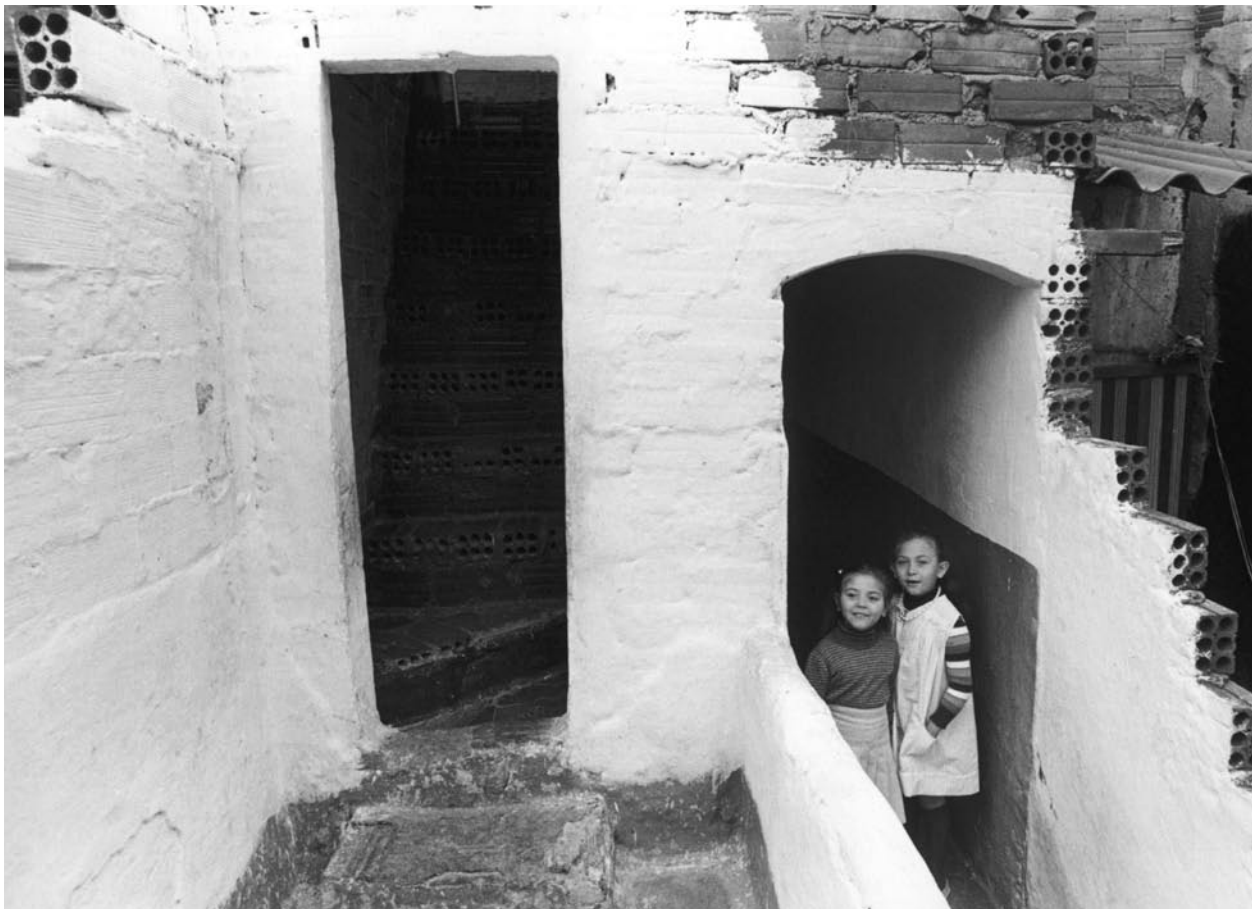
History of Immigration Documentation and Research Centre, holds permanent and temporary exhibitions and hosts talks, music and film cycles that illustrate and explain the migratory movements - and the experiences of those who made the journey.

The point of departure of those who left their places of origin is also significant. Domingo explains that “initially, they came from areas close to Catalonia, such as the Valencia region, Aragon and Murcia, followed by considerable numbers from Andalusia. Then they started coming from Extremadura and Castile”. How does that translate into figures? First of all, the impact of these migrations was not just limited to increasing numbers. It also accelerated the demographic dynamics, in terms of both marriages and births, which had repercussions on population growth. Domingo argues that: “The migratory balance - in other words, the increase in population obtained from subtracting the number of people departing from the number arriving - was 439,874 people in the 1950s and 729,442 people in the 1960s. These figures represented a decennial maximum in the 20th century and in the history of Catalonia”. Domingo adds that “this

represented a total increase in each period of 64% and 60% respectively, going from 3.2 million inhabitants in 1950 to almost 4 million in 1960. And from this figure to 5 million in 1970”. As if this were not enough, the 21st century has seen a new wave which, though at first sight may seem larger, when analysed, throws up some unexpected results. He says: “Migratory growth between 2000 and 2005 reached 652,000 people, surpassing the figure recorded between 1966 and 1970, which was 426,000 people”.

The big difference, though, is the percentage this contributes to total growth figures. We’re looking at 62% at the end of the 1960s compared to 90% at the beginning of the 21st century. In other words, growth from recent immigration has meant that Catalonia has gone from 6 million inhabitants in 2000 to 7 million in 2006. “However, this growth represents a return to demographic normality if we compare it with the stagnation of the 1980s and early 1990s, associated with the impact of the economic downturn”.

Isabel Luna



The photographs by Joan Guerrero show Santa Coloma de Gramenet in the 50s and 60s

A CHAMPION WITHOUT OBSTACLES

THE ULLDECONA MOTORBIKE RIDER ADAM RAGA, WITH SIX WORLD TITLES UNDER HIS BELT, IS THE UNDISPUTED NUMBER 1 OF TRIAL BIKING, A SPECIALISED MOTOR SPORT WITH DEEP ROOTS IN CATALONIA.

He risks vertical jumps over rock and manmade obstacles, on wet or dry terrain, astride his bike - his feet firmly off the ground. This is a story of man battling the elements, taking on the laws of gravity. Trial biking, which has many devotees in the mountains of Catalonia, is a specialist sport at the pinnacle of which is one of our best riders. He's called Adam Raga, he comes from Ulldecona and at the age of only 24 already has six world titles.

Since 2005 he has been the undisputed trial number 1. That year he won absolutely every competition he entered, including the open-air World championship (over a natural obstacle course) and the indoor World championship (held in covered arenas). And in the year just gone, 2006, although his domination of the sport was not so complete, he once again won both World championships, to add to the two previous indoor titles he won in 2003 and 2004.

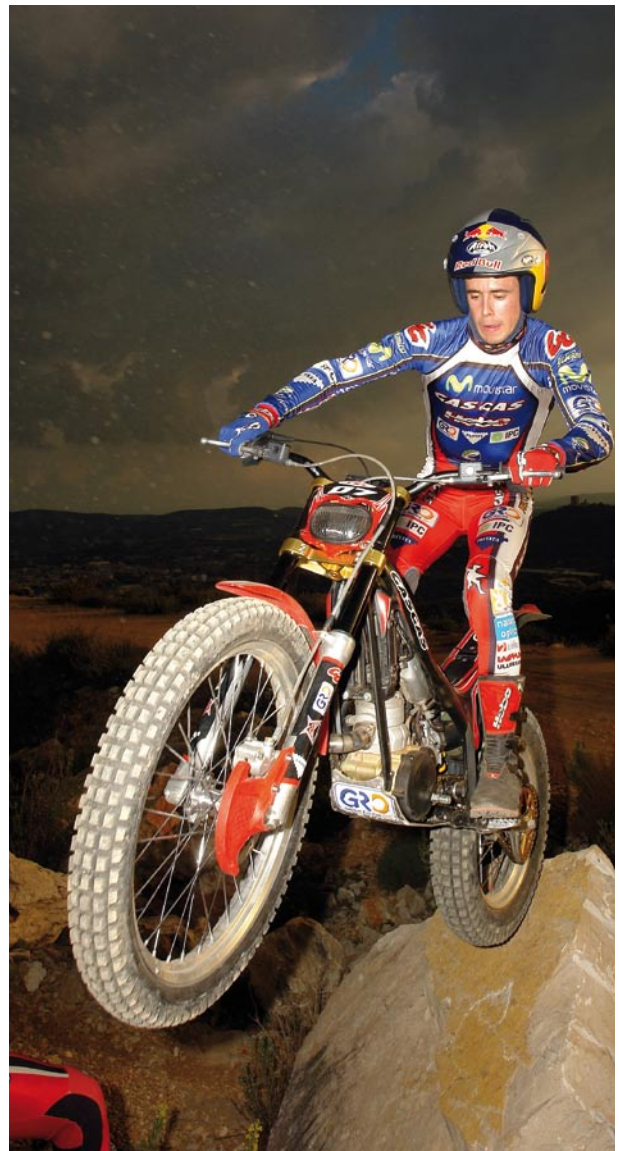
The secret of this success is above all the excellence of his technique and the understanding he has with his Gas Gas, the 100% Catalan bike (the manufacturer is based in Salt, Girona) he has been riding since 1999. Don't forget that when he started out he had the charismatic Jordi Tarrés (seven times world champion, now retired) as his teacher. The same spot where the former-rider came to prominence, at Rellinars dels Vallés, is his usual training ground.

Adam Raga has the good fortune to be one of the few professionals in this sport, one which lives outside the world of race circuits. Nonetheless, to keep himself up with the sport's elite he has to undergo tough training sessions. Working out in the morning, working with the bike in the afternoon, travelling and competing at the weekends, without forgetting his personal commitments and

public appearances, which together almost completely fill his diary.

In this way, every year he travels through numerous countries to take part in world championships, shoulder to shoulder with the rest of the specialists in this sport, like Albert Cabestany, Toni Bou and Jeroni Fajardo. From Japan to the United States via Argentina - just some of the countries that he visits each year, even though the majority of the competitions are held in Europe. To see what he is capable of you have to witness him live, on his trial bike. It's well worth going to check him out. Adam Raga guarantees a spectacular show.

Francesc Joan i Matas



The Ulldecona motorbike rider Adam Raga



TAKING PART IN UN MEETINGS

FOR THE FIRST TIME A UN ORGANISATION HAS INVITED THE CATALAN GOVERNMENT TO THE DONOR'S TABLES. THIS RECOGNISES CATALONIA'S INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT ROLE AS AN INTERNATIONAL PLAYER, ONE "WITH A LEVEL OF RESPONSIBILITY COMPARABLE TO THE MOST ADVANCED STATES", ACCORDING TO THE SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, ALBERT ROYO.

In little more than a month, the Catalan Government has attended two UN meetings related to the fight against poverty. It is an unprecedented development and the fruit of recent agreements on direct collaboration between Catalonia and various UN organisations.

On January 24, it took its place at the Donor's Table of the UN Millennium Development Goals Campaign in New York. Catalonia has proved to be the only country, along with the United Kingdom, to have signed a multiannual agreement. Catalonia is the fifth largest donor to the MDG campaign, just behind the UK, Spain, Luxemburg and Norway. Secretary Royo stressed that Catalonia "wants to normalise the government's presence in multilateral organisations like the UN".

The Catalan Government was a pioneer when, in December 2005, it was the first non-state government to sign up to a strategic, multiannual agreement with the MDG campaign. The UN has, on various occasions, underlined the importance of the example set by the Catalan government. For example, it invited the Government to a meeting with US state legislators aimed at bringing them into the fight against poverty.

On December 11, the Secretary for Foreign Affairs attended a meeting of International Donors organised by the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refu-



The Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Albert Royo, with the UNRWA Commissioner General, Karen Koning AbuZayd, in Amman

CATALONIA, TOGETHER WITH THE UNITED KINGDOM, IS THE FIRST TO GIVE REGULAR FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO THE MDGS. IT WILL ALSO TAKE PART, WITH FRANCE, IN A JOINT AID PROGRAMME FOR PALESTINE REFUGEES

gees in the Near East (UNRWA). It was the first time that the UNRWA had invited a non-state government to this annual meeting, which was held in Amman (Jordan). Catalonia and France came to an agreement on a joint aid programme for 2007. Specifically, the programme offers psychosocial support in the West Bank; it plans to train more than 200 psychologists and social assistants, as well as carry out studies and gather data on psychological symptoms resulting from the violence that has afflicted the occupied territories since 2000. The contribution amounts to some €500,000 (\$633,000) for the first year of the programme. This represents 25% of the total costs. The remaining 75% will come from France. The UNRWA also organises a psychosocial programme in Gaza that will be paid for entirely by the European Commission.

Catalonia News

COMMUNITIES ABROAD

BY RAFEL CABALLERIA*

In our country's recent history, the Catalan Communities Abroad, better known as *casals catalans* (Catalan cultural associations), have played a leading role in upholding and disseminating Catalan culture and way of life, especially our language. Today, more than a hundred of these entities, established in 38 countries, have become beacons for Catalonia around the world.

Looking at the time they were set up, we can see that these Catalan communities are a reflection of the different social, economic and political situations experienced by the country. Thus the first Catalan entity to be founded in the world, the Societat de Beneficència de Naturals i Descendents de Catalunya de l'Havana (Cuba) in 1840, is a clear example of a first phase of settlement driven by commercial interests. The second phase of the migratory movement started at the beginning of the last century and continued until the exile in the wake of the Spanish Civil War. This is when most of the Catalan communities abroad were set up: the Casal de Catalunya in Buenos Aires, the Centre Català in Rosario, the Casal Català in Montevideo, the Centre Català in Caracas, the Orfeó Català in Mexico, the Centre Català in Santiago de Chile, etc., are all good examples. These entities not only embraced a very significant part of the Catalan intellectual world, they also maintained, with enviable strength and patriotism, Catalan culture wherever their members had been forced to settle. Their destinations were mainly in South America, but there are also entities in Europe in places such as Brussels, Paris and Toulouse. The third migratory wave took place during the second half of the 20th century. This was mainly characterised by geographical dispersion, with a certain preference for Europe. The main reasons were economic ones.

We are now in the midst of a fourth phase: Catalans crossing the world for other reasons. As well as the business sector, which has spread worldwide as a result of the globalisation process, we can find groups of Catalans all over the world: students, volunteers, teachers, researchers, and members of staff of international institutions, amongst others.

Now is the time to take a look at the future of these entities and take advantage of their potential to disseminate knowledge of Catalonia and our culture throughout the

world. Their organisation and management should become semi-professional, incorporating the appropriate tools and resources to achieve the optimum level of quality as they tackle this task. Their potential can be realised. We should not forget that most of these entities, each in line with their own capabilities, can develop the role of a 'civic consulate', and their roots and knowledge of the geographical area in which they are located makes them an essential reference point for Catalonia.

The Catalan communities abroad are very well aware of this: they need to take a step forward and work towards offering two basic types of services in terms of the cultural dissemination they undertake. Firstly, support for the increasing number of Catalans who decide to spend a period of time away from their country, who can get essential advice from these entities for their professional and personal development. And secondly, support for



Third meeting of the European CCE network in Rome

Catalonia in terms of its international profile and overseas presence in every sphere around the world, disseminating not only aspects of our traditional culture, but also the more contemporary elements and new cultural trends.

Two steps can be taken to achieve these objectives. The first is to reform the regulations that govern Catalan communities abroad in the context of relations with Catalonia and their own government. The current law has now been in force for 10 years, and now is the time to bring it in line with new realities and draw up a strategic plan of action for action abroad. The second step is to treat the Catalan communities in a way that reflects their actual ability to take action. Any programmes or activities they wish to carry out should be adapted to their individual characteristics. Therefore 2007 needs to be a year of great change, step towards modernising the management of the Catalan communities. The Catalan Government will give them all the support they need to make this possible.

* Head of the Catalan Government's Support Programme for Catalan Communities Abroad

THE NEW INTERNET PORTAL FOR CATALANS ALL OVER THE WORLD

THINKING OF GOING TO LIVE IN AUSTRALIA AND WANT TO GET TO KNOW A FELLOW CATALAN LIVING THERE WHO COULD OPEN A FEW DOORS FOR YOU? LOOKING FOR WORK IN NEW YORK AND WANT TO HAND YOUR CV AROUND? WANT TO WORK AS A VOLUNTEER IN MOZAMBIQUE AND LOOKING FOR SOMEONE WHO'S ALREADY DONE JUST THAT? THE ANSWER MIGHT NOT TAKE LONG TO FIND - JUST THE FEW SECONDS IT TAKES TO LOG ON TO E-CATALUNYA.

At the end of February 2007 a major new Internet portal, specifically intended to act as a meeting point for Catalans from all over the world, will come online. It is as much for people living in Catalonia aspiring to broaden their horizons as for people living abroad who want to share their experiences with other expatriates, or who feel the need to maintain their ties with Catalonia. This public portal is called Catalunya Exterior, hosted on the virtual platform eCatalunya (<http://ecatalunya.gencat.net>); it is currently in its test phase.

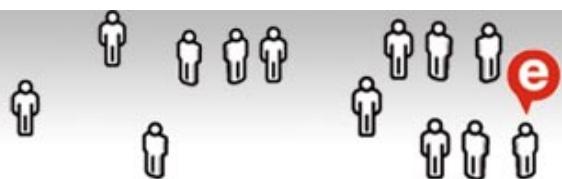
The portal has come about as a result of the dedicated activity of various Catalan Communities Abroad (CCAs), organisations looking to be a point of contact for Catalans living outside the country and seeking, at the same time, to raise awareness about Catalonia around the world. These communities, in some cases also known as *Casals Catalans*, are making increasing use of the Web to promote and organise events. And so the Support Programme for these CCAs, now brought under the umbrella of the Secretariat for Foreign Affairs, has created this portal as another service offered to Catalans all over the planet in addition to the Support Programme's own website (www.cce.cat). For this reason, it is not just a space on the Web, but also offers com-

plementary tools to Catalans abroad, such as the possibility to have your own blog. Each user can introduce personal elements, such as a space for publishing photographs or a tool for managing contacts.

The fact that the portal is also meant to be used by CCAs means that in some cases space will be allocated for them to be able to work there. So each group can work freely and comfortably, the portal allows for the creation of restricted-access spaces. One that is already up and running is the space of the Council of Catalan Communities Abroad, as well as a space for users who have received grants and financial help to work abroad or to gain experience in an international organisation (for information on these programmes see the website of the Secretariat for Foreign Affairs at www.gencat.cat).

One of the basic communication channels of the portal is the forums. The continental group forums act as a contact space between people in the same geographic area where they can post personal contributions, news, and even job offers. These groups also include chat rooms where the challenges faced by CCAs, and the answers they find, can be discussed while projects are shared at a continental level.

THE PORTAL HAS COME ABOUT AS A RESULT OF THE DEDICATED ACTIVITY OF VARIOUS CATALAN COMMUNITIES ABROAD (CCAs), ORGANISATIONS LOOKING TO BE A POINT OF CONTACT FOR CATALANS LIVING OUTSIDE THE COUNTRY AND SEEKING, AT THE SAME TIME, TO RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT CATALONIA AROUND THE WORLD



I'M HERE! – BUT FORGET THE ILLUSIVE QUEST FOR SUCCESS

BY ANNA GRAU*

“WOW! IT'S JUST LIKE IN THE MOVIES”. EVERY VISITOR TO MANHATTAN, WITHOUT FAIL, SAYS THE SAME. AND, YES, FEW URBAN LANDSCAPES ARE SO FAMILIAR.

Since we were young we have all lived in a replica New York, a skyline out of Blade Runner that we automatically learn to associate with the capital of the world. The city with the tallest buildings; where it's all happening. The city that never sleeps and that has no interest in the rest



ANNA GRAU

Bob Dylan, the object of all sorts of tributes

of the world. The city everybody wants to go to, and from which everyone returns with star-struck eyes. And a certain amount of panic.

To find a city capable of stirring such strong passions we have to go back to Paris. But not to the real Paris, the Paris of flesh and blood and stone, but to that more glorious make-believe Paris. The Paris of Balzac, Boris Vian and Hemingway. Above all, the Paris of Julio Cortázar, perhaps the person who has captured with more intensity than most a desperation to reach a place of which, long before you arrive, you already have a preconceived notion.

The characters in Cortázar's *Rayuela* are physically in Paris. But they are so caught up in themselves that at times they make you ask yourself why they couldn't have stayed at home, in Argentina or Uruguay.

Of course, culture dictates. The art a city produces always draws you in. However, in a globalised, online world, this is now a rather feeble excuse. Does it really take that long for a good film, a good exhibition or a good opera to make the leap from New York to London, Paris or Barcelona? And the Three Kings must find it more and more difficult to find presents that will be a surprise. Clothes you can't buy on Passeig de Gràcia. Cafés that aren't Starbucks. You can even buy English books from Amazon without ever having to set foot out of L'Hospitalet.

It's not even true that the tallest buildings in the world are in New York. Right now, the most breathtaking views are in Asia. And the people there really couldn't care less whether we hear anything about them or not.

The amazing feeling of being right at home gets stronger when something happens to you that you'd never dreamt was possible: walking down a New York street and bumping, more than once, into people you know. The third time it happens you realise that despite being in a metropolis with more than eight million people on your doorstep, in fact, you just might be in a city with the surprisingly small dimensions of a village.

That's when you start to lose your respect for this city and, I think, you fall in love with it. When you realise that its greatest moment has already passed into history. That it was the most powerful city in the world in the 1950s. And the most provocative in the 70s. It still retains a fabulous inertia, which will last for years to come. But it is living, subtly, off the reserves of its own past. You see it when you take the subway, filthy and impractical for the disabled, and you ask yourself what would happen if Barcelona or Madrid City Council tried to get away with running a service like this. Or if they collected the rubbish only once a week, and the dustbin men were Mafia. Or when

you see those enormous, delightful cafés in the Village crammed with people escaping, amongst other things, the tiny apartments that most of them live in. Hordes of homeless people who don't know they're homeless, their laptops hung round their necks.

You love the city more and more when you glimpse its private tragedy, which is also its glory: New York is Me-land, the Mecca of Ego, the Camelot of individualism. I reckon that everybody who has a consistent enough American dream is heading or wants to head there - the American dream being that if you sacrifice and keep on going, in the end you will find success.

In some, marvellous, dazzling, cases, the myth has come true. For the rest it remains a lie. The myth that the class system does not exist is more than ever just that - a myth. America is no longer a land of opportunity for everybody, because enough people have already succeeded in forming elites that are not easy to shift.

This is especially true for the latest wave of immigrants who have continued to arrive despite the tougher conditions imposed on them by George W Bush's administra-

tion. In the 70s, gifted immigrants didn't even have to pay for their books; they were given a grant. Now, there is absolutely no chance of the child of a dishwasher becoming a university professor. No chance.

Will it all go up in flames again? It's not impossible. But it's not that likely either. There's more weariness in the air than rebellion. Living in New York is invigorating, but it's tough. It thrills, but it burns. Everything costs so much. You have to be absolutely sure. The tiniest doubt and you'll find yourself asking why you don't live somewhere else, somewhere less demanding. Somewhere that doesn't make you feel so guilty for not succeeding.

For me, the key to happiness in New York is to not even try to succeed. Then you'll see that New York opens itself to you unconditionally like a generous mother. New York

YOU LOVE THE CITY MORE AND MORE WHEN YOU GLIMPSE ITS PRIVATE TRAGEDY, WHICH IS ALSO ITS GLORY: NEW YORK IS ME-LAND, THE MECCA OF EGO, THE CAMELOT OF INDIVIDUALISM

swallows everything whole, without asking questions. The mix of races in New York is often praised, when in fact nobody mixes with anybody. Everybody lives in the great melting pot without melting at all. To fit in, you don't have to do anything. That's the most fantastic thing of all. And perhaps for this reason New York creates a strange sense of identity in everybody who lives here. I know a Catalan who was known as Peter his whole life until he came to live in New York. Here he started to call himself Pere.

For a Catalan, it's very gratifying to be able to finally disentangle yourself from your political existence. You don't have to demonstrate or decide every day if you are a people, a nation, a state or whatever. To be yourself, to be me, that's already enough of a passport for New York - a city which, if it deserves to be loved more than any other, it's for its hunger to use people for the first time every day, like new shoes.

Then you find that some African-Americans have been shot dead at a bachelor party, and that the death penalty is legal here (in New York, of all places)... Nothing is perfect. But neither are you and nobody is going to ask you to change.

**Journalist and writer*



ANNA GRAU

Afternoon nap at Washington Square

50 YEARS OF THE EUROPEAN DREAM

ON 25 MARCH 2007, EUROPEANS WILL COMMEMORATE THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TREATY OF ROME. THIS TREATY, WHICH SET UP THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY (EEC), WAS A KEY MILESTONE IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW PROSPEROUS, INCREASINGLY INTEGRATED, EUROPE. THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT THE PROCESS OF EUROPEAN INTEGRATION WAS ONE OF THE GREAT HISTORICAL SUCCESS STORIES OF THE 20TH CENTURY.

*BY RICARD RAMON I SUMOY **

The European Economic Community was the fruit of a methodology proposed by Jean Monnet and Robert Schuman, who saw that each agreement on cooperation in Europe would inexorably lead to the next. Step by step countries would become interdependent and integration would deepen on the continent. As Schuman put it: "Europe will not be made in one go or in a joint action: it will be made thanks to specific developments, firstly creating a solidarity of fact" (Schuman declaration, 9 May 1950). History has shown that they were right: the agreement to pool coal and steel (ECSC) would be followed by the customs union of the EEC (the so-called 'common market') with the development of the first common policies (the Common Agrarian Policy, the Common Commercial Policy, etc.); the process would be consolidated with new policies, the introduction of new principles (such as 'territorial cohesion'), the achievement of the internal market, the single currency, foreign policy and common security, cooperation in interior and justice, and a list of issues that seems never to end.

Looking back on the past helps us to reflect calmly on the current state of the European Union. At a time dominated by the feeling of 'crisis' and 'stagnation' in the process of constructing a political Europe, it is worth examining the path we have taken and drawing breath before moving on.

The failure to ratify the European Constitution, the fierce disagreements on subjects of great importance, the lack of an ambitious budgetary framework, the difficulty in boosting European competitiveness, etc. all lead us to a certain pessimism and to the thought that the European project is really in crisis.

However, we must avoid a reductionist view of reality and try to examine the situation from a broader perspective. We must bear in mind the enormous efforts made in recent years to expand the EU to the former communist bloc; furthermore, Germany (the economic engine) has to face the consequences of accommodating the former German Democratic Republic.

Today, despite the difficulties, the Europe of 27 states and 500 million inhabitants is the largest economic bloc in the world, with continuing economic growth and an emerging currency that is beginning to challenge the international pre-eminence of the dollar.

Europe, as well as developing 'policies' and specific economic sectors, has been able to set itself up as a "community of values": today, we Europeans do not only share democracy, human rights and the state of law, but our own social model and a set of common principles that guide our conduct in the new global surroundings. The European Union has been consolidated as a sui generis model of organisation of political power that allows us Europeans to confront the challenges of globalisation. Instead of

ALBEIT SOMEWHAT BELATEDLY, WE HAVE STARTED TO TRY TO RESOLVE QUESTIONS SUCH AS IMMIGRATION OR THE AGEING POPULATION – PROBLEMS THAT HAVE TO BE COORDINATED ON A EUROPEAN SCALE

accepting blindly the market laws of our new global surroundings, we Europeans have opted for a growth model which respects the principles of equality, social cohesion and territorial cohesion. In Europe we must be proud of our capacity to make use of the economies of scale produced by the continental market with high levels of productivity, while guaranteeing the security and equality derived from our welfare states.

Furthermore, we cannot ignore the fact that, unlike other economic blocs, the EU is making a great effort to reconcile our growth with the sustainability of resources, the challenges posed by climatic change and the need to reduce our energy dependence. In parallel to this, albeit somewhat belatedly, we have started to try to resolve questions such as immigration or the ageing population – problems that have to be coordinated on a European scale.

Throughout these years, we have been able to construct

something that, through its diversity, has allowed us to function successfully. After 50 years, we have to adapt to the new times and seek new instruments that allow us to function effectively with 27 member states. Without there being any 'great design', today Europe works at an 'administrative level', and is gradually being taken on board by its citizens. We only have to update it and imbue it with greater political content.

Increasingly, the internal dynamics and the new global environment will reinforce the need to give a new drive to political Europe. Beyond the technical discussion on treaty reforms or the content of the future European Constitution, we, the new generations of Europeans, must be capable of building, from civil society, a new political drive for the European project, which is common to one and all.

**Vice-president of the Casal Català in Brussels*



Historic picture of the signatories of the Treaty of Rome in 1957

“THINGS CAN BE IMPROVED, BUT WE CAN BE OPTIMISTIC”

SARA PAGANS, DOCTOR IN BIOCHEMISTRY AT THE AUTONOMOUS UNIVERSITY OF BARCELONA, ARRIVED IN CALIFORNIA ALMOST FOUR YEARS AGO. LIKE OTHER CATALANS, SHE ‘DID AMERICA’ – IN HER CASE PHD RESEARCH IN MOLECULAR BIOLOGY ON THE HIV VIRUS. SHE SAYS THAT THE EXPERIENCE HAS BEEN “WORTH IT” BUT THAT CATALONIA IS NOW ON THE RIGHT PATH TO BECOMING A MODEL FOR INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH.

BY SARA BOSCH

What kind of research are you doing in California?

Last year the American Foundation for AIDS Research (amFAR), gave me a research grant to study at the Gladstone Institute of Virology and Immunology, an internationally renowned institute doing research into the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) supported by the University of San Francisco (California). The Institute is dedicated as much to basic research at the molecular level as clinical research based on samples from patients infected with AIDS. We shouldn't forget that AIDS research in San Francisco is very significant since it was from here that awareness about the fight against AIDS began to spread. In my laboratory we study, specifically, a stage in the HIV virus cycle in which the multiplication of genetic information takes place. Apart from this virus, the Institute is also dedicated to clinical and basic research, in other words, with and without patients respectively, into Hepatitis C.

What's the importance of this research?

In my laboratory we carry out basic research, which is to say, without patients, in order to unravel, at a molecular level, a specific stage in the HIV virus' biological cycle. Understanding how the virus works will help, in the long term, to design drugs that block each of these specific

stages and therefore prevent the virus infecting healthy cells. In short, we study how the virus works in order to be able to act later.

And what happens to the results?

When we make progress with the research we turn it over to research publications to raise awareness of it in the scientific community. We also keep those pharmaceutical companies who are interested up-to-date with our discoveries. Fortunately, I work at an Institute with an international reputation, even though it only came into existence 15 years ago. An example close to home is the head of my laboratory, a young woman who works really hard to raise our profile.

Where does the success of the team lie in?

Research can be highly stressful at times. For me, its success lies in the teamwork itself, with a boss who knows how to motivate people and create a good environment, every day of the week. At the Institute we are part of a relatively small but really productive and important group. Every week we give joint seminars where we share suggestions and new projects with other teams. Moreover, we get visits from other international scientists and Nobel prize-winners: you feel like you're learning. Its success, then, lies in the teamwork and intensive daily work.

If you went home now, having worked in the United States, would you have more opportunities to work as a scientist than before?

I think that I'd have more opportunities, but basically because now there are more opportunities available. Of course, there are things that could be improved, but we can be optimistic about science in Catalonia. A good example is the Barcelona Biomedical Research Park (PRBB) and the Barcelona Science Park, which are creating more opportunities for Catalan scientists and propelling Catalonia forward as a model for international research. Specifically in the field of HIV, the creation of HIVCAT opens up some really interesting perspectives on the Catalan contribution to international research into an AIDS vaccine.

What still needs to be improved is people's knowledge of science, the image they have of it. And I believe that, in order for science to be valued as it deserves, a patient process is called for. In the United States there is a high awareness of the importance of scientific research and scientists are very highly regarded socially. Here, yes, I find that they appreciate the work you do, that they value it more. There are lots of private foundations that give money to science, like amFAR, who have given me a grant. Specifically, this foundation was set up by Elizabeth

Taylor herself and is a good example of the higher rate of involvement of the whole society in scientific research. In Catalonia we haven't got there yet, but things are improving and we have reasons to be optimistic.

What's life like for a Catalan in California?

San Francisco's a really good place to live. It's an open, liberal, likeable city. They say it's an oasis in the United States, with people from all over the world. It also has lots of things to do: cinemas, restaurants, concerts, natural parks. Basically, it was really easy to get used to living in a city like this. The life I lead here I could have in Barcelona: I go to work and, when I can, I go away at the weekends to explore nature in California. The experience is well worth it.

Who can you relate to in such a cosmopolitan city?

Going out with people from all over the world is normal here, and in fact it's a really enriching experience. But my close friends are other European scientists who are doing their PhD like me, especially Catalans - there are

loads of them! Some come to study and others to work, but the majority are young people. There are even some who stay here to live! The casual is a good place to meet and share experiences.

How much do people know about Catalonia in California?

When they realise that I'm not from here and I explain that I'm from Barcelona, everybody reacts really well: everyone likes it, everyone has gone or wants to go. Now, from the point of view of Catalonia as a country with its own culture and its own language, it's more complicated, although the people who travel and take an interest in international politics do understand. The Catalans like me, we try to be good ambassadors, explaining its history, customs, traditions, holidays, but what the most difficult thing to get people to understand is that the first language of Catalonia is Catalan, not simply a dialect. It's difficult for them to place Catalonia on the map in the same way as Europe but, thanks to knowledge of Barcelona and its reputation, we can get on with raising awareness of what's happening in Catalonia now.



Sara Pagans in the laboratory at the Gladstone Institute of Virology and Immunology in San Francisco, California



A PHOTOGRAPHER FOR THE RECORD

AGUSTÍ CENTELLES WAS A PIONEER AMONG THE TWENTIETH CENTURY'S GREAT PHOTOJOURNALISTS. THANKS TO HIM MUCH OF THE VISUAL RECORD OF THE CIVIL WAR IN CATALONIA HAS BEEN PRESERVED. ALL OVER THE WORLD, HIS IMAGES ARE STILL USED TO SHOW THE PAIN AND CRUELTY OF THE WAR.

Many readers will recognise this: three assault guards aiming their rifles behind a barricade improvised from the bodies of two dead horses. The snapshot, which became an iconic image of the war - comparable to the photograph of

a militiaman being shot dead taken by Robert Capa - was taken by Agustí Centelles on 19 July 1936 in Diputació Street in Barcelona. The next day it was published on the front page of the international press, including the French magazine *Paris-Soir* and the US magazine *Newsweek*.

It all began when, in 1934, the young Centelles bought the first Leica camera in the whole of Spain. It cost him 900 pesetas, in the money of the time, but it was well worth the investment: it gave him the speed and agility required at the time of a freelance photographer like himself or Capa, who was already using the same camera. "Graphic reporters only photographed static objects. I wanted to take living photos, to capture moments", declared the budding photojournalist.

In the beginning he photographed the crème de la crème of Catalan and international society: Pau Casals, one of the leading musicians and orchestra conductors of his time; Pompeu Fabra, the man who codified the modern Catalan language; Cardinal Pacelli, who would soon become Pope Pius XII; architect Josep Puig i Cadafalch; and



© AGUSTÍ CENTELLES

President Companys returning from the prison of Santa María (Cádiz), March 1936



Riot police at Diputació Street in Barcelona, 19 July 1936

© AGUSTI CENTELLES

Culture

French writer Paul Valéry, are just some of the people who passed in front of his lens.

Agustí Centelles was ahead of his time and revolutionised graphic reporting. He worked day and night selling each print for 10 pesetas. His profession gave focus to his life. As a keen professional, he combined portraits with current events and covered events ranging from the Miss Catalonia contest to the cycle race around Catalonia. He firmly believed that reality is to be found in the press: "Capturing the news is an intuitive thing. You have to mould the crucial moment. The aesthetic element is not interesting. What is interesting is the event and the reason behind it". His involvement in his work led him to photograph key figures such as the president of the Generalitat, Francesc Macià; his successor, Lluís Companys; POUM leader Andreu Nin; writer George Orwell, and anarchist Frederica Montseny, the first female minister in Europe.

With these convictions, Centelles captured the essence of the Republic and the convulsive 'Fets d'Octubre', to move on, immediately, to the cruelty of the war. The position he took up, however, was not that of the detached, neutral war correspondent, but rather that of a genuine leftwing militant. From then on, the refugees, the militias, the exodus, the rationing, the suffering and the pain featured prominently in Centelles's negatives taken at the Aragon front and during the bombardment of Lleida, amongst other theatres of the war.



Departure of the Garcia Oliver column, 25 July 1936

© AGUSTÍ CENTELLES



Children playing in Montjuïc, Barcelona

© AGUSTÍ CENTELLES

Commitment and humanity prevail over objectivity and, on the road into exile, we find a man broken and overwhelmed by circumstances: “How cruel war is! What pictures there are to be taken on the road! I've got a lump in my throat. My journalistic spirit has disappeared and I don't have the heart either to get down from the truck and take photos or to take them from up here”, he wrote in his journal. Taking photographs of the defeated meant taking a self-portrait of his defeat. When he reached France, at the beginning of 1939, he was detained in the Bram concentration camp, where he improvised a photo lab and kept a journal of his own private struggle for survival. Once liberated, Centelles worked with the resistance against the Nazis but, purged by Franco's regime, he never worked as a photojournalist again.

From now until March 4, the Palau de la Virreina rescues the work of Centelles in the most comprehensive exhibition ever devoted to a man that many believe is the Catalan Robert Capa. Centelles, a Photographer's Lives (1909-1985) brings together more than 300 photographs, the front pages of newspapers and magazines, and personal objects, like his famous Leica, letters, cards and journals. Film director David Trueba, and photographers Gervasio Sánchez, Kim Manresa and Joan Fontcoberta, amongst others - all great admirers of Centelles' life and work - have collaborated with the exhibition. The exhibition shows the different stages in Centelles's life, from its high point to his exile and the secrecy and anonymity to which he was condemned by his involvement and deep feeling for the people featured in his photographs.

Recovering so many images has not been easy. When Centelles went into exile he took a suitcase filled with close to 6,000 negatives that, risking his life, he hid in Carcassonne. These thousands of photographic testimonies would have jeopardised the lives of too many people for them to be permitted to be taken from him. In 1944, he secretly returned to Catalonia, but he was finished as

WHEN CENTELLES WENT INTO EXILE HE TOOK A SUITCASE FILLED WITH CLOSE TO 6,000 NEGATIVES THAT, RISKING HIS LIFE, HE HID IN CARCASSONNE. THESE THOUSANDS OF PHOTOGRAPHIC TESTIMONIES WOULD HAVE JEOPARDISED THE LIVES OF TOO MANY PEOPLE FOR THEM TO BE PERMITTED TO BE TAKEN FROM HIM

a photojournalist and never published another article in the press. His talent for capturing images of reality was redirected towards industrial photography and advertising. It was not until 1976, after the death of Franco, that the photojournalist and his family returned to France to recover the hidden negatives. Fortunately, they were still there, in silence, waiting to speak.

With the recovery of the archive, Centelles began a new life as an extraordinary witness of the Republic and the Civil War in Catalonia. The negatives represent thousands of fragments comprising a good part of the visual record of the conflict and its protagonists. Their power and their universal language have also been used to show the pain and cruelty of other conflicts around the world and have become genuine icons, like the Barcelona assault guards. His work has finally achieved a certain level of recognition and justice has been done, historically speaking. After so many political, personal and professional obstacles,



Teruel, Aragon front, 1937

© AGUSTÍ CENTELLES



© AGUSTI CENTELLES

Bombing in Lleida, 3 November 1937

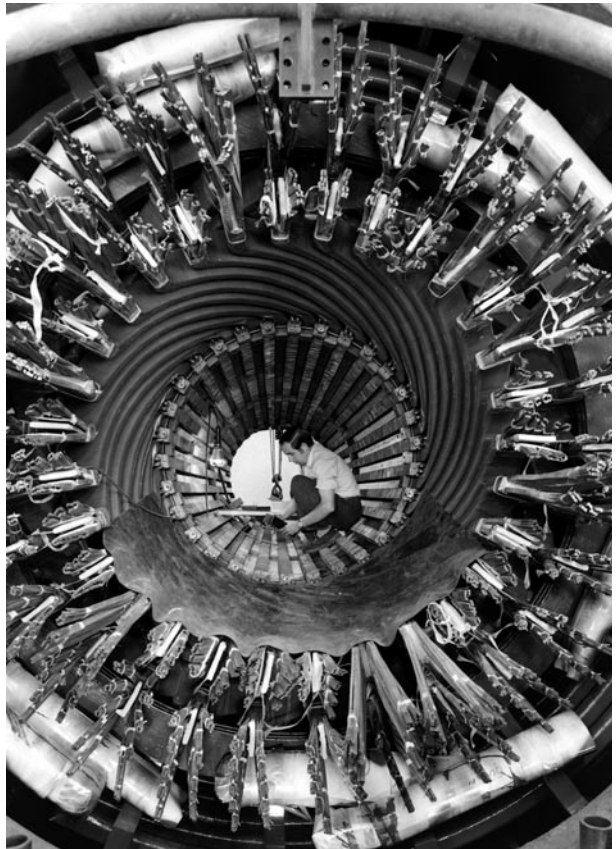
Centelles complained of something he had already half-glimpsed in the concentration camp: “Who doesn’t feel the need to be something, to surpass oneself, to have presence?”

Nonetheless, in 1985, one year after receiving the National Plastic Arts Prize for his lifetime’s achievement, his children said that “he died depressed because he felt ignored”. And, apart from this, Centelles never received any other reward. During the dictatorship, and afterwards, the desire not to reopen old wounds condemned him to decades of silence and anonymity.

Now, however, Agustí Centelles’s vital journey to save, preserve and recover thousands of negatives, finds its place in this exhibition and, even more importantly, within the history of Catalonia and international photojournalism.

Sara Bosch

“CAPTURING THE NEWS IS AN INTUITIVE THING. YOU HAVE TO MOULD THE CRUCIAL MOMENT. WHAT IS INTERESTING IS THE EVENT AND THE REASON BEHIND IT”



Industrial photography: Siemens Factory, 1969

© AGUSTÍ CENTELLES



Centelles in his Studio at Diagonal Avenue, in Barcelona, 1977

© LUIS POIROT

CATALAN CULTURE GOES TO NY

THE CITY'S PRESTIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS, LIKE THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM AND THE BARYSHNIKOV ARTS CENTER, TO HOST EVENTS.

This year New York will host a major showcase of Catalan culture. Under the umbrella of the Ramon Llull Institute, the body which promotes Catalan language and culture abroad, several of the city's cultural institutions will hold events showcasing Catalan music, dance, poetry, literature and the plastic arts. The events get underway with a concert in Ascension Church, followed by a major exhibition in one of the city's, and the world's, most famous

museums, the *Metropolitan Museum*. The Ramon Llull Institute has co-organised a series of cultural events to accompany the exhibition's arrival in New York: a programme of theatre arts at the Baryshnikov Arts Center and various literary events in conjunction with the American PEN World Voices Festival.

From March 7 until June 3, the *Metropolitan Museum* will host the exhibition *Barcelona and Modernity: From Gaudí to Dalí*. Organised by The *Cleveland Museum of Art*, The *Metropolitan Museum of Art* and the National Museum of Catalan Art (MNAC). The exhibition, which in recent months has been on show in Cleveland, offers a broad view of the movements that made Barcelona a model of Spanish intellectual, political and cultural modernity between the Barcelona Universal Exhibition in 1888 and the beginning of Franco's regime in 1939. The *Metropolitan Museum* has announced that the exhibition - with 300 works including paintings, sculptures, drawings, engravings, posters, decorative objects, architectural models and designs - is the first comprehensive survey of one of the most complex and interesting periods in modern Catalan art: the *Renaixença*. The Ramon Llull Institute has played a part in creating a high-quality catalogue to accompany



THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART

Catalan "Modernisme" exhibition hall, including works by Santiago Rusiñol and Josep Llimona



MNAC

Feliu Elias: La galeria, 1928



MARINA SANZ DOMINGUEZ

After the inauguration, Lou Reed will take part in a Catalan poetry reading

THE EXHIBITION OFFERS A BROAD VIEW OF THE MOVEMENTS THAT MADE BARCELONA A MODEL OF SPANISH INTELLECTUAL, POLITICAL AND CULTURAL MODERNITY

the exhibition and in organising a cultural programme to take place in the museum, including a performance by renowned Catalan soloists. On 4 May, also at The Metropolitan Museum, there will be a concert of Mediterranean and Catalan songs and flamenco fusion.

The night before the exhibition opens, the Ramon Llull Institute will present the world premiere of the work *El cant de les estrelles* (The Song of the Stars), by Enric Granados at Ascension Church. Poetry recitals, concerts, shows and dance at the Baryshnikov Arts Center, one of the highlights of which is a recital of Catalan poetry in English hosted by Lou Reed, Laurie Anderson and Patti Smith, will follow.

This year the World Voices international literary festival, organised every year by PEN and bringing together writers from all over the world, coincides with St George's Day. From April 23 to 29, recitals, lectures and symposiums will take place to help raise awareness of voices from different cultures and nationalities. As the result of an agreement between PEN and the Ramon Llull Institute, Catalan writers will take part in the official programme.

TIRANT LO BLANC IN NEW YORK

This will not be the first time that our culture has crossed the Atlantic. Between January and March last year, the Ramon Llull Institute carried out a series of activities to promote Catalan culture in New York, including a conference about Ramon Llull led by the renowned US literary critic Harold Bloom, an exhibition of photographs by Joan Fontcuberta, a comprehensive retrospective of Catalan cinema - from the silent films of 1906 to the most recent feature films made in our country - readings of literary works like *Tirant lo Blanc* and a symposium on Catalan poetry.

Emma Reverter



THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART

Avant-garde movement exhibition hall, including works by Miró, Dalí and Picasso. Cleveland



MNAC

Isidre Nonell: Dues gitanes, 1903



THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART

Painting by Picasso in the avant-garde movement exhibition hall.

ALONG THE LONELY PATH OF EXILE

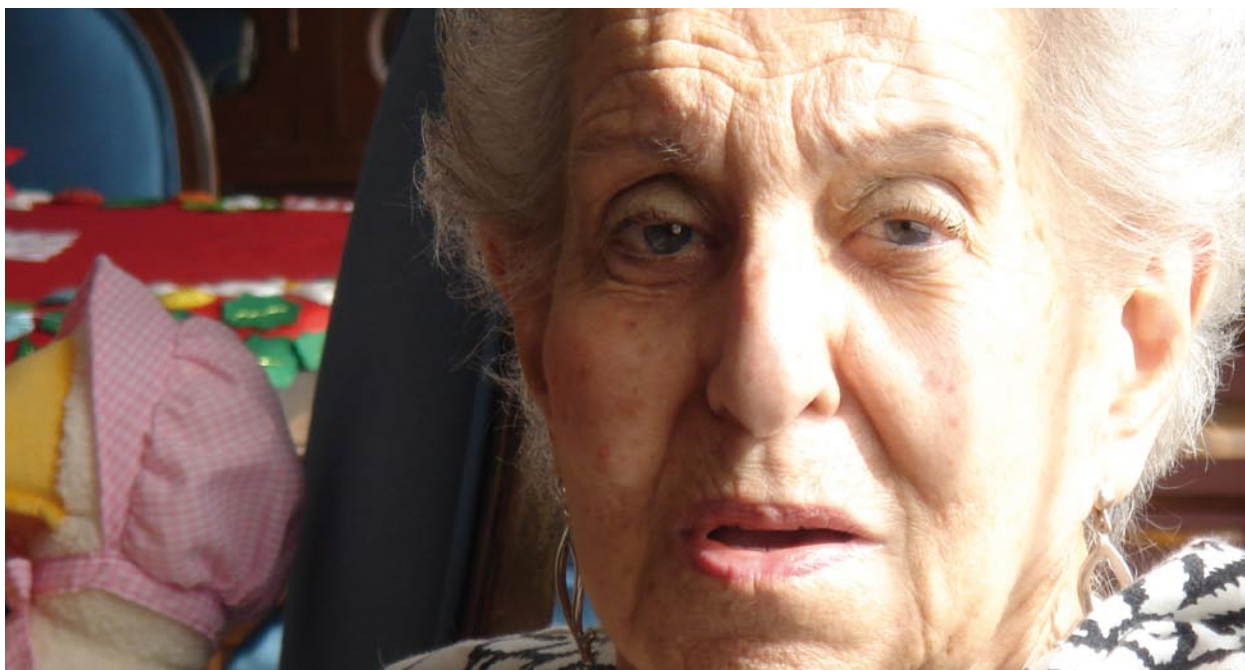
AN EXHIBITION HAS BROUGHT TOGETHER THE TESTIMONY OF CATALAN WRITERS EXILED IN 1939. IT WAS FIRST STAGED, WITH SPECTACULAR SUCCESS, IN BARCELONA A YEAR AGO, AND RECENTLY BEGAN A TOUR OF BUENOS AIRES, SANTIAGO (CHILE) AND MEXICO CITY. "THE LITERATURE OF EXILE" IS ALSO A RESEARCH PROJECT AIMED AT GATHERING THE TESTIMONIES OF SURVIVING MEMBERS OF THE CATALAN DIASPORA AND COMPILING UNPUBLISHED DOCUMENTS AND PHOTOGRAPHS.

BY JULIÀ GUILLAMON*

The exhibition *The Literature of Exile*, which opened at the Recoleta Cultural Centre in Buenos Aires on December 14, has been organised by the Barcelona Centre for Contemporary Culture (CCCB), Seacex (The Spanish Corporation for Cultural Action Abroad) and the Ramon Llull In-

stitute. From March 2007 the exhibition can be seen at La Moneda Cultural Centre in Santiago (Chile), before it travels to Mexico.

The starting point for *The Literature of Exile* is the fall of Barcelona on 26 January 1939, which prompted thousands of people to flee Franco's repression. The vast majority of Catalan writers, teachers and intellectuals of the Republican era formed part of this refugee column. Some had the good fortune to be welcomed in various places (Prades, Montpellier, Tolosa de Languedoc, Bierville-L'Isle Adam, Roissy-en-Brie) where refuges for intellectuals had been set up. Others ended up in the refugee camps on the beaches and vacant lots in the south of France. In a second phase the republican exiles were scattered around the world, above all to Mexico and Chile, countries with leftwing governments that opened their doors to them, but also to Caribbean countries and the East, to Great Britain and Switzerland, Venezuela and Argentina. The outbreak of the Second World War did not lead to the fall of Franco as many republicans



JULIÀ GUILLAMON

Maria Antònia Freixes, secretary of the Ramon Llull Foundation. Exiled to Mexico

had hoped, and many Catalan families decided to stay far away from their homeland, in some cases permanently. Out of these sojourns in South America, some of which lasted as long as forty years, came different adaptation strategies and cultural exchanges that gave rise to numerous, passionate life histories.

Catalan writers took as their point of departure their experience and that of thousands of their fellow citizens to produce work that is also a testimony to historical events and creativity. Amongst the most important books dealing with the experience of exile are memoirs, conceived with an almost documentary closeness to the events they describe like *Els darrers dies de la Catalunya republicana* by Antoni Rovira i Virgili, written in the first months of exile, and others, like the memoirs of the cartoonist and photographer Carles Fontseré, *Un exiliat de tercera*, which contain a vast amount of information with the aim of providing a historical framework for personal recollections.

Over the past few years numerous volumes of correspondence and all kinds of testimonies have been published; recent publications include *Cartes de l'exili francès*, by Lluís Nicolau d'Olwer and Ferran Cuito, and *L'exili manllevat*, by Núria Pi-Sunyer. However, it is in the field of creative writing that the experience of exile can be relived in all its intensity and emotional force. Stories of life in the refugee camps (*Els vençuts*, by Xavier Benguerel), the Mauthausen concentration camp, where many of the exiles ended up (*K.L. Reich*, by Joaquim Amat-Piniella), clandestine life in France and the flight from Paris (in the stories of Mercè Rodoreda), the voyage to America (*Les dues funcions del circ*, by Avel·lí Artís Gener), the shock of arriving in Mexico (*L'ombra de l'atzavara*, by Pere Calders), and the return from exile (*Tornar o no tornar*, by Vicenç Riera Llorca), offer a kaleidoscopic view of the different situations experienced in exile. Finally, in the field of poetry there are two works with



JULIA GUILLAMON

Gloria López-Llovet, granddaughter of editor López Llausàs, exiled to Argentina

a global vision and the aim of mythologising the diaspora: *Les elegies de Bierville* by Carles Riba, and *Nabí*, by Josep Carner, to which could be added *Odisseu*, by Agustí Bartra. In the 1930s, Catalan literature achieved an extraordinary level of maturity and was placed in a singular position. Catalan became part of mass culture, with newspapers and a modern publishing industry, in the manner of the great European languages. The Civil War launched its writers out into the world. The result was a renewal of themes and subject matter, an opening to the great, contemporary themes: banishment, identity, relations with others, life in the big cities.

Through the project *The Literature of Exile*, of which, together with artist Francesc Abad and film director Joaquim Jordà, I have been a curator, I wanted to present this reality to the Barcelona public (the exhibition was held for the first time at the Barcelona Centre for Contemporary Culture at the end of 2005) and the people of the South American countries that took in the exiles. It is an open project that has generated other initiatives, for instance a volume of *Literatura catalana de l'exili* published by Cercle de Lectors/Galàxia Guttemberg, that brings together the main novels and stories dealing with the diaspora. Related to the exhibition I have produced a number of articles with exiles who are still alive, based on the idea that it is possible to create literature talking about the republican exile from today's viewpoint, that the subject has not been exhausted and that there are a huge number of things to deal with. The vast majority of the people caught up in the exodus whom I came across in Barcelona, Chile, Mexico and Argentina were children or teenagers in 1939. Others are children born in exile and who have a different view of the story from that experienced by their parents. The idea is to publish a volume with fifty testimonies and hundreds of unpublished photographs and documents from private archives from the different countries where the project has been carried out.

*Literary critic for *La Vanguardia*



JULIA GUILLAMON

Painter José Balmes, a well known artist in Chile, son of the republican mayor of Montesquiu

THE HIDDEN ARCHIVE OF PUIG I CADAFALCH

THE POLITICAL AND PROFESSIONAL RECORDS OF THE CAREER OF ARCHITECT JOSEP PUIG I CADA-FALCH (1867-1956) ARE NO LONGER GATHERING DUST IN A FAMILY HOUSE IN CARRER DE PROVENÇA. THE GOVERNMENT OF CATALONIA HAS REVEALED A SURPRISING DISCOVERY: 422 BOXES WITH POLITICAL DOCUMENTS AND DRAWINGS THAT FOR DECADES WERE HIDDEN IN THE LOFT OF THE CREATOR OF THE CASA AMATLLER. NOT EVEN HIS FAMILY KNEW THEY EXISTED. NOW, THIS POLITICAL AND ARTISTIC TREASURE CAN BE CONSULTED IN THE CATALONIA NATIONAL ARCHIVES IN SANT CUGAT DEL VALLÈS.

Puig i Cadafalch was one of the leading characters in Catalonia in the first third of the 20th century. He was both for his frenetic activity in the world of architecture - the Casa Amatller and the Casa de les Punxes are examples of his work. But he was also renowned for his ties with political Catalanism and, above all, as president of the Mancomunitat de Catalunya, an institution over which he presided from 1917 to 1924 after the death of Enric Prat de la Riba.

The recent discovery of the National Archive of Catalonia reveals many fascinating facets of the life of this architect, who was born in Mataró. The register of documents discovered in the family home in Barcelona includes 422 boxes, 152 of which belong to the political archive. The most striking thing is that it took more than 80 years to find them resting behind a false wall in the building. Puig i Cadafalch himself decided to hide the documents in 1923, out of fear for the dictatorship of Primo de Rivera. They were politically difficult times. But, as the archaeologist and art historian Xavier Barral i Altet from the Institute of Catalan Studies pointed out in 2003, the arrival of the dictatorship coincided with recognition for the architect following the publication of the work *L'arquitectura romànica a Catalunya* (Romanesque Architecture in Catalonia). As founder of the Institute of Catalan Studies, Puig i Cadafalch began to note the regime's repression of Catalan cultural institutions, including the Mancomunitat.

The writer Josep Pla managed to transcribe a conversation held with Cadafalch at this time, in which he lamented



MAR CARRERA

The book *Afirmació Nacionalista* (Nationalist Affirmation), 22 October 1922

the situation with the following words: "I have not been lucky. When I was president, the Mancomunitat was destroyed". In parallel with the demise of the institutions created in the first two decades of the 20th century, Puig i Cadafalch decided to withdraw gradually from political life, a process which he called "temporarily giving up being a subject" to take "the path of study".

On 19 October 2006, the great-grandchildren of the last Catalan modernist signed an agreement with the Catalan Government regulating the display of the political archive. At the same time, the agreement gave the Catalan Government the future option of purchasing the architect's professional and personal archive, which is now available to everyone in Sant Cugat.

POLITICAL SECRETS BEHIND A FALSE WALL

A team from the National Archive of Catalonia took three months to compile, identify and transfer the two archives by Puig i Cadafalch, in the building at Carrer Provença 231, owned by the family. The high point of the search, started last July, was the discovery behind a false wall in the loft of the building of the political documents kept by the architect. The architect's own family knew nothing of the hiding place, a well-kept secret that has skipped generations without being revealed. So many generations, in fact, that it proved to be the illustrious architect's great-grandchildren who negotiated with the Catalan Government.

Among the treasured documents discovered are the minutes of the sessions of the Mancomunitat de Catalunya, the institution that gathered the four Catalan regional councils and shared the management of areas such as culture, public works and services. Although the archivists already had some 25 volumes from the time of the Mancomunitat and had planned future projects, the new sheaves revealed the inner workings of the Mancomunitat. Additions have also been found to the Statute of 1917 and 1918, a document approved on 25 January 1919 and which the Catalan ministers in the Spanish Government had to defend. Therefore, the political life of Puig i Cadafalch was not restricted to the Mancomunitat; from his position as a member of the Regionalist League, the conservative, Catalanist party of the time, he held the posts of Barcelona City Hall Councillor (1901) and later, member of the Catalan parliament.

MODERNIST, MONUMENTAL TRAITS

Cadafalch did not hide his great passion, architecture, even at home. Puig i Cadafalch's professional archive has been reassembled after classifying numerous documents that were spread around the rooms of the house in Barcelona. A disciple of Domènech i Montaner, he started as an architect in his birthplace, without ever giving up a

THE OTHER SKETCHES OF GREAT VALUE BELONG TO HIS PROJECT TO LAY OUT PLAÇA DE CATALUNYA IN BARCELONA, A WORK WITH AN IMPORTANT THEORETICAL REFLECTION BEHIND IT. IT IS NOT SURPRISING THAT PUIG I CADAFALCH BROUGHT TOGETHER THE CHARACTERISTICS OF AN ENGINEER, HISTORIAN, MATHEMATICIAN AND DECORATOR



The archive was hidden behind a false wall

The personality

frenetic creative life. For this reason, the classified archive has collected some 10,000 drawings by the architect, including unpublished plans of some well-known Barcelona monuments. His urban palaces and great modernist works are present, like the casa Terrades, known popularly as the Casa de les Punxes on Avinguda Diagonal in Barcelona. Historicism with medieval influences, and at the same time a renewed, Europeanised spirit, inspires the original building. From the same period are the well-known house of chocolate manufacturer Antoni Amatller, on Passeig de Gràcia, or the Macaya white house.

There are also signs of his more monumentalist stage within the newly-found professional archive. Two plans stand out among the published sheaves: one of the access to the National Palace on Montjuïc - extraordinary because it shows us architectural details that differ from that of the final work. Puig i Cadafalch was also involved in the development of the mountain of Montjuïc for the International Exhibition of 1929, a project marked by a series of disputes, according to the experts. The other sketches of great value belong to his project to lay out Plaça de Catalunya in Barcelona, a work with an important theoretical reflection behind it. It is not surprising that Puig i Cadafalch brought together the characteristics of an engineer, historian, mathematician and decorator.

THE ARCHAEOLOGIST FROM EMPÚRIES

Lastly, Puig i Cadafalch's hidden boxes reveal projects which derive from his interests as an art historian and archaeologist, like the start of the excavations in the site in

Empúries (Alt Empordà), developed by him in 1907. These are in addition to the documents of the monastery of Sant Miquel de Cuixà (Conflent) and the Sant Pere churches in Terrassa (Vallès Occidental), which show his medieval influences. The intense relationship he established with people from the world of literature and culture are obvious through the large number of letters he kept, dedications in books - like the one he gave to historian Joaquim Folch i Torres - and other surprise discoveries.

This is a legacy that would have disappeared had Cadafalch's temperament not intervened. His was a personality that Barral describes thus: "A man of firm decisions, stubborn, convinced of his ideals, unwavering".

Mar Carrera



MAR CARRERA

An original drawing of la Casa de les Punxes



SARA BOSCH

La Casa de les Punxes nowadays

A PLETHORIC CENTENARY

TWO ATTEMPTS TO KILL IT OFF HAVEN'T MANAGED TO GET RID OF THE GREAT, CATALAN ACADEMY OF ACADEMIES. ON THE CONTRARY, THIS YEAR THE INSTITUTION CELEBRATES 100 YEARS OF EXISTENCE WITH A POWERFUL PROGRAMME THAT INCLUDES REFLECTIONS ON THE CATALAN NATION'S RELATIONSHIP WITH EUROPE AND AN EXHIBITION OF ITS DOCUMENTS FEATURING, AMONGST OTHER ITEMS, LETTERS FROM ALBERT EINSTEIN.

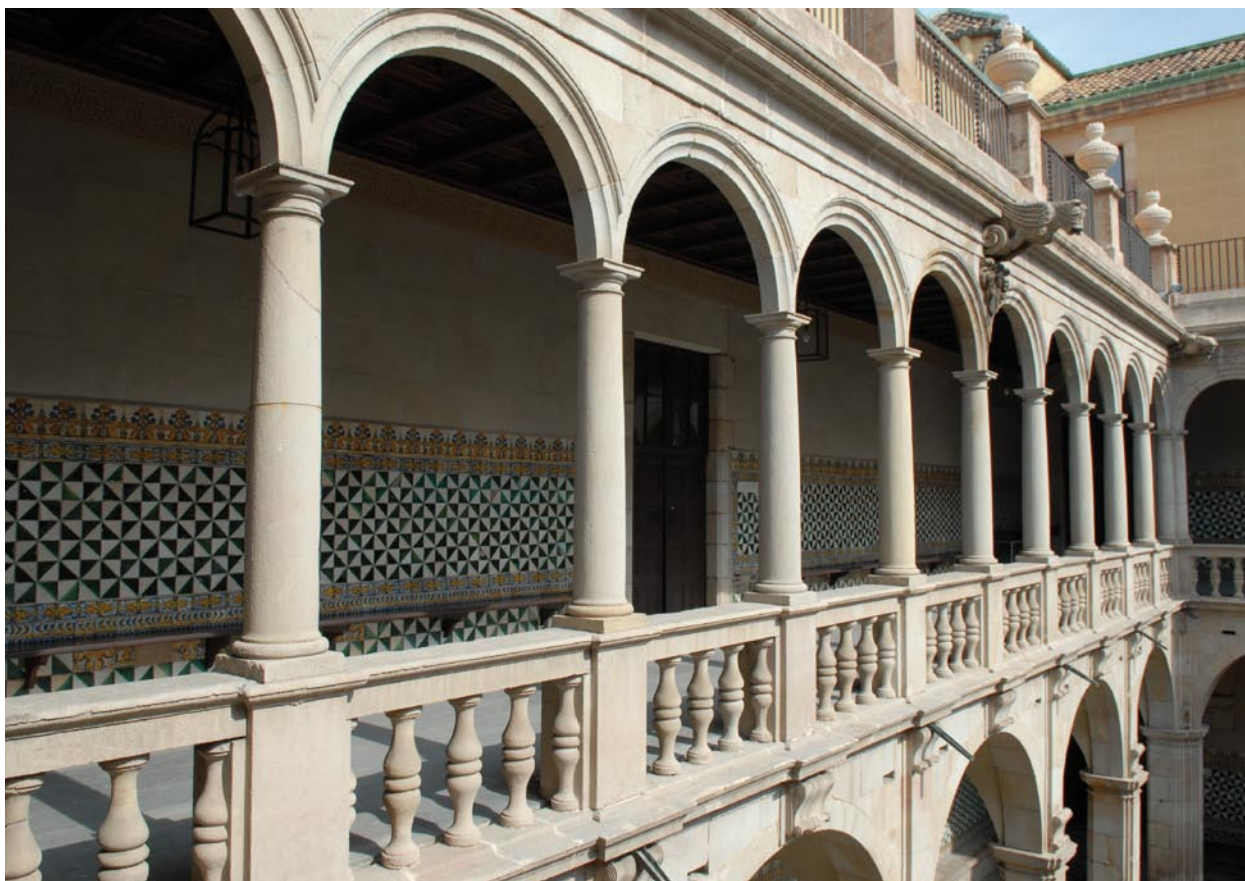
There are some real gems on Carme street in Barcelona. One of these is concealed in the courtyard of the *Casa de la Convalescència*. It is not only a really beautiful piece of 17th-century architecture, with excellent examples of the sculpture,

paintings, ceramics and ornamentation of the period; it is also headquarters to the Institute of Catalan Studies (IEC), an academic institution dedicated to scientific research and the promotion of knowledge.

Even though most Catalans know it as the highest authority on the Catalan language, the IEC is in fact made up of five sections: History-Archaeology, Philology, Biological Sciences, Science and Technology, and Philosophy and Social Sciences. It has forged an ambitious path since it was founded by Prat de la Riba in 1907 - it began with the preservation of Romanesque art from the Pyrenees, the Greek ruins at Empúries and various prehistoric sites - and, despite its ups and downs, it is in fine form with its international prestige intact.

One of the world's great oncologists and a member of the Institute, Joan Massagué, unveiled the centenary events at the Palau de la Música. The events consist of high-level symposiums, conferences, exhibitions of the Institute's most interesting papers, and a whole series of events open to everybody that can be found on the web at www.iec.cat or <http://centenari.iec.cat>.

Sandra Buxaderas



Central courtyard of the Casa de Convalescència, headquarters of the Institute of Catalan Studies, at 47 Carme street

“CATALANS MUST EXPLAIN THEMSELVES WITH PATIENCE”

DEMANDING. SELF-CRITICAL. PASSIONATE. THIS IS HOW THE PRESTIGIOUS SOCIOLOGIST AND PRESIDENT OF THE INSTITUTE OF CATALAN STUDIES (IEC), SALVADOR GINER, COMES ACROSS.

BY SANDRA BUXADERAS

100 years on, how's the Institute doing?

It's never been so good! Because this place has lived through terrifying times: 40 years of Franco's repression... In 1939, Franco's government completely abolished it. Pigeons came flying through these windows. Pigeons, here! The building abandoned, the archives uncared for - a total disaster. Clearly, the temptation to think that we are doing better than ever is really great. However, this is an academy that had a glorious beginning in 1907, and in those first years it did a great many things for the country. Then, it suffered two severe jolts, which everyone knows about.

The first, the dictatorship of Primo de Rivera, which withdrew the money and left it to lead a very precarious existence. And the other dictatorship abolished it; in other words, it couldn't get any worse. Now, right now, I



Salvador Giner during the interview

SARA BOSCH



Saint George's Day: Presiding over the session held at the private home of Josep Puig i Cadafalch. Around the table, from left to right: Puig i Cadafalch, Carles Riba, Eduard Fontserè, Ramon Aramon, Josep Maria de Sagarra. Behind, standing and from left to right: Montserrat Martí, Enric Jardí, Miquel Coll i Alentorn and Ricard Albert. Year: 1952

believe that the Institute is going through an incredible period of revitalisation. It's an academy which not only caters for the country's academics; it also does research in many fields and has almost 200 members - and more than 8,700 members in its 26 subsidiaries covering all fields: archaeology, geography, sociology, history... Clearly, it's deeply rooted in this country. And it's one of the few institutions whose authority is recognised by all Catalan-speaking countries, as much for its being founded by Prat de la Riba and the range of its jurisdiction, as for the Royal Decree of 1977. Or, to put it another way, the Institute is going through a fantastic period. It's an objective fact, not just my enthusiasm. The publishing side is going well, we're on the Web, we have the financial support of the Catalan Government with a four-year contract-programme, a good relationship with the central government in Madrid, excellent relations with other institutions in other countries... We are very active members of the International Union of Academies, just like the American Academy of Sciences.

What contribution does the Institute make to society?

We just carried out a report on climate change. And we work with the universities, of course, because we dedicate ourselves to high culture and science. We do reports

commissioned by the Government, or when we see that there is a subject of national importance. We never tire of reminding the political powers and the public that we are at their disposal. We also engage in longer term projects, like a history of science and we have begun by looking at the medieval and Renaissance period: the introduction of algebra, astrolabes and geography...it's a marvellous book.

That's useful in the sense that culture and high culture is important. A civilised country cannot ignore these things. Who's doing it? The Institute is doing it; we are the most important Catalan publishing house.

Does Catalonia have much to contribute to the world?

Well, it's a small, civilised country with a high number of universities. I would like them to increase their quality levels still further; they've already improved. With the human capital that we have, we could reach much higher. I don't believe we can count ourselves amongst the twenty best universities in the world, because 17 are North American, two are English and one is Japanese... But, we could get into the top 100, with a number of educational measures. We could increase the quality of our universities and schools and the whole system. It's easy if you take the right measures.

Getting to know...The Institute of Catalan Studies

What you would highlight now, though, is the human capital?

The human capital in Catalonia is pretty good, in some things, right? Not in all: we could improve in mathematics. The Institute is making some big efforts in that direction. We've got the 'Kangur' programme, we do massive competitions for teenagers. Lots of kids from Valencia and from the Balearic Islands enter, we give prizes and stage a really fun event at the University of Barcelona. That's done by the Catalan Mathematics Society, one of our subsidiaries. And we've got the Mathematics Research Centre in El Vallès. The Institute has created centres for cartographic studies, the Institute of Meteorology, the Museum of Catalan Art, the National Library - in short the Institute is serving the country and creating things.

And the humanities, don't they need to be strengthened, in the schools?

Well, it's easy to say that we have to build up children's level in humanities, but then we also want them to be good

scientists, good chemists, good mathematicians, and we put pressure on them to behave well, because we want them to have good manners... And now they want us to teach more Spanish, which means spending less time on Catalan, and we can't put up with that. We should have more control over what we can do.

Now that you're talking about this more recent episode relating to the position of the Catalan language. In 1907, when Prat de la Riba founded the Institute, the language had already been suffering two centuries of active persecution.

Active, yes, but also somewhat ineffective; there wasn't any radio, television, or tourism, and the population was very rural.

However, when Àngel Guimerà, a little earlier, attempted to open the Barcelona Ateneu in Catalan, it caused a scandal. The language had not reached a socially desirable status; it was seen as subordinate to the state



Giner with the centenary banner

language. And 100 years later we are still discussing whether the state has the power to impose the superiority of one language over another.

Yes, that's exactly what they're trying to do, yes. And? You've described the situation perfectly; what's happening is that now there are the mass media. And a massive Spanish-speaking immigrant population that over a long period of time has assimilated Catalan, but not to a sufficient extent. Then you could use Catalan in the street, live your life in it, but not now. You have to speak Spanish too, but Spanish speakers don't have to learn Catalan, so the situation is very serious.

So, the challenges remain.

They're still there, but they're different. We live precariously. Getting the domain name .cat to become the most used domain in Catalonia will take some doing... the Catalan press is largely in Spanish; of course, there's El Punt and Avui, we know that... The aims are clear, but the way ahead is hard.

Don't the Catalans themselves have a certain responsibility for all this?

All of it, all of it!

Don't we switch languages too readily?

Yes, but it's a constant effort. Catalan has to make an effort that Spanish and French don't have to. Anyone who wants to speak Catalan in Valencia or Alicante has got a bit of a problem, haven't they? It's constant, every day a tiny act of heroism: 20 a day, 30 a day; the others, nothing.

Are we really convinced that Catalan culture is as valid and has as much to offer to the world as any other?

Yes, we know that. It's a healthy culture and in the fine arts it is extraordinarily important, the literature could be better still, but there are good poets and good novelists. Science is important enough, scientific production is going quite well, but it must get better... We publish the magazine International Microbiology from here, a highly prestigious international publication... We have to keep going in this direction. And by Catalan culture, I also take it to mean science, sociology... I will not say that Catalonia is doing well, but culture in this sense is doing well. Other things are over exaggerated, certain aesthetic fields that are not as important as the Italians and French think, when they get it into their heads that we're at the centre of the world and they say: "Oh, you're from Barcelona, the design city!" Many things about Catalonia sadden me, but when I notice the trends, and look, I've spent my life

"IN SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, KNOWLEDGE, THE TREND IS UPWARDS. LINGUISTICALLY, WE'RE LOSING GROUND"

complaining about the world - starting with my own country - well, then, when I see that something is going well, I have to say so. And when there are disasters, and I see catastrophes every day in Catalonia, I weep; the destruction of the countryside, for example, the terrible taste on display in our residential estates, posters and adverts... it's a country that has plenty of nationalism, but no patriotism, because we appear to destroy and wreck the country with indescribable joy.

What other problems do we have to fix?

Linguistically, we're losing ground.

When you travel abroad, how much do people know about Catalonia?

We're a people who have to explain ourselves over and over again. Go to a university in Rome or London and they ask you: "And do you give classes in Catalan?" and you have to explain that yes and no, that we also give classes in English and Italian.

Autonomy has helped us a lot because now we're on the map, we've started to exist, haven't we? But in Europe big countries like Germany, France and Italy have a lot of weight, and this is reflected in textbooks and newspapers. Then the countries that don't have autonomy or independence have to explain themselves. And at one time we had a lot of popularity - in the 1960s the Catalonia thing was fun - but now the people of Europe are passing through a period of impatience with small countries which demand their independence. In Ireland, because now they have a state and peace, people aren't bothered so much, but in other countries...

You have to keep on explaining to them... that we're a peace-loving people, that what we want is to keep on improving our presence at national and international level. And all this they understand, but above all you have to be really friendly and very patient. But there was a bad moment. The Balkan war got people worried. "Nationalists!" they say, as if there weren't French or German nationalists, you know? Or what's happening in Belgium, not much fun either... So, you have to proceed with a lot of patience. No preaching; I never preach. I lead by example, and patience...



A CITY WITHIN A CITY

TUCKED AWAY WITHIN THE WARM AND VIBRANT CITY OF GIRONA IS A MAZE OF SHADOWY STREETS FULL OF MYSTERIES AND ENIGMAS. THIS IS THE JEWISH NEIGHBOURHOOD, OR CALL, A UNIQUE HISTORICAL MICROCOSM EMBEDDED IN ONE OF THE BEST-PRESERVED MEDIEVAL QUARTERS IN EUROPE - ONE WELL WORTH DISCOVERING WITH A LEISURELY AND ATTENTIVE STROLL.

The poet Narcís Comadira said that Girona is a city of stone and water. Stone, because of its exceptionally rich architectural heritage crowned by the impressive Cathedral. And water, because of the river Onyar and its colourful waterfront façades. These are the most typical postcards of a Girona which – according to poetry - is both immobile and fluid at the same time.

Despite the contradiction, these portraits illustrate a Girona that is open, forthright and animated. There is another, parallel, Girona which is equally solid and tenacious, but much more closed and intimate. It is a city within a city, sometimes inhospitable and mysterious; at other times imbued with a captivating, almost sensual, mysticism. This is the Jewish quarter.

Before beginning their stroll, readers should be aware that appreciating the Jewish quarter calls for some historical perspective. For more than five centuries, Girona had one of the largest Jewish communities in the Crown of Aragon. However, the massive emigration in 1391 and their final expulsion from Spain in 1492 put an end to this population, which left and never returned. The public presence of Jews in Catalonia did not reappear until well into the 20th century, and was concentrated in Barcelona. In Girona, the former houses of Jews fell into the hands of city dwellers and ecclesiastics, who refashioned them. As a result, we are left with questions: Who used the baths? Where were the trades located? Which buildings were the synagogues? There are many unproven hypotheses surrounding the Jewish quarter. It also retains a large part of the spirit of the time, and, thanks to its historical importance, is visited by Jews and non-Jews from around the world anxious to discover its secrets.

Let's take Carrer de la Força, which rises narrowly from the Onyar to the Cathedral square. This dark street, which



JORDI CAMÍ

In Girona, ancient Jewish houses were given to citizens and ecclesiastics who altered them in line with their own taste

followed the medieval wall, is the former Via Augusta and then the main street of Roman Girona, and for centuries was still a major street, a place for followings and processions and the path of the condemned on their way to the gallows. As we climb, we see how several long, steep streets appear to the right. These are the streets, like Cúndaro or Sant Llorenç, which go right into the heart of the unique Jewish district.

The labyrinth of the Jewish quarter is a fantasyland, full of hiding places and slopes, steps and interior courtyards. Today we find them silent, but in the 13th century they buzzed with activity. The presence of Jews was as significant as it was longstanding: documents from 888 give details of the establishment of twenty-five families eager to ply their trade or professions. This first colony occupied the houses around the cathedral, and little by little wove together the whole quarter. For reasons of security and law, the space available to them was limited, but the community grew: in the 14th century, it reached a thousand inhabitants. It seems incredible that the district could have held the workshops of tailors and spinners, barbers and goldsmiths, butchers, bakers, fishmongers, the micvè or ritual baths and even three successive synagogues.

This urban complexity speaks volumes of the idiosyncrasy of the mosaic community, the need to remain united, and at the same time the need to live apart both as a means of protection and because of social stigma in times of conflicts.

Protected by the king in exchange for substantial taxes, the Jews developed very prosperous, lucrative activities, such as land purchase and sale and the business of money and public bonds, as well as all kinds of liberal trades and craft professions. They were needed and at the same time envied by the Christian majority, which is why they suffered numerous attacks which were also prompted by religious prejudice. Urban people par excellence, they always gathered in communities and formed enclosed districts, closed in on themselves under the umbrella of their own, autonomous government, the Aljama. This is how they kept alive their beliefs and were faithful to their tradition.

Daily life contrasted with the routine, peaceful, domestic life governed by religious obligations. One requirement was that the religious commands should be written on windows or doorways of the house. On some lintels in Girona, we can still see an opening on which they placed the *mezuzà*, a rolled-up parchment with the texts of Deuteronomy.

When the Jews entered and left the house, they placed their hand on this and recited "The Lord keep my exit



Girona boasts a rich Jewish heritage

JORDI CAMÍ

Discover... the Jewish quarter of Girona



JORDI CAMÍ

The first community lived in the houses around the cathedral

and my entrance now and always". Details such as these capture our imagination and reveal the strength of spiritual convictions.

Our visit would not be complete without entering an emblematic building, which, according to some scholars, contained the last synagogue in Girona in the 15th century: the Bonastruc ça Porta centre. Today, it houses the Institute for Nahmànid Studies, which pays homage to a leading figure of Judaism, Mossé ben Nahman, who lived in Girona in the 13th century and headed a prestigious school of Cabbala, with its esoteric interpretation of the Bible. We also find the Jewish History Museum, with a striking, attractive display of archeological remains of Girona leads us through the history of the Hebrew communities of medieval Catalonia, explains daily life in the Jewish quarters and the spiritual and dogmatic aspects of the religion.

After seeing the display, in the courtyard in the Bonastruc ça Porta centre, we can see the great star of David decorating the ground and the *menorah* - a seven-armed candelabrum - that dominates it. We can contemplate in silence and be transported back to the time when the people of Girona called to Yahweh.

Montse Armengol



JORDI CAMÍ

Routine, peaceful domestic life



WHITE CATALONIA

ONCE THE FIRST SNOW FALLS IN THE CATALAN PYRENEES, THE SKI RESORTS START UP TO ATTRACT MILLIONS OF VISITORS WHO HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR THE NEW SEASON AND WHOSE ARRIVAL HELPS BOOST THE ECONOMY OF THESE MOUNTAIN AREAS. THIS IS WHITE CATALONIA, WITH AS MUCH SNOW AS NEIGHBOURING ANDORRA – A RARE SIGHT IN A MEDITERRANEAN COUNTRY.

Everyone knows that Catalonia boasts a huge variety of top-quality tourism for visitors. In the summer, the sun and beaches draw people to the Catalan coast while, in-

land, the countryside offers tranquillity and open spaces as well as a land of cultural and artistic traditions. But if you raise your eyes to the mountains, a white winter season paradise opens for sports such as alpine skiing (on marked slopes), Nordic skiing (also called cross-country skiing), off-piste skiing and other snow-related activities. With a total of 16 ski resorts, Catalonia is the leading skiing and snow-sports region in the whole of Spain.

2.5 MILLION SKIERS

Last season, the Catalan ski resorts managed to sell a total of 2.4 million ski passes, an enormous figure that they hope to surpass this season, according to data from the Catalan Association of Ski Resorts and Mountain Activities (ACEM). Even though the snow has been long in coming, Catalonia will welcome almost 2.5 million skiers this winter, the same as the whole of Andorra. The huge annual investment to achieve this will this year total €25 million, covering the modernisation of facilities and purchase of new artificial snow cannons, which are ever more necessary to provide snow at times of insufficient rainfall, provided the weather conditions allow.



Snowboarding is as usual as skiing

BOI-TAULL

PROPOSALS: Visit... the Pyrenees



FRANCESC TUR / TURISME DE CATALUNYA / ANC

Great effort has been put into modernising ski resorts



FRANCESC TUR / TURISME DE CATALUNYA / ANC

Sant Climent de Taüll Romanesque church

THE CULTURAL AND NATURAL RICHNESS, AND THE BENIGN CLIMATE OF THE PYRENEES MAKE AN IDEAL FRAMEWORK FOR DOING THESE OTHER SPORTS

If we look at neighbouring Andorra, we can see that in recent years mergers between resorts have offered more kilometres of slopes and strengthened resorts' market positions. This is the case of Vallnord (merger between the former Pal, Ordino Arcalis and Arinsal) and Grandvalira (encompassing Pas de la Casa, Grau Roig and Soldeu el Tarter).

Following these examples, in Catalonia a few years ago the two longstanding resorts of La Molina and La Masella came together (between Alp and Castellar de n'Hug), to make a total of 116 kilometres of slopes joined by chairlifts. Although they still operate separately, it is possible to buy a joint ski pass - the Alp 2.500. The proximity of these two resorts to the large urban centres in Catalonia - they are only 150 kilometres from Barcelona - make this complex an ideal place to get away from the city without having to go very far. From here, the valley of La Cerdanya in the eastern Pyrenees is a true mountain paradise and

a privileged location surrounded by peaks over 2,500 metres high. However, no other mergers between resorts are expected, as this depends largely on the geographical location and the proximity of mountains and valleys.

COUNTRYSIDE OF GREAT BEAUTY

In the Vall d'Aran we find another renowned resort: Baqueira Beret, with a total of 104 kilometres of marked slopes. This is a place of great prestige and it is not unusual to find well-known and famous people there (such as members of the Royal Family, sportspeople and actors) skiing by day or being seen at night. In the surrounding area, Salardú, Arties and Bossòst offer visitors the best examples of popular Pyrenean architecture.

Another great snow complex in Catalonia is Boí Taüll, in the charming Vall de Boí in the Lleida Pyrenees, famous for its Romanesque treasures and declared a World Heritage Site in 2000. This ski resort opened in 1990 with 43 kilometres of slopes and combines skiing with other leisure activities. Its maximum altitude is 2,750 metres and is next to Aigüestortes Nature Park, a protected natural space of great scenic beauty.

Other smaller alpine ski resorts are Port del Comte (Solsonès), Vall de Núria i Vallter 2000 (Ripollès), Port-Ainé, Espot and Tavascan (Pallars Sobirà), while those for Nordic skiing are Aransa, Guils Fontanera i Lles (Cerdanya), Sant Joan de l'Erm i Tuixén-Lavansa (Alt Urgell) and Bosc Virós (Pallars Sobirà).

As well as alpine, Nordic or off-piste skiing, there are other snow sports and activities, such as snowboarding,

rackets, fun sledge descents and other more daring activities such as snowkite (skiing with the help of a kite). The Catalan Pyrenees greet visitors to a leading tourist zone with a great heritage and high-quality gastronomy. In fact, according to Joaquim Alsina, the director of ACEM, “the Catalan ski resorts are very important for the economy of the mountain areas”. And it’s true, many people make a living from these facilities and the economic lifeline they provide for many villages in the Pyrenees.

IN THE SUMMER TOO

But it doesn’t all end when the snow melts, as there are more and more Catalan ski resorts that escape being held captive to the winter season by diversifying their activities and attracting tourism all year round. At the height of August you can go trekking, bungee-jumping and climbing, go enjoy bicycle routes, go horse-riding or do archery, sail on the lakes or go rafting down the rivers and enjoy nature as intensely as in the winter. Some resorts also organise cultural tourist itineraries through the surrounding villages.

The enveloping scenery, the cultural and natural richness, and the benign climate of the Pyrenees make an ideal framework for doing these other sports. With the thaw, the natural surroundings change and the ski resorts become centres of adventure, leisure and multi-sports.

Abel Ubach

THE CATALAN RESORTS IN FIGURES:

- ALPINE SKI RESORTS: 10
- NORDIC SKI RESORTS: 7*
- KM OF ALPINE SKIING: 411
- KM OF NORDIC SKIING: 228
- MAXIMUM ALTITUDE: 2.750 METRES
- NUMBER OF SKI PASSES FORECAST EACH DAY 06/07: 2.450.000
- INVESTMENT 06/07 SEASON: €25 MILLION

** There are 16 resorts in total, but Tavascan offers both kinds. Source: ACEM.*

More information: www.catski.net



Mountainous landscape at Garòs, in Vall d'Aran

MONTSERRAT SAGARRA / TURISME DE CATALUNYA / ANC



LAND OF THE SWEET TOOTH

DESSERTS FORM AN IMPORTANT AND EXCITING PART OF OUR CUISINE. WE HAVE RENOWNED PRODUCTS SUCH AS AGRAMUNT NOUGAT – NOW AN INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNISED AND PROTECTED PRODUCT. THERE ARE THE *CATÀNIES* OF VILAFRANCA DEL PENEDÈS AND WAFER ROLLS, *PANELLETS* – ALSO RECOGNISED AS TRADITIONAL SPECIALITIES. AS WELL AS *PA DE PESSIC* FROM VIC AND *CARQUINYOLIS* AND *BORREGOS* FROM EL VALLÈS THERE ARE PASTRIES AND PIES FROM THROUGHOUT CATALONIA, CREATED FOR SPECIAL FESTIVALS AND TRADITIONAL FEASTS. AND AFTERWARDS, WHAT BETTER THAN CHOCOLATE, A TRADITIONAL PRODUCT USED IN MODERN CREATIONS?

TORRÓ FROM AGRAMUNT

When Christmas comes in Agramunt, work never ends in the Urgell region. This village is the cradle of the only nougat with a protected geographical indication in Catalonia. Nougat from Agramunt is made with a fine mix of hazelnuts or almonds, sugar, honey and egg white, and comes in round or rectangular blocks covered with rice paper. It is worth visiting the nougat factories to see the manufacturing process, such as Torróns R. Vicens, Torróns Roig, Torróns Artesans Fèlix and Torróns Lluch.

NEULES FROM PLA DE SANT TIRS

Although wafer rolls are generally associated with the

Christmas festivities, for years they have been consumed throughout the year. Handmade wafer rolls are made on the Pla de Sant Tirs, in the Alt Urgell region.

In addition to many different specialities, such as wafer rolls, *cubanos*, *ventalls*, *tulipes* and *xiquitillos*, they also prepare the *menairons* of El Pla, very traditional desserts from the area. The factory can be visited by appointment.

CATÀNIES FROM VILAFRANCA DEL PENEDÈS

Apart from being the capital of wine of the Penedès region, Vilafranca is recognised for making exquisite desserts: *the catànies*, which are candied almonds bathed in white chocolate and covered with powdered dark chocolate. Bombons Cudié, a family, handcraft company making *catànies* since 1986, allows visitors to see the factory and purchase this exquisite product.

ORELLETES FROM TARRAGONA AND LES GARRIGUES AND MENJAR BLANC

Orelletes are pastries fried in the shape of ears made with flour dough, to which we add eggs, sugar and salt, and a broth of coriander, aniseed, cinnamon and lemon and orange peels. They are typical above all in the regions of Tarragona and Borges Blanques. They can be bought in Patisserie Pepi, in Ulldemolins, and in Confiteria Poy, in Reus, where the typical dessert of the city can also be bought, *menjar blanc*, basically made with almonds.

CARQUINYOLIS AND BORREGOS FROM EL VALLÈS

Although they are eaten throughout Catalonia, they are a speciality of the Vallès region. In Caldes de Montbui, for instance, *carquinyolis* have been made for over a century with eggs, milk, sugar, flour and almonds; they can be bought in Patisserie Alvero. *Borregos* are another product, a sweet made from flour, sugar, butter and aniseed, which has more than two hundred years of history and a very curious name.

The cake shops in Cardedeu always stock it and have worked on the traditional recipe to create varieties: in addition to the traditional crisp type, there is a soft one as well as *borrego* nougat at Christmas, a surprising blend with Xixona nougat. They can be bought in Patisserie Domingo Vila and Patisserie Ricós. The two sweets are similar to those typical of La Bisbal d'Empordà, made of dough and marzipan, almond, pine seeds and *cabell d'àngel*. They can be bought in the Patisserie Sans Bisbalenc, in La Bisbal.

PA DE PESSIC FROM VIC

Pa de pessic is popular around Catalonia, but especially so in Vic. It used to be custom during processions on saints' days to take a cake to be shared afterwards among those who attended. These cakes were a constant source of temptation and, because they were nibbled away at (*pessics*), they came to be known as "the bread eaten in nibbles". The particular feature of the one from Vic is that, if it is made correctly, the egg whites are beaten with willow, and not with a mixer. It can be bought in different cake shops in the centre of Vic.

ALL SAINTS PANELLETS

Panellets are eaten with roast chestnuts and sweet potatoes on the night of the 31 October. The base of these cakes is made with sugar, raw almond, a little lemon peel and a little boiled potato or sweet potato. Different shapes are made with small portions of this dough, which are covered with pine nuts, roasted almonds, hazelnuts, coconut, chocolate, candied cherries, etc. to make the different varieties. They are then baked in the oven, and are ready to be eaten with a good sweet wine. When the time comes, they can be bought in cake shops throughout Catalonia, but some people prefer to make them at home.

CREMA CATALANA

The *crema catalana* is so widespread it can not be pinned down to one particular place. Years ago, there was the tradition of making it on Saint Joseph's day, 19 March, and it was auntie or grandma who made it. Today, the ritual



Cakes and pastries

VILAFRANCA IS RECOGNISED FOR MAKING EXQUISITE DESSERTS: THE *CATÀNIES*, WHICH ARE CANDIED ALMONDS BATHED IN WHITE CHOCOLATE AND COVERED WITH POWDERED DARK CHOCOLATE

is part of history and *crema catalana* is eaten throughout the year as a dessert to follow any dish. It is served in small earthenware pots with toasted, caramelised sugar on top.



GREMI DE PASTISSERIA DE BARCELONA



SUGARY DISHES

IN THE INTRODUCTION TO A REVISED EDITION OF THE BOOK *SENT SOVÍ*, RUDOLF GREWE ARGUES THAT THERE WAS A MEDIEVAL CATALAN CUISINE WITH ITS OWN, DISTINCT, PERSONALITY.

Grewe points out that numerous dishes *a la catalana* appear in foreign recipes of the period. Convinced about the influence exerted by our cuisine on Europe, he points out that many recipes from *Sent Soví* - the first great Catalan medieval cookbook - are the origin of later creations of the Italian Renaissance.

From the past, one dish that stands out is the so-called *manjar blanc*, a recipe very popular throughout medieval and Renaissance Europe. According to Grewe, it could have come from the peninsula, since sugar and rice came from the Arab world and almonds are one of its basic ingredients. Nowadays, it seems surprising to us that this food, formerly so popular, consisted of a thick cream made from chicken breasts, rice flour, almonds and sugar. To cook it, almond milk was made from chicken stock, and it was then cooked on the fire with the rice flour and the finely minced or chopped chicken breast. Sugar was added to the mixture and, sometimes, it was perfumed with a little rose water. The mixture was stirred continuously to avoid sticking, and when thickened was served with a dusting of powdered sugar.

Despite being a sugared dish, the medieval *manjar blanc* was eaten with a spoon and as such was consumed during the meal. As time went by, however, the dish evolved, ingredients were added and lost, and it has ended up being turned into a combination that is probably more to the liking of today's palates. The current *menjar blanc*, highly popular in the Tarragona area, has become a dessert and no longer contains chicken. It's worth pointing out that in Turkey they still make desserts very similar to the original *manjar blanc*. Once one overcomes an initial aversion to the presence of the chicken, these desserts are surprisingly good, which makes us think that,

sometimes, it's really difficult to place a dish in a specific category. Josep Pla, talking about *relleno*, said that he never knew whether it was a savoury dish or a dessert. This holiday dish from Empordà, which you can also find versions of in the Maresme, is cooked with either apples or pears, although Pla was a staunch defender of the latter. These days it's possible to use pear varieties such as the ercolina that handle the cooking with dignity, without falling to pieces. *Relleno*, which has always been known by this name, doesn't only signify a stuffing, rather it evokes a particular combination of flavours, textures and aromas that, of course, admit many personal variations according to where the chef comes from and each person's individual taste. It has a base of minced meat, to which sugar may be added, lemon zest, egg, cinnamon, crushed biscuit, pine nuts, almonds, sponge fingers and even a little chocolate.

As you've probably already worked out, it's a complicated dish requiring patient and careful preparation. And so, if you're not in the mood for all that, I can recommend a really simplified version, although none the less successful for it. Put a couple of non-spicy sausages in a dish with half a stick of cinnamon and the peel of half a lemon, and just cover the sausages with water. Let them cook slowly until the water has almost evaporated. Add a good slug of sweet wine and two apples, peeled and sliced, to the dish and continue cooking until the wine has evaporated and the sausages start to produce a pale-brown juice, a kind of caramel, which, while taking care not to let them burn, needs to be allowed to mix with the apple for a few minutes. The dish is good eaten hot or cold. Have it as a starter or at the end of a meal, according to your individual taste.



SARA BOSCH

Catalonia in brief



POLITICAL STRUCTURE

- The 2006 Statute of Autonomy for Catalonia sets out its basic institutional regulations.
- It establishes legislative autonomy and executive powers.
- The Generalitat of Catalonia is a political institution consisting of the Parliament, the Government and the President.

LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

- Important figures in the arts, the humanities, and scientific research have come from Catalonia: Gaudí, Miró, Dalí...
- Its own language, Catalan, is the country's official language, alongside the official language of the whole of Spain - Spanish. Catalan has officially recognised uses within the EU.
- The Catalan Government promotes Catalan, suppressed during most of the last three centuries, while at the same time maintaining the rights of both languages in parity. Catalan, spoken by 75% of the population and understood by 95%, has enormous social, academic and literary vitality – demonstrated both by the 10,000 books published each year and by their translation into other languages - on the Internet it has its own domain:.cat.
- The Catalan linguistic area: 10 million people in four European states. Catalonia, the Balearic Islands, Valencia, and a strip of Aragon in Spain; Andorra; the south of France; and the city of Alghero on Sardinia in Italy.

HISTORY

- The region was already inhabited in prehistoric times, and Greeks, Phoenicians and Carthaginians influenced the Iberians. In the first century BC, Rome took over, setting up the provincial capital at Tarraco. The Muslim-Arab invasion followed the Visigoth era in 714 AD, although the territory was then progressively conquered by the Franks.
- The Hispanic counts became independent of the Franks in the 10th century. In the twelfth century, this constantly expanding region began to be known as Catalonia. The marriage between Count Ramon Berenguer IV and the daughter of the King of Aragon, in 1137, gave rise to the Aragon Crown and to the subsequent expansion to the south and into the Mediterranean (above all to the Balearic Islands, Sardinia, Sicily and the Kingdom of Naples). It was formed around a political system based on pacts (which crystallised into the Diputació del General - the Generalitat), at the end of the 13th century. In 1469, the Spanish monarchy was formed when King Ferdinand II of Aragon was married to Isabella of Castile, though Catalonia maintained its condition as a state

with institutions, constitutions, and its own rights.

- At the end of the Wars of Succession, a conflict that stretched across Europe, Barcelona surrendered to Bourbon troops on 11 September 1714. The new king, Phillip V, set up an absolutist system, replaced the use of Catalan in public for Spanish, and abolished the institutions and constitutional system. In the nineteenth century, Catalonia became the most industrialised region and the Catalan culture and language began to revive.
- In 1914 Catalonia recovered a small measure of self-government, the Mancomunitat, which was abolished during the dictatorship of General Primo Rivera (1923). The Second Spanish Republic (1931) restored autonomy to Catalonia with the new Statute, which established the Generalitat and began the process of restoring democratic normality and culture. In 1936, the Spanish Civil War broke out. In 1939, Catalonia was occupied by the army of General Franco and the dictatorship brought exile, death, and repression. The Statute was abolished and public use of Catalan forbidden.
- After the death of Franco (1975), and the Constitution of 1978, the Catalan Generalitat was provisionally restored (1977) in the person of exiled president Josep Tarradellas. In 1979, the Catalan Statute was passed, which restored self-government. Successive presidents of the Generalitat have been Jordi Pujol (1980-2003), Pasqual Maragall (2003-2006) and José Montilla (2006 to present). In early 2006, Catalonia reworked its Statute to increase its powers.

For further information: www.gencat.cat

TERRITORY, POPULATION

Surface area: 32.107 km²
Inhabitants: 7.083.618
Capital: Barcelona
Number of municipalities: 946

SIMBOLS

The Catalan flag
National anthem: *Els Segadors* (The Reapers)
National day: September 11 (1714)
Patron Saint: Saint George, 23 april, the Day of the Book and the Rose

ECONOMY AND SOCIETY

GPD (€ million): 152.704
GPD per Capita (€): 22.013
Gross household income per head (€): 16.370
Number of university students: 225.969
Annual number of ERASMUS students: 4.300

CULTURA CATALANA SINGULAR i UNIVERSAL

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