

EDITORIAL

We have already received a lot of letters commenting on the first numbers of our magazine *Catalònia*, and we are pleased to see that readers all over the world are interested in the information we are providing and have plenty of praise for the artistic presentation of the magazine. Now that we mention this success, we would like to explain some of the criteria by which we have selected the institutions and individuals of the world of culture who have been the first to receive our magazine. First of all, we must point out the friendly and efficient help given to us by Spanish embassies in the five continents. A large number of the people who receive *Catalònia* correspond to the selection and advice offered by each of these diplomatic representations of the Spanish state. We have also been helped by diplomats and foreign institutes based in Barcelona itself. The first number of *Catalònia* was the subject of a presentation held for the benefit of foreigners carrying out diplomatic or academic tasks in Barcelona, and the event was presided over by the Honourable Senyor Joaquim Ferrer i Roca, *Conseller de Cultura de la Generalitat de Catalunya*. We must also mention the enthusiastic help received from lovers of Catalonia and their associations, as well as from the *casals catalans* scattered throughout the world. Lovers of Catalonia have understood perfectly that *Catalònia* is directed at people and institutions who have very little information about Catalan culture and that the aim of this magazine is to project itself beyond the Catalanophilous circles. With the help of all concerned, we are achieving what we set out to do.

In this number we have included a photographic dossier which first appeared in the magazine *Cultura*, published by the Department of Culture of the *Generalitat de Catalunya*. The article is reproduced with the kind permission of Senyor Miquel Sellarès, the editor of *Cultura*. We offer brief reports on some modern Catalan writers and articles on a variety of topics including science, education, mountain-climbing, etc. Our opinion section is given over to articles on politics. In Catalonia there are political options which correspond more or less to the chief European ideological families. The social-democrat-inspired left and the Christian-democrat-inspired centre-right are important movements here. But one must also mention the most original movement in Catalonia, the one that establishes the differences between the Spanish and European electoral maps and which defends Catalan nationalist policies. This movement, defined more by its desire for self-government than for a particular social project, has a majority in the present Catalan government. On another occasion, we shall have to study this phenomenon more closely.

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