

REGINALD F. BROWN  
PROFESSOR OF SPANISH

DEPARTMENT OF SPANISH  
THE UNIVERSITY  
LEEDS 2

TEL. No. 31751

19th October, 1954.

P. Russell-Gebbett, Esq.,  
Department of Spanish,  
The University,  
NOTTINGHAM.

Dear Mr. Russell-Gebbett,

Thank you for your letter about the formation of the Anglo-Catalan Society which, as Secretary pro tem of the Association of British Hispanists, I shall be glad to report to our President-elect, Professor Llubera.

I have no doubt that the Association will welcome this early sign of co-ordinated interest in one branch of Hispanic studies. It would, however, find it a little difficult, I imagine, at its own constituent meeting to act as host to another already constituted society which is assuming responsibility within the intended scope of the Association's own work. You can appreciate the anomaly and perhaps share with me the regret of a Hispanic scholar that at the very moment when attempts are being made to bring all Hispanic studies together in a national association, one group of scholars should have chosen quite suddenly to found an independent society devoted to only one branch of those studies.

As I gather from your letter that it would be the intention of the Anglo-Catalan Society to win interest for its particular activities at the meeting at the Burn - you even speak of inviting speakers to address your Society there - you will not be surprised if the Secretary of the A.B.H. finds the haste of your formation somewhat disturbing and the intention rather disruptive to the proposed constitution of the A.B.H. A constituent assembly does not willingly invite 'separatist' elements (your word) to its deliberations.

Let the A.B.H. be established first as a central general body of Hispanists, and then we can decide the relations between those of its activities which concern Catalan and the similar activities to be organized by your Society.

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It would be my hope that these activities should coincide rather than conflict.

From this general interpretation of the situation, you will understand my reluctance - indeed my refusal - to allow the circulation of private minutes of one body among the members of the other. There can be few people interested in Catalan who are not also interested in general Hispanic studies and who will not therefore learn of the intended foundation of the A.B.H.

I should be glad to have a copy of your own minutes of the foundation of the Anglo-Catalan Society, as one who would be interested in its activities, and as a Hispanist who would wish it well.

Yours sincerely,

*Reginald F. Brown*