

Spe. 3978.

49 Wentworth Road,
London, N.W.11.
22nd June 1954.

P. Russell Gebbett, Esq.,
Department of Spanish,
The University,
Nottingham.

Dear Russell Gebbett,

I have to apologise for not writing to you before, but this last term has been a mad rush, particularly as I was trying to do some writing on top of the regular academic work.

I have seen your draft letter about the Anglo-Catalan Group, and I have discussed it with some of my friends at Cambridge, some of whom I expect will already have written to you.

There are just a few comments I should like to make. First, although the meeting we had at the Majorca Restaurant last September was very informal and friendly, I think it was Professor Frank Pierce and not I who presided. I have written to him apologising on this point.

I think also a committee was appointed towards the end of the meeting for all this preliminary work. Various names were suggested, and although I did not keep any record, I think they included Professor Pierce, Professor Trueta, Mr. Pring-Mill of Oxford and someone whom I unfortunately have forgotten, besides yourself as Secretary.

The suggestion has been made at Cambridge that it might be a good thing to have a wider definition of the aim of the society, stating it to be "to foster cultural relations between this country and

Catalonia", it being thought that "to discuss the teaching of Catalan in the universities" would be rather restricted. In this connection one of the suggestions made also by Mrs. Grant, who was in Barcelona last year, was that one of the chief purposes of the Group should be to help and advise British scholars going to Catalonia and Catalans coming to this country.

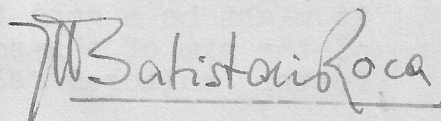
In this connection it may interest you to hear that when Srta. Rosa Leveroni was here a short time ago, she offered to organise in Barcelona a corresponding Anglo-Catalan Group which could play ball with the Group here. Besides, I have just heard from Jordi Carbonell that they are offering in Barcelona a grant for a British student to learn Catalan in Barcelona for a month. *According to a second letter it has been extended to six months, to prepare a thesis.*

There have been two other suggestions, one about membership and the other about fees. About membership, there seems to be a feeling in favour of attracting those scholars who although not directly interested in Catalan language, literature or history, are interested in the wider fields of geography, philology, archaeology and so on, of which Catalan could be an interesting part.

About subscription there have been various suggestions: one, to have fewer members, with the high subscription; to lower the subscription to 10s. in order to get more members; or alternatively to have this subscription of 10s. or perhaps even 7s.6d. for students.

I am off in a few days to Provence and Langued'oc to do some research into Catalan-Provençal relations during the second half of last century, but I know that meanwhile the organisation of the society is in good hands.

Yours sincerely,



J. M. Batista i Roca.