

Spe. 3978.

*Replied pronto
12/1/1954.*

*Wrote again
3/3/1955*

49 Wentworth Road,
N.W. 11.
4th January 1955.

Dear Russell-Gebbett,

Thanks very much for your letter of December 6 and enclosures about the Anglo-Catalan Cultural Society. I see that the drafting and circulation of the minutes has meant a lot of work for you and has proved you an efficient and active secretary.

I saw Ribbons here the other day, and Professor Trueta and Gili at Oxford at Christmas. We discussed whether it was advisable to get the Society going with some practical programme. We have for the moment the offer of a scholarship for nine months in Barcelona for any British scholar wanting to do research there. There is also the Cartell de Premis offered by the Institut de Estudis Catalans for papers on various aspects of Catalan language, literature, history, archaeology etc. I don't know whether Aramon has sent you a copy of the Cartell for this year; if not I can send you one from Cambridge.

Finally, the other suggestion is to have a conference at which the members of the Society and their friends could meet and give papers on aspects of Catalan culture. The suggestion is to meet at Oxford for a weekend right at the beginning of the Easter vacation. John Elliott, a Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge, is willing to read a paper on the research he did last year in Spain on the policy of Olivares and the Catalans. The three young Catalan lecturers at the northern universities will also be willing to make contributions. Professor Trueta thinks he could easily get Professor Weaver of Oxford to talk on Catalan Romanesque cathedrals and show some of his slides. If we want something more modern we could ask Professor Pevsner of Cambridge to talk to us about Gaudi. And, last but not least, I am sure you will have plenty of subjects either of language or literature on which you would like to talk to us.

Of course time is short, but sufficient if we start working right away. An important point is to have the conference as soon as the Easter vacation starts, to avoid a clash with the meeting of the A.B.H. at Dundee. If we miss this we miss the whole of this year.

I haven't heard anything definite yet from Carles Riba, but I wrote recently to Barcelona suggesting he should come late in February or at the beginning of March at the latest, and be able

to stay on for the aforesaid Catalan conference. I hear that Professor Sloman is also trying to get Ferran Soldevila to come to this country, and I also hear that Dr. Vicens, Professor of Modern History at Barcelona University, is also planning to come. Dr. Joan Comomines, Professor of Romance Philology at Chicago University, has just arrived at Barcelona, and perhaps we could get him to stop in this country on his way back.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Professor Frank Pierce.

With all best wishes for the New Year,

Yours sincerely,

J. Bakistair Roca

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