

Joan Maragall 4
Sitges (Barcelona)

7th March 1978

Dear Sir:

From the last issue of our weekly magazine, "Destino," which I happen to read regularly, I got your name and address.

I am a Catalan, and if I may, I like to add, a Catalan patriot as well, who has lived for the last 25 years outside of Catalonia.

After a three year London residence, I went to the USA, where I stayed no less than 15 years. In that country, I obtained a BA and an MA from the University of California, being my major Romance languages and my minor English. Later, upon my return to Europe (The American way of life didn't suit me) I did the doctoral studies at The University of Munich-Germany. My dissertation was a comparative study between Rainer Maria Rilke and Antonio Machado.

Since in my early years, I attended the local German School in Barcelona, plus the fact of having had at home a German governess, I am as fluent in German as I am in Catalan, English or Spanish.

While in the U.S.A. I taught Spanish at Fresno State University ^{in California}. Previous to that, I did teach Spanish and English at a high school level in California, which standards, I am aware, don't measure up to the ones in your country.

I was born in 1928 and on the 22nd of July I shall be 50 years old.

In 1974 I came back from my long sojourn abroad, and still - hoy - I have not been able to find my niche in my own country, where in far too many circles, one is practically considered and "welcomed" almost as an intruder.

Although I am fully aware how remote the possibility is, it did occur to me, that perhaps your department could accommodate me to teach Spanish and Catalan? I can also teach German, as I am well versed with its grammar.

I am a modest person, who doesn't pretend to be an specialist in any literary period. Also, I haven't published anything. But my range of interests are many. Therefore, I enjoy just as much reading Thackeray, Dickens or Pío Baroja, than Heinrich Heine, Arthur Schopenhauer or Immanuel Kant for that matter.

Please excuse, if I have taken too much of your time.

Sincerely,

Andreu Ripoll

For your guidance, may I add that my great uncle was the poet Joan Maragall.