

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE  
FACULTY OF MODERN AND MEDIEVAL LANGUAGES

From: Dr. G.J. Walker  
GJW/GL



Sidgwick Avenue  
Cambridge, CB3 9DA  
Telephone 56411

12th January, 1981.

Dear M. Tadier,

After conversations with our mutual friends Professor Peter Rickard and M. René Derôme I am writing to you to enquire if there would be any possibility of your Institute assisting the Anglo-Catalan Society in the organization of its XXVII Annual Conference in London in November next. I enclose a copy of our recent booklet in order that you may have some idea of the character and achievements of the Society to date.

Our problem is that the Society's policy of holding alternate annual conferences in London, although highly desirable, is difficult to implement, because all suitable university buildings in the capital are now closed on Saturdays and Sundays and we are increasingly unable to find venues. We have modified slightly the style of conference to one-day Saturday meetings in London, reserving our three-day full programmes to the years when we meet in the vacation at a university outside London. The recently changing policy of the Spanish government towards Catalan culture has come however at a particularly fortunate moment for us in that in 1979 the Instituto de España opened its doors especially for us one Saturday in November of that year and we held a very successful meeting under its auspices. This November (on a Saturday as yet unfixed) we wish to centre our meeting around a single day's session on the theme of the Roussillon and French Catalonia. We shall bring our guest speakers for this year from the Centre d'Études Catalans at Perpignan, in particular Prof. Pierre Verdagner, and it is possible that we might persuade Prof. Pierre Vilar to come again. We shall also extend an invitation to Cardinal Basil Hume of Westminster Cathedral who, as you probably know, is of French-Catalan parentage on his mother's side.

The purpose of this letter must now be obvious to you, and it is of course to enquire whether your Institute would honour us by allowing us to meet there on whatever Saturday in November would best suit you. I realize that you will be officially closed, but we should greatly appreciate the use of a room to seat about 70 people from, say 2.15 until about 7.00 p.m. We usually begin our London meetings with a luncheon, held in a local restaurant (although last time we had facilities in the Instituto de España), carry on into a formal session of Annual General Meeting 2.30-3.30, take half an hour for refreshment and continue with one or two academic sessions from 4.00 until 6.00 or 6.30. After that we like to have an informal drink and get-together (inside or outside our meeting room) before breaking up about 7.00 p.m.

You will think me very impertinent presuming upon our mutual friendship with Peter Rickard and René Derôme to ask if you would assist us in this way. Believe me we are desperate for support now that we can no longer go to London University; and we think it inappropriate that our London meetings should be 'wedded' to the Instituto de España, despite their willing assistance and generous hospitality in the past.

Looking forward to the favour of your kindness and understanding,  
I am,

Yours very sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Geoffrey J. Walker'.

Geoffrey J. Walker  
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Lecturer in Catalan Studies

Mr. J.-Y. Tadier,  
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