

I should, perhaps, add that apart from translations, (Sean Wilentz, of the Dolmen Press here, is bringing out a volume of verse in the Spring.

179 Rathgar Road  
Dublin:  
July 11, 1961.

Dear Professor Tate,

(as President of the Anglo-Catalan Society)

I'm writing to you at the suggestion of Batista i Roca. You may have heard from him what it's all about.

(Terrible typewriter, sorry, nothing I can do about it at the moment.) Joan Gili, of the Dolphin Book Co., whom I saw in Oxford last month, is willing to publish a selective anthology of contemporary Catalan verse, in my translations. I've published some versions of Salvador Espriu and one poem of the Majorcan Blai Bonet in 'The London Magazine' (1957) and one each by the same two poets in the Winter 1960 number of 'Threshold' - which as a Belfastman you may have seen. Apart from a couple of broadcasts on Radio Eireann, a general article on the subject in the Dagens Nyheter in 1956, and an amount of propaganda for Catalunya in general in Gaelic-language magazines here, such as 'Comhar.' Apart from, also, a reading in the British Institute/in '56. And the fact that on the Third last autumn I did a programme of the Cantigas d'Amigo. But that, and a two-instalment anthology from Mexican writing in the current and forthcoming 'Comhar', are only flirtations in comparison with the Catalan thing - which caught me/at once and certainly for good when I went to live in Barcelona in 1953.

in Barcelona/

almost/

I haven't been back there since 1956, though I've corresponded irregularly ever since with Espriu; and Gili agrees that such a venture as this proposed anthology could only be done properly in the country itself. To try it from here would be like a Barcelonin doing a Gaelic anthology in Somoroostro. So I'm going there in mid-August, or a week or so later; and would like to stay as long as possible - I mean, for the winter anyway. My only way of surviving will be a little hack journalism which I can send back here, and the odd private pupil there, but neither will pay in any real\* way - and, more to the point, this kind of work, translation I mean, cannot, as you of course will know, be done without time and a certain feeling of leisure, somewhere, some times. When I asked Gili about this, he gave me the names of Batista i Roca and of Aramon i Serra in Barcelona. To the latter I have not written, yet. Should I, do you think? Or what do you think of the whole thing? Sorry if that sounds ~~brusque~~ brusque - I hate writing anything remotely resembling a begging letter, even in what might be considered an unimpeachable cause - I hate receiving them too.

\* real = enough to live on not real

Still.... Yours sincerely,

Reabe Hutchinson