

CRANLEIGH SCHOOL,
CRANLEIGH,
SURREY.

SCHOOL : CRANLEIGH 3666.

COMMON ROOM : 4342.

2, Horseshoe Flats,
Horseshoe Lane,
CRANLEIGH,
Surrey.

Tel. Cranleigh 4825

3rd October, 1971

Dear Ron,

thank you for your letter which Geoff sent on to me. The thought had occurred to me that certain aspects of medieval Catalan literature on which I have been working for my thesis might be of interest to the Anglo-Catalan Society. Geoff is keen for me to present a paper and make myself known to specialists in the field.

As you will see from the above address, although still pursuing my research under the auspices of Pembroke College, I have just started teaching at Cranleigh and, in this respect, the difficulties in presenting a paper to the Society are, firstly, that I teach until 1 o'clock on Saturday mornings, and secondly, that, at the moment, I find myself with very little time except for preparing lessons.

My thesis is on the relationship between the economic, social and political crises, and the spiritual crisis of the end of the 14th century and the beginning of the 15th century in Catalonia as it affected the literature. The figure of

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Anselm Turmeda is a key one here, and it seems to me that the picturesque elements of his biography would appeal to the non-specialist, while my own views on his work differ from traditional opinions. He's usually portrayed as an amoral cynic, at times bordering on the nihilistic. I take almost the exact opposite view, seeing the ' Disputa de l'Ase ' as a profound examination of the problem of evil and human nature in which mankind's only hope of redemption lies in the incarnation of Christ in human form.

I don't know if you think this would make an interesting paper, but if you do, I think I would be able to adapt a part of my thesis. If you decide that a paper on Turmeda would be worthwhile I should be grateful if you could tell me roughly how long it should be in terms of numbers of pages. I don't seem to be very good at timing a lecture. I always seem to collect much too much material,

Yours sincerely,

Nick Farnidge