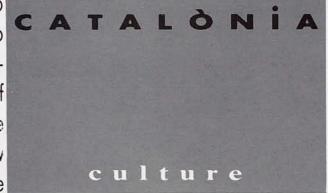
EDITORIAL

with no corresponding state on the current political map of Europe, although it corresponded to an independent state from the twelfth to the fifteenth centuries. It is a Romance language which has evolved in a similar way to Castilian, Italian and French, and which is ordinarily used in family life, in universities and research centres, in commerce and business and in the parliament and government of Catalonia. The various periods of cultural repression it has suffered have not prevented its evolution as a vehicle of scientific or literary expression or its use as the everyday language in the countries of Catalon culture. It is a language with various dialects, though linguists agree that the variants found in Valencia, Catalonia

and the Balearic Islands belong to guage. Catalan exists between two lian and French. The political, ecoeven demographic pressure of has not substantially affected the new political situation in Spain now solidate this language which we



a single common lanother languages: Castinomic, cultural and these two languages vitality of Catalan. The allows a move to con-Catalans see as one of

the signs of our identity. Non-Catalans, because of all the characteristics of our cultural history, tend not to realize that Catalan is the normal medium of our philosophical or technical, professional or artistic, religious or leisure activity. They ask us confidentially if at home we always speak Catalan. *Catalònia-culture*, and especially the dossier published in this issue, hope to contribute to the understanding of the cultural identity of a European people who with complete normality speak a language which is little known outside of its own cultural space, although all the most important preoccupations of our time have been expressed in our language. In building the future, all languages will contribute elements of rationality. Languages of limited extension can contribute those elements of quality which correspond to the cultural experience of their people.

FÈLIX MARTÍ DIRECTOR