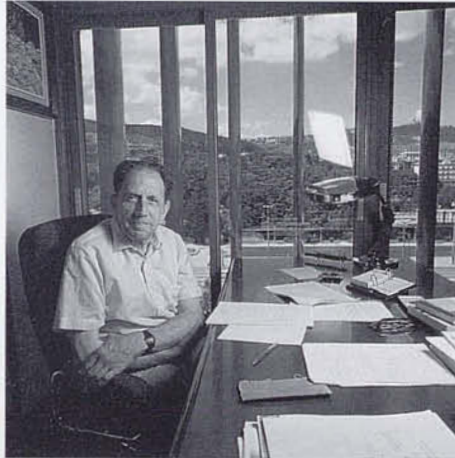


EDITORIAL

Catalan culture, like all living cultures of our time, is characterized by a considerable scientific and technological activity. Catalan scientists take part in international research in centres situated in our own cultural area or as members of scientific teams in the great international centres. Some of these scientists have become leading figures in their speciality. Ramon Margalef is one of the best-known ecologists in the world, because of his publications, his teaching activities in different countries and, obviously, his research.

Ramon Margalef is an example of the new type of scientist, who, rather than see science as a closed branch of knowledge, confronts philosophical questions. Without abandoning risk, he knows that science forms part of the questions that lie outside the scientific domain, precisely because of this ability to submit to the discipline of scientific common sense or his particular brand of cutting, clairvoyant irony. For this reason, his language is not sophisticated when there is no need. He speaks on subjects of interest to everyone and knows how to do so with the language of the man in the street.



political, religious or simply human. He does not reject scientific methodology, he does not reject the life of society and does not reject the scientific domain. Ramon Margalef stands to submit to the discipline of scientific common sense or his particular brand of cutting, clairvoyant irony. For this reason, his language is not sophisticated when there is no need. He speaks on subjects of interest to everyone and knows how to do so with the language of the man in the street.

Being a free-spirited scientist, he always keeps his distance from the world of politics and allows himself to criticize established powers, in the interest of his fellow-citizens and of humanity in general.

Ramon Margalef, the same as other Catalan scientists, is an example of the desirable link between roots and universality. Very often, the defence of one's cultural identity would seem to be an obstacle to the international dimension, and when one has a universal vocation, it is as if it were necessary to forget one's ties with one's local culture. Ramon Margalef, quite spontaneously, without even trying, shows these prejudices to be mistaken.

He is a person who works with a worldwide horizon and who has not diluted his Catalan nature at all. He uses the normal languages of the scientific community and publishes in these languages, but recognizes Catalan as his own particular language. Science is universal, but scientists are human beings, and human beings belong to specific cultures. Scientists place more and more value on this human condition, that is the basis of their specialization, and will not become exclusively specialists. The human quality allows a high quality scientific practice at the service of humanity.

Small cultures, such as ours in were it not for the development of world, culture, inevitably, contains normal living language must be able knowledge. It must be possible to investigation. Our readers will be in-entific activity goes back a long tion Arnau de Vilanova, a arts. We have been active in all pe-



we approach the close of the twentieth century with a good international level of scientific institutions.

The most extensive report in this number is devoted to the universities in the Catalan-speaking world and, especially, the three universities based in Barcelona. The history of our universities says a lot about our cultural history. The present structure of the university courses is indicative of the importance of science and technology in Catalan culture today.

Catalonia, would have no future the scientific dimension. In today's an important measure of science. A to act as a vehicle of scientific use it at all levels of teaching and in-terested to know that Catalan sci-way. We could, for example, men-fourteenth century doctor in medical riods of the history of science and

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