

EDITORIAL

Catalonia, the driving force behind the area of Catalan influence, is an industrial region. It is one of a group of regions that have needed industrial development, and the industrial architecture of the agrarian sector is less well known.

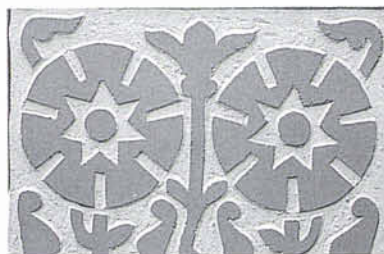


comparable to those of the most advanced regions of Europe. The size of its farms, the system of land ownership, the degree of mechanization and the technologies in use, the diversification in agricultural production and stock-farming all show healthy characteristics. At the same time, the transfer of responsibility for farms and fisheries from the central Spanish state to the autonomous governments has been a great boost to productivity and modernization in this sector. It has contributed to the politicians' dialogue with farmers and with the organizations that represent them and has allowed a concerted effort which has had very positive results. Food production at present stands out as one of the principal factors behind Catalan economic growth.

Agriculture, stock-farming and fishing have, over the ages, shaped the way of life of many Catalans. There is a literature which describes the way of life of peasant farmers, of shepherds and of fishermen, and some of these stories have stimulated our collective imagination, have given rise to legends, and have created human models which have become symbols of our race and our culture. New practices, resulting from technological developments and influenced by European and world-wide interdependence, also affect present-day Cata-

land the economy of the whole of the an internationally recognized industrial European regions which have pioneered territory has splendid examples 19th and 20th centuries. Catalonia's Catalan farming and agriculture are

lan culture. Catalan farmers and they inherit from their ancient craft, at that applied science and technology transport and service networks help of these groups and encourage their lonia has become an extensive urban employed in the primary sector have as much to contribute to culture, politics and the economy as those in the secondary or tertiary sectors.



fishermen must preserve the wealth the same time as they assimilate all have to offer. The new communications, put an end to the traditional isolation social and cultural integration. Cata-system in which those people em-

Amongst its selected items of information, CATALÒNIA offers a dossier on the Catalan agricultural sector, contributed by the *Generalitat de Catalunya's* "Departament d'Agricultura, Ramaderia i Pesca". The Councillor, Josep Miró, has personally written the first article in the dossier and we are extremely grateful for his co-operation. We think our readers, interested in culture in the broadest sense of the word, will discover little-known aspects of contemporary Catalan creativity, and will be able to see for themselves that, in spite of the limitations imposed, home-rule has allowed us to gradually transform our infrastructures. Culture and art are dialectically related to social and economic structures. Our understanding of Catalan culture would not be complete if we failed to pay close attention to this dialectic and did not try to progress towards more international perspectives.

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