



Dalí once burnt the Spanish flag for Catalan freedom and was branded the most dangerous separatist in the county. / TONY KEELER

## New book reveals Salvador Dalí as a closet Catalan separatist

*A new 320-page book reveals surrealist painter's separatist beliefs*

### A. BARNILS

In this year of Dalí, so packed with tidbits of new information on the painter, a new book revealing one of the less well-known facets of the artist has appeared. The publishing house Dux de Barcelona has brought out *Dalí Silenciat* which is about Dalí's complex relationship with separatism.

The book contains all manner of Dalí anecdotes, from the one about the Empordà Police considering him to be "the most dangerous separatist in the county," to an incident in which he burnt the Spanish flag. These separatist leanings which biographers such as Ian Gibson have already hinted at, are detailed in 320 pages with illustrations. The painter's more radical leanings can already be appreciated through his

notes in books like *Diaries 1919-1920* (Edició 62), with attacks on the Spanish government and a defence of anarchism. However, Dalí's separatist sympathies had never been studied in any detail until the appearance of this volume.

"This facet of Dalí may be seen as controversial, above all considering his later development and could create unease for those who defended his attitude at the end as much as for those that didn't. It breaks the mould," says the book's editor Josep M<sup>a</sup> Vall. He goes on to explain: "At the beginning I realised it was a risky undertaking as there are those who would prefer this not to be talked about." Dalí has sometimes been seen as a Fascist, but the reality is more complex. He embraced anarchism and communism, and fell his

friends of Marxist surrealists denounced monarchists and anarchists, but Dalí said to them that he was an anarch-monarchist. Even though *Dalí Silenciat* reached bookshops before the literary celebrations on Saint George's Day, the book's official launch is planned for September.

This first edition's initial print run of 1000 copies has been distributed in Catalonia, Valencia, the Balearic Isles and Andorra. The author Mark Planellas Witzch holds a degree in philosophy, letters and the science of communication from the Autònoma University of Barcelona and currently works in the export department of a local company. He also studied for 3 years at the University of Nagoya in Japan, where he gave seminars on Gaudí and Dalí.

## Campaign pulls in punters to see Tarragona's Roman monuments

### RICHARD MCCRANN

Tarragona's campaign to promote its historic Roman remains has been a big success. The number of visitors coming to the historic city, known as Tarraco in Roman times, has grown significantly according to the city council. A special campaign called Tarraco Viva, held from May 18-30, has been particularly successful. The most popular attraction has been the Roman walls which attracted 15,037 visitors a five-fold increase compared to the same period last year, when only 3,385 people viewed them. The history museum attracted 51,450 visitors which up by 3000.

Visitor numbers to the amphitheatre, the Casa Castellarnau, the



Gladiators recreate Roman Tarragona

Circ-Pretori and stone quarry the Mèdol also rose by several hundred. However, the Forum was the only site that registered a drop in visitors

down from 3,581 last year to 2,909. Figures also reveal that 62% of the visitors came from Spain, 50% of these from Catalonia, 31% were foreigners with the majority from France, Great Britain and Germany, while 7% came from other parts of the world. Deputy mayor Mercè Martorell said, "the positive increase in the number of visitors is the result of a 32% increase in the number of activities available, and this is all the more pleasing considering many of the events had to be cancelled at the last minute due to rain." The website of the city's history museum has also seen an increase in the number of people visiting its website. This year 21,172 people have visited its site compared to 14,750 last year.

### "DIEZ AÑOS EN SING SING" ("TEN YEARS IN SING SING")

VARIOUS Label: Música Top-El Diablo / Genre: Pop / Playing time: 62' 17"



This tribute to Los Nikis, the Ramones of Algete, proves two things - firstly, that this seminal band produced quite a few good pop-punk songs, and secondly, that their heirs and admirers are legion and very diverse. Fangoria, El Canto del Loco, Pereza and Los Inhumanos are the most well-known of the 23 groups taking part and who are, generally speaking, fairly faithful to the original versions.

### "CONTANDO HISTORIAS" ("TELLING STORIES")

COLA JET SET Label: Subterfuge Records / Genre: Pop / Playing time: 34' 13"



The first album by Cola Jet Set, the new group formed by Felipe and Cristina of Los Fresones Rebeldes. Their new band features vocalist Ana (from La Monja Enana) and the album is comprised of 12 songs blasted out in a little over 30 minutes by a group which borrows from every decade, but especially the 1960s. They sound as Fresones-like as ever, but that's nothing to complain about.

### "NO ES POT VIURE" ("YOU CANT LIVE LIKE THAT")

QUICO EL CÉLIO... Label: Discmedi / Genre: Protest folk music / Playing time: 52' 50"



The new disc by Quico el Célio, El Noi and El Mut de Ferreries is a kind of social chronicle which "is an ironic and humorous look at serious subjects such as the protection of the environment, racial diversity, language and our need for another way of living". The disc contains some fine examples of protest folk songs which are as contemporary as they are rooted in the land.

### "UNDER MY SKIN"

AVRIL LAVIGNE Label: BMG-RCA / Genre: Pop / Playing time: 40' 56"



After selling 14 million copies of her debut "Let go", which she recorded when she was just 17 years old, the Lolita of Canadian pop makes her return with a new hi-energy pop offering that continues to be dominated by a powerful electric guitar sound which, together with a few outbreaks of intense post-adolescent rage, are the only saving grace of a disc which has been clearly created to please every taste.