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Caterina Mieras, Xavier Folch and book fair director Raúl Padilla / G.M.

Leading role for Catalans at Mexico book fair

Catalan culture has been named as the guest of honour for event in Guadalajara

ANDREU BARNILS

Ramon Llull University will take on the task of sending a large Catalan contingency to the International Book Fair in Guadalajara in November 2004, where Catalan culture has been designated as the guest of honour.

The Guadalajara event is considered to be the second most prestigious book fair in the world. The Catalan contribution will include about 30 writers, 80 publishing houses, and 2,000 copies of 500 different books. Catalonia will also send cultural representatives, including musicians Joan Manuel Serrat, Miquel Gil, Carles Santos and Miquel Poveda. Architects such as

Oriol Bohigas, painters such as Antoni Tàpies and Miquel Barceló and the *Comediants* theatre company. A total delegation of 250 will travel at a total cost of 1.2 million euros. Catalonia's minister of culture Caterina Mieras hopes that the government of the Balears will contribute to meet part of the cost.

Pasqual Maragall, the Catalan president, will travel to the fair to attend the inauguration of the main Catalan stand. Special events include seminars on Catalan culture, homages to writers such as Manuel Vázquez Montalbán and Ramon Xirau, and discussions on the theme of Catalan-Mexican cross-cultural issues.

A world showcase for books

ROBERT KIMPLETON

The Guadalajara International Book Fair (FIL), founded 17 years ago, has become the largest showcase for books in the Spanish-speaking world.

400 thousand people are expected to visit the 9-day event which will begin on November 27, which has an exhibition area of more than 26,000 square metres. More than 1,300 publishing companies from 35 countries attend every year, according to the FIL web site (www.fil.com.mx).

Event organisers have selected Catalonia and the Balearic Is-

lands as the guests of honour because of their historical legacy, common language and Mediterranean culture. The event also pointed out significant Catalan contributions to culture in the areas of architecture, music and literature. Barcelona, say the event's organisers, is recognised as the traditional capital of Spanish-language publishing which has had historic links with Mexican literature. 38% of the books imported to Mexico come from Catalonia, and many Mexican publishers are originally of Catalan origin.

Teach yourself Catalan

ANNA POCH



3. Visc al carrer Mirador

I live in
Mirador Street

Mark is being introduced to Mrs Ros who is in charge of foreign students at the university.

Xavier Bona tarda Mark. Et presento la senyora Ros.

Mark Encantat.

Senyora Ros Benvingut a Girona ... On t'estàs?

Mark Visc al carrer Mirador número vuit.

Senyora Ros Doncs som veïns!

Mark Ah sí? On viu vostè?

Senyora Ros Jo visc al número deu. I vius sol?

Mark No, m'estic amb dos estudiants anglesos.

Senyora Ros Teniu telèfon?

Mark Sí, és el 972 34 68 1.

Senyora Ros Gràcies, fins després.

Mark Adéu.

bona tarda	good afternoon
et presento	Let me introduce you to
el senyor/la senyora	sir/madam
encantat/-da	nice to meet you
benvingut/-da	welcome
t'estàs	(you) live
al	see explanation below
doncs	so, well
el veí/la veïna	neighbour
ah sí?	really?
(vostè) viu	you (formal) live
(tu) vius	you (informal) live
sol/-a	alone
(jo) m'estic	(I)live
l'estudiant (m/f)	student
anglès/-esa	English
(vosaltres) teniu	(you) have
el telèfon	telephone
fins després	see you later
adéu	goodbye
els números (0-10)	numbers 1-10
zero	u
dos	dos
tres	tres
quatre	quatre
cinc	cinc
sis	sis
set	set
vuit	vuit
nou	nou
deu	deu

Grammar

A. Verbs *Viure* and *estar-se* 'to live'

Both verbs can have the same meaning of *to live*, but while **viure** has a more general meaning of *to be alive*, **estar-se** means *to live* in the sense of *to reside*, to stay. Both verbs are irregular.

(jo)	visc	m'estic
(tu)	vius	t'estàs
(ell/ella/vostè)	viu	s'està
(nosaltres)	vivim	ens estem
(vosaltres)	viuiu	us esteu
(ells/elles/vostès)	viuen	s'estan

Note how the pronouns **em**, **et** and **es** contract and take an apostrophe before a vowel.

B. *Tu/vostè*

There are two ways of addressing people in Catalan. When you are talking to someone on first name terms such as relatives, children or friends, the **tu** you (singular) form of the verb is used. For more than one person, the plural form **vosaltres** you (plural) is used. Examples: **Com et dius?** or **D'on sou?**

When you address someone you don't know very well or to whom particular respect is due, you will need to use the formal form. This involves a verb in the third person (singular for **vostè** and plural for **vostès**). Examples: **Vostès s'estan a Mallorca** or **És vostè anglès?**

C. Prepositions *a*, *de*, *per* (contractions)

In the dialogues, we have seen the use of **al** in 'Visc al carrer...' and 'visc al número deu'. This is a contraction of preposition **a** (to, at, in, on) plus article **el**. It appears when prepositions **a**, **de** (see last week's issue) and **per** (*by, for, along, through*) meet the masculine article **el** or **els**, but never **l'**.

D. Verb *tenir* 'to have' (irregular)

(jo)	ting
(tu)	tiens
(ell/ella/vostè)	té
(nosaltres)	tenim
(vosaltres)	teniu
(ells/elles/vostès)	tenen

Activities

1. Change the following conversation from the *tu* form into *vostè*:

A- Com et dius?

B- Em dic Pilar. I tu?

A- Jo em dic Ricard. I on vius?

B- Visc a Sant Feliu. I tu, també vius a Sant Feliu?

A- No, jo sóc de Sant Adrià, però m'estic a Badalona.

B- I ets estudiant?

A- Sí, sóc estudiant.

2. Now answer these questions:

A- On vius?

B- Quin número de telèfon tens?
.....

Key to the activities (25/06/04)

1. Answer depends on the person.

2. L'hora, l'amic, la xocolata, el francès, l'Anna, el nom, l'anglesa, la senyora.