



# CATALAN Newsletter

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## IN SUPPORT OF THE PRINCIPLE...

... that the free use and development of the language and cultural heritage of a nation is one of the basic human rights of all peoples, CATALAN NEWSLETTER calls America's attention to the little publicized cultural genocide being perpetrated against Catalonia by the Spanish State. This effort to annihilate all manifestations of Catalan culture -- even in its religious and home-life aspects-- is today as persistent as ever, especially since the interview granted by Dom. A. Escarré, Abbot of the Monastery of Montserrat, to the Paris newspaper "Le Monde" of Nov. 14, 1963, calling for the Christian redress of these many injustices.

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## REPRISALS AGAINST CATALONIA SINCE THE NOW FAMOUS INTERVIEW BY THE BELOVED ABBOT OF THE CATALAN NATIONAL SHRINE

### GOVERNOR CLOSES "OMNIUM CULTURAL"

Barcelona, Dec. 4/63 -- Without warrant or legal authority, the Governor of Barcelona had the police search and close "Omnium Cultural", a private institution organized in 1961 by the foremost intellectuals, industrialists, financiers and professional people of Catalonia. As its name implies, this cultural Foundation encouraged and endowed many splendid academic and pedagogic efforts in various fields of endeavor. Its existence was only tolerated by the authorities (possibly for the benefit of UNESCO), but apparently it was becoming too successful.

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### BURNING OF THE "BOY SCOUTS" H.Q.

Barcelona, Dec. 22/63 -- During the night of Dec. 21-22nd., the Falangist Action Group "JONS", burned and ravaged the headquarters of the "Minyons de Montanya" -- the Catalan Boy Scouts -- located in the center of the city. Besides confiscating their files and archives, they burned the famous Father Batlle Library. The building was rented and placed at the disposal of the "scouts" and various other Catholic youth organizations by the Monastery of Montserrat.

The following day, as the news of the event spread (even though it wasn't carried by the press or the radio), thousands of people gathered in front of the building in a manifestation of solidarity with the victimized institutions, and sang the "Virolai". Several persons were arrested for singing this religious hymn to the Virgin of Montserrat, charged with disturbing the peace, and fined 10.000 Pts. (\$165.00) each.

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