



FREE

CATALONIA

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CATALONIA is situated on the northeastern side of the Iberian Peninsula, as shown in the above map. Catalan territories include all the shaded areas, which together form Greater Catalonia, with a population of over 6,000,000 people.

CATALONIA existed as a free Nation until 1714, when she was incorporated by force into the Spanish unitarian State.

CATALONIA has a language of its own—Catalan—belonging to the Romance group or neo-Latin languages and as independent from Spanish as French is from Portuguese or Italian.

CATALONIA aims to be again a Free Nation and to freely govern herself. After regaining her national independence, she will be in a position to consider a Confederacy of Iberian Free States, on the basis of a voluntary association of free peoples of the Iberian Peninsula, which would include Catalans, Basques, Galicians, Spaniards, and Portuguese, if they so desire. Catalonia identifies herself with the cause of the United Nations.



FACTS ABOUT CATALONIA — VI

The Literary and Cultural Movement

MODERN CATALAN LITERATURE — The Catalan cultural and literary renaissance culminated in the well-known *Jocs Florals*, or annual poetical tournaments, where patriotism and localism dominated over true literary values. Two illustrious poets broke the monotony and the provincialism of the *Jocs Florals* poetry: Jacint Verdaguer and Angel Guimerà, who succeeded in changing from the obsession for Middle Age romanticism a la Walter Scott, so eliminating the danger of our poetry becoming merely an archeological product.



Joan Maragall, Catalan poet, the most representative figure of modern Catalan literature.

But with the appearance of Joan Maragall, the Catalan literary movement really swerved to modern universal literature. Joan Maragall was born in Barcelona in 1860 (he died in 1911). He introduced modern European sensibility to Catalan letters. He was not only a very personal and powerful poet, but also the creator of a truly Catalan theory of poetic writing. He was an intellectual, but at the same time accessible to the masses. He originated a well-defined poetical school which even nowadays continues producing pupils. Illustrious followers of Maragall have been such noted poets as Salvador Albert, Josep Pijoan, Morera i Galicia, Guasch, Emili Guanyavents, Josep Lleonart, Bertrand i Pijoan, Salvat-Papasseit and many others.

The Majorcan School—Soon after Maragall the School of the Catalan-Majorcan poets started to influence the younger generations. The main characteristics of this school are naturalness and form. There is a legend to the effect that Homer had left his lyre in Majorca for the benefit of the Catalan poets. It is a fact, however, that Horace, Virgil and the other Latin poets maintained a noticeable influence over the poets of the Majorca school, who on the other hand were also very devoted to Carducci and Victor Hugo. Principal figures in this group are Miquel Costa i Llobera, Joan Alcover, Gabriel Alomar, M. dels Sants Oliver, Llorenç Ribes, Guillem Colom, Miquel Ferrà and the poetess Maria Antonia Salva, the translator of Mistral and Manzoni.

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