



GENERALITAT DE CATALUNYA

EL CONSELLER
DE CULTURA I MITJANS DE COMUNICACIÓ

ER
Recd

9-17-82

MAX CAHNER

GENERALITAT DE CATALUNYA DEPARTAMENT DE CULTURA I MITJANS DE COMUNICACIÓ	
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ENTRADA N.º -	SORTIDA N.º A1643

Mr. George Firestone
Secretary of State for
the State of Florida

Barcelona, 31 August 1982

Dear Mr. Firestone,

May I at the outset apologise for the delay in thanking you most sincerely for your visit to Barcelona, of which I have happy memories.

I remember on that occasion that we spoke of the interest of the Government of Florida in establishing cultural relations with the Government of the Generalitat of Catalunya. I have borne in mind what you mentioned and I am looking for ways in which we can arrange a programme of cultural exchange.

First of all, I feel I should say that although the Government of the Generalitat of Catalunya is relatively young, we can offer in the artistic field, a number of exhibitions which we have already organised, both in and outside Catalunya. These could include the graphic productions of such world famous artists as Salvador Dalí or Joan Miró; or also other artists of quality like the engraver and painter Antoni Clavé; or perhaps of a younger generation, such as the painter Joan Pere Viladecans. I mention these artists in particular because they have been the basis of the shows we have organised this year. We are, of course, open to other suggestions and I would hope to be able to offer to you shortly other displays; for example, one on catalan culture with particular reference to our architectural heritage, to our historic and artistic itineraries etc.

Besides art, our collaboration could extend into music, in which field we have a school of composers and interpreters of high standard. May I also mention our traditional popular music and our folklore, both very rich and also quite different from the traditional music and folklore of the rest of the Spanish state.

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As you can see, we have a very real wish to collaborate. Under separate cover, I am sending you some of our publications which will illustrate some of the events that I have mentioned. But I have another idea which might help to strengthen links between Florida and Catalunya. I am of course referring to the city of Saint Augustine, which, in about 1768, received about 110 families from Menorca, some of whom preserve their catalan language -known in your country as mahonese- until the 1930s. Although the island of Menorca is politically a part of the Consell General Interinsular de les Balears, the Generalitat maintains the closest of friendly relations and collaboration with this Council; because of this we should like to propose a gathering of the "menorquin", catalan and Saint Augustine people, at an historic and human level, in order to bring into light a fact that is part of the history of Florida and of the cultural catalan history and which would serve to remind the inhabitants of Saint Augustine of their old catalan roots.

I should very much like to know your feelings on all these projects which I propose to you with the greatest enthusiasm. May I thank you once again for your kindness and interest and I await your news.

Yours sincerely



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