

84 Associationism for after a crisis

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In this article the theme's starting point is the professional associationism of journalists in the period lasting from 1975-1990. The author reviews that which was the "Associació de la Premsa" (Press Association), today the "Col·legi de Periodistes de Catalunya" (School of Journalists in Catalonia).

In years of political and institutional changes, minor examples of associationism arose like the "Grup Democràtic de Periodistes" (Democratic Group of Journalists), other associations from the remaining Catalan provinces, and the attempt to establish a unitary press syndicate (El Sindicat de Treballadors de Premsa de Barcelona —STPB— The Barcelona Syndicate of Press Employees), besides the role and influence that the traditional syndicates had on the sector.

The first "Congrès de Periodistes de Catalunya" (Congress of Journalists of Catalonia) came into being, weakening the Press Law. However, a crisis appeared in the sector, with the result that newspapers were shut down, including the press Association itself. There was an abundance of alternative proposals and the Association transformed itself into a professional school. Now, this body has a good standard: there was activity in it. We progressed to a professional deontological code and one talked about editorial statutes. Are syndicates necessary? Is it necessary to move towards a professional syndicate?

92 When the "what" beats the "where"...

JOSEP MARIA SÒRIA I BADIA

This author of this work goes back to the importance that a knowledge of his own city has for a journalist. This knowledge affects, not only the so-called "local-information", but also whatsoever other information that appears in the pages of a newspaper.

And he goes back to the post-war period, extremely poor as far as news was concerned, conditioned by factual powers that closely marked media professionals. There were, however, exceptions with names and surnames in Madrid and Barcelona. Honourable exceptions that in some cases, like that of the journalist Manuel Del Arco, a master of