

# 84 Associationism for after a crisis

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ANTONI RIBAS

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"...

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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

newspaper interviews, produced genuine local-information. The seventies, according to the author, represent the most important moment of local-information in Barcelona. New newspapers like "Mundo Diario" appeared and many others enriched their contents.

Political normalisation and new technologies have changed the news panorama. The traditional sections no longer exist. Now they are wider. However, the theme of "the city" is to be found in them.

## 97 Splendour, misery of economic information

XAVIER VIDAL-FOLCH

The writer of this article begins by talking about the different stages that economic information has experienced from the sixties until the present.

These are the ones of the economic thrust after the Francoist "Pla d'Estabilitació" (Stabilisation Plan); the economic framework becomes more flexible. However, this comes about without freedom and with a press that is still gagged. Economic information is official and officialist. The task of divulgation and debate grows gradually over the years. Weekly collaborations began in the newspapers, written by renowned economists. Later, the first years of the transition also registered an energy crisis. The author analyses the repercussion of this phenomenon in the media. Investigative and critical journalism pick up in the economics field. The newspapers face up to this collectively. The "Associació de Periodistes Econòmics de Catalunya" (The Association of Economic Journalists of Catalonia) comes into being (1986). At present, the internationalisation of the Spanish and Catalan economy generates complex phenomena: dependency on the exterior and the power of the multinationals.

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## 110 The dictatorship of the layout professionals

MIQUEL VILLAGRASA

In a period of ten and a half years layout has shown itself to be an essential technique in a current publication. The author states that lay-