

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-

out has made it possible to order the contents of publications and also reduce the production process by means of the use of the so-called pre-maquette.

The rationalisation of information that was appearing on the pages of the newspapers during those years was largely due to the evolution of layout.

The author makes a review of the different stages that layout has been through, from the first generation of layout professionals, very knowledgeable about the profession, passing through the diagram professionals that were responsible for having given unity to the contents, to the designers that come from the so-called third generation. At present, design comes partly from business criteria. The layout professional finds it difficult to evade the established model, as this includes adopting orders that are not to be found in the computer. The use of technology and the work of other graphic techniques have considerably reduced the responsibilities of layout professionals.