UNIVERSAL EDUCATION
AND VISUAL ARTS

A Division of Universal City Studios, Inc.

Filmstrips

221 Park Avenue South

NewYork, NewYork 10003

Teacher's Manual

SPAIN

UNIVERSAL EDUCATION
AND VISUAL ARTS FILMSTRIPS
SPAIN CATALONIA

3. THIS A MAP OF CATALONIA

Catalonia is a part of Spain which boasts of its own characteristics that distinguish it from the rest of the country despite the fact that it is not, of itself, an independent political autonomy.

In the Middle Ages, it was the focal point of a rich and powerful state. Today, it comprises four provinces, Barcelona, Terragona, Lerida, and Gerona.

4. THE CATALAN COASTLINE

While Catalonia is merely about 25,000 square miles in area, it has an extremely varied surface: at the north, it is bounded by a section of the Pyrenees Mountain range while the interior is largely valleys; and in the southeast its coast-line runs for a distance of more than 300 miles along the Mediterranean Sea. The coastal Cataline mountains give the shore the appearance of a slope which is intermittently interrupted by a sudden sheer drop, especially in the eastern section, while the coastline becomes a virtual flatland as we proceed westward.

5. MONTSERRAT MOUNTAIN

Practically the entire central region of Catalonia is a topography of valleys which are quite narrow in the eastern sector, but which gradually widen and become more like plain flatlands toward the Catalonian boundary which runs along the Ebro River where we see lands that remind us vividly if the aid and parched earth of Castille.

Peculiar to the Catalan surface geography are the rocky and inaccessible mountain ranges such as the well-known Montserrat that suddenly shoots upward rfom the plain, with almost vertical drops.

6. THE COUNTRYSIDE OF THE TERRAGONA SECTOR

Traditionally, Catalonia's chief sources of revenue were fishing and coast-wise trade, while the central region was almost exclusively agricultural, thanks to the fertility of the soil which abounds in numerous Mediterranean-type, sub-tropical vegetation, among which olives and grapes predominate.

Along the Pyrenees, the humidity is quite dense, but the eastern sector demands continual irrigation, so that, even in ancient times, a recognition of this problem caused several enormous aqueducts to be constructed.

7. THIS IS THE FAMOUS ROMAN AQUEDUCT IN THE TARRAGONA REGION

We know scarcely anything about the races of people who dwelt in Catalonia from the dawn of history. We do know, however, that at one time, Greek and Phoenician colonies had been established there, which were later followed by the Carthaginians who remained settled there right up to the time that the Romans conquered and drove them out. The Romans did a thorough job of this particular colonial venture, showing their clear intention of remaining permanently. They brought in their own people to intensify their colonization, built harbors, cities, military fortresses, roads, and aqueducts.

8. AND HERE WE SEE THE VISIGOTHIC CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL AT TERRASA

As the central power of the Roman Empire began to crumble, almost all the provinces were repeatedly invaded by hostile enemy tribes which came swarming into the territory from central and northern Europe. One of these tribes, the Goths, took root in the Barcelona region and thus acquired the name Catalonia which stems from the words *Gota* and *lonia*, a descriptive suffix.

Despite the fact that the Goths were quite barbarous at the time of their invasion, they quickly acquired the practices of high Roman culture, which, grafted upon this young and fresh race, produced a quite original and unique art-form. Catalonia still preserves a number of outstanding examples of it because of their importance.

9. OF INTEREST IS THE CLOISTER AT THE CATHEDRAL OF TARRAGONA

After a period of splendor under the Goths, Catalonia plunged into an era of decadence and did not emerge from it until the

Arab invasion when the Pyrenees foothills became a Christian resistance center against the hordes of Islam. Beaten in warfare by the French under the leadership of Charles (the Hammer) Martel, the Arabs not only abandoned all thoughts of any further incursion, but also gave up a part of Spain, so that, as a result, Catalonia suddenly became part-and-parcel of the French-Christian Empire.

10. AND HERE WE SEE SOME OF THE DETAILS IN THE FORWARD ELEVATION OF THE TARRAGONA CATHEDRAL

Because of this planned historical accident, Catalonia, situated at the very frontiers of the immense Islamic Empire, found itself in a very privileged situation, becoming the line of communication between Christian Europe and the Arab world, with its wealth of new ideas and the Greco-Oriental cultural tradition. In short order, there came a cultural and economical revival, the development and growth of agriculture and commerce, and imposing religious structures soared throughout the land.

11. AND HERE IS A XIIth CENTURY ROMAN FRESCO

The zenith of Catalonian splendor was reached in the 10th and 11th Century period. The country swiftly derived enormous wealth through its widespread Mediterranean commerce. Agriculture flourished in the interior, thanks to the numerous monasteries which put the earth to work and yield all around them. Roman art flourished throughout Europe, and not only the monasteries, but also the wealthy parishes of Catalonia, openly welcomed Italian and French architects and artists.

12. CHRIST TAKEN DOWN FROM THE CROSS: XIVth CENTURY CATALONIAN ART

The foreign artists had brought their own cultural tradition with them, but once in Catalonia where another particular school of art was flourishing, they developed novel tendencies and created new ideas, which brought forth a singularly proper and truly Catalonian school of art into which the local artists quickly fell in line.

From the XIth to the XIVth Centuries, Catalonian art achieved its greatest heights, binding its own fame, above all, into the very celebrated Roman frescoes which adorned the walls of the interior of countless churches.

13. THE CATHEDRAL OF BARCELONA IS IN THE HEART OF THE CITY

And as Catalonia prospered, so did Barcelona give emphasis to its own importance as an economic and cultural center. Merely a second-class city up to the 11th Century, it now began to extend its own power.

Since the Count of Barcelona had married the daughter of the King of Aragon, the city now became, at least geographically, a part of this kingdom, although it did retain its sovereignty as an autonomous city-state. In fact, Barcelona became the Number One city of the realm, which was to conquer Sicily, Sardinia, and part of Greece, during the 13th and 14th Centuries.

14. HERE WE SEE A REPLICA OF COLUMBUS'S FLAGSHIP, ALSO AT BARCELONA

During the 15th Century, Barcelona was the most important city in Spain, and one of the main European trading centers. It was in the palace of the King of Aragon, in the very heart of medieval Barcelona, that Christopher Columbus, upon his return from America, placed the immense riches of the new world at the feet of the sovereign. From that moment, the Atlantic waterway routes acquired greater and greater importance, while the Mediterranean ports-of-call rapidly shrank in size, number, and importance.

15. THIS IS A VIEW OF THE PORT OF BARCELONA

The annexation of the entire territory of Catalonia to Spain, unified under the master-minding of Castille, was the trigger that launched Barcelona on the path of greatness: but now, the Catalonians would never forget that they had lost their independence and integrity, as well as their cultural autonomy; the city was repeatedly made to submit to capricious reprisals by the central power, and was not able to lift its head from the hammering until the 19th Century, when it began to develop industrially.

16. BUT BARCELONA HAS ITS PLAZA OF SPAIN, NEVERTHELESS

While the greater part of Spain remained bound to a traditional economic system and way of life which was backward in almost every sense, the close of the 19th Century witnessed a Barcelona re-born. Many factories sprang up which quickly marked the city as the heart of the entire peninsular economy. In logical order there followed an urban renewal, and a cultural revival patterned upon the European type. Quite naturally, it became singularly out-of-step with other Spanish cities.

17. AND HERE WE SEE THE NATIONAL PALACE AT BARCELONA

Thanks to its proximity to the Pyrenees which have a high hydro-electrical production potential, Catalonia is esteemed as the ideal industrial region of all Spain. Indeed, at the close of the 19th Century, a large number of industries settled there, especially the textile industry which developed to such an extent, that it ranked fourth in the general European picture. As a result, the city spread out, out of all proportion and became larger than even Madrid, itself, which did not recapture first-place until after the Civil War.

18. THIS IS THE EXPOSITION FOUNTAIN

In 1929, Barcelona organized an international exposition which drew the attention of the entire world. The national palace which we saw in the previous frame and which is now converted into the Museum of Art, was built, as well as the bewitching fountain of colors, and various other construction achievements.

Barcelona had reached the very splendor of better times, and about a year later became the capital of the independent Catalan Republic. But, alas, this was to be but only for a very brief period because, defeated in the Civil War, it became once again, subject to the central power.

19. WE VIEW THE VILLAGE OF CIUTADILLA

But simply because Barcelona is a vast city with a network of wide avenues perfectly designed as a checkerboard, let us not hasten to assume that all of Catalonia lives its life on its high plane.

As we leave the city and its immense industrial complex on its periphery in order to penetrate into the agricultural interior, we come across villages that were built in the Middle Ages, and have preserved not only the original homes that had been constructed, there and then, but also ,and quite often, the very tempo of living brought down through the ages from that early era.

20. THIS IS THE CATHEDRAL AT THE CENTER OF TARRAGONA

Even the cities of Catalonia which immediately follow Barcelona in importance such as Tarragona and Lerida, for ex-

ample, have quite a long way to go before reaching the life rhythm and the wealth of their Big Sister city.

Tarragona is a city with its own peculiar characteristics, with homes that line its narrow and winding streets, roosting like birds around the splendid Gothic cathedral which imperiously dominates the panorama of the entire city.

21. FISHERMEN AT WORK

As in the days of antiquity, so also today, fishing is one of the chief sources of national revenue. The Mediterranean infallibly provides enormous tonnages of sea-foods. Entire coastal villages live solely by fishing, and even in Barcelona, along the seashore, you often can see enormous nets spread out to dry, and the fishermen constantly at the task of mending them.

22. THE FISH ARE BROUGHT TO PORT

The daily arrival of the fishing barques is an event of great weight in the coastal villages. The women have waited in anxious expectation to launch immediately into the bargain-hunting.

Cooking along the seacoast is quite different from that in the inland where the mainstay is a diet of meat of some kind, and beans. At the seashore, fish is almost exclusively eaten, accompanied by rice that has been prepared with olive oil. The famous *paella* consists of these three basic ingredients which are prepared in a thousand different ways, with leafy green vegetables in season and an endless variety of spices, principally *saffron* which causes white rice to turn yellow, as many of us have seen and eaten. The aroma and taste are delightful, not to mention the life-giving nourishment afforded by the proteins and natural vitamins and chemicals given by these fruits-of-the-sea.

23. A TRADITIONAL METHOD OF IRRIGATION

As we have noted before, the chief farming problem in Catalonia is irrigation, for while there is abundant rain in the area of the Pyrenees, the climate is very warm and dry in the western plain. Great irrigation projects are practically non-existent, so that each farmer meets his needs from wells around which a donkey plods continuously, setting a link-chain in motion with numerous empty buckets that reach the surface filled with water.

24. THE "BARBERING" OF A MULE

The donkeys, but more especially, the mules of Catalonia are internationally famous for their resistence to hard labor. They are

very well-cared-for; just before summer, the upper half of the animal's body is sheared, but the job on the whole frame is not completed until considerably later, against the excessive heat. This "mule-tonsure" is a highly specialized occupation for which some men are particularly trained and skilled. In fact, they take such pride in their work, considering it an art. Therefore, they often leave a full tuft of hair, here and there, for decorative purpose.

25. A FLOCK OF SHEEP IN CATALONIA

The raising of live-stock is of some relative importance in the Catalan economy since, because of the nature of the soil and extremely poor pasture-lands, it must be conducted on an extended scale. Most of the sheep-herds head for the foothills and mountains, producing a part, even though a small one, of the great quantity of raw material (wool) which keeps the local textile plants going.

26. THIS IS A NEW CEMENT-FACTORY NEAR BARCELONA

Besides spilling blood all over Spain, the Civil War of 1936, also upset its economy which came to practically a stand-still for more than 10 years. It is only recently that the country has begun to lift its head from economic, social, and political distress and embarked upon a new era of growth and expansion.

Catalonia was assured a large measure of this growth, since it already possessed the factories and mills, and well as the qualified skilled work force; today, even more factories are going up, giving added proof that the *Catalonos* are lively-spirited, rich in the adventure of independent enterprise, and a people of rare practical common-sense.

27. THE NEW HISPANO-OLIVETTI PLANT IN BARCELONA

The present favorable economic climate of Spain is due largely to the influx of foreign capital investments which are most welcome. Italy, for one, maintains fair and equitable trade balances with Spain, with the result that many Italian blue chip industries such as Olivetti and Fiat have built plants there. The United States, too, has a considerable number of American enterprises there. Spain is awakening from a long, deep slumber, moving gradually, but certainly.

28. AND HERE WE SEE THE MONASTERY OF MONTSERRAT

As is all of Spain, so also is Catalonia, devoutly Catholic, and humbly boastful of its many centers of interest to pilgrims.

The most celebrated of them is this Monastery of Montserrat; built in the Middle Ages, it immediately won fame all over Europe and later also in America. Despite its almost inaccessible position on a tiny ledge of mountain-top which seems to be suspended from, and supported by, steep and rocky mountains, it has often been destroyed, but it was always promptly restored and rebuilt.

29. PILGRIMS AT THE MONTSERRAT MONASTERY

Today, the monastery works efficiently and operates in full swing. Besides its enormous church, the installation also includes a center for study for monks, a School of Sacred Chant, various museums, a number of hotels and sleeping-quarters to shelter the thousands of pilgrims that stream in continuously, some for a few hours, some for several days, and others for weeks.

30. A PASSION-PLAY PERFORMANCE

The theatrical performance of the Passion of Christ is very popular throughout Catalonia. It is executed by amateur actors who are selected one year in advance of the scheduled performance. In that twelve month period of preparation, they read countless books on the subject in an effort to become actually immersed in the roles assigned to them. Many, many small cities produce the performance, and the theaters are always crowded to the rafters with people who stream in from every corner of the country.

31. IN THE RAMBLA OF BARCELONA

The most famous street in Catalonia and perhaps in all of Spain, is the *Rambla* of Barcelona, which cuts through the heart of the old city, connecting the harbor with the center of the modern part of the city. The Rambla is a long, tree lined avenue, the center reserved for pedestrians and the length of which is lined with countless flower-beds.

32. THE LITTLE FLOWER-BEDS IN THE RAMBLA

The Rambla is always crowded with people out for a stroll, as though through an immense city-hall, but the peak hour is always on Sunday mornings, when it seems that the whole city has turned out to be there. Many vendors and peddlers gravitate to the spot, setting up all kinds of little displays with merchandise and flower-baskets for sale, including even a wide variety of small pet-animals.

33. FEAST OF THE ROSES

April 23rd is the Feast of St. George, patron of the city of

Barcelona. A day is celebrated in a number of varied activities, but the most charming and heart-felt is the Feast of the Roses: on that day, everyone is expected to buy a gift-rose for a dearly-beloved person. The city becomes filled with an enormous number of women who peddle flowers, and men and women of every social station can be seen strolling along every street, with a rose-in-hand.

34. A BULL-FIGHT IN BARCELONA

The *corrida* is the most typical form of Spanish entertainment, considered not only as a recreation performance or a sport, but also as the most characteristic expression of the lives of the Spanish people. Briefly, it is a battle between the man and the bull, which lasts about 20 minutes with the slaying of the bull, except in those very rare cases when the torero dies under the horn-thrusts of the bull.

35. THE FINAL PHASE OF A CORRIDA

The corrida is regulated by strict rules: as the spectacle opens, the *picadores* enter the ring, mounted on horseback and whose job it is to strike the bull with a long prod, or spear; next on the scene come the *bandilleros* with the assignment of thrusting short, sharp darts into the bull's neck working as closely as possible to the animal, and finally, the *matador*, who is charged with slaying the bull at swordspoint, after having put it through various paces in order to study and evaluate his movements and reactions.

36. BOYS AT PLAY, LEARNING TO BE BULL-FIGHTERS

The passion for bull-fighting is widespread in Spain, even in a large and modern city like Barcelona ,where hundreds of boys dream of becoming toreros, and they play it out in their boyhood games. One holds a pair of horns in his hand and the other a red cape, and then the "corrida" is on, with the precision and exact timing of a dance.

37. A CERAMICS (POTTERY) PEDDLER

Despite Catalonia's recent industrial growth, hand-craftsmanship continues to flourish, and even in Barcelona, one can still see itinerant peddlers who sell their artifacts. Local pottery is highly-prized, especially in the village of the interior where it continues in use.

38. THE SARDANA DANCE

When we think of Spanish dancing, the dances of Andalusia usually come into mind, fiery and bursting with passion. Never-

theless, the traditional and typical Catalonian dance is the *Sardana*, regularly paced, tranquilly relaxed, and classical. Its origin is traced back to the ancient Greeks, who at one time had colonized the Catalonian seacoast. The dance of today has undergone no change since those times: the participants form a circle, barely touching each other's fingertips, while dancing in rhythm and at measured pace, without ever lifting the feet off the floor or stepping out of line even a fraction of an inch. Even today, the *sardana* is widely popular and is most often danced in the cities and villages of Catalonia on Sundays.

39. THE END.