

# THE SPANISH CONTRIBUTION TO THE INTERNATIONAL GEOGRAPHICAL UNION

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## 1. THE OFFICIAL SPANISH REPRESENTATION AT THE IGU

When the International Geographical Union was founded under the protection of the International Council of Scientific Unions in July 1922, among the participants was a Spanish delegation which requested, through the Royal Geographical Society of Madrid, the creation of a Committee which might represent Spain at the recently established Union. The Spanish Committee of the International Geographical Union was consequently established by Royal Decree in 1922 at the request of the Royal Geographical Society of Madrid, now known as the Real Sociedad Geográfica (RSG), and which has exercised the role of Spanish representative up to the present day. The consecutive Presidents and Secretaries of the RSG have simultaneously held the position of President and Secretary of the Spanish Committee (until 1980 the Spanish National Committee) and the members of its Board of Directors have similarly been entitled to hold positions on the Committee. This has meant that for many years the Spanish representatives at the Union were largely cartographers, engineers, and astronomers and that until recently no geographer had served on the Committee. Nevertheless, this has not stopped a variety of geographers from being representatives at the General Assemblies and meetings, albeit in most cases they were not Committee members.

Recent agreements between the RSG and the Asociación de Geógrafos Españoles (AGE - Association of Spanish Geographers), the latter having requested a participation on the Spanish Committee for many years, has led to the sharing of Spanish representation between both bodies together with the participation of members from other Geographic and Cartographical Institutions. (For more details see the article on the AGE contributed by J. Gómez-Mendoza within this issue).

## 2. THE SPANISH PRESENCE AT CONGRESSES AND CONFERENCES

To state the exact number of Spanish geographers who have attended International Congresses and Regional Conferences of the IGU would be practically impossible; given that, while the proceedings usually contain the number of registered participants, this does not accurately reflect the actual attendance. Various reasons exist for registering - frequent among which is the desire merely to receive the proceedings and other material published at the gathering. This said, there is evidence of the participation of Spaniards at IGU Congresses since the very first one held in Cairo in 1924. However, not until the Lisbon Congress (the first to be held after the Second World War) did Spanish participation increase and remain relatively high, albeit with marked fluctuations in the number of participants according to the place in which it was held. Thus, what was a relatively numerous participation in Lisbon in 1949, was considerably reduced in Washington in 1952. In Rio de Janeiro numbers rose once more, but attendance at the congresses in Delhi and Montreal was sparse.

Perhaps not until 1976, at the Moscow Congress, did the number of Spanish participants acquire any real importance (according to the proceedings of the Congress there were 29 Spaniards, of whom 10 had participated in the Group and Commission symposiums). The growth in numbers at this Congress was due, no doubt, to the steady increase in the number of geography lecturers within the Spanish university since the end of the sixties and, more especially, from the beginning of the seventies. At recent congresses (and also at Regional Conferences) the number of Spanish participants has once more been dependent on the place at which it has been held. Thus, in Tokyo in 1980 the participation was noticeably reduced compared to that in Moscow. Paris has been the Congress which has attracted the greatest number of Spanish geographers to date, reflecting no doubt the proximity of the city and the use of French as the official language at most of the sessions (which is by no means common at IGU Congresses). Only a few Spanish geographers attended the Sydney Congress in 1988, but the number was much higher at the latest Congress in Washington in 1992.

## 3. PARTICIPATION IN COMMISSIONS AND STUDY GROUPS

Spanish participation in IGU studies through its Commissions and Groups occurred only slowly, though there has been an increase since the end of the seventies so that today a large number of Spanish geographers are active in this work. However, very few have held important posts in Groups or Commissions and only one Spaniard in the history of the Union has been Vice-President on the Executive Committee.

The following Spanish geographers have been corresponding members of commissions and groups since the 1950s: A. Melón, J. M. Casas-Torres, M. Ferrer, A. Floristán, L. García-Sáinz, Hernández-Pacheco, A. Higuera, L. Pérez-Pardo, F. Vázquez-Maure, J. Vilà-Valentí, while others, such as M. de Terán, have collaborated on an occasional basis in some of the IGU activities. However, only two of these, F. Vázquez-Maure and J. Vilà-Valentí, have participated regularly and held posts of responsibility on Commissions and Groups. The importance of their contributions to the IGU are detailed below.

Dr. F. Vázquez-Maure, Geographical Engineer, was a regular attender of IGU Congresses and Conferences from the 1950s onwards. After 1976, his appointment as Secretary General of the RSG automatically conferred on him the post of Secretary of the Spanish

Committee of the IGU. His almost uninterrupted presence on IGU Groups and Commissions was usually in connection with his work for the International Cartographic Association (ICA) of whose Spanish Committee he became Secretary in 1959. He was also a member of the ICA's Executive Committee and Full Member of the Commissions, History of Cartography and National Atlases (contributing to the publication of the National Atlas of Spain) and President of the joint IGU and ICA Group, the Environmental Atlas, 1976-1980 (meeting in Santiago de Compostela, April 1979) and 1980-1984, as well as Corresponding Member for other Groups and Commissions. In 1974, Professor Vázquez-Maure, together with R. Núñez de las Cuevas (whose work for the ICA has been of no lesser importance) organized the VII ICA Technical Conference in Madrid. Similarly, he worked with M. de Terán on the project of publishing the Spanish version of the International Geographic Terminology, organizing a further meeting in Madrid. His untimely death in 1982, interrupted this most valuable contribution to the work of both the IGU and the ICA by one of the persons who has, without a shadow of doubt, represented Spanish geography in the most dedicated and effective of manners within both international bodies.

Professor J. Vilà Valentí also began his participation at meetings and congresses at the end of the 1950s, becoming Secretary of the Commission for the Teaching of Geography in 1966, the year in which the joint IGU-UNESCO project for the preparation of a Latin America manual («Geografía en América Latina», Ed. Teide/UNESCO, Barcelona, 1975) was initiated. Between 1968 and 1972 he was Secretary of the Commission, Geographical Education, which replaced the former Commission. Between 1972 and 1976 he continued as a Full Member of this Commission, organizing an Executive meeting in Barcelona in May 1975, he was reelected for the period 1976 to 1980, organizing a further meeting in Ibiza in September 1977. In this latter stage he was a Full Member of the Commission, History of Geographic Thought of which he had been a Corresponding Member since 1972. In 1980 J. Vilà Valentí became the first - and to date only, Spanish Vice-president of the IGU. He was elected for a first term at the Tokyo Assembly (August 1980) and reelected in Paris (August 1984). During his second mandate he organized the Regional Conference on Mediterranean Countries in Barcelona (August 1986).

The organization of this Conference in Spain led to a marked increase in the presence of Spanish geographers on commissions and groups both as Corresponding Members as well as Full Members, some of whom have later gone on to hold positions of greater responsibility. The following is a list of those who have served in such a way since the Paris Congress:

#### **Period 1984-88**

B. Barceló, Commission: Geographical Monitoring and Forecasting, Full Member.

R. Majoral, Study Group: Development in Highlands and High-latitude zones, Full Member.

R. Núñez de las Cuevas, Working Group UGI/ACI: Environmental Atlases, Full Member.

M. Valenzuela, Working Group: Great Metropolitan Cities, Full Member.

## Period 1988-92

B. Barceló, Commission: Geographical Monitoring and Forecasting, Full Member.

C. Faus, Commission: Population Geography, Miembro Titular.

M. D. García-Ramón, Study Group: Gender and Geography, Secretary. R. Majoral, Commission: Changing Rural Systems, Full Member.

M. A. Marqués, Commission: Coastal Environment, Full Member.

M. Sala, Commission : Measurements, Theory and Application in Geomorphology (COMTAG), Full Member.

## Period 1992-96

A. Calvo-Cases, Commission: Geomorphological Response to Environmental Change (GERTEG), Full Member.

M. García-Ramón, Commission: Gender and Geography, Secretary.

R. Majoral, Study Group: Development Issues in Marginal Regions, President.

M. Sala: Study Group Erosion in Regions of Mediterranean Climate, President.

However, the presence of Spanish geographers, both in the work of the Commissions and Groups as well as at the Congresses and Regional Conferences is relatively small, given that the number of teachers in secondary and tertiary education as well as professional geographers working in other fields is currently very high in Spain.

## 4. SPANISH CONTRIBUTIONS AT INTERNATIONAL CONGRESSES

Similarly, with respect to the papers delivered at the IGU Congresses and Conferences the information gathered within the respective proceedings is not altogether reliable given that, as is well known, this information includes all the summaries sent even if it later transpires that the paper is not given (the papers themselves are not published by the organizers of the Congress). The number of papers announced beforehand is always greater than those finally given and this discrepancy in numbers has grown at recent Congresses. Thus, according to the Proceedings of the XVI Congress in Lisbon (1949) 20 papers were given by Spanish geographers; compared with only 3 in Washington (1952), 18 in Rio de Janeiro (1956); and 8 in Stockholm.

For the first time, in 1964, at the XX Congress of the IGU held in London, Spanish geographers, through the Instituto Elcano de Geografía del Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas (CSIC) and the Instituto de Estudios Pirenaicos, presented a special contribution to an international congress. After 1964, with the exception of the Canadian Congress in 1968, such a contribution has been made at each subsequent Congress; the Spanish Contribution in 1968 was published by the CSIC, while between 1976 and 1988 the RSG was responsible for its publication. The publication has always included a collection of papers regardless of whether they are given at the respective Congresses by their authors:

AA.VV. (1964): *Aportación Española al XX Congreso Internacional (Reino Unido, 1964)*, Madrid/Zaragoza/Barcelona, Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas, Instituto Elcano de Geografía, Instituto de Estudios Pirenaicos, 299 pp. 27 contributions.

AA.VV. (1969): *Aportación Española al XXI Congreso Geográfico Internacional (India, 1968)*, Madrid/Zaragoza/Barcelona, Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas, Patronato «Alonso Herrera», Instituto de Geografía Aplicada, 1969, 263 pp. 29 contributions.

AA.VV. (1978): *Aportación Española del al XXII Congreso Internacional de Geografía (Moscú 1976)*, vol. CXII del Boletín de la Real Sociedad Geográfica, Madrid.

AA.VV. (1982): *Aportación Española al XXIV Congreso Geográfico Internacional (Japón 1980)*, Real Sociedad Geográfica, Madrid, 1982.

AA.VV. (1984): *Aportación española al XXV Congreso Geográfico Internacional (París-Alpes, 1984)*, Madrid, Real Sociedad Geográfica, 23 contributions.

AA.VV. (1988): *Aportación Española al XXVI Congreso Geográfico Internacional (Sydney, Australia, agosto 1988)*, Madrid, Real Sociedad Geográfica, 1988, 13 contributions.

On the occasion of the XXVIII Congress in Washington 1992, the RSG and the AGE (the two geographical bodies representing the whole of Spain) joined forces and presented a combined contribution. The publication sought, for the first time, to outline to the international community of geographers the evolution over the previous two decades, and the situation in 1990, of Spanish Geography.

AA.VV. (1992): *La Geografía en España (1970-1990. Aportación Española al XXVII Congreso de la Unión Geográfica Internacional*, Washington, Real Sociedad Geográfica/Asociación de Geógrafos Españoles, 326 pp., 38 contributions.

## 5. MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES IN SPAIN

### A) The Regional Conference on Mediterranean Countries

The most important IGU event to be celebrated in Spain was the Regional Conference on Mediterranean Countries, the main session of which was held in Barcelona, between 7th and 13th August 1986, preceded by the gathering in 19 Spanish cities of 31 of the then existing Commissions and Groups. The Conference was organised by a committee presided over by Professor J. Vilà Valentí, and attracted more than 1000 participants from more than 55 countries who presented some 650 papers at the Commission and Group meetings, while some 350 people attended the Main Session in Barcelona where some 70 papers were read.

Commissions:	Organiser	Participants/Papers
C1. Geographical Education (Barcelona)	A. Hernando	47/34
C3. Geographical Monitoring and Forecasting (Barcelona)	C. Carreras	10/7
C4. Measurement, Theory and Applica in Geomorphology (Barcelona)	M. Sala	50/39
C5. Mountain Geocology (Jaca, Huesca)	J. Puigdefábregas	46/21
C6. Population Geography (Zaragoza)	A. Higuera	53/13
C7. Urban Systems in Transition (Pamplona)	M. Ferrer	34/15
C8. Changing rural systems (Granada)	M. Sáenz-Lorite/ R. Majoral	45/26
C9. Coastal Environment (Barcelona)	M.A. Marqués	34/24
C10. Industrial Change (Chinchón, Madrid)	J. Bosque-Maurel	50/29
C11. International Division of Labour and Reg. Development (Zaragoza)	V. Bielza de Ory	14/8
C13. Geography of Tourism and Leisure (Palma de Mallorca)	B. Barceló	60/32
C14. Comparative Research in Food Systems of the World (Granada)	M. Sáez-Lorite	7/6
<b>Working Groups</b>		
W1. Resource Management in Drylands (Málaga)	E. García-Manrique	16/8
W2. Cartography of the Dynamic Environment (Madrid)	R. Núñez de las Cuevas	25/13
W4. Mathematical Models (Madrid)	J. Bosque Sendra	72/60
W6. Landscape Synthesis (Barcelona)	M. de Bolós	40/24
W7. Great Metropolitan Cities (Madrid)	M. Valenzuela	40/30
W8. History of Geographical Thought (Bellaterra, Barcelona)	M.D. García-Ramón	35/22
W9. Geomorphological Survey and Mapping (Zaragoza/Barcelona)	J.L. Peña/M.Sala	25/13

W11. Geography of Transport (León)	L. López-Trigal	37/20
W12. Dynamics of Land Use Systems (Granada)	A. Cohen	
W13. Urbanization in Developing Countries (Madrid)	A. García-Ballesteros	26/17
W15. Geomorphology of Rivers and Coastal Plains (Sevilla)		16/05

#### Study Groups

S1. Climatic Change (Madrid)	A. López Gómez	28/15
S2. Topoclimatological Investigation and Mapping (Barcelona)	F.J. Martín Vide	18/15
S3. World Political Map (Donostia)	F.J. Gómez-Piñeiro	30/21
S4. Development in Highlands and High-latitude Zones (Granada)	M. Sáez-Lorite/ R. Majoral	23/20
S5. Geography and Public Administration (Barcelona)	J. Borja/J.A. Plana	20/13
S7. Man's Impact on karst (Palma de Mallorca)	P.A. Ripoll	13/15
S8. Geography of Commercial Activities (Barcelona)	L. Casassas	40/31
S9. Geograpghy of Telecommunication and Communication (Sevilla)	J.L. Suárez de Vivero	11/9
S11. Environmental Perception in Resource Management (Alcalá de Henares)	M. Molina	14/9

The Groups, Famine and Food Crisis Menafement (S6); Geography of Health (W16) and Tropical Climatology and Human Settlements (W5), met during the Main Session of the Conference in Barcelona.

Following the Main Session in Barcelona, the Organizing Committee published the *Abstracts of the Papers* as well as a *Guide to the field excursions* (Departament de Geografia, Universitat de Barcelona, 1986) undertaken after the Conference. Similarly special publications were edited of some of the symposiums and round tables.

Following the Commission and Group meetings, most published abstracts and guides to field excursions, while in addition some published proceedings, containing the papers, in book form or in special editions of a variety of journals. This work was undertaken either by the Spanish organizers of the meetings or the Presidents and full members of the various Commissions and Groups:

BOLOS, M. (1986): *Landscape Synthesis*, Barcelona, Departament de Geografia, Universitat de Barcelona.

BOURNE, L.S., SINCLAIR, R., FERRER, M. & SAENZ D'ENTREMONT, A., Eds. (1990): *The Changing Geography of Urban Systems: Perspectives on the Developman and Developing Worlds*, Pamplona, Universidad de Navarra.

CASASSAS, L. & METTON, A., Eds. (1987): *Commercial change/Le changement commercial, Papers from the International Symposium, Barcelona, 1986*. Barcelona, Institut d'Estudis Catalans.

DRAKAKIS-SMITH, E. Ed., (1990): *Economic Growth and Urbanization in Developing Areas*, Proceedings of Conference of the Working Group on Urbanization, Madrid 1986. Roulledge and Kegan, 1990.

FAUS, C. and HIGUERAS, A. (1992): *Rural Depopulation*. Zaragoza: Depto. de Geografía y Ordenación del Territorio. Universidad de Zaragoza.

HERNANDO, A, Ed. (1986): *Geographical Education and Society*. IGU Commission on Geographical Education. Barcelona, Departament de Geografia, Universitat de Barcelona.

JYVALA, K. & KOUTANIEMI, L. Eds. (1987): *Farming and Rural Settlement in Highlands and High-Latitude Zones*. Proceedings of a Symposium held in Granada, Spain, August 1986. *Nordia* 21 (1).

LÓPEZ-GÓMEZ, J. and LÓPEZ GÓMEZ, A. Eds. (1986): *Cambios Recientes en Climas Mediterráneos*, Madrid, Instituto Juan Sebastián Elcano, C.S.I.C.

GONZÁLEZ, M.J.; GONZÁLEZ L. A. & LÓPEZ TRIGAL, L. (1986): *Actas de la Reunión del Grupo de Trabajo Geografía del Transporte*, León Junta de Castilla León/ Universidad de León.

RIPOLL, P. A. (1987): *Proceedings of the Palma de Mallorca meeting*, ENDINGS, núm. 13. Palma de Mallorca.

SALA, M., PEÑA MONNE, J.L and CALVET, J. Eds. (1986): *Applied Geomorphology and Long-term landform evolution*, IGU Working Group on Geomorphological Survey and Mapping, 1986, Meeting (Spain), Departamento de Geografía, Universidad de Barcelona.

SALA, M. & IMESON, A., Eds. (1988): *Geomorphic Processes. Vol. I: Hillslope Processes*, Catena supplement 12, (Selection of papers of COMTAG Meeting during the IGU Regional Conference in Barcelona).

SALA, M. & HARVEY A., Eds. (1988): *Geomorphic Processes. Vol. II: Geomorphic Systems*. Catena supplement 13 (Selection of papers of COMTAG Meeting during the IGU Regional Conference in Barcelona).

AA.VV. (1987): *Regional Government and Spain*, special issue of *Government and Policy*, vol. 5, núm. 3.

AA.VV. (1987): *Papers from Granada (Spain) Meeting*, en *Rural Systems*, vol. V, núms. 1-4.

The Regional Conference also inspired special issues of three Catalan geographic journals which outlined the activities which had taken place during the Conference, the state of the art of Geography in Catalonia at that time, various aspects of Catalan Geography, various bibliographies and a range of information regarding the publishers of geographical works:



*Revista de Geografia*, del Departamento de Geografía de la Universidad de Barcelona, vol. XX, enero-diciembre 1986.

*Treballs de la Societat Catalana de Geografia. Número especial dedicat a la Conferència Regional de la UGI sobre Països Mediterrànis*, Barcelona, SCG, agost-setembre 1986.

*Revista Catalana de Geografia. Número especial dedicat a la Conferència Regional sobre Països Mediterrànis (UGI)*, del Institut Cartogràfic de Catalunya, Barcelona, núm. 3, setembre, 1986.

Similarly, the AGE published a special Conference Bulletin containing information about the Association itself and the geographical research departments and institutes (members, lines of research, theses, publications, etc.) in Spain at that time:

*Boletín de la Asociación de Geógrafos Españoles. Estado actual de la Geografía española*, Tarragona, vol. 4, 1986.

Moreover, both before and after the Conference a large number of reviews and summaries of the activities which were to take place, or which had already taken place, were published in many Spanish journals:

MAJORAL, R. (1984): Conferencia Regional de la Unión Geográfica Internacional sobre Países Mediterráneos, España, 1986, *Boletín de la Asociación de Geógrafos Españoles*, 2 época, vol. 1, pp. 109-110, Tarragona.

COMISIÓN ORGANIZADORA (1984-85): «El próximo Congreso de la UGI sobre Países Mediterráneos (VIII-IX, 1986)», *Revista de Geografía*, vol. XVIII, pp. 183-186, y vol. XIX, pp. 107-109.

MAJORAL, R. (1985): «La Conferencia regional de la Unión Geográfica Internacional de 1986», *Estudios geográficos*, vol. 182-183, pp. 211-219, Madrid.

CARRERAS, C. y MARTÍN VIDE, J. (1986): «La Conferencia Regional de la UGI sobre Países Mediterráneos», *Revista de Geografía*, vol. XX, pp. 25-27.

MAJORAL, R. (1986): «Activitats de la Unió Geogràfica Internacional a Barcelona, amb motiu de la Conferència Regional sobre països Mediterranis», *Treballs de la Societat Catalana de Geografia*, vol. 7, pp. 141-148, Barcelona.

COMISIÓN ORGANIZADORA (1987-88): «Celebración de la Conferencia Regional de la UGI sobre Países Mediterráneos (VIII-IX, 1986)», *Revista de Geografía*, vol. XXI-XXII, pp. 95-102.

## **B) Other Commission and Group meetings**

Since the mid-70s and hence before the Regional Conference held in Barcelona, several Groups and Commissions had met in Spain at plenary meetings or at Executive meetings.

In April 1975, Professor J. Vilà Valentí organized a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Commission of Educational Geography in Barcelona and a second in September 1977 in Ibiza.

Similarly, in 1977 Professor Vázquez-Maure organized a meeting in Madrid of the IGU/ICA Group on the Environmental Atlas, where the preparation of a first set of Regional

Atlases was discussed. In 1979 a further meeting was organized in Santiago de Compostela of the Group over which he presided at that time. Vilà Valentí and Vazquez Maure also organized a meeting of the latter's group in Barcelona.

In 1983, a Subcommission of the Rural Development Commission for the study of Mountain and High-Latitude Zones met in Barcelona and in the Pyrenees at a seminar organized by R. Majoral and F. López and which was attended by 45 people. All the papers given at this meeting were subsequently published:

MAJORAL, R. & LÓPEZ, F. (1984): *Rural life and the exploitation of natural resources in Highlands and High-latitude zones*. Proceedings of a Symposium held June 27-July 2 1983, in Barcelona-Pyrenees, Department of Geography, University of Barcelona, Barcelona.

However, more recently and thanks, no doubt, to the growing representation of Spanish geographers in Commissions and Groups following the Regional Conference in Barcelona, the number of meetings held in Spain has increased.

The Geographical Commission of Commercial Activities met in Madrid, in September 1990 to discuss the subject of Superstores. 50 people attended.

The Geographical Commission of Public Administration met in Sitges, Barcelona in April 1991 to discuss Decentralization and Alternatives to the Urban-Rural pattern. The meeting was supported by the UN and brought together 24 people.

The Commission of Marine Geography met in La Rábida (Huelva), in May 1991, where the subject for discussion was entitled: Ocean Change: Management Models and Environment, at a symposium organized by J.L. Suarez de Vivero. It was attended by 40 people and the proceedings were published as:

SUÁREZ DE VIVERO, J.L. (1992): *The ocean change: management patterns and the environment*, Departamento de Geografía Humana, Universidad de Sevilla.

In September 1995, the Commission on Environmental Change in Karst Areas met in Soller, Mallorca at a meeting organized by A. Ginés and J.J. Fornos of the Department of Earth Sciences to discuss Karrean Landforms.

Finally, also in September 1995, the Commission, World Political Map, held a meeting on the island of Minorca in the Balearics, jointly organized by the Commission Française de Géographie Politique discussing island life: «The geopolitics of European and world islands».

## **6. DISSEMINATION AND REVIEWS OF MEETINGS, CONFERENCES AND CONGRESSES**

The information sheet of the RSG (founded and largely written by Professor Vázquez-Maure until his death), as well as the Newsletter -Noticias Geográficas- of the AGE, regularly report the holding of IGU Congresses and Regional Conferences, in addition to Commission and Working Group meetings, but above all those with Spanish representation.

The membership of or simple attendance at meetings of Groups, Commissions, Regional Conferences and International Congresses by a growing number of Spanish Geographers has

also given rise, over recent decades, to the dissemination of the work of these bodies in a considerable quantity of reviews and summaries, in a wide range of Spanish geographic journals. In the reviews it is possible to trace the presence and contribution of Spanish geography to the work of the IGU. This contribution is included below in chronological order:

MELÓN, A. (1949): El XVI Congreso Internacional de Geografía, *Estudios Geográficos*, núm. 36, pp. 529-544.

CASAS TORRES, J.M. (1953): La VIII Asamblea General de la UGI y el XVII Congreso Geográfico Internacional, *Estudios Geográficos*, núm. 51, pp. 271-291.

VILÁ VALENTÍ, J. (1957-58): XVIII Congreso Internacional de Geografía, en *Geographica*, IV-V, 1957-1958, pp. 103-109.

— (1960): La aportación española al XVIII Congreso Internacional de Geografía, en *Geographica*, VII, 1960, pp. 98-99.

— (1965): Symposium sobre enseñanza de la Geografía, *Estudios Geográficos*, n. 101, pp. 573-574.

— (1965): Comisión de Tipología Agrícola y Comité para un Glosario Internacional de Paisajes Agrícolas, *Estudios Geográficos*, n. 101, pp. 575-576.

— (1967): La I Conferencia Regional Latinoamericana (México, agosto de 1966), *Revista de Geografía*, vol. I, pp. 70-73.

— (1968): Dos Congresos latinoamericanos de interés geográfico, *Revista de Geografía*, vol. II, pp. 66-70.

VÁZQUEZ MAURE, F. (1969). Congresos y asambleas geográficos y cartográficos celebrados en Nueva Delhi, *Revista de Geografía*, vol. III, pp. 130-139.

VV.AA. (1969): Las comunicaciones presentadas al XXI Congreso Geográfico Internacional. Nueva Delhi, 1968, *Revista de Geografía*, vol. III, pp. 140-144.

BROUILLETTE, B. y VILÁ-VALENTÍ, J. (1971): Las comisiones «La Enseñanza de la Geografía» y la «Geografía en la educación» de la Unión Geográfica Internacional, *Revista de Geografía*, vol. IV, pp.85 -107.

SALA, M. (1977): Simposium acerca de procesos geomorfológicos actuales, *Revista de Geografía*, vol. XI, pp. 109-110.

VILÁ-VALENTÍ, J. (1977): Reunión de la Comisión «Geografía y Educación» de la UGI, *Revista de Geografía*, vol. XI, pp. 117-118.

MAJORAL, R. (1980): El XIV Congreso Internacional de Geografía y la XV Asamblea General de la Unión Geográfica Internacional, Tokio, 1980, *Revista de Geografía*, vol. XIV, núm. 1, pp. 115-120, Barcelona.

SALA, M. y SALVADOR, F. (1980): Dos reuniones de la Comisión de la UGI «Experimentos de campo en Geomorfología» (oct. 1978; sept. 1979), *Revista de Geografía*, vol. XIV, pp. 96-103.

SALA, M. (1980): Reunión de la Comisión de la UGI «Investigación y Cartografía geomorfológica» (sept. 1979) *Revista de Geografía*, vol. XIV, pp. 104-106.

VILÁ VALENTÍ, J. (1980): Las Comisiones y los Grupos de Trabajo actuales de la UGI (1980-1984), *Revista de Geografía*, vol. XIV, pp.121-124

MAJORAL, R.: Reunión de las Comisiones sobre Desarrollo rural y Productividad agrícola y reservas de alimentos en el mundo de la Unión Geográfica Internacional, Nagano,

Japón, agosto de 1980, *Revista de Geografía*, vol. XV, pp. 105-110.

HERNANDO, A. (1984): La investigación en educación a través del 25 Congreso de la Unión Geográfica Internacional, *Revista de Geografía*, vol. XVIII, pp. 154-170.

JARDI, M. (1984): Reunión del Grupo de Trabajo de la UGI «Geomorfología fluvial y llanuras costeras (diciembre 1983)», *Revista de Geografía*, vol. XVIII, pp. 152-153.

MAJORAL, R. (1984): Desarrollo rural en áreas de montaña y altas latitudes (Actividades desarrolladas por la Subcomisión de la UGI para el Desarrollo Rural en Áreas de Montaña y Altas latitudes entre 1980 y 1983), *Pirineos*, vol. 121, pp. 81-90.

— (1984): Actividades de la Comisión para el Desarrollo rural de la Unión Geográfica Internacional, *Boletín de la Asociación de Geógrafos Españoles*, vol. 1, pp. 93-101.

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## CONCLUSION

In 1953, Casas Torres felt fit to write «As painful as it might be to say so it needs to be recognised that at the Washington Congress, Spain's role bore little relationship to the importance Geography has acquired in our country. It should come as no surprise to anybody that Spain cannot boast a Vice-President at the IGU nor for that matter Commission members». In the more than 40 years since these words were written, Spanish participation has increased and our Geographers now hold a variety of posts within the IGU. Yet given the present number of Spanish geographers the relative increase is not as significant as the actual figures suggest. But recent (Prague 1994) and forthcoming events (The Hague 1996, Lisbon 1998) as well as the Regional Conference in Cuba in 1995, have encouraged and will encourage the participation of Spanish geographers at the meetings of the International Geographical Union.

Undoubtedly, the ever-growing predominance of English as the language of use in all IGU Congresses and meetings has had a negative effect on the attendance of the Spanish, who until only recently studied French as a second language in secondary education. English has now replaced French in Spanish schools as the second language and this has no doubt helped in the growing presence of Spanish geographers in the work of the IGU. However, this presence, as well as that of geographers in Latin America would increase further, should Castilian be adopted as an official language of the IGU as was requested publicly for the first time during the closing session of the Regional Conference in Havana in 1995. We trust we shall not have to wait to long to see its introduction.