



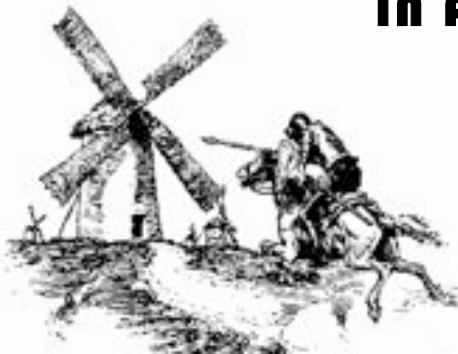
House of Spain/Casa de España
San Diego

Boletín

Bulletin 366

April 2014

IN A PLACE OF LA MANCHA



Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra is considered one of the greatest figures of Spanish literature and universally known for having written *Don Quijote of La Mancha*. Many critics have described this work as the first modern novel and one of the best of world literature, in addition to being the most published and translated book of history, surpassed only by the *Bible*. He has been given the nickname "Prince of Wits".

FROM THE PRESIDENT

THE ROLE OF SPAIN IN AMERICA



"If Spain had not existed four-hundred years ago, the United States would not exist today...Because I think that every young American-Saxon loves justice and admires heroism as much as I do, I have decided to write this book. The reason why we have not done justice to the Spanish explorers is simply because we were not properly informed. Their history is unparalleled...We love bravery, and the exploration of the Americas by the Spaniards constituted the greatest, the longest and the most wonderful series of heroic deeds recorded by History."

*The foregoing words were by American Charles F. Lummis (1859-1928), explorer, archeologist, historian, novelist, journalist, editor, anthropologist, and founder of societies and museums, in his book *The Spanish explorers of the sixteenth century*.*

"The role of Spain in the birth of the United States is a little known and little understood aspect of U.S. independence." ~Thomas E. Chavez

"I have no doubt, from General Galvez's well known attachment to the cause of America,..."

~General George Washington, Letter to Don Francisco Rendon, Oct. 12, 1781

As you can see by the paragraphs above, there are many Americans who recognize the importance of Spain in the history of the United States of North America. In my opinion this is very obvious to us the Spaniards that have been living in this country for many years and many times we wonder how it is possible that in the history of the U.S. they don't give more importance to Spain?

The oldest city in the U.S. is St. Augustine (San Agustín) in Florida, founded in 1565 by the Spaniards, that is to say 55 years before the English pilgrims set foot on land at Plymouth Rock, and 42 years before the English colonized Jamestown.

The city of Santa Fe, New Mexico, U.S.A. was established by the Spaniards in 1607, that is to say 13 years before the Plymouth Colony. Santa Fe is the oldest city north of the Rio Grande and the oldest community west of the Mississippi River.

The first reports of geography, reports on the Indians and aboriginal languages of the U.S. were written in Castilian. The first birth certificate registered in the U.S. was of a Spaniard. The first European to set foot in the U.S. and stay in these lands was Ponce de León, on April 2, 1513. The first book written in the U.S. in 1569 was by the Jesuit, brother Baez of the missions of Georgia, and the Spaniards were also the first to make the first theatrical play in this country.

Why do I say all of this history? Because next month, Sunday May 4 we celebrate the Feast of the Battle of San Diego Bay, which happened on March 22, 1803. This celebration is not very well known in San Diego or in any other part of the world and I would like to see us promote more and attend this event. I ask you to come to this celebration where the Consul General of Spain in Los Angeles and other dignitaries will be present to honor and promote our history in San Diego and in this country.

Greetings
Jesus Benayas

RINCON DEL SOCIO

DEATH: We would like members to know of the death of Mr. Ángel Vázquez Boedo, last February 28 in the city of Los Angeles. Mr. Vázquez Boedo helped the foundation of the Casa de España in San Diego. In one of the display cabinets of our Casita we have a crystal bull that was donated to us on the occasion of the inauguration of our center in Balboa Park. We send our condolences to his entire family.

- In the same way we offer our heartfelt condolences to our beloved member Angeles Leira, for the death of her son-in-law in Mexico City.



FILMS FROM SPAIN

San Diego

Thanks to the work and effort of Laura Lagunas, member of the Board of Directors of *House of Spain/Casa de España* in San Diego, we offer the third film in this series:

Tuesday, April 22, 2014

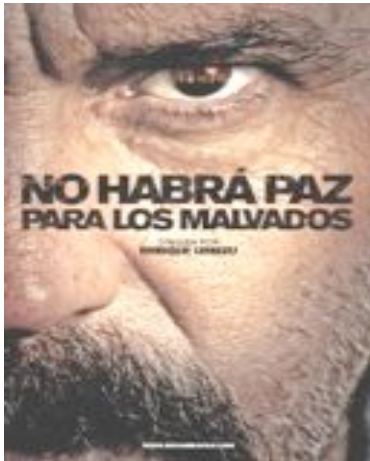
Place: Hall of Nations (Balboa Park)

Time: 7:00 PM

NO REST FOR THE WICKED

Director: Enrique Urbizu, 2011

In Spanish, with English subtitles



Madrid, the early twenty-first century. One day, the police inspector Santos Trinidad, returning home very drunk, is involved in a triple murder. But there is a witness that manages to escape and who could incriminate him. Santos undertakes an investigation designed to locate and eliminate the witness. In the meantime, the judge Chacón, which was responsible for the investigation of the triple murder, meticulously progresses in the search for the killer until he begins to suspect that what seemed to be a simple case of settling of accounts between

Colombian drug traffickers, is apparently, something much more important and dangerous.

In 2011 it earned 6 Goya Awards - including best film, director and actor. 14 nominations

Tickets: At the door. We suggest a donation of \$5.00. For more information contact Laura Lagunas by phone: 858-405-3629 or visit our website: <http://casadeespanasd.com>

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ACTIVITIES OF MARCH

March 7: Lecture on the opera "Don Quixote"

Attended by about 50 people. Dr. Nicolás Reveles gave us a presentation very enjoyable and informative about the opera, cheering us all to go to see and hear the same that will be presented during the month of April. We offered a toast to the guests with Spanish tapas and wine.

For more information and to purchase tickets with a 20% discount: www.sdopera.com/promo/offer/spain

March 15 ¡Viva La Pepa!

It was a very nice evening which was attended by 40 people. We enjoyed a delicious variety of Spanish foods in the company of family and friends. A toast was offered to the Pepa:



Demetrio and Veronica, Bertha, Sagrario, Regli, and Nati



Maruja, Angelines, Reynolds, Pilar, Jesús, and Quentin

March 22 Don Quijote Read-a-thon

It was held in the courtyard of the casita for a *Read-a-thon* of the unique novel of don Miguel de Cervantes, the witty Hidalgo Don Quijote of La Mancha. From 9 AM until 5 PM some 30 people took the microphone to read their favorite chapter of the novel. They began the day of the 16th with the eighth grade students from Longfellow School, accompanied by their parents and their teacher, Ms. Alicia Sandoval. In the afternoon some members of the *San Diego/Alcalá de Henares Sister Cities Society* and Casa de España paid tribute to our author and his walking knight.

During the month of April *Sister Cities Society* and Casa de España will celebrate events in honor of Miguel de Cervantes and Don Quijote always taking into account and presenting our Sister City Alcalá de Henares, birthplace of Miguel de Cervantes.



March 25: Movie of the month "Cell 211"

There was a large attendance on the day of the monthly film. The attendees enjoyed the film so acclaimed and we took delight in the tapas and wine generously offered by the Costa Brava Restaurant. Again we are grateful to the organizers of this series of Spanish films.



THE CAVE OF ALTAMIRA,

Maximum exponent of the rock art of the Upper Palaeolithic

The Cave of Altamira houses one of the most extraordinary artistic manifestations of Palaeolithic art. It is located on the top of a hill in the town of Santillana del Mar (Cantabria) from where you can contemplate the mountainous landscape of the Cantabrian Mountains and the rolling hills of the coast.

It is a cave of small size but in Palaeolithic times it had a large vestibular area where the daily life of the groups of hunter-gatherers developed. A rockfall closed this area 13,000 years ago and made it impossible to access the cave until its discovery for contemporary society in the nineteenth century.

Marcelino Sanz Sautuola was the discoverer of the paintings and who demonstrated its exceptional value in 1879. The spectacular paintings implied recognition of the artistic ability and skill of our Paleolithic ancestors; it was the first time that this ability was attributed to the prehistoric people. The scientific community, however, did not accept the originality of the paintings until 1902, after the discovery of some caves with Paleolithic cave art in France.

The drawings are about 14,000 years old and represent bison, deer, wild boars, horses... They are made with natural red ochre paints and contoured. Since then the Cave of Altamira has become an icon for society, a place where you can discover the beginning of our history through one of the most extraordinary artistic creations, the first art of humanity.

However, the fragility of the rock art has made from the beginning that there are risks for the conservation of the paintings. On the one hand, the geological structure of the cave and on the other hand, the high presence of visitors, reaching 170,000 annually in the 70s, raised fears about its preservation.

In 1979 the first closure of the cave occurred and that same year the National Museum and Research Center of Altamira was created to be responsible for the conservation, research, and dissemination of the cave.

To ensure its conservation, they have painstakingly reproduced its structure and paintings in the New Cave of Altamira Museum, using the same painting procedures. Thus, the visitor can admire with detail the great roof of the polychromatic bison and visit the workshop of these painters, where they explain the techniques used in this masterpiece of rock art.

In 1982 the cave was reopened with a regime of restricted visits to 8,500 visitors annually. Since 2002, the cave is closed to the public again.

In 2014 the Caves of Altamira were reopened, in Cantabria, after twelve years closed. Only five people per week may enter and take a look at the original Paleolithic paintings. The visits will be random, will be made until August and will last 37 minutes. The purpose of the visits is to analyze the impact that human presence may cause on the conservation of the caves

The Cave of Altamira since 1985 is registered on the World Heritage List protected by UNESCO.

FROM SPAIN...



Adolfo Suárez, the leader that changed the history of Spain

The first Prime Minister of the democracy dies at age 81, who led the transition after the dictatorship

Adolfo Suárez was one of the architects of the political transition. His name evokes the spirit of consensus and reconciliation and the political generosity that made possible the peaceful and exemplary transit from dictatorship to democracy in Spain.

The coffin of Adolfo Suárez has been buried in the cloister of the cathedral of Ávila next to his wife, Amparo Illana, in a tomb under the inscription 'The harmony was possible'.



April 23. World Book Day

April 23 is a symbolic day for world literature, because on this day and in the year 1616 died personalities such as Cervantes, Shakespeare and Inca Garcilaso de la Vega. It also commemorates the birth or death of other prominent authors like Maurice Druon, Haldor K. Laxness, Vladimir Nabokov, Josep Pla, and Manuel Mejía Vallejo.

The celebration of this day was a spontaneous decision taken in the General Conference of UNESCO, which was held in Paris in 1995, to pay a universal tribute to

books and authors.

"Open window to the diversity of cultures and bridge between civilizations, vector of values, of knowledge, of the aesthetic sense and imagination, the book is primarily the work of intelligence, creativity and human culture: therefore it enriches the intangible heritage of humanity..." (Koïchiro Matsuura, Director-General of UNESCO).



LITERARY GATHERING

An invitation to all those who are lovers of the book and who enjoy reading. We are organizing again the literary circle in which we will read Spanish and Latin-American writers.

Contact

Cecilia Anguera: 858-278-8664 (anguerfamily@gmail.com)

Penelope Bledsoe: 619-876-3248 (penelopebledsoe@hotmail.com)



Upcoming Activities



JUANITA FRANCO AND HER BALLET "OLE FLAMENCO" present:

LA NOCHE FLAMENCA

April 26: 7:00 P.M.

April 27: 2:00 P.M.

PLACE: *SALVATION ARMY CENTER JOAN B. KROC THEATRE*

6611 University Avenue, San Diego

Price: \$25.00 - \$15.00

Discounts for seniors and children on April 27

Information: 619-944-5354

OPENING OF THE CASITA

Josefina Gomez was responsible for opening the Casita during March. We thank her, Don Ottum, and Mathew Vincent that as ambassadors helped serve the visitors



FEAST OF THE BATTLE OF SAN DIEGO BAY

This year it will be celebrated on Sunday, May 4 at the Naval Base Point Loma

More information in the next newsletter



TRAVEL TO SPAIN AND VISIT TO THE SISTER CITY OF SAN DIEGO ALCALÁ DE HENARES AT THE END OF SEPTEMBER. FOR MORE INFORMATION: alcalatrip@gmail.com or penelopebledsoe@hotmail.com



ITEM FOR SALE

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P.O. Box 33064, San Diego, CA 92163
Phone (619) 615-3188
<http://www.casadeespanasd.com>
Email: info@casadeespanasd.com

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Board of Directors

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Miguel Garcia-Guzman

Editor

Cecilia Anguera: Tel: 858-278-8664

Honorary Consul of Spain in San Diego
Telephone: 619-448-7282
CONHON.ESPANA.SD@GMAIL.COM

Consulate General of Spain in Los Angeles
www.maec.es/consulates/Los Angeles

House of Spain, Casa de España in San Diego is a private non-profit organization, whose purpose is to preserve and disseminate the Spanish culture in the San Diego community.

The opinions expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the thinking of *House of Spain*, Casa de España.