

Boletín



House of Spain

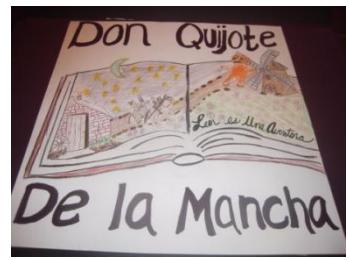


Casa de España
In San Diego

Bulletin # 376

March 2015

READ-A-THON OF DON QUIXOTE DE LA MANCHA



Drawing winner

More than forty boys and girls participated in the drawing contest with the winner to be announced at the Read-A-Thon of Don Quixote de La Mancha that will take place next May 9 in Balboa Park.

Alcalá-San Diego Sister City and House of Spain/Casa de España in San Diego are organizing this event.

We will give you more details in the May bulletin and which can also be seen on our

Web Page: casadeespanasd.com

FROM THE PRESIDENT



I want to update you on our progress. First of all I wish to thank Dr. Miguel García-Guzmán for his very important support during many years preparing, designing and maintaining our web page of the casadeespanasd.com. He, on a purely voluntary basis, built, financed and maintained it all these years. Miguel and his company are opening up new horizons, at the same time that our organization also needs much more support and access with many more activities to announce, and the time has come for the *House of Spain*, Casa de España in San Diego, that we have our own *webmaster* to make many changes that we need to do to be able to continue to provide an adequate service to our members and our community. Miguel, in recognition of the situation, very generously, has provided us complete access to the web page for that from now on our organization is in charge of it. THANK YOU VERY MUCH MIGUEL!!!

Our web page will continue to operate as always but at the same time, the construction of a new web page in English will begin so that people and organizations in our community can read and understand our activities that we have. Some plans for this new page also include being able to have new options such as to pay dues and become a member as to be able to donate to the organization through the internet.

Now, another way that members and friends of the HOS/CDE in San Diego can help our organization is by shopping at Amazon. If you buy things on Amazon please use this link, <http://smile.amazon.com>, and choose *House of Spain* Casa de España in San Diego as your charitable organization. Amazon will donate 0.5 % of your purchases to the casita. Spread the word to relatives and friends so that our organization can receive these funds.

I believe that we are at a critical point with many possibilities for further progress and to promote our history and culture about all this mutual history that we have with the United States. With regard to this topic, each time we are finding more and more information of the aid that Spain gave to the American colonies for its independence from England, not only in money but in weapons, guns, gunpowder, soldiers, and military logistics. George Washington and John Adams requested assistance from the King of Spain, Carlos III, in order to become independent. In few words and in my opinion, without the help of Spain, the United States would not exist today. Did you know that after the independence of the United States from England, the American colonies used the Spanish currency until 1857?

To do these things and that our organization continues to progress we must increase our cultural fund or establish a new fund for professional support, for this we need people who know how to generate more funds obtaining them from other organizations, writing grant letters, volunteers, donations, etc. Depending on people who know of this matter we are going to need funds to be able to employ people who can devote their time to get us funds. Eventually these people will bring more money to the organization for which we will pay them. The critical point in this moment is how to be able to draw out about \$40,000.00 dollars to employ the first person for a year? I need your ideas and help.

Sincerely
Jesús Benayas

OPENING OF THE CASITA

Our thanks to Nina Yguerabide, Sagrario Din, Bayardo de Murguía, Laura McWhorter, Penelope Bledsoe and Puri Rodríguez, who as "ambassadors" attended to the large audience that visited our casita during the month of February

CULTURAL PAGE

- The Spring Novel Prize (Premio Primavera de Novela) is awarded annually in [Spain](#) by the [Editorial Espasa](#) and Ámbito Cultural of [El Corte Inglés](#) to an unpublished novel in the [Castilian](#) language. This year, the writer Juan Eslava Galán has unanimously won the Spring Novel Prize with "Mysterious murder in house of Cervantes" ("Misterioso asesinato en casa de Cervantes"), a historical novel of intrigue, that is part actual fact and in which the author has recreated the decadent Spain of the Golden Age, ravaged by wars.

- Gabriel García Márquez, who strongly criticized the American imperialism, will have his headquarters at the University of Texas, after his death in April of last year. The university paid 2.2 million dollars for his files. His family sold the files. These include, among his things, original manuscripts of 10 of his most popular books, 2000 pieces of correspondence, more than 40 photo albums, typewriters and computers that he used. The institution refused, in principle, to make public the contract, but finally it had to disclose the amount of the operation.

- The *Frick Collection* reviews the impact of Cervantine icon in different disciplines. This exhibition opens today at the New York museum under the name [«Coypel's Don Quixote Tapestries: Illustrating a Spanish Novel in Eighteenth Century France»](#). The protagonists are Charles Coypel (1694-1752) - painter to Louis XV, celebrated designer of tapestries - and the Cervantine icon. Coypel created a series of 28 tapestries based on chapters of the novel, accomplished in the famous Gobelins Factory in Paris. The sample includes three tapestries of this manufacturer, loaned by the [Paul Getty Museum in Los Angeles](#), in addition to two other Flemish tapestries inspired by the work of Coypel, belonging to the Frick Collection, but have spent ten years without being displayed. You can also enjoy five preparatory cartoons of Coypel of actual size brought from France and prints and books from the [Hispanic Society of America, New York](#).



There are three things in life that once they pass by they do not return.

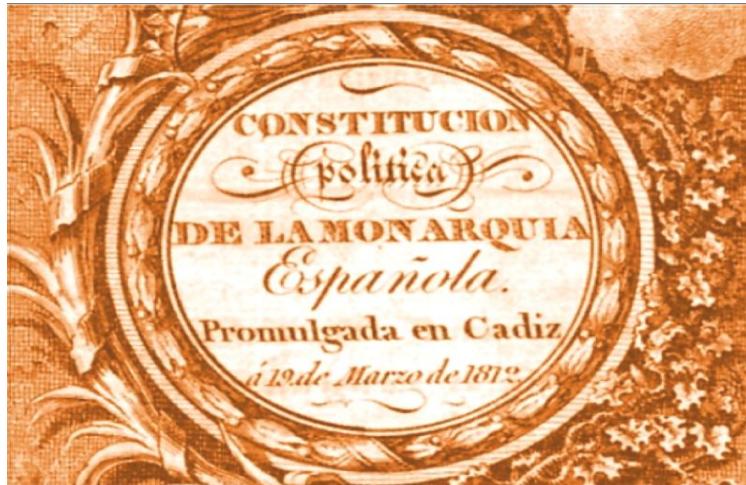
Time.

Words.

And opportunities.

SPREAD IT AROUND

VIVA LA PEPÀ



La Constitución española de 1812, conocida popularmente como **La Pepa** o **La Constitución de Cádiz**, fue promulgada por las Cortes Generales de España, reunidas extraordinarias en Cádiz, el 19 de marzo de 1812.

The Spanish Constitution of 1812 was established on March 19, 1812 by the Cádiz Cortes, Spain's first national sovereign assembly, the Cortes Generales ("General Courts"), in refuge in Cádiz during the Peninsular War.

La Mesa Directiva de la *House of Spain/Casa de España* in San Diego les invita a festejar La Pepa con un cocido Madrileño, aperitivos y bebidas. Para éste evento se les cobrará:

\$10.00 por persona que son socios; para los niños de 12-18 años, \$5.00.

\$15.00 por persona que no son socios; para niños de 12-18 años, \$7.00.

Este evento será en la casita, Balboa Park, **5:00-8:00** de la tarde, el sábado 14 de marzo, 2015.

Dado el costo de los ingredientes es necesario reservas al rsvp2hos@gmail.com antes del 10 de marzo, 2015 indicando el número de personas.

The House of Spain/Casa de España in San Diego invites you to celebrate La Pepa with a cocido Madrileño (Madrid stew), appetizers and drinks. For this event we will charge:

\$10.00 per person who are members; \$5.00 for children between 12-18 years.

\$15.00 per person for non-members; \$7.00 for children between 12-18 years.

The hours are from 5:00PM to 8:00PM and the event will be held at the Casita in Balboa Park on Saturday, March 14, 2015.

Due to the high cost of the ingredients, reservations are required; please rsvp2hos@gmail.com by March 10th, 2015.



Modern chess was born in Spain 500 years ago

Isabella the Catholic inspired the figure of the queen as the most powerful piece

Summary: El País, Leontxo García - Feb 13, 2015

Chess with the current rules was born in the late fifteenth century in Spain, most likely in Valencia. The difference which was brought by the Muslims is the incorporation of the queen, which gives great impetus to the game because it is the most powerful piece, in honor of Isabella the Catholic.

A still photograph from the documentary 'The Chess Queen'.

Directed by Agustí Mezquida.

The Arabic or older chess was a magnificent excuse to flirt in the Middle Ages; more specifically, to enter the chambers of a woman without being labeled indecent. It had its logic: the game was much slower than now, less dynamic, because the piece that took the place of the queen, alferza, could only go to one square diagonally adjacent. That is, the games were very long, and they were mixed with dancing, conversation, and compliments. Actually, the most frequent was not playing a whole game, but something like diagrams with the legend "White ones to play and win" that are now seen in the newspapers: it was starting from a certain position that one was forced to seek a brilliant combination, almost always difficult to find, which also generated time for flattery and patient courtship.

So this explains the curious story of the 64 poems (one for each square on the board) *Chess of Love (Schacs d'Amor)*, published in 1475 by Castellví, Fenollar and Vignoles, which I already glimpsed that some Valencian intellectuals are sensing the introduction on the board of a powerful female figure which gives more dynamic to the game of kings, exported by the Muslims to what is now Spain in the ninth century.

It is very clear that modern chess was born in Spain, a great empire then, who exported it to much of Europe and America. However, the vast majority of Spaniards do not know that fact. It does not seem unreasonable to suggest that chess - whose image is linked to the intelligence - is part of the Spain brand.

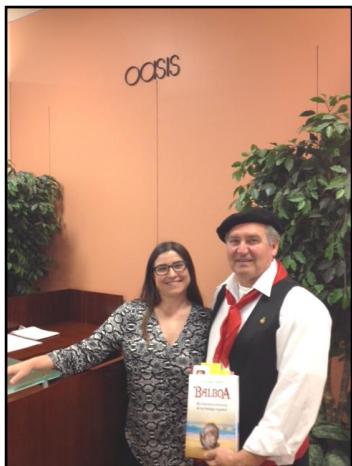
The incorporation of the queen as a very powerful piece - Queen Isabella also was - had important sociological consequences. The new version of chess was a very dynamic war game, which required a lot of concentration; therefore, win and tie during the game were already hardly compatible. Maybe there was only the beginning of the tremendous current gender inequality in terms of quality and number of practitioners - there is only one woman among the one hundred best in the world -, because chess environments began to be very masculine.

In addition, it was decided that when the pawn arrived at the last row it could become queen; that is, a man transformed into a woman, something unacceptable and sacrilegious for rigid Catholicism of the time. But the passion that awoke the new chess was too big to be braked by the idiocy; so that the Italians found a solution: the *pedone* (pawn) was now called *pedona* (pawn), and problem solved. Today, over 500 years later, that passion continues inflaming many millions of people around the world. And Spain is the country that organizes more international tournaments, and the most cutting edge in pedagogical and social applications of chess, although its citizens are unaware of it.

"He who does not know enjoy the adventure when it comes, should not complain if it passes by".

Don Quixote

ACTIVITIES OF FEBRUARY



Sarah & Jesus

Description of presentation given by Jesús Benayas at OASIS Mission Valley on Tuesday January 20, 2015.

Balboa: The Man Behind The Name

As San Diegans we are very familiar with the name Balboa. From the avenue that runs through the city, to our legendary park, Balboa is a part of our shared lexicon. But how much do you really know? Best known for having crossed the Isthmus of Panama to the Pacific Ocean in 1513, Balboa became the first European to lead an expedition to have seen or reached the Pacific from the New World. Mr. Benayas will also talk the history of Balboa Park and the 1915 Panama-California Exposition.

February 14: DAY OF FRIENDSHIP

We members and friends had a very special evening enjoying the friendship of friends, chatting and savoring the varied food prepared by the attendees:



February 24: Films from Spain: TAPAS

With an attendance of more than 100 people we enjoyed the last film of this festival. Thanks to the effort and work of Laura Lagunas we have been able to offer to members and friends this series of Spanish films. Once again we would like to thank Laura for her help and we hope that in the near future we will provide more Spanish cinema.

Follow us on Facebook:

[HTTPS://facebook.com/pages/House-of-Spain-San-Diego/365788153526730](https://facebook.com/pages/House-of-Spain-San-Diego/365788153526730)

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The Consulate of Spain in Los Angeles has lost contact with these two Spanish persons:

Ms. Josefina García Rodríguez
Mr. Rafael Díaz Cancho

If anyone knows anything about these persons (if they are alive or if have died) please let us know.

SAVE THIS DATE ON YOUR CALENDAR

Sunday April 19, 2015

ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF SAN DIEGO BAY

AND

LAUNCHING OF THE GALLEON "SAN SALVADOR"

We will give you more details in the next Bulletin



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To read the Bulletin in English, visit the web page of House of Spain/Casa de España in San Diego: <http://www.casadeespanasd.com>

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 in San Diego.



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