Dr. Patricia Galeana, president of the History Commission of the Pan American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH) began the ceremony, giving a historical account of the PAIGH and the objective of the awards granted by the Commission:

The creation of the PAIGH\(^1\), the first specialized body of the Organization of American States, was proposed by Mexico at the VI International Conference of the Americas\(^2\) of 1928. The proposal was prepared by the Mexican en-

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\(^1\) Created on February 7, 1928, at the VI Inter-American Conference of Ministers of the American States, in Havana, Cuba.

\(^2\) At the 6\(^{th}\) Latin American Science Conference in 1924, a recommendation had been made for the creation of an Institute of Oceanography and Cartography.
engineer and geographer, Pedro Sánchez, who was a co-author of the first geographic chart of the Republic, and a co-author of the geographic charts of the federative entities. Mr. Sánchez proposed creating a geographic Institute to help settle differences in border boundaries, in collaboration with the geographic institutes of each country. He also recommended setting up a repository for documents and a specialized library.

The geographer held the direction of the PAIGH from 1930 to 1956, we owe him the creation of the Toribio Medina Library, at the headquarters of the PAIGH, as well as the reconstruction of its building; the former was inaugurated on May 5, 1930, by the President of Mexico, Mr. Pascual Ortiz Rubio in commemoration of the famous Battle of Puebla, in which the Mexican Army defeated the French Army.

The proposal to incorporate the study of history was an initiative of the Cuban delegation, presented during the same Conference. However, it was until 1946 that the History Commission was created, thanks to the efforts of Dr. Silvio Zavala, a renowned Mexican historian. Dr. Zavala was its president from 1947 to 1963. Zavala founded the Revista de Historia de América, the Boletín Bibliográfico de Antropología Americana, and the Folklore American Magazine, as well as coordinated the history of the continent in 21 volumes. The objective of the Commission since its creation has been to study the history of the Americas from its original cultures to the present time.

In 1947, Dr. Zavala invited Dr. Leopoldo Zea, the great Mexican philosopher, to create the Committee for the History of Ideas, which he chaired from that date until his death in 2004.

Founded in what was the School of Higher Studies of the University of Mexico, UNAM, Dr. Zea went from the study of the Mexican in Positivism in Mexico, to the thought of our Americas continent.

In addition to the great work that Zea carried out at the National Autonomous University of Mexico, he made a monumental work in the Committee for the History of Ideas of the PAIGH.

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3 Mining engineer and geographer.

4 In the PAIGH he also published: Guía de Instituciones que cultivan la Historia de América (1949); Guía de personas que cultivan la historia de América (1951); The Colonial Period in the New World (1962).

The philosopher vindicated the originality of Latin American thought, against those who deny the philosophical work of our region, in a philosophy that seeks to transform reality.

The entirety of Zea’s work is dedicated to the interpretation of the Latin American reality and the affirmation of his thought. If something characterizes it, it is its concern to capture the continent’s essence, both in its historical and cultural expression, as well as in its ontological expression. He emphasizes that Latin American philosophy, seeks solutions to concrete problems, is an “authentic philosophy of liberation”.

He was a staunch defender of our continent because he was also its deepest connoisseur. The commitment philosophy that he cultivated throughout his fruitful life sought to explain the problems of the present time. Reading his work is a must for every Latin Americanist.

Of all the teachings that professor Zea gave us throughout his great work, the product of a prolific academic life of more than half a century, the one on the assumption of our history as an imperative of Latin American philosophy stands out.

In Pensamiento Latinoamericano, Zea forcefully reiterates: “If something defines man, it is history; it gives meaning to what is done, what is being done and what can continue to be done. In the triple dimension of the historical, past, present and future, the being of man becomes evident”.

History and philosophy; philosophy and history, an inseparable conjunction in Zea’s work, which leads us to assume our past in an integrative way to understand our present and face the future.

For his great work, Dr. Zea deserved international recognition. In 1999, the PAIGH started presenting in his honor the Pensamiento de América “Leopoldo Zea” Award, for those who are distinguished by their career in the field. Since then, it has been given every two years.

This year six applications were received: one from Argentina, one from Colombia and four from Mexico. The jury composed of Rubén Ruiz Guerra (Vice President of the PAIGH History Commission and Director of the Center for Research on Latin America and the Caribbean, UNAM), Dr. Estela Morales (Institute for Library and Information Research, UNAM) and Dr. Favila Rivera Castro (Institute of Philosophical Research, UNAM); decided unanimously, to present the 2021 Pensamiento de América “Leopoldo Zea” Award to Dr. José Palti, from the National University of Quilmes, Argentina.

In 2015 The Commission established the

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6 He received the Gabriela Mistral Award on two occasions, one of the three inter-American recognitions granted by the OAS, to those who contribute an exceptional way to the development of our continent and project their values in the world. A dozen governments decorated him: five Latin Americans and four Europeans. In 2000, our Republic also awarded him the Belisario Domínguez medal. Eight universities from seven countries on three continents made him honorary doctorates.
prizes for the theses related to Pan American History, in order to recognizing young historians of the Americas, alternately awarding doctoral and master’s thesis. This year, eight candidates were submitted for the master’s award: one from Chile, one from Colombia and six from Mexico. The jury was formed by Rubén Ruiz Guerra, Dr. André Figueiredo (Paulista University, Brazil) and Dr. Lenín Garcés (National University of Chimborazo, Ecuador), who unanimously decided to award Antonia Fonck and Carlos Rodríguez Contreras.

Dr. Galeana concluded by congratulating the winners and reiterating her gratitude to the members of the jury.

Dr. Lenín Garcés presented Antonia Fonck, from the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, for her research “Miradas desclasificadas: Imágenes políticas y discusiones sobre el Chile de Salvador Allende retratadas en Foreign Relations of the United States (1969-1973)”.

Dr. Garcés highlighted that the research studies the documents declassified by the United States in 2014 and 2015. It reconstructs the history of the foreign policy of that country in Chile, the debates that took place in Washington and at the United States Embassy in the South American country; as well as the actions of the characters involved.

Fonck also analyzes the position of Chile within the region and its projection towards the Americas. She concludes that there was a conflict in the American bureaucracy, which affected the decision-making process in its foreign policy.

During her acceptance speech, Fonck pointed out that receiving this distinction was a “confirmation that this story deserved to be investigated and told.” She invited colleagues to continue researching the matter, because “there is always something new to say and contribute” for the “understanding of the past and the present.” She thanked the authorities for recognizing the investigators, who have a lot to say.

Later on, Rubén Ruiz Guerra, introduced Carlos Rodríguez Contreras, from the Centro de Investigación y Docencia Económicas, of Mexico, winner for his thesis “Las Redes Intelectuales del Fondo de Cultura Económica. La Colección Tierra Firme, 1941-1956”.

Mr. Ruiz Guerra pointed out that the research shows the role of the Fondo de Cultura Económica publishing house, which continues to be the most important in Mexico, and whose international significance began with the creation of its multiple branches in South America.

The project did not propose to build just a collection but an active Pan-Americanism, which includes the entire region, to which the networks of intellectuals and academics decisively contribute.

The thesis contributes to the construction of a Pan-American conception, beyond economic relations and political alliances, and which allow us to build a sense of belonging to the region.

Rodríguez thanked the PAIGH authorities and applauded the work of the PAIGH History Commission for the dissemination of the
History of the Americas. He wishes “the next generations carry out new investigations that allow us to understand our present through the past”.

Dr. Faviola Rivera, member of the Leopoldo Zea 2021 Award Jury, announced that the prize was unanimously given to Dr. José Palti, from the National University of Quilmes, Argentina.

Dr. Rivera pointed out that the work of Dr. Palti on Latin American intellectual history is currently today an inescapable international reference. His work is widely known, respected, and discussed, as it has opened new lines of research in the study of the history of Latin American thought, it has introduced new ways of approaching common questions, has raised many new ones and, specially, has given a fundamental impulse to the renewal of Latin American intellectual history. That is why giving him the Leopoldo Zea award could not be more suitable. In several of his works, Palti has made explicit how the methodological approach that he has developed relates to the history of the ideas of the Mr. Zea. It is not a continuation, but a renewal in the way of approaching intellectual history, of conceiving the problems that concern him and of reading the past.

Dr. José Palti thanked the authorities of the PAIGH and the History Commission, as well as Dr. Liliana Weinberg, who encouraged him to apply for the Award. He mentioned that his primary formation is as a historian, but he has always had been interested in the problems of a conceptual order that historical understanding raises: “I am particularly proud to have received this award on thought. I identify with Dr. Zea in a way that goes beyond the strictly professional, that involves some of my feelings and my deepest cares. I know that more than an award to me and to my career, it is a constantly renewed award for the adventure of thinking, for that passion for thinking, which is simply what I have tried to convey over the years through my work”.

Finally, César Rodríguez Tomeo, Secretary General of the PAIGH, highlighted that these awards constitute a way to promote and disseminate knowledge in the field of History; he applauded the work of the PAIGH History Commission for the dissemination of the History of the Americas. He hoped that “the next generations carry out new investigations that allow us to understand our present through the past.”

He finished his speech by highlighting the importance of learning and understanding history: “facts are the product of processes. Knowing them allows us to interpret and know in greater depth a reality that was always complex.” He indicated that the role presented by the historians “allows us to form an opinion and move away from dogmas and radicalisms that often make problem-solving difficult to solve problems.” He particularly acknowledged Dr. Patricia Galeana and Rubén Ruiz and congratulated the winners for the awards obtained.
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**XVII CONFERENCE OF HISTORIA ECONÓMICA DE LA ASOCIACIÓN ARGENTINA DE HISTORIA ECONÓMICA**

Date: **October 20-22, 2021**

Webinar on Economic History
organized by the Uruguayan Association of Economic History.
Friday, October 30, from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Via zoom:
https://zoom.us/j/91983166997?pwd=WFVxck5EUi8zdkJUVEwvR
ID de reunión: 919 8316 6997
Código de acceso: 089118

Upcoming Anniversaries

October 3rd
1825
The Republic of Bolivar officially changes its name to the Republic of Bolivia.

October 3rd
1930, Brazil
The revolutionary movement begins in Minas Gerais, Rio Grande do Sul and Paraíba.

October 5th
1872, Argentina
Foundation of the Naval Military School.

October 7th
1844
Brazil and Paraguay sign a Defensive Alliance Treaty.

October 8th
1851
Argentina and Uruguay sign a treaty of peace ending the Great War.

October 8th
1879
Chile defeats Peru in the Battle of Angamos during the War of the Pacific.
Peruvian admiral Miguel Grau Seminario dies in combat; the Peruvian Navy Day is commemorated.

October 9th
1820, Ecuador
Guayaquil’s independence.

October 11th
1821, Nicaragua
The Act of Independence is signed and it agrees to its annexation to Mexico.

October 12th
1813, Paraguay
The Republic is proclaimed.

October 14th
1951
Creation of the Organization of Central American States made up of Costa Rica, El Salvador,
Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua.

**October 14th**
1813, Venezuela
Caracas proclaims Simón Bolívar as Liberator.

**October 18th**
1920, Colombia
The National Anthem is made official. The National Anthem Day is commemorated.

**October 20th**
1868, Cuba
The National Anthem is interpreted for the first time when the forces of the Liberation Army take the city of Bayamo. The National Culture Day is commemorated.

**October 21st**
1956, Honduras
A coup d’état overthrows President Julio Lozano, who comes to power after electoral fraud. Armed Forces Day is commemorated.

**October 23rd**
2006, Panama
Tragedy of the Ridge: a bus catches fire where 18 people lost their lives. The National Reflection Day is commemorated.

**October 25th**
1821, Costa Rica
Signature and oath of independence.

**October 28th**
1813, Venezuela
Caracas proclaims Simón Bolívar as Liberator.

**October 28th**
1967, Mexico
The President of the United States, Lyndon B. Johnson, makes the formal delivery of El Chamizal to President Gustavo Díaz Ordaz.

**October 29th**
1821, Costa Rica
Signature and oath of independence.

**October 30th**
1995, Canada
A Québec referendum rejects independence. The ‘No’ won with 50.6% of the votes.

**October 31st**
2004, Uruguay
Tabaré Vázquez is elected president; the first time in the country that a leftist candidate has won the elections.

**October 28th**
1836
Establishment of the Peru-Bolivian Confederation.