



Decimosexta Edición

2010

Premio Internacional de Ensayo Jovellanos

Jovellanos International Essay Prize
Sixteenth Edition

Prix International d'Essai Jovellanos
Seizième Édition



Jovellanos, a brief sketch

Gaspar Melchor de Jovellanos (Gijón, 1744 - Puerto de Vega, 1811) is, without doubt, the most representative writer of 18th century in Spain and the most outstanding figure of the Spanish Enlightenment. He is also the main figure in the modernization of Spain and of his beloved homeland, the Principality of Asturias.

His prolific works on a wide variety of subjects, constitute a genuine programme for social renewal and transformation. The incomprehension and political persecution to which he was subjected never drove him away from his intellectual work or from condemning the ills of his country. As he wrote in his *Discourse on the Means to Promote the Happiness of Asturias*: "As I seek the good of my homeland with a pure, disinterested spirit, nothing will prevent me from formulating my ideas".

The clear-sighted intelligence of Jovellanos was not satisfied with simply analyzing and describing the old national problems: ignorance, the privileges of the nobility and the church, the neglect of science and languages, the lack of centres for professional training, the lack of public projects to improve the conditions of life and the economy of the country, etcetera, but also proposed remedies for these ills, studied the feasibility of ports and roads, undertook personally the foundation of high schools and educational programmes, and made specific recommendations on how to contribute to the prosperity of the nation.

His writings contain an intention to reform, and display an unshakeable faith in progress and the possibilities of mankind. The need to overcome the cultural, moral, economic and political decadence of Spain was always present in his mind. His work is still a guiding light in our historical memory, and his name, a standard of liberty and renewal which is still valid for every land and every people.

Announcement

EDICIONES NOBEL announces the sixteenth edition of JOVELLANOS INTERNATIONAL ESSAY PRIZE, the aim of which is to reward original, unpublished creations which represent a relevant contribution to the fields of thought, humanities, social sciences and nature, written by authors from any country in the world. The award, which is granted annually, was established in 1994, on the 250th anniversary of the birth of Gaspar Melchor de Jovellanos, one of the most universally-spirited men in the history of Spanish culture, to whom no branch of knowledge was foreign.

A few months before he died, Jovellanos wrote the following: "And although the hope that my name will not be completely buried and forgotten is very sweet to me, it is not because I believe it will be celebrated with applause, but rather recalled with pity and tenderness". EDICIONES NOBEL, which was born in the same land, Asturias, as such an illustrious figure, wishes to contribute, with this initiative, to keeping alive the memory of that "fairest and heroic soul", as Menéndez Pelayo defined him.

The aim of the JOVELLANOS INTERNATIONAL ESSAY PRIZE is to publicise original ideas and profound reflections which will stimulate the blazing of new trails in man's permanent struggle to widen the horizons of his knowledge and to find answers to the many problems and questions which trouble contemporary society.

The winning work will be published once the jury's decision has been announced, thus seeking to contribute an editorial product of outstanding quality to the publishing sector and to the Spanish cultural panorama. The granting of this award, which has a cash prize of 21.000 euros, will be subject to the regulations which accompany this announcement.

Regulations

Article 1. EDICIONES NOBEL will accept candidatures for the JOVELLANOS INTERNATIONAL ESSAY PRIZE, for which authors from any part of the world may enter, in accordance with the requirements and conditions specified in these regulations. The deadline for entries will be the 5th November 2009.

Article 2. The genre to which this award applies means a “written piece, generally brief, comprising the thoughts of the author on some subject, without the formality or the length required by a full treatise on the same subject”, following the definition of *essay* formulated by the Spanish *Real Academia*.

The theme for entries may be freely chosen, but subjects or questions related to the problems of modern-day society, in any aspect, whether of international dimensions or Spanish national issues, will be considered of special interest.

The originals will be of a maximum length of 250 pages, written, double-spaced, on one side.

Article 3. The works presented on digital format, written on any commonly-used word processor. All the originals will be accompanied by a brief abstract of their contents, not above two pages in length. If the original is written in a foreign language, the author must include this pages into spanish.

Candidates who so desire may sign the original under a pseudonym, in which case the entry must be accompanied by the author’s complete personal identification in a sealed envelope.

Article 4. All entries must be sent by certified post or handed in at the head office of the publishers (C/ Ventura Rodríguez, 4, 1º, 33004, OVIEDO, SPAIN) by the deadline indicated in the first article. Otherwise, they may be sent by e-mail to candidaturas@premiojovellanos.com. EDICIONES NOBEL will acknowledge receipt of all the works presented, but will not enter into correspondence with the candidates.

Article 5. The presentation of a work for this prize, will imply, in itself, assignment, by the author, to EDICIONES NOBEL of a preferential option to the exclusive rights of publication in accordance with the publisher’s standard contract, which is at the disposal of all the candidates. Once the jury’s decision has been made public, said commitment will be null and void for all the works presented except for that granted the award and, in such cases, those which the jury declare as finalists or propose for publication, which will be subject to the corresponding contract between author and publisher.

Article 6. The prize consists of diploma and a cash prize of 21.000 euros, which will be considered as an advance against any author’s rights which the publication of the work may generate.

The prize-winning work will be published by EDICIONES NOBEL, prior signing of the corresponding contract with the author, in the three months following the announcement by the jury of its ruling.

Article 7. The jury, which will be formed by outstanding figures from the worlds of science and culture will make its ruling public at a date to be announced in the future.

Article 8. The prize may be declared void if the jury, against whose decision there is no appeal, should consider that none of the works presented are of the due quality.

The jury may expressly mention in its minutes, if it so considers appropriate, any work which, in such a case, has been a finalist, or may propose the publication of any of the originals not awarded the prize. EDICIONES NOBEL will enjoy the right to a preferential option to publish said originals.

Article 9. Candidates not awarded the prize may collect their originals from the publisher’s head office, during the two months following the announcement of the ruling, or request, in the same period, its return by certified post, the postal charges in such a case being at the applicant’s expense.

Article 10. On the same date, at the public presentation ceremony for the book, the diploma and cash prize will be handed over to the author. At the said ceremony, the author will have to make a speech concerning the contents of his or her work, with a maximum duration of fifteen minutes.

Article 11. The interpretation of these rules and the resolution of such doubts as may arise regarding their application falls to EDICIONES NOBEL.

Article 12. Candidates for the prize, by having entered for the award, agree to accept these rules.

El jurado

El jurado estará integrado por destacadas personalidades expertas en el mundo de las ciencias sociales y presidido por D. Sabino Fernández Campo, conde de Latores, presidente de la Real Academia de las Ciencias Morales y Políticas.

The jury

The jury will be made up of expert personalities in the world of Social Sciences and presided by Mr. Sabino Fernandez Campo, Count of Latores, president of the Royal Academy of Moral and Political Sciences.

Le jury

Le jury sera constitué par des personnalités distinguées expertes dans le monde des sciences sociales et présidé par Mr Sabino Fernandez Campo, comte de Latores, président de l'Académie Royale des Sciences Morales et Politiques.