

LASA Business Meeting

President's Report

LASA President Merilee Grindle welcomed everyone to the Association's business meeting. She commented on the success of the Congress program, adding that the program had come together rather miraculously. She thanked the program co-chairs and track chairs and Evelyne Huber, who served this year as past president and continued to deal with various issues. Grindle also acknowledged Treasurer Tim Power as a "wonderful" treasurer and thanked the guest editors of the *LASA Forum* for doing a spectacular job. For the first time LASA was successful in obtaining Cuban visas; 125 of 129 requests were approved. We hope this success will continue in the future.

Report of the Secretariat

Executive Director Milagros Pereyra-Rojas commented on the status of LASA membership and the Executive Council discussion regarding future venues for LASA Congresses. Currently there are 4,904 individual members, a 30 percent decrease from the previous year, but the number of renewals will grow with 2015 Congress proposal submissions. Of this number, 1,125 or 23 percent are students. Of the 4,904 individual members, 3,715 have renewed from 2013, 629 are lapsed members who have renewed, and 524 are new members. There are also currently 297 institutional memberships, which represents a decrease of 20 percent from 2013. There has been a steady decline in institutional memberships due principally to the availability of digital access for libraries that are members.

LASA2016 will take place in New York City. For 2017 the most favored site is Panama, and for 2018, both Barcelona and

Sevilla are being considered. This would be the first time that a LASA Congress would take place in Europe. (Lisbon also was considered.)

Treasurer's Report

LASA Treasurer Timothy Power commented on the general financial condition of the Association and the status of the LASA Endowment. LASA contracted with D'Angelo and Associates, Certified Public Accountants, to perform the annual audit and passed with flying colors. The value of the endowment has increased since the bad years in the market; the return on investment last year was 14 percent. The Association has increased the portion of the endowment invested in socially responsible funds to 39 percent. The returns from these funds are about the same as for the S&P overall; thus there has been no negative impact from this strategy. Power thanked the endowment managers at Morgan Stanley Smith Barney and the members of the LASA Investment Committee. He concluded that "LASA in good financial shape."

Report of the XXXII Congress Program Committee

LASA2014 Program Co-chairs Raúl Madrid and Florencia Garramuño reported that number of proposals submitted increased 32 percent from the Washington, DC, Congress. There were 1,172 individual proposals and 849 panel submissions. There was a definite increase in the number of submissions for complete panels. After evaluation by the track chairs, 3,974 individuals were accepted. The acceptance rate for LASA continues to be high, with 94 percent of proposed

panels and 89 percent of individual proposals approved.

This year the program co-chairs asked the track chairs, in addition to their review responsibilities, to assemble invited panels that would highlight cutting-edge research in their fields. There was very positive feedback on this, and the track chairs enjoyed "molding" the program. This practice will be repeated for LASA2015.

Vice President's Report

LASA Vice President Debra Castillo thanked the new program co-chairs for the San Juan Congress, Luis Cárcamo-Huechante and Rosalva Aida Hernández Castillo. They already have been working hard to assemble a fine program with the new track chairs. One presidential panel has already been confirmed. The presidential panels will be organized as dialogues between two individuals. For example, Robert Warrior, president of the Native American and Indigenous Studies Association, will have a discussion with a member of the Mapuche Collective History Project.

Resolutions

Debra Castillo reported that no resolutions were proposed this year. During the previous year the Executive Council worked to enhance the resolution process to make sure that resolutions have solid backing from the membership; she wondered if the "higher bar" set by the new process contributed to the lack of resolutions this time.

In a case presented to the Commission on Academic Freedom, a LASA member protested the denial of his application for a

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visa to Cuba. Grindle will send a letter to individuals involved in this case before she relinquishes her position on June 1.

Castillo presented a gift to Grindle on behalf of the Association to thank her for her dedication and commitment as president; Grindle thanked the Association for her gift. She will go on to become LASA past president.

New Business

Grindle asked for new business or questions. No one came forward. She thanked all who had attended. ■

Kalman Silvert Award

Tulio Halperín Donghi is one of the most distinguished historians of Latin America alive today. His scholarship has had broad impact on virtually all disciplines in the humanities and social sciences.

He is one of only eight Latin American historians who are fellows of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. He has received honorary degrees and decorations from universities in Argentina, Chile, Mexico, and Uruguay.

He is the author of 22 books, including pioneering monographs, essay collections, crucial works of synthesis, and three anthologies with book-length introductory essays. His written work ranges from medieval Spain to the late twentieth century, with particular focus on three areas: late colonial and early national Latin America, mid-nineteenth century Argentina, and Latin America and Argentina from 1930 to the present.

Beyond his exceptional scholarly distinction, Halperín is one of those rare individuals who possess a deep understanding of many fields of intellectual endeavor and a seemingly unlimited curiosity about human affairs. He approaches his work with a profound appreciation of the human comedy, balancing it always with a sense of caring about individuals and peoples. For all these reasons the Silvert Committee was honored to award the 2014 Kalman Silvert Award to Tulio Halperín Donghi.

The award committee consisted of Evelyn Huber (University of North Carolina), Chair, Joel Horowitz (St. Bonaventure

University), Mark Healey (University of Connecticut), Nils Jacobsen (University of Illinois-Champaign), and Peter H. Smith (University of California-San Diego).

Premio Iberoamericano

El recipiente del Premio Iberoamericano es Víctor Goldgel, por *Cuando lo nuevo conquistó América: Prensa, moda y literatura en el siglo XIX* (Siglo XXI Editores, 2013).

El libro de Goldgel nos ofrece una explicación de cómo la novedad se convirtió en un concepto legítimo para la asignación de valor y sentido a situaciones, objetos y prácticas, en sociedades hispanoamericanas que hasta las postrimerías del siglo XVIII y principios del XIX, veían en el cambio un peligro. Es otra manera de entender el proceso de modernización y los caminos diversos que fueron recorridos para llegar a la convicción de que el cambio era deseable por sí mismo.

El autor recurre al concepto de *novedad*, a la comparación entre Argentina, Chile y Cuba, y a un minucioso trabajo de archivo, para recuperar el legado de la Ilustración en las generaciones románticas, y reconstruir el vínculo entre literatura y consumo. Goldgel encuentra que la búsqueda de la ruptura con el pasado se instala en estas sociedades como un tema de autoidentificación política e intelectual, y como un objetivo deseable, aunque no para todos, pues había quienes buscaban proteger las continuidades heredadas de la monarquía española.

Cuando lo nuevo conquistó América examina el papel de la prensa en la transformación de las prácticas de la