

Awards

Book by former Mexican president among the best of 1992

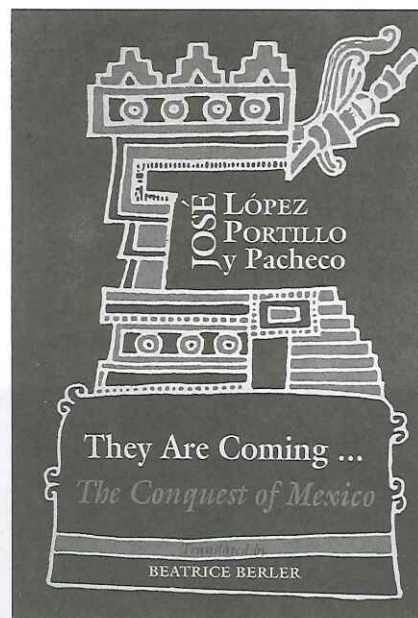
The New York Public Library, one of the largest libraries in the United States, has selected the volume *They are coming... The conquest of Mexico* for inclusion in the library's "Books to Remember" collection.

This work by former president José López Portillo, written after he left office, tells the epic story of the conflict between the Aztecs and the Conquistadors, a struggle through which the modern history of Mexico was forged.

The "Books to Remember" collection consists of an annual selection of 25 fiction and non-fiction books from among those published in the United States in the course of a given year, chosen by a panel of literary critics and librarians.

The list of selected works is printed as a brochure, distributed

throughout the year in the libraries and branches of the New York Public Library system, and is intended as a "suggested reading" list.



The novel *Ellos vienen... La conquista de México* was translated by Beatrice Berler and published by the University of North Texas.

Voices of Mexico is pleased to recommend this work, which serves as a source of information on our magnificent culture.

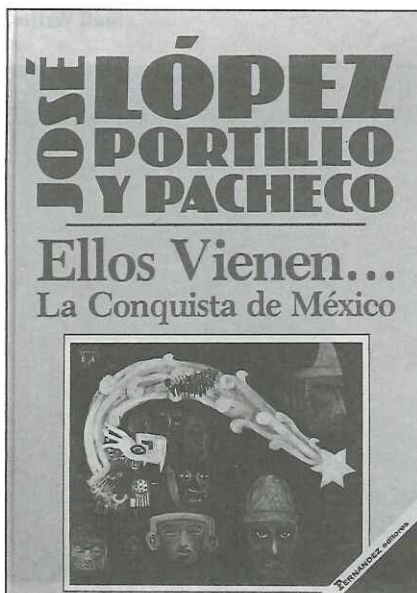
All of that which Man has been, and all that has been created by his genius; all that has been the subject of his reflection, all of those works which adorn our cities: all of this is the work of critical thought.

Gibbon

The Príncipe de Asturias Prize goes to the magazine *Vuelta*

In Oviedo, Spain, the 1993 Príncipe de Asturias Prize for Communications and the Humanities was awarded to the Mexican magazine *Vuelta*, in recognition of its status as one of the most important publications in the Spanish language.

This monthly magazine was founded in 1971 by a group of intellectuals led by Nobel Prize laureate Octavio Paz. Its first issues carried the title *Plural*; in 1976 the name was changed to *Vuelta*. Throughout this period, the magazine



has maintained its pluralist character in the fields of literary, artistic and political commentary and criticism. An anti-dogmatic philosophy is the cornerstone of its commitment to democracy and anti-totalitarianism.

Many Mexican authors have been read for the first time abroad thanks to the more than 200 issues of the magazine which have been published so far. *Vuelta* has also acted as a bridge between authors writing in Spanish, providing a forum to continuously connect Latin America with the rest of the world.

An editorial in the first issue of *Vuelta* argued that a people without poetry is also a people without a soul, and that a nation without critics is indeed a blind nation.

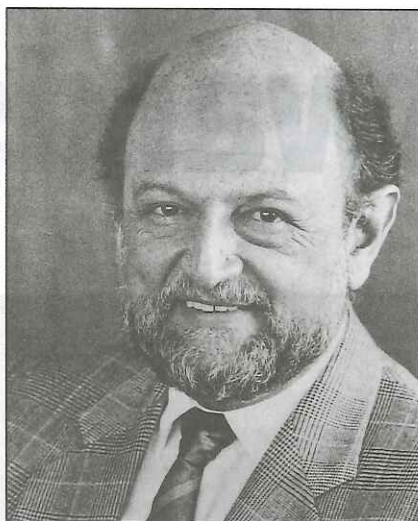
Vuelta is the second Mexican publication to receive this award; in 1989, Mexico's Fondo de Cultura Económica was similarly honored.

The Príncipe de Asturias Prize was created in 1981 with the aim of honoring Latin American individuals, groups or institutions that through their creative works or research have made a significant contribution to mankind. The award is considered to be among the most important in the world, after the Nobel prize.

The award is to be presented to *Vuelta* by Prince Philip of Spain next November; it includes a monetary prize of five million pesetas (43,000 dollars), as well as a reproduction of a sculpture by Joan Miró.

José Sarukhán named member of U.S. National Academy of Sciences

For his contributions in the field of biodiversity, José Sarukhán, Rector of the National University of Mexico (*UNAM*), was named a member of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States in April of this year. The academy is a private organization made up of scientists and engineers devoted to the advancement of science and its application to improving the quality



José Sarukhán.

of life for all. Being chosen as a member of the academy is considered one of the highest honors that can be bestowed on scholars from the United States and the rest of the world.

José Sarukhán is a distinguished Mexican ecologist who, while fulfilling his duties as Rector of the university, continues to be highly active in his academic pursuits, working with a team of scientists at UNAM's Ecology Center, participating in domestic and international ecology organizations, and writing for several international journals. He has received several awards, among them the Missouri

Botanical Garden's Henry Shaw Medal; the Botanical Society of America's Dimond Committee Prize; and doctorates honoris causa from the University of San Carlos in Lima, Peru, as well as recently from the University of Wales.

Príncipe de Asturias Prize awarded to Silvio Zavala

The Mexican historian Silvio Zavala was recently awarded the Príncipe de Asturias Prize in the area of Social Sciences. Among his more than fifty books are *El mundo americano en la época colonial* (The American world during the Colonial epoch), *Iberoamérica: una comunidad* (Iberoamerica: one community), and *La defensa de los derechos del hombre en América Latina* (The defense of human rights in Latin America), which was originally published by UNESCO in 1953 and subsequently brought out in three languages. The Social Sciences prize will be given to Zavala in November by Prince Felipe of Spain. Of the eight prizes in various fields awarded annually by the Foundation of the Principality of Asturias, two were won this year by Mexican scholars ❧

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Silvio Zavala.