

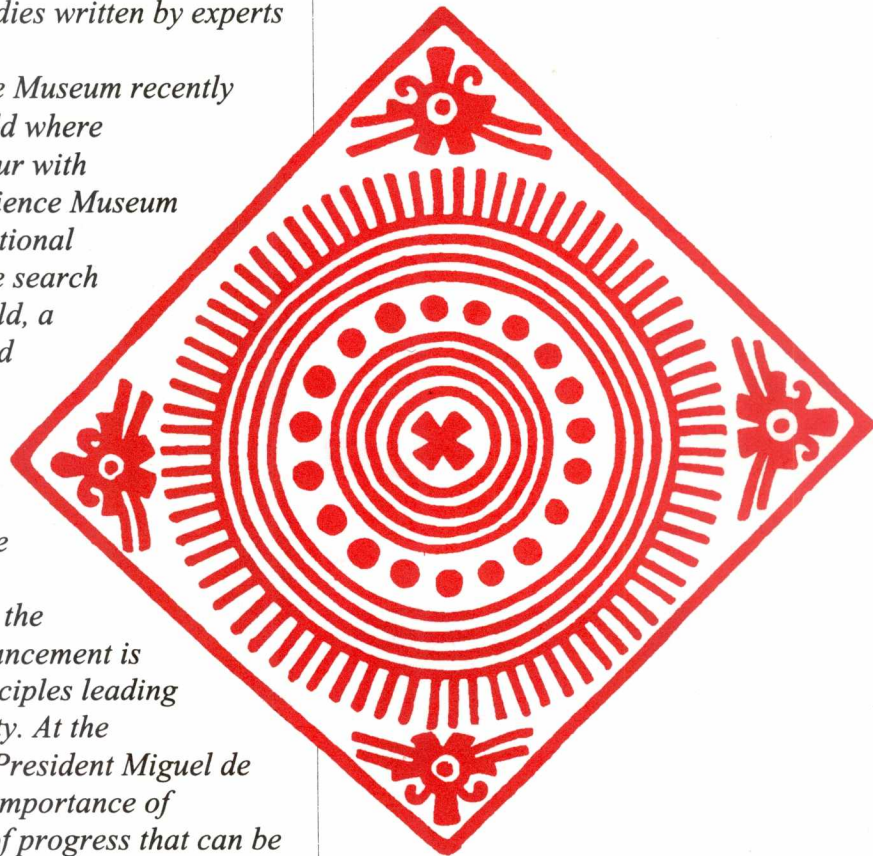
# Our voice

**D**rug addiction is a serious problem worldwide, a malady which corrupts society. With regard to this topic, in this issue we publish the final part of Peter H. Smith's introduction to the book *Drug policy in the Americas*, an important collection of studies written by experts from our continent.

The Universum Science Museum recently opened its doors. In a world where technological changes occur with increasing rapidity, the Science Museum is a contribution by the National University of Mexico to the search for peace and a better world, a world which can put an end to poverty and ignorance.

At its New Delhi meeting, held last May, the Action Group released a statement on the *Advancement of Human Civilization*, stressing that the precondition for such advancement is respect for a series of principles leading to world peace and stability. At the meeting, former Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid referred to the importance of disarmament for the sort of progress that can be shared by all of society.

The United Nations is the world organization charged with the task of encouraging and supporting the factors which can guarantee coexistence. Measures have been proposed for reforming the UN's structure in order to improve its functioning. We publish two articles on this question, one contributed by Mexico's representative to international organizations in



*Geneva and the other by a Mexican specialist on international relations.*

*The Third Ibero-American Summit was held this year in Brazil. We give an account of the effort to achieve a greater cultural and economic interrelation between the Ibero-American countries which, together, make up an enormous region. Particular emphasis is given to the urgent fight against poverty, through a program jointly shared by all.*

*Negotiations for NAFTA are presently in their final stage. Intellectuals from the three countries that make up the northern part of our continent have put forward their opinions on this pact—not all of them favorable. Since the first issue of the new series of this magazine, we have published the viewpoints of academics and politicians of various ideologies. Another opinion is published here.*

*One of the architectural jewels of Mexico's Colonial era is the Colegio de las Vizcainas. In this issue we give our readers a glimpse of its beauty.*

*Carlos Fuentes, one of Mexico's best writers, wrote the excellent book *The buried mirror*, on the occasion of the 500th anniversary of Columbus' voyage to America. We have reprinted the introductory words from the English version.*

*Of the foreign travelers who visited Mexico and left written testimony, Thomas Gage's comments on his passage "through the new world" are outstanding. Andrés Henestrosa directs our attention to this significant historical figure.*

*One of the first Europeans to arrive at the marvelous city of Tenochtitlan, capital of the Aztec empire, was Bernal Díaz del Castillo. Since*

*he was an eyewitness to the bloody struggle between Spaniards and Indians, his narrative is one of the most important books on the Conquest of Mexico.*

*Bernal Díaz del Castillo recalls the impression this unique city made upon him, describing it with admiration. He also laments its destruction, which was an irreparable loss for humanity. We publish this chapter from his remarkable book *The true history of the Conquest of Mexico*, taken from the first translation to English, made by Maurice Keatings, Esq. and printed in London in 1800.*

*Given the dynamic interrelationships in the northern region of our continent, we are pleased to take note of developments in contemporary Canadian literature. It is indispensable that we get to know each other better, and one of the best vehicles for doing so is the written word.*

*Of Mexican painters from the beginning of this century, in this issue we refer to Gerardo Murillo, better known as Dr. Atl ("water" in Nahuatl), a witness to the Revolution which began in 1910 and initiator—together with other painters—of an artistic movement with deep national roots.*

*This issue begins the third year of the new series of *Voices of Mexico*, published quarterly by UNAM, with articles of general and abiding interest which reflect an era of profound changes moving towards globalization. Each year we publish a bound volume consisting of the four issues published over the course of the year. Other volumes will follow in the future, gathering part of the imprint of our time ✕*

**Hugo B. Margáin**  
**Editorial Director.**