

Farewell from Ambassador Juan Jose Bremer



Ambassador Juan Jose Bremer with representatives of the Mexican Student Society in the United Kingdom

As my appointment as Mexican Ambassador to the Court of St James's draws to a close, I would like to express my gratitude to all the friends of Mexico in the United Kingdom, who have given me the opportunity to broaden and deepen the dialogue and cooperation between our two countries.

The UK-Mexican relation is going through a process of transformation and upgrading which is the word that best describes the meaning of these changes. This is not an overstatement but a statement of fact. Relations among nations are not static, they are subject to changes and the UK-Mexico relation is in an ascending path due to the following factors that have brought us together: Mexico's political and economic opening in the last two decades. Our similar views regarding the extraordinary challenges the international community is currently facing, and the measures

that need to be implemented in order to re-activate the global economy and modernize the international financial and economic institutions.

The state visit of President Felipe Calderon, from 30th March to 2nd April marked a watershed in political and diplomatic relations between Mexico and the United Kingdom. In addition to the traditional protocolary programme, President Calderon met with parliamentary leaders and, at the British council, a variety of intellectuals and members of the UK cultural community. Economic promotion was highlighted as well with three major events. Two of them were held at Buckingham Palace at which the President hosted the most senior financial and business leaders from the UK and from Europe. In addition, in cooperation CBI and the City of London, we hosted the seminar the "*UK-Mexico Business Forum: Opportunities and Horizons for the Partnership*".

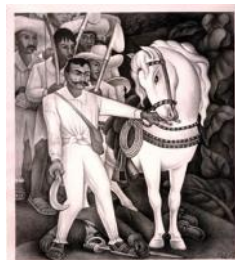
In the economic field, we have increased our efforts to promote the economic relations between our two nations. The difficult global economic situation has affected both the United Kingdom and Mexico. Regardless, in 2009 we increased substantially our efforts to promote Mexico as a destination for British investment and tourism in close cooperation with ProMexico and the Mexican Tourism Board, so the UK continues to be the top European source of tourists to Mexico. To underscore this favourable development, Mexicana Airlines began direct flights between Mexico City and London-Gatwick.

Through all these years we have placed great importance to our cultural relations –not only the production of events but also the promotion of young artists. This Autumn, the Mexican Season started with the great exhibition of "Moctezuma: Aztec Ruler" at the British Museum and it is very well accompanied by an extraordinary show of the golden age of Mexican prints from 1910 to 1960 "Revolution on Paper". It will be a fine beginning to the commemoration of the one hundred years of the Mexican revolution and two hundred years of our Independence.

I take away an excellent memory of my relationships with Mexican students in the UK. Some 2,000 students are currently pursuing masters degrees and doctorates, many of them enjoying scholarships from Conacyt. This is the best investment made by our country and the best guarantee for the longer term growth in the Mexico-UK relationship.

My ties with the United Kingdom will remain very much alive and before bidding farewell I would like to express my deepest appreciation for your support and friendship.

London 26 November 2009



Mexico at WTM 2009

Mexico was a high-profile participant at the World Travel Market 2009 with sustained press interest in its plans for 2010.

The stand opened on Monday 9 November attracted both consumer and trade press and, along with the traditional mariachi and Huicholes artists, reflected Mexico's positioning as a strong cultural destination. The Huicholes are widely considered to be one of the world's last indigenous cultures and are known for continuing to adhere to their own ancient customs, traditions, language and lifestyle. Living in the high Sierra Mountains behind Punta de Mita, the Huichol Indians are widely regarded for their yarn paintings and beaded work. Some Huichol shaman-artists have acquired commercial success – in particular José Benítez Sánchez.

More than 50 Mexican exhibitors were in attendance at WTM including various eco-tourism destinations – such as *Eco New Mexico* which has recently introduced luxury safari camps due to open summer 2010. *Eco New Mexico* went on to be positioned strongly in UK industry trade publication *TTG* during its World Travel Market coverage.

Cancun also generated WTM press coverage having initiated a \$71 million beach restoration project last month. More than 1.3 billion gallons of sand will be used to replenish Cancun's seashore by January 2010.



Cancun remains the most popular destination for UK travelers - although Mexico's cultural, historical and geographic heritage formed a significant part of its tourist destination positioning at WTM this year. Taking into account the already established profile of beach-driven destinations, Mexico is now focusing on developing a strategy which underlines 'hospitality, culture and diversity' (Mexico City for example attracted 25,293 UK visitors between January and August of this year, putting it in second place as the UK's most popular tourist destination in Mexico).



MEXICO AMIGO: helping children

Gloria Khan is a Executive Committee Member of *México Amigo* since 1993, a charitable organization that works projects for children in need in Mexico.

How is Mexico Amigo organised?

México Amigo is a registered charity formed in 1990. Since then we continue to have a great team of volunteers, mostly Mexicans with diverse backgrounds, but with one mission: To make a positive change to the lives of disadvantaged children and young people in Mexico, while ensuring that every penny raised by our charity goes directly towards our carefully selected projects.

What makes Mexico Amigo projects unique?

We may not be unique, though we are probably the only charity in the UK raising funds exclusively for children in need in Mexico. We endeavour to follow up the development of each of our projects and to maintain a close relationship with our beneficiaries.

The fact that we work as a team and more importantly as friends has made our goals more achievable and our tireless efforts when organising our events are worth the time and trouble, when we picture a more positive future for so many vulnerable children.

How many children are being helped in Mexico?

This year we selected two main charities. Prade AC in Puebla & Una Luz de Esperanza Para la Niñez in México City. Both provide education and one meal to at least 1500 children predominantly of indigenous background who live in extreme poverty. Only a few you can say and that is why we invite anyone interested in making a difference to contact us. For our children a little help goes a long way.

What's your favourite aspect of working at the organisation?

First and foremost we feel humbled by the gratitude demonstrated by the children themselves by way of letters, drawings or photographs when help has reached them. I think it is the aspect we enjoy the most, for it is then that we feel motivated to continue with this mission.

What projects for México Amigo are being planned for the future?

Our most popular event is the Traditional Posada which this year will take place on the 5th of December so we encourage you to get your tickets now. We need gifts for our raffle, volunteers on the day and donations and more donations.

For 2010 new and exciting events are in the pipeline with more cultural and traditional Mexican celebrations, for which every support will always be welcome. Watch this space.



For more information or to enroll as a volunteer, call 0208 452 8201, 0207 581 0765 or visit www.mexicoamigo.org www.youtube.com/user/MexAmigo

MEXICO AMIGO is a UK Registered Charity No.1014378.



MÉXICO AMIGO INVITES YOU TO JOIN THE FIESTA!

Saturday 5 December 2009

13 : 00 to 17 : 00 Hrs

Entrance fee
£ 6 adults
£ 3 children
(4 - 10 years)

Great fun and all for a good cause!

Traditional piñatas,
authentic Mexican food,
beer and drinks,
DJ & music live mariachi and
prizes to be won.

The Apostles Church Hall, 47 Cumberland Street , London SW1V 4IY



Buy your tickets today ! visit www.mexicoamigo.org

Revolution on Paper at the British Museum

Mark McDonald writes for MEXICO TODAY



The British Museum has mounted the first ever exhibition to be held in Europe on the great age of Mexican printmaking in the first half of the twentieth century. 130 works by around 40 artists are shown in the Museum's Prints and Drawings Gallery (Room 90) from the 22 October 2009 – 5 April, 2010.

Between 1910 and 1920 Mexico was convulsed by the first socialist revolution led by Emiliano Zapata who was killed in 1919. From this struggle emerged a strong left-wing government that laid great emphasis on art as a vehicle for promoting the values of the revolution. This inspired a pioneering programme to cover the walls of public buildings with vast murals, and later to the establishment of workshops to make prints for mass distribution. Both of these initiatives were to have a profound influence in the United States during the 1930s and 1940s, while both Americans and Europeans were drawn to the radical political environment of Mexico.

Some of the finest of prints were produced by the three great men of Mexican art of the period: Diego Rivera, José Clemente Orozco and David Alfaro Siqueiros. Yet many other printmakers and artists were involved, especially after the establishment of the *Taller del Gráfica Popular* in Mexico City in 1937. The range of material is fascinating: as well as single-sheet artists' prints, there are large posters with designs in woodcut or lithography by these same artists, and illustrated books on many different themes. The exhibition includes earlier works from the first decade of the twentieth century by the engraver José Guadalupe Posada, who was adopted by the left as the archetypal 'people's printmaker'. He is particularly associated with the imagery of the Day of the Dead festivities and the single-sheet prints known as 'Calaveras' which often carried satirical and political messages. The response to the exhibition has been tremendous. Many of our visitors have remarked how wonderful it is to see works from a tradition that they knew little about.

Mark McDonald, curator of the exhibition *Revolution on Paper*.



www.britishmuseum.org



Day of the Dead at the British Museum

In Mexico the Day of the Dead is an annual festivity where families gather to remember those who have passed on. This year the Day of the Dead was celebrated at the British Museum with special events.



ACALASP and FOYLES present the Festival of IBERO AMERICAN LITERATURE



The Association of Cultural Attaches of Latin America, Spain and Portugal (ACALASP) in collaboration with Foyles bookshop is proud to have presented the 1 Festival of Ibero American Literature aimed to promote and celebrate the literature of the region.

ACALASP created an event which presented a unique combination of sessions in which renowned academics from the UK and abroad discussed not only historic or gender topics but also other essential subjects such as the relationship between cinema and literature or the challenges of literary translation.

Audiences also between 10-15 November had the unique opportunity to learn more about recent works by upcoming Latin American writers plus a special session with the 2008 Pulitzer Prize winner, Junot Díaz.

For more information please visit:
www.acalasp.org.uk, www.foyles.co.uk

The famous Cuarteto Latinoamericano in London

The Cuarteto Latinoamericano is one of the world's leading string quartets. Founded in 1981, this award winning quartet is formed by Mexican musicians and brothers violinists Saúl and Arón and cellist Álvaro, along with violinist Javier Montiel.

They performed at the Bolivar Hall on 24 November at 7.30pm with guest pianist Alberto Portugheis. This concert is supported by the Embassy of Mexico in the UK and Opus Música will feature a programme with music by Heitor Vila-Lobos, Silvestre Revueltas, Javier Álvarez and Alberto Ginastera, among others.

The quartet has performed worldwide and with leading orchestras such as Los Angeles Philharmonic, Dallas Symphony and the Simón Bolívar Orchestra of Venezuela to mention just a few.

Nominated for a Grammy award in 2002 in the field of Best Chamber Music Recording as well as for a Latin Grammy, this is a unique opportunity to experience the Cuarteto Latinoamericano in London.

National Autonomous University of Mexico received prestigious prize



The National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM) has won the prestigious **Principe de Asturias Prize** in recognition of its being one of the finest universities in the world.

Long considered the best Spanish language university, the UNAM is well known for its scientific research, its major publications, the formation of countless professionals and the promotion of culture.

The UNAM has played a major role in Mexico's development over the course of many years. The UNAM's community consists of 360 thousand students and gives more than 25 thousand classes daily. It offers 82 bachelor level programs and 131 masters and doctor level programs.

The University operates 24 campuses in Mexico and 4 centers abroad in Los Angeles, San Antonio, Chicago and the province of Quebec in Canada.

MEXICAN AUTUMN

DECEMBER

1 December 6.00p

Literature:
Margo Glantz
(TBC)

Novelist, literary critic and diplomat, Margo Glantz talks about her work and Mexican literature.

University of Manchester
School of Social Sciences

2 December 5.00pm

History:
De la ciudad de Moctezuma al México contemporáneo (In Spanish)

Mexican writer and historian Ángeles González Gamio, talks about fascinating facts on the history of Mexico's capital since the days of the Moctezuma empire.

University of Southampton
TBC

3 December 6.30pm

History:
De la ciudad de Moctezuma al México contemporáneo

Instituto Cervantes
102 Eaton Square
London
SW1W 9AN

4 December 6.30pm

Cinema:
Duck Season (2004) Dir. Fernando Eimbcke

Urban comedy featuring the life of two teenage boys, their neighbour and a pizza delivery man.

The British Museum
Lecture Theatre
Clare Education Centre
www.britishmuseum.org

5 December 1:00-5:00pm

Posada Mexico Amigo

Traditional piñatas, authentic Mexican food, beer and drinks, DJ & music live mariachi and prizes to be won.

The Apostles Church Hall, 47
Cumberland Street, London
SW1V 4IY
www.mexicoamigo.org

30 Nov – 4 Diciembre

Felipe Ehrenberg
Performance: The many Revenges of Moctezuma

One of Mexico's most groundbreaking artist, Felipe Ehrenberg at the University of Essex commissioned to create a performance to mark the Moctezuma exhibition at the British Museum.

University of Essex

12 Diciembre

Symposium: Circulation/Infiltration: Mail Art and the Art Market

TBC the participation of Felipe Ehrenberg and art critic Cuauhtémoc Medina.

Tate Modern
Starr Auditorium
www.tate.org.uk

MEXICO TODAY

A publication by:

The Press Office of the Embassy of Mexico to the United Kingdom.
16 St. George Street
London W1S 1FD

www.sre.gob.mx/reinounido

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