



NOTISEM

March 19, 2014

100 YEARS OF OCTAVIO PAZ



CELEBRATING THE YEAR OF OCTAVIO

GOALS OF THE YEAR OF OCTAVIO PAZ:

The works of Octavio Paz allow a better understanding of Hispanic cultural life. The Year of Octavio Paz will also positively impact the cultural life of Mexico, allowing us to know more about the work and thoughts of one of the biggest promoters of Mexican culture.

SOME OF OCTAVIO PAZ'S NOTABLE WORKS:

- The Labyrinth of Solitude, 1950 (essay)
- Sunstone, 1957 (poetry)
- Eastern Slope, 1969 (poetry)
- The Monkey Grammarian, 1974 (prose)

WHAT IS THE YEAR OF OCTAVIO PAZ?

Activities will be carried out in Mexico and internationally to commemorate the centennial of Octavio Paz, including: presentations of books on his work, cancellation of a commemorative postage stamp, issue of a National Lottery ticket, readings of his poems; opening of the second floor of the Octavio Paz Library; intellectual encounters, conferences, among other activities.

READING OCTAVIO PAZ IN THE XXI CENTURY:

With the aim of bringing more people closer to his work, the Secretariat of Public Education will provide a free anthology of the works of Octavio Paz to all student that graduate from high school during the current year.

OCTAVIO PAZ'S CULTURAL AND LITERARY MEMBERSHIPS:

Member of *El Colegio Nacional* (The National College); the American Academy of Arts and Letters; *Academia Mexicana* (The Mexican Academy of the Language); the National Council for Culture and Arts' (CONACULTA) Commission for Literature; and the Royal Academy of Belgium, among others.

OCTAVIO PAZ IN THE WORLD

Octavio Paz's works have been translated into more than 30 languages. Internationally renowned authors such as Samuel Beckett, Elizabeth Bishop, Muriel Rukeyser, Mark Strand, and Charles Tomlinson translated the works of Octavio Paz into English.

IN HIS OWN WORDS:

*"Everything threatens us:
the time, that in living fragments severs
what I have been from what I will become..."*

Octavio Paz (Beyond Love)

OCTAVIO PAZ LOZANO WAS BORN ON MARCH 31, 1914 IN MEXICO CITY. POET, ESSAYIST, AND DIPLOMAT, IN 1990 HE WAS AWARDED THE WORLD'S GREATEST RECOGNITION IN THE FIELD OF LITERATURE: THE NOBEL PRIZE IN LITERATURE. COMMEMORATING THE CENTENNIAL OF ONE OF THE GREATEST EXPONENTS OF MEXICAN CULTURE, CONGRESS DECLARED 2014 AS THE "YEAR OF OCTAVIO PAZ." OCTAVIO PAZ DIED ON APRIL 19, 1998 IN MEXICO CITY.

Nobel Prize in Literature and International Awards:

In 1990, **Octavio Paz was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature**, "for impassioned writing with wide horizons, characterized by sensuous intelligence and humanistic integrity". Alongside Mexican diplomat **Alfonso García Robles** and **Mario Molina**, Octavio Paz is one of Mexico's three Nobel laureates.

Octavio Paz was also recognized with major international literary awards, including the **National Prize for Arts and Sciences** in 1977; the **Miguel de Cervantes Prize** in 1981 —the most important literary award in the Spanish-speaking world; the **Neustadt International Prize for Literature** in 1982, the **Alfonso Reyes International Prize** in 1986; the **Prince of Asturias Award** in 1993, among others. He received various **honorary doctorates** degree by distinguished national and international universities.

Octavio Paz, Mexican diplomat:

Octavio Paz **joined the Mexican Foreign Service in 1944**. His diplomatic career allowed him to live in France, India, and Japan. These countries deeply influenced his work. As an official at the Mexican Ministry of Foreign Affairs, he served as Director of International Organizations.

In 1962 Octavio Paz was appointed **Ambassador of Mexico to India**, a post he held until 1968, year in which he concluded his diplomatic activity, as a means to protest against the policy of the Mexican government to the student movement.

A lifetime of promoting literature and culture:

From an early age, Octavio Paz stood out as a major promoter of literature and culture. Before turning 20, he founded his first literary reviews, **Barandal** and **Cuadernos del Valle**. Later, he participated in the founding of the literary journal **Taller**, in 1938; **Plural** (1971-1976), and finally **Vuelta**, recognized as the most important literary journal in the Spanish-speaking world, founded in 1976.

Did you know that...

The *Fondo de Cultura Económica* —the decentralized publishing institution funded by the Mexican Government— celebrated its 100th million-production by printing *The Labyrinth of Solitude*, Octavio Paz's masterpiece?

For more information...

[Official site](#) of the Year of Octavio Paz
["In Search of the Present"](#) Nobel Lecture by Octavio Paz.