



Confédération Internationale de Généalogie et d'Héraldique International Confederation for Genealogy and Heraldry

Moral Report 2021

Precisely on 31 December 2019, China communicated the spread of an atypical pneumonia “cluster” of viral origin, and from that moment our “Society” slowed down gradually more and more. I believe that before the present day we had not seen anything so terrible that it stopped all work in the human community.

One might think that even the CIGH did not carry out its usual activity to fulfil its principles and duties. Well, I believe that those who think this are totally wrong because we have made many steps forward that allow us to say that we have been present wherever we were allowed to be. If all our congresses, talks and conferences stopped (I mean those of the associations belonging to the CIGH), we have had the possibility of online contacts, and so they have continued and we have held our meetings such as the general General Assembly of December 2020, and we participated in all the online meetings that invited us, for example, to the important 2020 event of the *Fédération Française de Généalogie - FFG*, or rather the *Gene@Event2020 - Le Salon virtuel de la généalogie; Roots Tech 2021* (organized by FamilySearch); and in Italy at the “*Il Mese della Genealogia*” (The Genealogy Month) event in both 2020 and 2021.

In addition, we have obviously been asked for patronage for scheduled online activities that we have granted. The name of CIGH also went around the world in the USA and Brazil. However, I believe that our jewel is the conclusion of the first University project relating to a *Higher Education Course in Heraldry, Genealogy, Documentary Sciences of History* carried out online with a State university that is preparatory to teaching that will become permanent at the *Università degli Studi Mediterranea di Reggio Calabria* planned for the 2021-2022 academic year. A project that is expanding and that will become a 1st and then 2nd level Master, realized with an opening on all fronts with lessons implemented to understand our subjects according to the Hispanic, British, French and obviously American (North and South) realities, and even with hints of Africa and Asia.

The aim is to create, at an international level, a real specialisation in a University structure with the collaboration of other Universities so that professionals in the sector can have complete professional training with the University courses being equivalent to current University courses abroad where our subjects are studied. The CIGH was also present on Italian national TV broadcast by the RAI, and in various Italian radio broadcasts that have helped non-experts and the curious to follow a certain methodology that would allow genealogical research, and the heraldic creation of coats of arms for entities and individuals, with the hope that at least one acceptable and serious result could be achieved.

The resumption of the *CIGH Bulletin* that will report world news related to heraldry and genealogy is scheduled for the end of the year, with the aim of making known what has been done in the years 2019-2020 and 2021, at such a different time for activities. The resumption of the International Colloquia and Congresses in presence was carried out for the first time after the Covid-19 closures in Messina (Italy) where the *International Academy of Genealogy A.I.G.* held the 12th *International Genealogy Colloquium* from 6 to 9 October, and now this *XXXIV International Congress of Genealogical and Heraldic Sciences* is following from 20 to 23 October 2021, which was supposed to be held in 2020, but the pandemic prevented this from happening. During the congress, our *Commission for prizes and medals* will grant 7 prizes to institutions or people who have made excellent strides in our subject matters.

On 20 October, in Madrid, at the opening of the Congress, the following prizes will be presented according to the date of foundation: **Premio László Bohus de Világos 2020** to *Marcos Fernández de Béthencourt*, for “La Orden de Malta. Estatuto Jurídico Internacional” (2019); **Premio Dalmiro de la Válgoma 2020** to *Dominique Henneresse*, for «Ordres et décorations du Saint-Siège» (2019); **Premio Vicente de Cadenas 2020** to *Armand de Fluvià i Escorsa*, Catalanian Assessor of Heraldry and Genealogy, for his scientific work on Catalan heraldry; **Premio S.A.I.R. Archiduquesa Mónica de Austria, Duquesa de Santangelo 2020** to *Amadeo-Martín Rey y Cabieses*, for “his scientific work in the documentary sciences of history”; **Dr. Walburga von Habsburg Douglas Prize 2020** to *Dirk Weissleder*, for his important work in favour of the knowledge of German genealogy and family history in the world; **Prix Son Éminence le Cardinal Andrea Cordero Lanza di Montezemolo 2020** to the publication of the *Bollettino della Accademia Reale Matritense di Araldica e Genealogia (Bulletin of the Royal Matrithean Academy of Heraldry and Genealogy)* for their scientific work since 1991; **Premio Faustino Menéndez Pidal de Navascués 2020** to *Eduardo Pardo de Guevara y Valdés*, for “his scientific work in the documentary sciences of history”.

International Commission of Orders of Chivalry Prize (2020), to *Michele D’Andrea - Fabio Cassani Pironti*, for their publication “Vestire gli Onori” (2020), which will be delivered during the coming XXXV Congress in Canterbury. Five associations will be proposed for entry into the CIGH at the next General Assembly. In Madrid we will give the task of strengthening and expanding our **Confederación Iberoamericana de ciencias Genealogica y Heraldica**, to new organizations.

An online meeting is scheduled for the end of the year, and another four online meetings will follow in 2022 to maintain contact with all organisations, and possibly refresher courses on new technologies. The closing dinner of the XXXIV Congress in Madrid is dedicated to the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the foundation of CIGH by the Duc de la Force and to its development over the years. I conclude by inviting you to visit the new CIGH website: www.cigh.info which has everything you need to know about our Confederation. I believe that despite the serious problems we have experienced in recent years, our results have always been very satisfactory.

I would like to conclude my speech with a due thanks to the Real Asociación de Hidalgos de España and its President the Exc.mo Sr. Don Manuel Pardo de Vera y Diaz.

Pier Felice degli Uberti
Président