



PRESS RELEASE

The Minister of Culture of Chile leads the international launch of the “Obra Reunida” of Gabriela Mistral and a donation to the Cervantes Institute’s Virtual Library

- ***Together with Gabriela Mistral Foundation, Inc. and the Cervantes Institute in New York, Minister Consuelo Valdes will present the eight-volume series of the “Obra Reunida” of Gabriela Mistral and will donate a full set to the Cervantes Institute’s Virtual Library for the use of the worldwide literary community.***

NEW YORK, November 12, 2020—Within the framework of the launch of the “Obra Reunida” of Gabriela Mistral—a publication of the National Library of Chile, the Minister of Culture, Arts and Heritage of Chile, Mrs. Consuelo Valdes, will lead the first international launch of the publication that in eight volumes collects most of the work of the Nobel Prize Winner. After the event, the complete set will be donated to the Virtual Library of the Cervantes Institute to expand the access to Mistral’s work by the worldwide literary community.

The book launch will be streamed online via the Ministry of Culture’s Facebook Live on Wednesday, November 18, 2020 at 6:00pm NY Time – 8:00 pm Chile Time and 12:00 midnight Madrid Time. In addition to the Cabinet Minister, the event will feature the participation of Pedro Pablo Zegers, Director of the National Library of Chile, Gloria Garafulich-Grabois, president of the Gabriela Mistral Foundation, Inc. and a special greeting from the Ambassador of Chile to the United States, the Honorable Alfonso Silva and from Mr. Richard Bueno Hudson, Director of the Cervantes Institute in New York. The event is presented by the entities mentioned with the collaboration of BIG magazine.

Minister Valdes remarks that “This event will allow the world literary community—Mistralian scholars and public in general—to access the contents of these eight volumes of “Obra Reunida.” “This meeting between countries and cultures from different corners of the world highlights the work and figure of one of the most recognized Chilean poets in the world. A woman from Chile, whose work reached the world and who will be honored with the publication that collects and aims to make her extensive and important body of work and is also a window to her soul.

Pedro Pablo Zegers, Director of the National Library of Chile and a Mistral scholar, celebrates the “reencounter” with New York, remembering that “in 1922, Mistral’s first book Desolación is published in this city by the Instituto de las Españas. This Institute is the predecessor of what is now the Cervantes Institute. It is therefore, important that today, so many years later and precisely under

the auspices of this institution together with the Gabriela Mistral Foundation, Inc. of New York, that is a privilege—and in a way, a show of gratitude of Chile to the Institute that was so kind as to collect Gabriela Mistral’s written voice in a collection of poems to make them known—for the first time on the world stage.

On behalf of the Gabriela Mistral Foundation, Inc., a nonprofit organization she presides, Gloria Garafulich-Grabois remarks: “it is a great honor for our foundation to participate in the international launch of the 8 volume collection of ‘Obra Reunida” by Gabriela Mistral in New York—in an event that honors and highlights the important bond that Mistral had and has with this great city. The city where, 98 years ago, the Instituto de las Españas not only recognizes the importance of Mistral’s work, but also extends to her the invitation to publish, under their imprint, her first collection Desolación in 1922. New York is the city where she taught, she performed consular and diplomatic duties for her native country and for the then known as the League of Nations—that today we know as the United Nations--, where she lived her final years and the city where in 1957 she died. This Mistralian Encounter, recognized, values, and highlights the great work of the Cervantes Institute— heir to the Instituto de las Españas —and its close relationship with Mistral. It is motive of great joy and importance that the first international presentation of ‘Obra Reunida’ is held not only in this city but also with the Cervantes Institute in New York. New York was important to Gabriela and Gabriela was and continues to be important to New York. We thank our distinguished guests: Minister Valdes and Mr. Zegers for participating in today’s event and we thank Mr. Richard Bueno Hudson, director of the Cervantes Institute in New York for welcoming Gabriela when she “Reunites with New York” and to all the Cervantes Institute’s around the world who always graciously and kindly receive Gabriela and our Foundation.”

The goal of the publication of “Obra Reunida” of Gabriela Mistral is to make more widely known the body of work—her poems and prose-. The eight-volume collection aims to reach many and varied readers—the public in general and scholars and specialists interested in her work in her native country Chile and around the world. The collection includes the most important and significant texts by the poet—those that have been called “canonical,” that were edited by the poet and in various collections, but it also included unpublished and scattered works that are deemed to be finished.

This project can be traced back to the 2007 donation of made by Doris Atkinson, the niece of Doris Dana who was the executrix of Gabriela Mistral to the National Cultural Heritage Service of Chile. This event is organized with the desire to honor the poet on the occasion of the upcoming 75th anniversary of receiving her Nobel Prize in Literature—on December 10, 1945—the culmination of a project started as part of the celebration of the 130th anniversary of her birth—a milestone marked in 2019.

In order to determine the works that would be included in this publication, we convened a group of scholars and experts in the life and work of Gabriela Mistral. They are: Jaime Quezada Ruiz, a poet and Mistral expert; Magdalena Sepulveda Eriz, an academic at the Pontifical Catholic University of Chile; Carlos Decap Fernandez, editor and poet; Gustavo Barrera Calderon, a poet who was also part of the team that handled the organization and classification of the legacy of Gabriela Mistral donated by Doris Atkinson, and Thomas Harris Espinoza, director of the National Library Publishing department.

Obra Reunida in VIII volumes

The contents of this 8-volume publication are organized as follows:

Volumes I and II: Poetry edited by Mistral. These two volumes include her “canonical” poetry, which are referenced to the first editions of each one of her 4 collections.

Volume I: includes: Desolación (Editorial Nascimento: Santiago, 1923) and Tala (Editorial Sur: Buenos Aires, 1938)

Volume II: includes: Ternura (Ediciones Austral: Buenos Aires, 1945) and Lagar (Ediciones del Pacifico, Santiago, 1954)

Volume III: Posthumous poetry. This volume contains the first edition of Poema de Chile (Pomaire: Santiago, 1967), as this is the edition Mistral had prepared before her death; as well as the unpublished and scattered poetry that was collected by researchers and experts and published in Lagar II.

Volume IV: includes all her unpublished and scattered poetry that was collected for book projects such as Almácigo (Luis Vargas Saavedra), as well as a large part of the material that is in the hands of the Nacional Library’s Writer’s Archives.

Volume V: include the poetry in prose work of Gabriela Mistral. It includes Motives of San Francisco (Andres Bello Editions, 2008) as well as other texts that have already been collected and published such as Materias (Alfonso Calderon), Elogios, Estampas, among others.

Volumes VI and VII: Prose. These volumes include prose in essay or in article format—the so called “messages,” essays, etc. They are the texts that have been previously published in books prepared by researchers such as Roque Esteban Scarpa, Alfonso Calderón, Jaime Quezada, Pedro Pablo Zegers, etc., as well as texts that are preserved as part of the bequest donated by Doris Atkinson that remain unpublished or scattered. The prose volumes are divided and structured according to a thematic criterion.

Volume VI includes prose relating to Chile and America from the point of view of landscapes, geography, famous people (politicians, writers, or heroes), trade and artistic practices, etc.

Volume VII gathers prose texts relating to Europe and North America.

Volume VIII: Epistolary that compiles Gabriela Mistral’s correspondence—of a public nature (intellectuals, politicians, writers, etc.) which is more relevant due to the recipients and destinations (geographical locations), where at the time, her epistolary interlocuters were located.

###