

Program of Events

“The International Brigades: from the local to the global”

Madrid, October 20-21, 2011

International Institute of Spain

History Library of the University of Madrid

On the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the formation of the International Brigades in October of 1936, the Association of Friends of the International Brigades (AABI) and the Center for Documentation of the International Brigades (CEDOBI) of the University of Madrid (UCM), will sponsor several sessions dedicated to the history and remembrance of the internationals. This will insure continuity after the initiative launched in March of 2011, when the first sessions on “From memory to memorial: the International Brigades on Campus” were held at the School of Fine Arts of the University of Madrid (UCM), and a competition was announced for artistic projects and ideas for a memorial that AABI is hoping to erect to the brigadistas in University City on October of 2011.

Under the heading of “The International Brigades: from the local to the global,” this program will be dedicated to exploring in greater depth the 3 topics announced in March:

- **The defense of Madrid** in November and December of 1936, and the role of the brigadistas in that fight, especially at University City, the scene of the first entrance into the war of the international units, formed at that time of volunteers from some twenty countries.
- **The international response** in Europe, the United States and Latin America to the defense of Madrid, as a focal point of internal political tensions, of the solidarity movement with the Republic and of an artistic outpouring from Hollywood cinema to the creative process that gave birth to Picasso's *Guernica*.
- **Remembering the international brigades**, the why, what and how of the groups dedicated to maintaining the legacy of the international brigades, and the new challenges they will face in a future without the living presence of the brigadistas.

This series will bring together well-known experts in the field, from Spain as well as from Europe and America. The program will include keynote speakers, presentations of the latest research, film screenings, and a roundtable discussion with representatives of groups dedicated to the history of the International Brigades from several countries. We hope the Austrian brigadista

Gerhard Hoffman, one of the 2 or 3 known brigadistas who can still travel to Spain, will be able to participate in this program.

Thursday, October 20, 2011

First Session: Fascism and anti-Fascism in the Spanish Civil War

11:00-11:15 Introduction to the program

11:15-12:15 Angel Viñas (UCM), “The war against Fascism: 1936-1945?”

12:15-12:30 Break

12:30-2:00 Screening of *The Spanish Earth* (Joris Ivens, with collaboration by Ernest Hemingway, 1937)

Second Session: “The brigadistas in the Defense of Madrid”

4:30-5:15 Julio Aróstegui (UCM), “Los brigadistas in University City”

5:15-6:00 Marta Torres (UCM), “The Library of the School of Philosophy and Letters, battle site”

6:00-6:30 Coffee

6:30-7:15 Archeological team from the University of Madrid (UCM), “Evidence from the battle in University City.”

7:15-8:00 (Tentative) “Places in the memory of the brigadistas in Madrid,” with a presentation of the triptych “Paths of the brigadistas through Madrid”

Friday, October 21

Third Session: International Response to the Defense of Madrid

10:00-10:45 Martin Minchom (Historian), “From Madrid to *Guernica*”

10:45-11:30 Jerónimo Boragina (Historian, Argentina), “The Argentinian volunteers in the Spanish Civil War”/Niall Binns (UCM), “The Defense of Madrid in Latin America”

12-12:30 Break

- 12:30-1:15 James D. Fernández (NYU/ALBA), “La defense de Madrid in New York”
- 1:15-2:30 Screening of *Hollywood against Franco. A War on Screen*. (Oriol Porter, 2007)

Fourth Session: Remembering the International Brigades

5:00-6:00 Ángel Bahamonde (UC3), “What do we remember about the International Brigades and why?”

6:00-6:30 Break

6:30-8:30 **Roundtable Discussion “Keeping the legend alive: remembering the brigades in the 21st Century”**

Severiano Montero (AABI, Spain)

Fernando Rovetta (CEDOBI, Spain)

James Fernández (ALBA, United States)

Jerónimo Boragina (History from the Bottom Up, Argentina)

Francesco Vaia (AICVAS, Italy)

Gerhard Hoffman (Austria)