

FUNDACIÓN BANCO SANTANDER AND CARMEN IGLESIAS GIVE LIGHT TO THE PIONEER AND ENTREPRENEURIAL EFFORT OF THE SPANISH EMPIRE IN THE ADVENTURE AND SCIENCE ROUTES AFTER THE FIRST GLOBALISATION OF ELCANO

- Biographies and History, a cycle coordinated by the director of the RAH, pays tribute to the first circumnavigation of the globe and the entrepreneurial and pioneering effort of the Spanish Empire over three centuries.
- The first globalisation and the adventures of companies and businesses of the Spanish Empire changed the face of the world economy and trade.
- Exceptional figures such as Francisco Hernández, Jorge Juan, Alejandro Malaspina or Francisco Javier Balmis will be discussed in this series.

Madrid, March 2, 2020 –

"The first globalisation: America and the oceans. Routes of adventure and science. (From the 16th to the 18th century)" is the title of the series of conferences Biographies and History organised by Fundación Banco Santander in collaboration with the Fundación Cultural de la Nobleza. The inauguration will take place on Tuesday 3 March at CentroCentro Cibeles with a talk by the Director of the Royal Academy of History, Carmen Iglesias: "From the New World to a New World. First circumnavigation and return journeys", where she will review the vicissitudes and chronicles of the great epic of Magellan and Elcano, as well as the other expeditions that changed the face of the world through the efforts of the Spanish Crown and its subjects.

Carmen Iglesias, coordinator of the cycle comments that "the first globalisation was a phenomenon of planetary order that began with the Discovery, was consolidated with the first round-the-world trip and, from 1580 to 1680, involved the Hispanic Monarchy as the main protagonist". For the Director of the RAH, during the 18th century, the Spanish Monarchy, from the War of Succession onwards, faced new events and challenges such as independence from the United States and the growing threat due to the conflict of interests with other European states over control of and trade with the Indies, which meant an enormous effort never before recognised. Iglesias states that "this cycle has an impact on the knowledge of the transversal, intergenerational and diverse action that, with periods of greater or lesser intensity, the Spanish Empire set in motion during more than three centuries".

For **Borja Baselga**, director of Fundación Banco Santander, "it is an absolute priority to assign true value to our history, to put our country where it deserves to be, a pioneering and enterprising people that gave birth to the first globalisation that has shaped the contemporary world". Furthermore, we must not forget, continues **Baselga**, that "the Iberian Peninsula, due to its unique position, between Africa, America and Europe, has always played a role of ethical, cultural and political leadership at many times, which has not been valued", and he added that "the path is full of entrepreneurs, adventurers, doctors or scientists who were forgotten during three centuries and who played a fundamental role in the history of the world, and which we are now recovering with this cycle".

In the opinion of **Carmen Iglesias**, the concept of "globalisation" is generally associated with a modernity that has occurred in recent times; however, "the first globalisation was a phenomenon of planetary order that emerged from the 16th century with the Iberian expansion and which, between 1580 and 1640, under the authority exercised by the Hispanic Monarchy, led to a dynamic of exchanges on a world scale that was unprecedented". The round-the-world trip undoubtedly changed the perception of the Earth and "facilitated the scientific and empirical knowledge that would be developed through continuous travel and research, both marine and botanical, as well as scientific and religious, including explorers, adventurers, merchants, businessmen, and seekers of fortune and fame," according to **Iglesias**.

Exceptional men who served the Spanish Crown, such as Magellan and Elcano in their first tour of the world; Francisco Hernandez, a naturalist doctor who led the first Spanish scientific expedition to the New World in the time of Philip II, and who discovered corn, cocoa and pineapple, among other products, to introduce them to the world market; Jorge Juan, who visited the Spanish colonies at the end of the 18th century to assess the political, economic and social situation that anticipated the revolution in the colonies, and whose report ended up in oblivion for Godoy, or Malaspina's scientific expedition that brought numerous pioneering discoveries before Darwin, or the epic of Francisco Javier Balmis, Charles IV's personal physician, who embarked on an expedition that brought vaccines to children dying of smallpox in the Spanish colonies in America and helped mitigate the disease.

This cycle recovers the brilliance of purpose and service of these characters who have been somehow lost in our history and who deserve the limelight that was denied to them at the time.

Programme:

- Tuesday, March 3:

Carmen Iglesias (director of the Real Academia de la Historia)

Del Nuevo Mundo a un mundo nuevo. Primera circunnavegación y tornaviajes (From the New World to a new world. First circumnavigation and return trips)

- Wednesday, March 11:

Carmen Sanz (Real Academia de la Historia and professor at the UCM)

Aventura, empresa y negocio en la primera globalización (Adventure, enterprise and business in the first globalisation)

- Wednesday, 18 March:

Javier Puerto (Real Academia de la Historia and UCM professor)

Viajes, investigación y ciencias naturales: de Francisco Hernández a Jorge Juan y Malaspina (Travel, research and natural sciences: from Francisco Hernández to Jorge Juan and Malaspina)

- Tuesday, March 24:

José Luis Barona (Academic of the RAH and professor of the Univ. of Valencia)

La primera misión preventiva sanitaria global: expedición de Balmis y la vacuna (The first global preventive health mission: Balmis expedition and the vaccine)

General Coordinator: Carmen Iglesias

Director Royal Academy of History and member of the Real Academia Española

Venue: CentroCentro Cibeles, at 7.30 p.m.

About Fundación Banco Santander

At Fundación Banco Santander we work to contribute to the construction of a more equitable, inclusive and sustainable society.

With this objective, we develop initiatives grouped into three lines of action: the promotion of culture as a tool for understanding the world around us, social action to facilitate the progress of vulnerable groups and care of the environment to protect natural heritage.

In all our programmes we strive to create networks of collaboration with the third sector in order to face the main global challenges together.