

Should Canada Re-join the Pan American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH)?

By John Newcombe, University of Victoria

PAIGH was formed in 1928, in Havana, as the first specialized organization of the Organization of American States. Headquarters remain in Mexico City. The organization is supported by a quota of its members as determined by the OAS. PAIGH members now include virtually all of the Latin American states. Canada was a member until 1997, but has since withdrawn.

Is it time for Canada to re-join PAIGH, and for Canadian historians to become more involved in PAIGH? There are more Canadian historians than ever doing research on Latin America-related subjects, and becoming a member of PAIGH would raise the profile of Canadian historians in Latin America.

Complementing PAIGH's geography research themes, the history-orientated objectives of PAIGH are to encourage, coordinate and publicize historical studies of interest to the Americas. The PAIGH's History Commission (established 1946 and currently based in Costa Rica) is responsible for developing projects in archaeology, anthropology, folklore, bibliography and archives, and economic, political, and social history,

and the history of ideas. The "Revista de Historia de América" is published twice a year.

Several academic prizes are awarded, including the "Ricardo Callet-Bois" Prize, for unpublished research on the history of the Americas, the "Silvio Zavala Prize" for Colonial American History and the "Leopoldo Zea" Prize for American Thought. There are numerous courses, workshops and conferences, as well as a program of research scholarships for graduate students. This year, the historical focus is on projects based on the perspective of the New Global History, expanding with greater precision the knowledge of the historical cultural, anthropological, economic and social processes of America and its countries.

To learn more about PAIGH, go to <http://www.ipgh.org.mx/> and click on the little U.S. flag for the English language.



President's Gala
Gala du président