

Letras de Oro Literary Awards

The theatre award in the first Letras de Oro literary competition was presented to Guillermo Schmidhuber at a gala banquet in Miami on January 22, 1987. Schmidhuber, for many years Director of the Museo Alfa in Monterrey, Mexico, is pursuing graduate studies at The University of Cincinnati. Author of many plays both published and performed, his prize-winning entry, entitled *Por las tierras de Colón*, uses as a setting the bloody riots of Black Friday in Bogotá on April 11, 1948.

The Letras de Oro awards are sponsored by the American Express Company in collaboration with the University of Miami and are designed to promote Spanish literature in the United States. The 1986 competition that closed on October 12 (now the official annual deadline) generated 366 entries with participants from 37 states of the Union and Puerto Rico. Awards under each of the categories of theatre, novel, poetry, short story and essay, consisted of a \$2,000 stipend for general entrants and \$500 for students. The contest was first announced in January of 1986 in Washington, D.C. at a luncheon with Carlos Fuentes as the major speaker. Octavio Paz was the guest of honor at the awards banquet in Miami, and the symposium held the following day focused in part on Paz's literary creations.

Other finalists in the theatre division of the Letras de Oro competition this year were: Leopoldo Hernández (Miami), Iván Acosta (New York), Matías Montes-Huidobro (Honolulu) and José Manuel Torres Santiago (New York).