

## "Ollantay" Award 1989 in the Field of Theatre Research

Since 1977, the Centro Latinoamericano de Creación e Investigación Teatral (CELCIT), headquartered in Caracas, has honored outstanding individuals, groups and institutions for their work in the development of theatre and the dissemination of both creative and critical works. A distinguished jury annually awards the "Ollantay" to those chosen for consistently meritorious labors. Winners receive a metallic reproduction of an early Incan mask which symbolizes the values and cultural roots of that notable organization. The "Ollantay" is to investigators, directors and performers what the "Oscar" is to artists in the film industry.

Announcements of awards for 1989 are now in progress and the ceremony for presentation will soon take place. On March 19, 1990, Professor Pedro Bravo-Elizondo received notification at the Wichita State University that he has won in the category of "Investigación Teatral." His award letter cites a "lifetime trajectory dedicated to the investigation of the history of the genre in his country and in Latin America which is exemplary for subsequent generations."

Though he was born in the northern Chilean city of Iquique, his noteworthy career began to take shape with the completion of a master's degree in Education at Catholic University in Valparaíso (1964). Some ten years later, he received his Ph.D. in Latin American Literature from the University of Iowa. He taught at both the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater and Augustana College in South Dakota before joining the faculty of Wichita State, University in 1975. He achieved the rank of Full Professor at this institution in 1984.

Professor Bravo-Elizondo's tireless research has led to extensive travels and produced a wealth of publications. Four of his six books, and all of his more than fifty articles, deal directly with Latin American theatre. His first book, *Teatro hispanoamericano de crítica social* (Madrid: Editorial Playor, 1975), is a critical study of the theatre of protest. His second, entitled *Teatro documental latinoamericano* (México: Universidad Nacional Autónoma, 1982), is a two-volume anthology of the best documentary plays. Bravo-Elizondo's next book, *Los "enganchados" en la Era del Salitre* (Madrid: Ediciones Literatura Americana Reunida, 1983), provided a unique historical study of the nitrate era in Chile from 1880-1930. That investigation led him to write what eventually became his sixth book, *Cultura y teatro obreros en Chile (1900-1930)* (Madrid: Ediciones del Meridión, 1986). This volume represents the only existing study of plays written, directed and performed by workers in Spanish-speaking Latin America.

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For his book entitled *La dramaturgia de Egon Wolff* (Santiago: Nascimento, 1985), Bravo-Elizondo compiled the best critical essays, written in the Americas, which deal with the subject of Chilean plays. He also authored *Gabriela Mistral: Estudio y antología* (Montevideo: Editorial Ciencias, 1983) which deals with the poetry of that Chilean who is the only Latin American woman to win the Nobel for Literature. Of Bravo-Elizondo's yet-to-be-published manuscripts, the one for which he has the greatest affection is his massive study entitled "Chile 1907: La gran huelga del Salitre." He sent this historical investigation to Chilean playwright Sergio Arrau who used the research and that of *Los "enganchados"* as a basis for his award-winning play, *Santa María del Salitre* (1985). When this piece was published (1989), it was accompanied by introductory comments by Professor Bravo-Elizondo and Arrau's gratitude for a meticulously done investigation.

In addition to Professor Pedro Bravo-Elizondo's record of publication, he has distinguished himself through service on the editorial boards of the *Latin American Theatre Review* since 1978 and of *Araucaria de Chile* since 1986. He has been a member of the Executive Committee of the Association of Workers and Researchers of the New Theatre based in New York since 1985. Prior to news of the "Ollantay" award, Bravo-Elizondo's most recent distinction came when, in February of 1990, he was named "Embajador Itinerante de la Asociación de Escritores de Guatemala." This was the result of investigations which sprang from his latest sabbatical leave in Central America, funded by a Fulbright award. Professor Bravo-Elizondo is now completing a book-length manuscript which is tentatively entitled "Aproximación al teatro guatemalteco de hoy."

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