

Luis Miguel Enciso Recio **(Valladolid, 1930-Madrid, 2018)**

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Born in Valladolid in 1930, Luis Miguel Enciso Recio read Letters in that city and earned his doctorate in History in 1955. From the very first he directed his studies to the social and cultural transformations of the eighteenth century in Europe in general and Spain in particular, concentrating specifically on the emergence of the culture of the Enlightenment. His research, conducted indefatigably over the course of more than six decades, made him one of Europe's greatest experts on the Age of Enlightenment, whose political and intellectual development he recounted and interpreted with extraordinary analytical capacity. He also devoted special attention to the relations between Naples and Spain in the modern and contemporary era, forging a dense network of scholarly and academic relations around the Mediterranean. This was the origin of his collaboration with Luigi De Rosa, who in 1987 brought him onto the Editorial Board of *The Journal of European Economic History*.

In 1965, after a period of five years at the University of Navarre, he was appointed Professor of Modern and Contemporary History at Valladolid. In 1979 he moved to Complutense University of Madrid, where he held the Chair in Modern History and where he remained for the rest of his academic career, being named Professor Emeritus of the University in 2005. Both at Valladolid and at Madrid he held a series of important academic positions.

A humanist of solid liberal convictions, Luis Miguel Enciso Recio always conceived the study of history as a civic engagement, and in the second half of the 1970s, during Spain's transition from dictatorship to democracy, he was active in the Unión de Centro Democrático (UCD) headed by Adolfo Soares. He served as Senator for that party in the first legislature in the new democratic Spain, from 1977 to 1982, where among his other functions he chaired the Senate Foreign Affairs Committee.

In addition to this political commitment, Enciso always flanked his scientific activity with intense work in the organization of cultural activities. He was the first director of the Christopher Columbus House museum in Valladolid (1965-1970); he promoted the creation of the Philip II Chair at the University there in 1968; and he subsequently headed a series of cultural organizations to promote major Spanish historical celebrations, such as the Society of the Fifth Centenary of the Treaty of Tordesillas 1494-1994, of which he was President, or to coordinate Spain's participation in major international cultural events, such as the Lisbon World's Fair in 1998 (he was named Commissioner General for the Spanish pavilion). A member of the Royal Academy of History in Madrid, he won numerous awards for his academic work, including an honorary doctorate at the University of Alcalá de Henares.

Among his most important original research works, let us just recall: *La opinión pública española y la independencia hispanoamericana, 1819-1820* (last edition, 2016); *Compases finales de la cultura ilustrada en la época de Carlos IV* (2013); and *Las sociedades económicas en el siglo de las luces* (last edition, 2010). In addition, he authored major texts that have gained the status of classics in universities throughout the Spanish-speaking world, such as *La Europa del siglo XVIII* (2001) and *Los Borbones en el siglo XVIII* (2006).