

17 May 2021

In celebration of the 10th anniversary of the Fundación Shakespeare Argentina.

I am delighted to send my greetings to everyone connected to the Fundación Shakespeare Argentina, on the occasion of your first decade.

It was my pleasure to meet the founders, Mercedes de la Torre and Carlos A. Drocchi at the World Shakespeare Congress in Prague in 2011.

Now we are a decade on, and it is a special time to say 'Congratulations', and to thank you for all have been doing to gather people around Shakespeare in Argentina, and further afield.

I recall with gratitude your willingness to help The Shakespeare Birthplace Trust include a haunting, surrealist painting by Juan Carlos Liberti (1931-2014) in our exhibition to mark the 450th anniversary of Shakespeare's birth. Two years later, the Fundación helped my co-editor Peter Holbrook and me to source and include a rare interview with Liberti reflecting on his Shakespeare-related paintings for a book produced for the International Shakespeare Association: *Shakespeare's Creative Legacies: Artists, Writers, Performers, Readers* (Bloomsbury: The Arden Shakespeare, 2016). Liberti notes that 'Rafael Squirru's Shakespeare translations made me feel the rigour of Shakespeare's writing and certain surrealistic traits.' I happened to visit Shakespeare's Birthplace earlier today, on the first day of its re-opening after months of closure because of the pandemic. I was pleased to be reminded of Liberti's eye-catching portrait of William Shakespeare (1982) – his face made up of a half-concealing manuscript, his ruff like bunched-together pages, and holding a model of the Globe Theatre – courtesy of the Museo de Arte Contemporáneo Latinoamericano La Plata, República Argentina.

As I made my way further into the exhibition, I came across another Argentinian Shakespearian: Dr Claudia Ferradas, Educator and former Academic Secretary at the IES en Lenguas Vivas, Buenos Aires, and indeed another Argentinian portrait of Shakespeare – by Hernán Flores (2015).

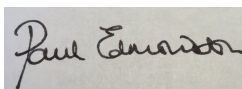
So, our decade-long association with the Fundación Shakespeare Argentina continues to be known to people from all over the world who visit the Shakespeare Centre, Stratford-upon-Avon.

And I know I am always glad of the Fundación's support and encouragement for Shakespeare projects and content on social media.

Congratulations, Fundación Shakespeare Argentina!

Long may you continue 'with many years of sunshine days' (*Richard II*, act 1, scene 1).

With all good wishes,



Rev. Dr Paul Edmondson
Head of Research.

Leading the world's enjoyment and understanding of Shakespeare's works, life and times.

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