

**UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL,
SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION**

**Address by
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**Director-General
of the
United Nations Educational,
Scientific and Cultural Organization
(Unesco)**

**on the occasion of the ceremony for the award of the
Fifth Fernando Rielo International Prize for Mystic Poetry**

Unesco House, 6 December 1985

Monsignor,
Mr Chairman,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure for me to welcome today, at Unesco House, the participants in the ceremony for the award of the International Prize for Mystic Poetry, awarded each year by the Fernando Rielo Foundation, and which has now been organized for the first time with the co-operation of the Permanent Observer of the Holy See to Unesco.

I thus have the opportunity to pay tribute to the work of Mr Fernando Rielo, present here today, who for so many years has devoted himself untiringly to bringing together poets from the world over to take part in the activities of the Foundation which he has established and which bears his name.

The main goal of the Fernando Rielo Foundation is to promote artistic works, especially poetic and musical works, which are inspired by a lofty humanist ideal. For this purpose, it encourages and develops a great number of cultural activities, such as the publication of the international journal 'Equivalences', edited by the poet Justo Jorge Padron; the creation of the Spanish International Music Institute, whose director is the pianist Americo Caramuta; the organization of courses on Spanish culture, and the award of a great number of prizes.

The Foundation's most prestigious action has been the creation of the Prize for Mystic Poetry, which has now made its influence felt all over the world. Awarded during the first four years to Manuel Alvarez Ortega (Spain), Blanca Andreu (Spain), Marin Sorescu (Romania) and Alain Bosquet (France), the purpose of this prize is to spread knowledge of mystic poets belonging to the most diverse cultural spheres.

At a time when materialism predominates in so many fields, the Prize for Mystic Poetry is an exceptional venture designed to promote outstanding poetic works, and reflecting a spiritual quest addressed to the highest aspirations of men everywhere.

The creation of this prize attests the underlying purpose of the Fernando Rielo Foundation, which is to contribute both to developing literary talent and to affirming the spiritual yearnings of particularly gifted individuals, thus enabling them to exchange with each other, and also to share with the rest of the world, the innermost message of their highest inspirations.

Unesco therefore warmly welcomes the ties that have been established between it and the Fernando Rielo Foundation in the areas of cultural development, the promotion of representative works of world literature and the education of young people.

Monsignor,

In the presence here today of the representatives of spiritual beliefs drawing their inspiration from all the revealed religions, I see striking confirmation of the concern shared by the Holy See, Unesco, and the Fernando Rielo Foundation, to promote a meeting between all the cultures, all the traditions and all the schools of thought that have enlightened men over the centuries in their slow progress towards that which unites them by raising them above themselves.

Allow me therefore to express my most heartfelt thanks to Mr Fernando Rielo, to those who prepared this ceremony, starting with my friend, Monsignor Frana, and to all those who have kindly come to take part in it.