

The 22nd Congress of the International Committee of Historical Sciences
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Marjatta Hietala

President of the International Committee of Historical Sciences

Speech on 26th of August 2015 for Professor Serge Gruzinski

Professor Serge Gruzinski

Honored Rector Zhang Rong,

Esteemed representatives of Jaeger-LeCoultre manufacture and Professor Serge Gruzinski,

Respected members of the Organizing Committee of the Conference,

Ladies and Gentlemen.

I have a great honour and pleasure wellcome you all to start to celebrate the first laureate of CISH Jaeger-LeCoultre History Prize, professor Serge Gruzinski. At the same time when I congratulate Serge Gruzinski for his outstanding achievements in the field of History I want to thank Manufacture Jaeger- -LeCoultre for its financial contribution in favor of the International Committee of Historical Sciences and its projects. The prize for History consists of a Jaeger LeCoultre Reverso watch and a medaille engraved by a French artist from a model prepared by a Russian painter, Iouri Vichnevski. With this prize the God of History, Kleio, standing on the World will be united with Jaeger-LeCoultre's logo. This prize the Reverso watch is a very suitable prize for a historian, because the analysis of chronological development is included to the most topics in history.

Discussions on CISH prize between board members of the international committee of Historical Sciences started in 2011. The board of International Committee of Historical Sciences CISH wanted to deliver a grand prize for a scholar or scholars for his /her or their achievements in history. history. Our aim was to honor a historian who have distinguished himself or herself in the field of history by her/his or their works, publications or teaching, and has significantly contributed to the development of historical knowledge, in a smaller scale to give a prize comparable with Nobel prize or Field-prize in Mathematics. With the prize The International Committee of Historical Sciences want not only to honour the outstanding scholars for his or her innovative interpretations in history, but also to raise visibility of our organization the international Committee of Historical Sciences ICHS/ in French Comité Internationale des Sciences Historiques (CISH), which has organized conferences, meeting places for world known historians since 1898 and more regularly from the official founding year 1926 onwards.

With long lasting negotiations, thanks for professor Laurent Tissot, we managed to create the CISH-Jaeger-LeCoultre History Prize. Since years I have admired Swiss watch firms like Manufacture 2

Jaeger-LeCoultre to use History in their advertisements. Manufacture Jaeger –LeCoultre is a very old (founded in 1833) and a very innovative watchmaking company. The company has registered approximately 400 patents and created hundreds of inventions.

From the beginning of the process it was clear that only the collective members of the International Committee of Historical Sciences - its national committees or its international affiliated organizations - may present candidates. Conditions for the prize were the following:

- Only the collective members of the International Committee of Historical Sciences - its national committees or its international affiliated organizations - may propose candidates. Only one proposal by member.

-Exceptionally, a prize may be awarded jointly to two, or three people at most, if they represent a research team having contributed in a significant way in the progress of the historical knowledge.

- No individual applications are accepted
- The prize is nominally awarded. - The Prize cannot be posthumously awarded.
- Prize cannot be given members of the Board (10 years quarantine) - Proposals must be carefully substantiated and give the most possible number of elements (works, articles, books etc.) likely to enlighten the jury.

Because this 22nd conference of ICHS/CISH in Jinan is the first time when we are awarding a historian, we decided that the jury for the prize will be the whole Board. The Board consists of 12 members, who represent both national committees from 53 countries and 30 International affiliated organizations. The jury had difficulties to choose the best historian among many highly qualified historians, based on proposals. The field of History is so huge and wide ranging that the selection was difficult and it will be difficult in the future. We encourage members of CISH to be active and to send proposals for the next round.

Laureate

For the first laureate of this prize, the jury has selected Serge Gruzinski (École des hautes études en sciences sociales, Paris, France). He is an outstanding scholar who is a specialist in the history of Latin America in the XVIth, XVIIth and XVIIIth centuries. He is a pioneer in the development of global history and transnational history, which are the main trends in historical sciences to day. Serge Gruzinski's publications tell us about the importance to understand other cultures, religions and different types of behavior. The common nomination for his books is interdisciplinarity. 3

After my presentation. Professor Laurent Tissot is going to introduce Serge Gruzinski's publications and to analyze research results.

Serge Gruzinski was trained at the National School of Archivists of Paris, where it was titled in 1973 in the field of archives and Paleography with number one in his class, he completed his studies with a master's degree in history at the University of Paris I, under the direction of Pierre Goubert. In 1973 he entered the French school of Rome and in 1975 the Casa de Velázquez in Madrid and moved a year later to Mexico as cooperating in the French Institute of Latin America. Later he has worked as a researcher noted for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at the National Institute of anthropology and history (INAH) of Mexico and on his return to Paris he continued its work at the national centre of scientific research (CNRS). He also held the Deputy address of the Center for research on Mexico, Central America and the Andes (train) and was responsible for conferences and director of studies of the Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales (EHESS). In 1999 he assumed the direction of the 'Empires, Nations and societies' UMR at the Center for research on American worlds (CERMA). He is honorary doctor of the catholic University Peru 2007 and national University de San Carlos, Lima 2007.

For the book *Diálogo con Historadores. Reflexiones en Torno al Tiempo, El Espacio y la Memoria* by Verónica Zárate Toscano published last year, Verónica Zárate Toscano interviewed Serge Gruzinski, Gruzinski tells how he became interested in Latin America. In this interview Gruzinski emphasized the

importance of exhibitions and museums to day in distributing historical knowledge. Gruzinski appreciated very high the work of museums. We all know that museums have a big challenge to attract people to visit museums- because today you can find so much as a digitalized form on your computer.

Giving the Watch and the Medaille

On behalf of the jury I have an honor to give the CISH Jaeger-LeCoultre History Prize and the Medaille for professor Gruzinski for his outstanding achievements on the field of history.