



QUEEN SOFÍA
SPANISH INSTITUTE
NEW YORK

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

EDITH GROSSMAN TO RECEIVE INAUGURAL QUEEN SOFÍA SPANISH INSTITUTE TRANSLATION PRIZE

Noted translator of Cervantes and Márquez will be honored on February 2, 2010

NEW YORK, NY – JANUARY 15, 2009 – The Reading Committee of the Inaugural Queen Sofía Spanish Institute Translation Prize has unanimously recommended Edith Grossman to receive the Inaugural Prize for her extraordinary translation of Antonio Muñoz Molina’s *A Manuscript of Ashes* (Houghton-Mifflin Harcourt, 2008; originally published as *Beatus Ille* in 1986). With the aim of elevating awareness and engendering appreciation of Spanish literature in the United States, this triennial \$10,000 prize has been created by the Cultural Committee and Board of Directors of Queen Sofía Spanish Institute to honor the best English-language translation of a work of fiction written in Castilian by a Spanish author and published by an American imprint. The inaugural award celebrates the best translation published between 2006 and 2008, with subsequent awards anticipated in 2012 and 2015.

Scheduled to take place at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 2, 2010 at Queen Sofía Spanish Institute (684 Park Avenue), the award ceremony will be presided by Oscar de la Renta, Chairman of the Institute’s Board of Directors, and will feature Edith Grossman and Antonio Muñoz Molina in dialogue on the art of writing and translating. Books will be available at the reception following the program.

The establishment of the prize has been made possible thanks to the generous support of the Ministry of Culture of Spain, the Spain USA Foundation, and Mrs. Jean van Waveren.

QUEEN SOFÍA SPANISH INSTITUTE is a private non-profit founded as The Spanish Institute in 1954 to promote greater awareness and understanding of the culture of the Spanish-speaking world in the United States. Since its foundation, the Institute has sought to advance its mission through a variety of programs. The activities focus on particular aspects of Spanish culture, past and present, and the remarkable influence this culture has in the Americas. More information is available at <http://www.queensofiaspanishinstitute.org>.

DR. EDITH GROSSMAN, winner of the Inaugural Queen Sofía Spanish Institute Translation Prize, is a distinguished translator and critic of contemporary Latin American and Spanish writers, among them Gabriel García Márquez, Mario Vargas Llosa, and Carlos Fuentes. Her recent honors include the 2006 PEN/Ralph Manheim Medal for Translation. Dr. Grossman’s 2003 translation of Cervantes’ *Don Quixote* is considered by such critics as Harold Bloom to be the best English translation to date; as Tim Rutten wrote in The Los Angeles Times: “MUÑOZ MOLINA’S *Spanish prose is deeply admired for its elegant melancholy and unforced social conscience*. EDITH GROSSMAN, *one of the finest American literary translators now working, has done a remarkable job of capturing that quality in a lovely English, by turns elegiac, incantatory and deeply sensual.*”

ANTONIO MUÑOZ MOLINA, original author of winning translated work *A Manuscript of Ashes*, has twice been awarded the Premio Nacional de Literatura in Spain, as well as France’s Prix Femina Étranger for his novel *Plenilunio* (Full Moon). He lives in Madrid and New York. In 2004-2005 he served as the director of the Instituto Cervantes of New York. His most recent novel, *La noche de los tiempos*, was published in Spain in 2009.

ABOUT A MANUSCRIPT OF ASHES: “It’s the late sixties, the last dark years of Franco’s dictatorship: Minaya, a university student in Madrid, is caught up in the student protests and the police are after him. He moves to his uncle Manuel’s country estate in the small town of Mágina to write his thesis on an old friend of

Manuel's, an obscure republican poet named Jacinto Solana. The country house is full of traces of the poet—notes, photographs, journals—and Minaya soon discovers that, thirty years earlier, during the Spanish Civil War, both his uncle and Solana were in love with the same woman, the beautiful, unsettling Mariana. Engaged to Manuel, she was shot in the attic of the house on her wedding night. With the aid of Inés, a maid, Minaya begins to search for Solana's lost masterpiece, a novel called *Beatus Ille*. Looking for a book, he unravels a crime."

THE INAUGURAL READING COMMITTEE

ISAÍAS LERNER, Distinguished Professor of Hispanic and Luso-Brazilian Literature at The Graduate Center of the City University of New York and member of the Institute's Cultural and Fine Arts Committee, heads the reading committee for the prize. His book *Arcaísmos léxicos del español de América* won the Augusto Malaret Prize of the Real Academia Española. He is the recipient of many fellowships, including the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation.

RONALD CHRIST is the president of PEN New Mexico and publisher of Lumen Books. He received the Kayden National Translation Award for Diamela Eltit's *E. Luminata*.

MARGARET CARSON's recent translations include the 19th-century gaucho play Juan Moreira and 20th-century works of the Cuban writer Virgilio Piñera, and the Argentine playwright Griselda Gambaro.

Quick Info:

Inaugural Queen Sofía Spanish Institute Translation Prize
*Presentation featuring Winner Edith Grossman in dialogue
with author Antonio Muñoz Molina.*

Tuesday, February 2, 2010 at 6:00 p.m.

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