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The Focus-Abengoa Foundation closes the 11th edition of the Baroque School entitled “Enterprises and entrepreneurs in the Baroque times”

- National and international specialists from the fields of economics, history, culture and art have come together this week at the Hospital de los Venerables, the headquarters of the Focus-Abengoa Foundation.
- The closing lecture was given by Antonio Bonet Correa, director of the San Fernando Royal Academy of Fine Arts.
- The 11th edition of the School concluded with a visit to the Collegiate Church of Osuna, thanks to the collaboration of the Archbishopric of Seville.

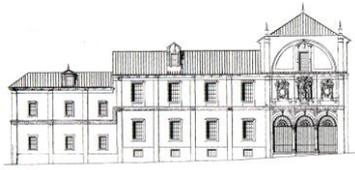
Seville, 12 November 2014.- The Focus-Abengoa Foundation, in collaboration with Loyola Andalucía University, today brought the 11th edition of its Baroque School, entitled “Enterprises and entrepreneurs in the Baroque times” to a close. The School has brought together renowned national and international specialists from the fields of economics, history, culture and art, at the Hospital de los Venerables, since Monday 10th.

Leading figures such as Christopher McKenna, university reader in business strategy and history at the University of Oxford and director of the Novak Druce Centre for Professional Service Firms at Saïd Business School; Amedeo Lepore, a lecturer at the Seconda Università di Napoli; Alexander Evers, assistant professor in classical studies and ancient history at the John Felice Rome centre of Loyola University in Chicago; or Antonio Bonet Correa, director of the San Fernando Royal Academy of Fine Arts, among others, have all shared their knowledge in the incomparable setting of the church of the Hospital de los Venerables, which has also hosted interesting round tables and a beautiful organ concert, given yesterday, Tuesday 11th, by José Enrique Ayarra, resident organist of the Focus-Abengoa Foundation.

This 11th edition of the Baroque School has further broadened its international scope beyond the researchers and experts who have shared their knowledge at the Hospital de los Venerables, by welcoming students from Loyola University for the first time, who have come from various international centres.

More than 130 students enrolled for this edition of the School, of which 50 came from international centres of the Loyola University, such as the France Business School (France), Friedrich Schiller University of Jena (Germany), Kuyungsung University (Korea), Savonia University of Applied Sciences (Finland) or the International Business School of Vilnius University (Lithuania).

All of them, together with students from the Córdoba and Seville campuses of Loyola Andalucía University, will receive their diplomas of this latest edition of the School, directed by Antonio-Miguel Bernal Rodríguez, winner of the National Prize for History.



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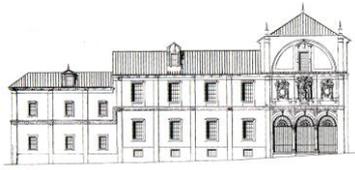
After the celebration of the School, which was also attended by Anabel Morillo León, director general of the Focus-Abengoa Foundation, the students were able to enjoy a visit to the Collegiate Church of Osuna, thanks to the collaboration of the Archbishopric of Seville. However, this was not the only visit organised as part of the 11th edition of the School, since they also visited the General Archive of the Indies in the city of Seville and the permanent collection of the Velázquez Centre at the Foundation. This collection has recently been enhanced by the loan of “Christ tied to the column with Saint Peter” by Pedro de Campaña, one of the finest paintings of the Sevillian Renaissance, on loan from the Archicofradía Sacramental de la Exaltación religious association of the church of Santa Catalina in Seville; and “La Inmaculada”, by Francisco Pacheco, on loan from the Archbishopric of Seville, to support the Focus-Abengoa Foundation’s participation in a major exhibition on Velázquez in Vienna and Paris with its own works “Santa Rufina” and “La Inmaculada”.

It has undoubtedly been a very full edition of the School, which in the words of its director, “has sought to teach us more about the emergence of enterprising agents and the practices that they introduced, and how they –who had been passive subjects in the history of art until that time– became a driving force, defining tastes and above all, artistic demand”.

The Baroque School is an important project that is central to the Foundation’s cultural and educational program, turning the Focus-Abengoa Foundation into a forum for discovery and reflection, articulated through internationally renowned lecturers and researchers. It addresses the Foundation’s main objective to become a leading international centre for studying the Baroque period.

Focus-Abengoa Foundation

The Focus-Abengoa Foundation was created in 1982 as a result of the cultural work begun in 1972 by Abengoa with the publication of the works *Temas Sevillanos* (Themes of Seville) and *Iconografía de Sevilla* (Iconography of Seville). A collection of documents, books and engravings on the Kingdom of Seville and by Sevillian authors was created during the same period. This initial cultural work showed Abengoa’s directors the importance of the company’s involvement in activities that directly benefit society, beyond the firm’s core technology work, which led to the creation of the Seville Cultural Fund Foundation. The Hospital de los Venerables, a 17th century monument and the headquarters of the Focus-Abengoa Foundation in Seville, has housed the Diego Velázquez Research Centre, a leading institution for studying and disseminating the Baroque era and the Sevillian period of this universally renowned artist, since the acquisition of Velázquez’s *Santa Rufina* by the Foundation in 2007.



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