



Vth Edition of the Spanish Eustory Competition

The Real Maestranza de Ronda organized, this year, the 5th edition of Eustory in Spain, with the research topic “**My family in history**”. Both the number of contributions and the number of participants have soared this year, especially due to group works: we received 29 works from 87 people in 2012, as compared to 14 from 24 participants last year. The increasing reputation of Eustory as one of the most prestigious history competitions in the country, the spread by word-of-mouth and our efforts to involve teachers in the process have all been contributing factor to the success of this year’s edition, which we hope will grow further.

The winning paper this year was authored by Rodrigo Raya Castellano. A cross-story of his two great-grand-parents, each engaged on opposite factions during the Civil War without ever being as ideologically convinced as one might think. Rodrigo has shown us that, as he says, men are “*victims of the time they were born to live*”. The theme of this year, “My family in history” allowed for many pupils to find a close connection to a distant past very quickly, this was praised by many students in their conclusions: looking and talking to a primary source creates a personal perspective on history that cannot be achieved through classroom history.

Many of this year’s works dealt with the Spanish civil war, although some of the papers reviewed either displayed a great amount of intellectual creativity and critical thinking, as displayed by a “Historical analysis of the new Spanish family through three legal changes” or showed that European silver lining, such as the paper “Charles Ollinger: saviour of Jews” a story about the Belgian grandfather of one of our participants from Madrid. Generally, papers which received a prize had to be well formatted, contain critical thoughts, and authors should have asked themselves the question “And so what of all this?” Many papers were recognized but not fully awarded, despite their thoroughness and overall quality, because they did not fulfil the requirements of the competition. This was the case of La Anunciata Ikastetxea Highschool who compiled the overwhelming narrative of the local factory and the importance it had on people’s lives, as well as initiating a debate on what should be done with the abandoned locale of the factory.

In total there was one winner, three second-place prizes, five third-place prizes, and seven special recognitions by the jury. The RMR hopes that this year’s edition will also see a growing participation and a similar display of quality, judgement and critical thinking as displayed this year. The next edition will repeat the subject with “My family in history” and it will close the initial thematical cycle of subjects which have run the first six editions of Eustory in Spain.