

INSTITUTO CERVANTES CHICAGO



The Instituto Cervantes is a public not-for-profit institution founded by the Government of Spain in 1991 to promote Spanish language teaching and knowledge of the cultures of Spanish speaking countries throughout the world. It is now the largest international Spanish teaching organization, and has more than 60 centers in 4 continents.

The central headquarters of the Instituto Cervantes are in Alcalá de Henares (Madrid), the birthplace of Miguel de Cervantes, author of *Don Quixote*, and in Madrid. The Instituto Cervantes of Chicago Inc. was established in 1996.

For more information visit our web page:
<http://chicago.cervantes.es>

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Under the Auspices of the Consul General of Spain in Chicago

Ambassador Javier Rupérez

The Director of the Instituto Cervantes of Chicago

Juan Carlos Vidal

Invites You to the Round Table Discussion on the Occasion of the Publication of Lluís de Santàngel: Primer Financiero de

América (America's First Financier)

"Jews and Conversos in the Discovery of America"

Thursday, May 7, 2009
6:30pm

Instituto Cervantes Auditorium
31 W. Ohio Street, Chicago





Lluís de Santàngel

It was January of 1492. Christopher Columbus, after years of following the Spanish Court, had departed Granada after what he understood was the final rejection by the King and Queen of his proposal to sail west to reach the East. Into this seemingly lost situation appeared a courageous and articulate man named Lluís de Santàngel. In what must have been an extraordinary speech which lasted only minutes, Santàngel convinced Queen Isabella to change her mind and to accept Columbus's voyage, which Santàngel then made possible by underwriting it with his own funds. Columbus and Santàngel are forever linked with the history of Spain and America. In spite of his far-reaching contributions, however, Lluís de Santàngel remains largely unknown and unappreciated outside of Spain. Santàngel, who would become King Ferdinand's indispensable Comptroller General and Advisor, was born into a prominent family of Jewish ancestry in the city of Valencia of the second half of the fifteenth century, a flourishing economic, political, scientific, cultural and educational center. This Valencian courtier, whose decisive action and personal funding saved Columbus's enterprise for Spain and literally altered the course of history, deserves the title of America's First Financier.

We would like to thank the Generalitat Valenciana for the donation of copies of the book

Lluís de Santàngel: Primer Financiero de América (America's First Financier)

Round Table Discussion on the occasion of the publication of *Lluís de Santàngel: Primer Financiero de América (America's First Financier)*

“Jews and Conversos in the Discovery of America”

Instituto Cervantes Auditorium
Free Admission

Participants:

Rafael Miró Pascual, Secretario Autonómico de Cultura: Letter of Greeting from Valencia, Spain

Kathleen E. LeMieux, Book Editor and General Coordinator: *Lluís de Santàngel: Primer Financiero de América (America's First Financier)*

Rabbi Michael Azose, Sephardic Congregation of Evanston, Illinois: "Christopher Columbus's Jewish Ancestors"

Dr. Abraham Haim, Chairman of the Education, Culture and Heritage Committee of the Council of Sephardi and Oriental Communities in Jerusalem: "The Sephardi Community of Jerusalem during the 19th-20th Centuries: Tradition, Continuity and Change"

Reception