

# *Guantánamo Book Fair: an opportunity for leisure and wisdom*



By Yaqueline De la Rosa Hermida

As a unique cultural event to bring children, young people and adults closer to the universe of knowledge, the Book Fair returned in its thirty-second edition to one of the main streets and institutions of Guantánamo, with the sale of texts and a wide artistic-literary program.

Among the proposals of theoretical character distinguished the presentation of the title "The Selection. Eleven Brazilian poets today", by editor, writer and literary critic Marcelo Lotufo, of the South American Giant, on the purpose of being the guest of honor country to the biggest festival of letters in Cuba.

"It's a compilation we published in Ediciones Santiago, from Brazil, from the selection of Cuban poets in which Guantánamo writer Jose Ramon Sanchez collaborated, a sample of the bond we have with this land. That's why we really enjoyed coming to Guantánamo and Santiago de Cuba to meet the writers and think about other projects."

"We took with us books by contemporary poets and storytellers from both provinces to continue this bridging work and the ties between both nations," Marcelo Lotufo expressed.

The occasion was also attended by Brazilian writer Claudia Tavares Alves, who expressed her satisfaction for participating in the Book Fair in Guantánamo, a province that stands out for a sustained literary movement, mainly in the genres of poetry, short stories and historical research.

As part of the theoretical spaces, members of the Union of Historians and the Jose Marti Cultural Society in the province participated in panels and discussions on the life of the patriot Carlos Manuel de

Cespedes, and the influence of the Mambi and first mayor of this city, Pedro Agustín Pérez in the formation of the Guantanamera identity, in addition to the links of the Cuban National Hero with this territory.

As in every edition of this event, the Guantanamera publishing house El Mar y la Montaña offers novelties: 2 printed and 2 digital books, says Cecilia Elías, director of this center.

"Among these, the title "Conflicts in Guantanamo", by renowned historian José Sánchez Guerra, stands out, which reflects the convulsive processes faced by the revolutionary government from 1959 to 1962, in the face of threats outside and inside the country. It is a topic that has not been treated much in research, and therefore, the book is of great importance because it helps to complete the historiography at the national level".

Likewise, Cecilia Elías highlighted that Guantánamo is publishing digital books for the first time: "Soles invisibles", by Karla Gil Peña, with more than 45 poems; and "Luna de enero", an anthology by José Raúl Fraguera, which contains poetry by authors from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries such as Julián del Casal, José Martí, Regino Eladio Botí, among others.

Also outstanding at the book fair were the tributes to Ana Luz García Calzada, one of the essential writers of Guantánamo, who stands out for her vast work as a storyteller and essayist.

In the Guantanamo chapter of the 32nd edition of this cultural event, some 2,000 titles were available for sale in the territory and more than 3,000 copies of literature of all genres and for different audiences were marketed, said Yuliet Heredia, director of the Provincial Book Center.

The biggest Cuban literary festival came to an end in Guantánamo, a unique opportunity to acquire unforgettable classics but also new texts, in favor of healthy recreation and updating on the economic, social and cultural reality of our times.

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