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Dr. Joaquin Reig  
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Parque Conde de Orgaz  
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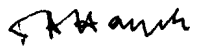
Dear Dr. Reig,

While I do not know whether you are still persevering with your plans to organize a regional meeting of the Mont Pélérin Society next September, I certainly hope that you do so and it is with respect to this that I am writing. I believe I mentioned to you that I would rather like to have the meeting take place at Salamanca, but that may be, as you pointed out, impracticable. But I want still strongly to urge that we have there a one day meeting entirely devoted to "The Spanish Origins of Economic Liberalism!" For the reasons I must ask you to read Murray Rothbard, "New Light on the Prehistory of the Austrian School" (in E.G. Dolan, ed., The Foundations of Modern Austrian Economics, Sheed & Ward, Kansas City, 1976) the two books by Marjorie Grice-Hutchison (now Baroness Marjorie von Schlippenbach at Hacienda Isabel, Morena Carbonera 6, Málaga) The School of Salamanca, Oxford 1952 and Early Economic Thought in Spain, London 1976, and Professor H. M. Robertson (of the University of Capetown) Aspects of the Rise of Economic Individualism (Cambridge 1933, later reprinted in the U.S.). Together they demonstrate that the basic principles of the theory of the competitive market were worked out by the Spanish scholastics of the 16th century and that economic liberalism was not designed by the Calvinists but by the Spanish jesuits!

What a national event of great importance it would be if we could get Baroness von Schlippenbach (a former pupil of mine at London) Rothbarth and Robertson to celebrate at Salamanca the Spanish origins of liberal economics! I should be delighted to take the chair at such a meeting and at least Baroness von Schlippenbach would not have to come from too far (she is the main expert!), but I think it would be worth-while to get Rothbarth and Robertson from U.S. and S.A. respectively to complete the team. (The fourth man one would have liked to include, Raymond de Roover, is unfortunately dead.) So far as the effect on the Spanish public is concerned, that one day meeting might be worth all the expense into which you will be running. If you cannot get the books in Madrid, I could send you all (except Robertson) which is on order) from my own library. I am quite excited about the idea which has just occurred to me and I hope so will be you. I can assure you from my personal knowledge of the sources that their ~~argument~~ case is extremely strong. Hoping soon to hear from you,

I am, with the best wishes of the season,

sincerely yours,

  
F.A. Hayek