

Bicentenary 1820.2020

4th October 2020 / 23rd October 2021

Ateneo de Madrid

Two centuries of History

El Ateneo de Madrid is a private entity declared to be of public utility.

Its origin dates back to 1820 when *The Ateneo Español* is founded coinciding with the so-called Trienio Liberal. El Ateneo arises then as a "patriotic society for the defense of the freedom of thought and of its expression through free discussion". En 1823, the absolute monarchy was once again restored and those same liberals, that were forced to leave the country started an Ateneo Español in London.

After their return to Spain in **1835** they **constituted the scientific, literary and artistic Ateneo de Madrid with the following founders:** Duque de Rivas, Salustiano Olózaga, Mesonero Romanos, Alcalá Galiano y Juan Miguel de los Ríos, among others.

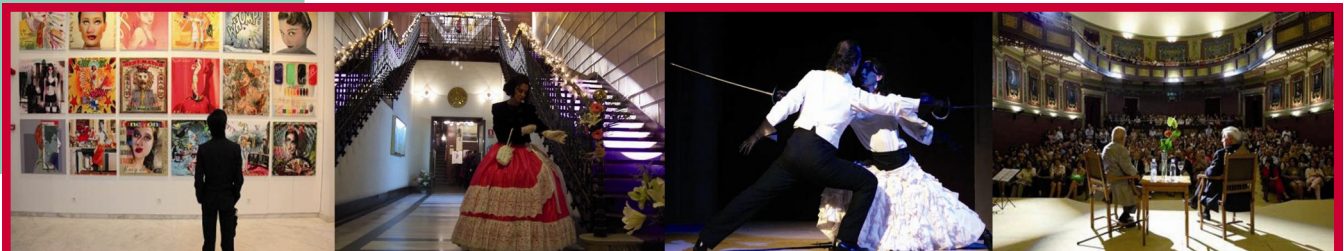


The Ateneo went on moving to various locations before reaching **its current installation in Calle del Prado, 21**. The modernist building that today houses its seat dates from 1884, and has been designed by architects Enrique Fort y Luis Landeche.

Eminent figures that have been part of the Ateneo: Government Presidents such as Cánovas del Castillo, Nicolás Salmerón or Manuel Azaña, writers such as Unamuno, Valle-Inclán or Emilia Pardo Bazán, scientists such as Ramón y Cajal or Severo Ochoa and representatives of the arts as Sorolla, Falla or Buñuel have acted as catalysts for a very important political and cultural activity.

To enter the Ateneo is to participate in the history of the institution, as it has been happening for generations throughout its **two centuries of life**.

AN
INDISPENSABLE
CULTURAL
REFERENCE



The Ateneo Today



A majestic entrance safeguarded by the sculptures of Adam and the Victory welcomes the visitor.

The building, an architectural jewel of the 19th century, has unique spaces that offer an incomparable framework for the development of every kind of activities.

The Act Hall, the Portrait Gallery, The *Cacharrería*, Azaña's Office and The Library preserve the essence of the great characters who built contemporary thought.



"In Spain there is no institution that has exerted more influence on the progress of culture than the Ateneo de Madrid has had" (Miguel de Unamuno)

The Library, rich in collections from the 17th century to the present day, is one of the most important private libraries in Spain. With its exceptional beauty it is an ideal place for research and study.

We open every day of the week— including Sundays— with a special timetable from 9 am to 11 pm.

A new building, an annexed of the historic one, offers the most functional aspect of the Ateneo in the 21st century.

The new technologies, fully incorporated into the management of the learned house, allow our collection to complete with the latest market innovations.

Today, *The Ateneo* is an **active center** that holds daily events open to the public around all areas of knowledge and the most diverse nature: lectures, debates, round tables, book presentations, exhibitions, classical music concerts, film screenings, etc.

In addition, companies, private and public entities and Foundations also choose *the Ateneo* for their events, thus completing the broad offer of the entity.

The Act Hall

The Act Hall is one of the most prestigious halls of the capital, decorated by the artist Arturo Mérida.

A forum of wide ranging-debates, it has welcomed parliamentarians, intellectuals, scientists and great national and internacional artists who have been part of our history and culture.

Concerts, theatrical performances, film screenings, conferences, round tables of the highest relevance and other activities ensure that the Act Hall is today a privileged platform for the spread of sciences, arts and letters.



Fotografía Kepha Borde

The *Ateneo* was the first institution that at the end of the 19th century began to welcome and give prominence to the **voices of women** who claimed their role in society, among them: Rosario de Acuña, Concepción Arenal Emilia Pardo Bazán, Hildegart Rodríguez or Rosa Chacel.



EMILIA PARDO BAZÁN

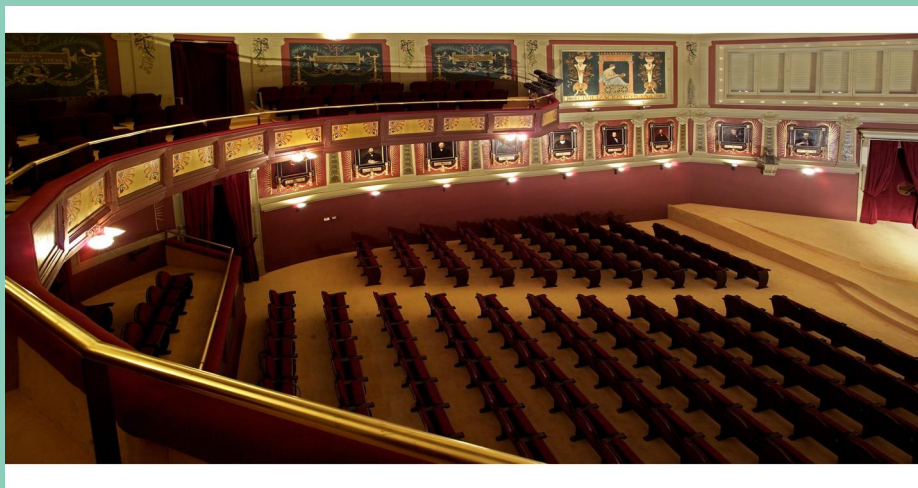


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The Act Hall was known during the late 19th and the first half of the 20th century as **THE SENATE**, because within its walls were discussed laws that later passed to Parliament.
The Act Hall served as a preliminar platform for speakers

The Act Hall

THE ACT HALL OFFERS MULTIPLE POSSIBILITIES TO CELEBRATE
EVENTS OF A VERY UNIQUE CHARACTER



CÁNOVAS, UNAMUNO, EINSTEIN, MADAME CURIE, MARCONI, OR VARGAS
LLOSA ARE ONLY SOME OF THE NAMES THAT HAVE MADE HISTORY IN
OUR ACT HALL.

The Library

On these centenary old desks, **many intellectuals have written their works:** Sánchez Ferlosio, Carmen Martín Gaité, Luis Carrandell, Juan José Millás or Espido Freire, among other firms in our recent history.



The *Ateneo de Madrid* Library is located under an immense skylight.

It is a research library that was born as a bibliographic collection in 1835. Then, with the *Ateneo*, a library was born, the collection of which would be a living reflection of all the intellectual history of the last two hundred years. This explains why today we have such extensive collection of books and regular publications dating back to the 16th century, especially rich in works from the 19th century and the first third of the 20th century, embracing all subjects and several languages.



In addition to preserving exceptional first editions and other unique books, this Library houses large collections of engravings, cartographies, and more than 3,000 positives in cristal from the 19th-20th century

The collection includes more **than 52 languages.**

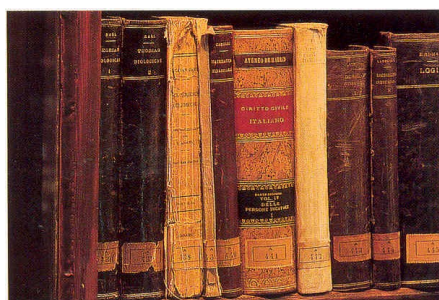
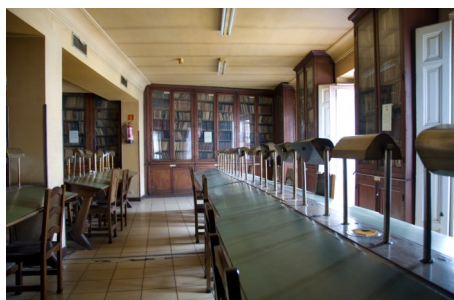


Set for the filming of movies and television series, advertisments and photographic reports.

The Library



UNAFECTED BY THE TIME, THE LIBRARY PRESERVES THE SPIRIT OF THE 19TH CENTURY, WHEN IT WAS CREATED



The Library is integrated by different rooms, headed by the Main Hall, one step away from the Congress of Deputies, the emblematic room *La Pecera* of great beauty, the *Santa Catalina's* room, a hidden and favorite place for the youngest users and "*El Palomar*" a large and bright room.

Portraits of
Gregorio Marañón
and Buero Vallejo



The Portrait Gallery

A unique and exceptional ensemble, it combines the works of the best brushes of 19th and 20th century Spanish painting such as Madrazo, Sorolla, Casado del Alisal or Fortuny.

Consisting of 188 portraits, it is undoubtedly the iconological reference of Spanish Contemporary History with such illustrious figures as José Echegaray, Antonio Machado, Ramón y Cajal, Valle-Inclán, Emilia Pardo Bazán, and Gregorio Marañón. All of them meritorious members of the *Ateneo de Madrid*.



Located next to the Act Hall,
The Portrait Gallery is a
unique environment to
complement the celebration
of events.

This space, in addition to hosting the heated political and social debates for decades, also served to host the art of the dancers: Tórtola Valencia and Antonia Mercé, as well as the recitals of the French actress Sarah Bernhardt

The Cacharrería

A mythical room in the world of debate and social gatherings in Madrid and a place for relevant socio-cultural encounters, its history goes back to the origin of the *Ateneo*.

Located adjacent to the Act Hall, with capacity for more than 150 people, its open floor makes it the ideal place to host any event.

The entire room is decorated with canvases by Vicente Palmaroli, José Villegas and other great artists of the 19th century Spanish painting, highlighting the ceilings, the work of Madame Anselma.



Azaña's Office



This room is equipped for the reception of distinguished guests, as well as for small meetings in an atmosphere full of history.

The room is so called because it was the office of Manuel Azaña, president of the *Ateneo de Madrid* from 1930-1932.

The office is particularly noteworthy for the *Art Decó* decoration and for the historic original furniture.

In this room, adjacent to the Act Hall and the Portrait Gallery, important works of art are in custody.

Exhibition Halls



The *Ateneo* has two exhibition rooms: *Sala Prado 19* and *Sala Espacio Prado*.

Both are polyvalent spaces for the exhibition of varied artistic samples, either individual or collective, of painting, sculpture, photography, video art or other artistic expressions.

Since 1913 *The Ateneo* has hosted exhibitions and has been the cultural entity that has supported young creators and their new artistic proposals from its beginnings.



More than 1.500 artists have presented their Works at *the Ateneo de Madrid*, such as Antonio López, Millares, Cartie-Bresson or Lucío Muñoz, among others.



Cultural Action

Around 800 events take place annually in our halls.

We celebrate tributes, commemorations, conferences and book presentations that are attended by important figures from today's society: and that command a large audience

The *Ateneo de Madrid* has the support of the Madrid City Council, the Community of Madrid and the Ministry of Culture.



Tribute to Hispanist Ian Gibson

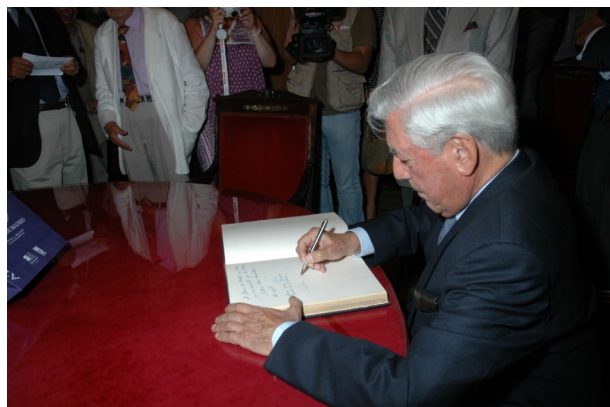
El Madrid de Galdós conference



Open Doors Day



Exhibition "*Women under suspicion. Memory and sexuality (1930-1980)*"



Mario Vargas Llosa

THE ATENEO
IS ...

LITERATURE
SOCIAL
SCIENCES
ART
PHILOSOPHY
MUSIC
THOUGHT
THEATER
HISTORY
ECONOMY
HUMANITIES
MOVIE THEATER
HEALTH
SCIENCES
TECHNOLOGY
PHOTOGRAPHY
EDUCATION
CONFERENCES
EXHIBITIONS
EVENINGS
COURSES
PRESENTATIONS
TRAINING
ARCHITECTURE
PAINTING
ROUND TABLES
TERTULIAS
LIBRARY
INVESTIGATION
KNOWLEDGE
DANCE
ASTRONOMY
CULTURE
SOCIETY
YOGA
PUBLICATIONS
CONCERTS
DEBATE

Bicentenary 1820-2020

The Bicentenary of the *Ateneo de Madrid* will be an event with **international projection** with objective to call public and private entities for the celebration of actions and joint events that maximize the cultural diffusion of this unique commemoration

It is conceived as **a multidisciplinary social event** articulated around relevant milestones of the cotemporary Spanish history, which is the history of the *Ateneo de Madrid*.

The syllabus includes artistic and bibliographic exhibitions, open-doors days, scholarships, urban events, and literary and musical exhibitions aimed at wide-ranging audiences.

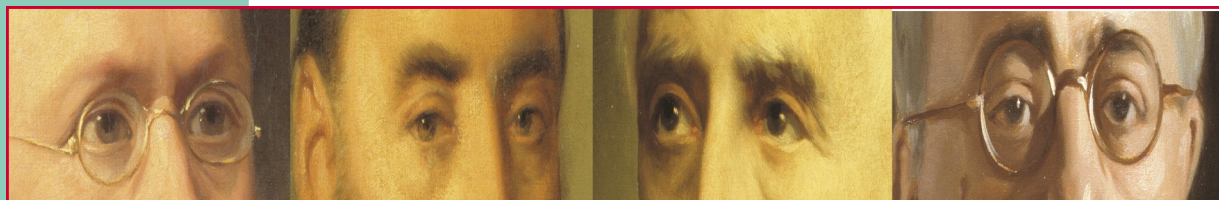
To this purpose, the *Ateneo* has the privilege of joining forces **thanks to the collaboration of:**

- Network of Spanish Athenaeums
- Network of Ibero-American Athenaeums
- Highly acclaimed cultural entities
- Media
- Spanish universities
- Official organisms



Ateneo de Madrid 1930

Ateneo de Madrid



WEB: www.ateneodemadrid.com

Social networks @ateneodemadrid

#ateneodemadrid

Incomparable setting for its beauty and history, the *Ateneo de Madrid* is today a privileged place located downtown in the Barrio de las Letras.



For further information and contact

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