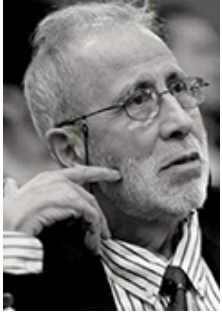


José Miguel Oviedo, SAS

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José Miguel Oviedo

José Miguel Oviedo, Trustee Professor of Latin American literature in the department of romance languages at the University of Pennsylvania, died December 19 at his home in Philadelphia. He was 85.

A native of Lima, Perú, Dr. Oviedo was a member of the famous Peruvian Generation of 1950. A world-known specialist on Latin American literature and culture, he did his primary education at the Colegio La Salle in Lima, where he shared a desk with Nobel Prize-winning novelist Mario Vargas Llosa. Later in his career, Dr. Oviedo would become one of the world's best-known scholars on Vargas Llosa's literary production and was his most persuasive interpreter. (Vargas Llosa dedicated his 1987 book, translated as *Who Killed Palomino Molero?* to Dr. Oviedo.) In 1958, after he finished his doctorate, Dr. Oviedo was appointed professor at his alma mater, the Pontificia Universidad Católica de San Marcos in Lima.

In 1968, Dr. Oviedo moved to England, and then he moved to the United States in 1975. He was a member of the faculty at the State University of New York, Indiana University and UCLA.

In 1988, he came to Penn, where he was appointed as one of the first Trustee Professors (Almanac August 30, 1988). While at Penn, he completed what is arguably his most important critical work, the four-volume *History of Latin American Literature (Historia de la Literatura Latinoamericana)*, which he published with Alianza, in Madrid (Spain), in four installments between 1995 and 2000. He earned Phi Beta Delta Membership in 1990 and emeritus status at his retirement in 2000. The José Miguel Oviedo Undergraduate Student Paper Award is given annually to the best paper in Latin American and Latino Studies written by a Penn undergraduate student.

He wrote books and articles on a multitude of topics and authors, including critical works on José Martí, Ricardo Palma, and Sandinista literature in revolutionary Nicaragua. Dr. Oviedo was a frequent collaborator in the daily press with contributions to journals such as *El País*, *Revista de Occidente* and *El Mundo* in Madrid; *Caretas* and *Debate* in Lima; *Vuelta* in Mexico; and *World Literature Today* in Oklahoma. He received several fellowships, including Guggenheim (1991) and Rockefeller Foundation fellowships. In his native Perú, he served as director de la Casa de Cultura 1970-1973.