



International Balzan Foundation

PRESS KIT

September 2009

www.balzan.org
ufficio.stampa@balzan.it



International Balzan Foundation

The International Balzan Foundation was created in 1957 to recognize the most outstanding initiatives of peace and brotherhood among peoples and foster their growth in the scientific and cultural world. The main objective of the Foundation is to award the Balzan Prize.

The Foundation operates on an international level through its two offices, which are two legally distinct bodies and two Foundation Boards. The “Prize” Foundation, with headquarters in Milan is mainly concerned with the selection of candidates and the awarding of the prizes; the “Fund” Foundation in Zurich administers the estate so as to make financial means available to the “Prize” Foundation so that it can achieve its objectives.

The Balzan Prizes are assigned by the General Prize Committee, a body working within the “Prize” Foundation in Milan, with Salvatore Veca as its Chairman. It is comprised of twenty members of the most prestigious learned societies from all over Europe.

Each year, the General Prize Committee establishes the subject areas for the awards and chooses the winners from among the nominations entered by the world’s most important international cultural institutions (universities, research institutes, academies) at the Foundation’s request, and by leading figures whom the General Prize Committee recognizes as competent in the chosen fields for that year.

Balzan Prizes

Every year, the four Balzan Prizes are awarded to scholars, scientists or artists who are distinguished in their fields on an international level. The aim of the Balzan prizes is to foster culture, the sciences and the most outstanding humanitarian initiatives of peace and brotherhood among peoples, regardless of nationality, race or creed.

The four subject areas for the awards change every year. As stipulated in the Articles of the Balzan Foundation, they are selected from among “literature, the moral sciences and the arts” and “the physical, mathematical and natural sciences and medicine”. Rotating the subjects ensures that new or emerging research gets recognition, while at the same time it supports important fields of study that may have been overlooked by other great international awards.

The amount of each prize is currently 1,000,000 Swiss francs. Since 2001, the rules of procedure of Balzan’s General Prize Committee have established a stipulation that prize-winners must destine half of the Prize they receive for financing research projects that are preferably carried out by young scholars or scientists.

Special Prize for Humanity, Peace and Brotherhood Among Peoples

The Prize for humanity, peace and brotherhood among peoples is a special prize assigned by the Balzan Foundation at variable intervals, but never less than three years apart. It is destined for a person or organisation that has achieved distinction for outstanding humanitarian work. The Prize is worth 2,000,000 Swiss francs.



Balzan Prizewinners

2009	Terence Cave (UK) Paolo Rossi (Italy) Brenda Milner (Canada-UK) Michael Grätzel (Switzerland-Germany)	Literature since 1500 History of Science Cognitive Neurosciences Science of New Materials
2008	Maurizio Calvesi (Italy) Thomas Nagel (USA) Ian H. Frazer (Australia) Wallace S. Broecker (USA)	The Visual Arts since 1700 Moral Philosophy Preventive Medicine, including Vaccination Science of Climate Change
2007	Rosalyn Higgins (UK) Sumio Iijima (Japan) Michel Zink (France) Jules Hoffmann (France) and Bruce Beutler (USA)	International Law since 1945 Nanoscience European Literature (1000-1500) Innate Immunity
2006	Ludwig Finscher (Germany) Quentin Skinner (United Kingdom) Paolo de Bernardis (Italy) and Andrew Lange (USA) Elliot Meyerowitz (USA) and Christopher R. Somerville (USA/Canada)	The History of Western Music since 1600 Political Thought; History and Theory Observational Astronomy and Astrophysics Plant Molecular Genetics
2005	Peter and Rosemary Grant (USA/UK) Sir Peter Hall (UK) Russell J. Hemley (USA) and Ho-kwang Mao (USA/China) Lothar Ledderose (Germany)	Population Biology The Social and Cultural History of Cities since the Beginning of the 16th Century Mineral Physics The History of the Art of Asia
2004	Pierre Deligne (USA/Belgium) Michael Marmot (UK) Nikki Ragozin Keddie (USA) Colin Renfrew (UK)	Mathematics Epidemiology The Islamic world from the end of the 19th to the end of the 20th century Prehistoric Archaeology
2003	Eric Hobsbawm (UK) Serge Moscovici (Romania/France) Wen-Hsiung Li (Taiwan) Reinhard Genzel (Germany)	European History since 1900 Social Psychology Genetics and evolution Infrared Astronomy
2002	Dominique Schnapper (France) Anthony Grafton (USA) Walter Gehring (Switzerland) Xavier Le Pichon (France)	Sociology History of the Humanities Developmental Biology Geology
2001	James Sloss Ackerman (USA) Marc Fumaroli (France) Jean-Pierre Changeux (France) Claude Lorius (France)	History of Architecture (including town planning and landscape design) Literary History and Criticism (post 1500) Cognitive Neurosciences Climatology
2000	Martin Litchfield West (UK) Michael Stolleis (Germany) Ilkka Hanski (Finland) Michel G.E. Mayor (Switzerland)	Classical Antiquity Legal History since 1500 Ecological Sciences Instrumentation and Techniques in Astronomy and Astrophysics
1999	Luigi Luca Cavalli-Sforza (USA/Italy) John Elliott (UK) Mikhael Gromov (France/Russia) Paul Ricoeur (France)	Science of human origins History, 1500-1800 Mathematics Philosophy



1998	Harmon Craig (USA) Robert McCredie May (Australia/UK) Andrzej Walicki (Poland/USA)	Geochemistry Biodiversity History: The cultural and social history of the Slavonic world from the reign of Catherine the Great to the Russian revolutions of 1917
1997	Charles Coulston Gillispie (USA) Thomas Wilson Meade (UK) Stanley Jeyaraja Tambiah (Ceylon/USA)	History and philosophy of science Epidemiology Social sciences: social anthropology
1996	Arno Borst (Germany) Arnt Eliassen (Norway) Stanley Hoffmann (Austria/ USA/France)	History: medieval cultures Meteorology Political sciences: contemporary international relations
1995	Yves Bonnefoy (France) Carlo M. Cipolla (France) Alan J. Heeger (USA)	Art history and art criticism (as applied to European Art from the Middle Ages to our times) Economic history Science of new non-biological materials
1994	Fred Hoyle (UK) and Martin Schwarzschild (Germany/USA) René Couteaux (France) Norberto Bobbio (Italy)	Astrophysics (evolution of stars) Biology (cell-structure with special reference to the nervous system) Law and political science (governments and democracy)
1993	Wolfgang H. Berger (Germany/USA) Lothar Gall (Germany) Jean Leclant (France)	Palaeontology with special reference to oceanography History: societies of the XIXth and XXth centuries Art and archaeology of the ancient world
1992	Armand Borel (Switzerland/USA) Giovanni Macchia (Italy) Ebrahim M. Samba (Gambia)	Mathematics History and criticism of the literatures Preventive medicine
1991	John Maynard Smith (UK) György Ligeti (Austria/Hungary) Vitorino Magalhães Godinho (Portugal)	Genetics and evolution Music History: the emergence of Europe in the XVth and XVIth centuries
1990	Pierre Lalive d'Epina (Switzerland) James Freeman Gilbert (USA) Walter Burkert (Germany)	Private international law Geophysics (solid Earth) Study of the ancient world (Mediterranean area)
1989	Martin John Rees (UK) Leo Pardi (Italy) Emmanuel Lévinas (France/Lithuania)	High energy astrophysics Ethology Philosophy
1988	Michael Evenari (Israel) and Otto Ludwig Lange (Germany) René Etiemble (France) Shmuel Noah Eisenstadt (Poland/Israel)	Applied botany (including ecological aspects) Comparative literature Sociology
1987	Phillip V. Tobias (South Africa) Jerome Seymour Bruner (USA) Richard W. Southern (UK)	Physical anthropology Human psychology Medieval history
1986	Jean Rivero (France) Otto Neugebauer (Austria/USA) Roger Revelle (USA)	Basic human rights History of science Oceanography/climatology
1985	Ernst H.J. Gombrich (Austria/UK) Jean Pierre Serre (France)	History of western art Mathematics
984	Jan Hendrik Oort (The Netherlands) Sewall Wright (USA) Jean Starobinski (Switzerland)	Astrophysics Genetics History and criticism of the literatures



1983	Francesco Gabrieli (Italy) Ernst Mayr (USA) Edward Shils (USA)	Oriental studies Zoology Sociology
1982	Jean Baptiste Duroselle (UK) Massimo Pallottino (Italy) Kenneth Vivian Thimann (USA)	Social sciences Sciences of antiquity Pure and applied botany
1981	Josef Pieper (Germany) Paul Reuter (France) Dan Peter McKenzie, Drummond Hoyle Matthews and Frederick John Vine (UK)	Philosophy International public law Geology and geophysics
1980	Enrico Bombieri (Italy/USA) Jorge Luis Borges (Argentina) Hassan Fathy (Egypt)	Mathematics Philology, linguistics and literary criticism Architecture and town planning
1979	Jean Piaget (Switzerland) Giuseppe Tucci (Italy) and Ernest Labrousse (France) Torbjörn Caspersson (Sweden)	Moral and political sciences History (ex aequo) Biology
1962	Karl von Frisch (Austria) Andrej Kolmogorov (Russia) Paul Hindemith (Germany) Samuel Eliot Morison (USA)	Biology Mathematics Music History

Past Prizewinners: Humanity, Peace and Brotherhood Among Peoples

The Prize for humanity, peace and brotherhood among peoples is a special prize assigned by the Balzan Foundation at variable intervals, but never less than three years apart. It is destined for a person or organisation that has achieved distinction for outstanding humanitarian work. The Prize is worth 2,000,000 Swiss francs.

2007	Karlheinz Böhm (Austria)
2004	Community of Sant'Egidio – DREAM programme (Italy)
2000	Abdul Sattar Edhi (Pakistan)
1996	International Committee of the Red Cross (Switzerland)
1991	Abbé Pierre (France)
1986	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) (Switzerland)
1978	Mother Teresa of Calcutta (India/Macedonia)
1962	H.H. John XXIII (Angelo Giuseppe Roncalli, Italy)
1961	Nobel Foundation (Sweden)



International Balzan Foundation “Prize”

Board of the Foundation

**BRUNO
BOTTAI (Italy)**

Chairman | Ambassador, President of the Società Dante Alighieri

**CARLO
FONTANA (Italy)**

Vice-Chairman | Former General Manager, Teatro alla Scala, Milan; Professor,
Division of the Humanities, State University of Milan

**MARCO
CAMERONI (Switzerland)**

| Head of the Cultural Foreign Policy Centre, Federal Department
of Foreign Affairs; former General Consul of Switzerland in
Milan

**ACHILLE
CASANOVA (Switzerland)**

| Former Vice Chancellor and Spokesman of the Federal Council,
Switzerland

**ENRICO
DECLEVA (Italy)**

| Rector of State University of Milan; President of the Conference
of Italian University Rectors (CRUI)

**PAOLO
MATTHIAE (Italy)**

| Professor of Archaeology and History of Art of the Ancient Near
East at the University La Sapienza, Rome; Fellow of the
Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei, Rome

**ALBERTO
QUADRIO CURZIO (Italy)**

| Professor of Political Economics and Dean of the Faculty of
Political Sciences at the Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore,
Milan; Fellow and Academic Secretary of the Accademia
Nazionale dei Lincei, Rome



International Balzan Foundation “Prize”

General Prize Committee

SALVATORE VECA (Italy)	Chairman Professor of political Philosophy and Vice-principal of Istituto Universitario di Studi Superiori (Pavia, Italy)
M.E.H. NICOLETTE MOUT (Netherland)	Vice-Chairman Professor of Modern History and Professor of Central European Studies at the University of Leiden, Member of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences
ENRIC BANDA (Spain)	Research Professor of Geophysics at the Institute of Earth Sciences in Barcelona, Spanish Council for Scientific Research (CSIC); former Secretary General of the European Science Foundation in Strasbourg; President of Euroscience, Strasbourg
GIOVANNI BUSINO (Italy/Switzerland)	Professor Emeritus at the University of Lausanne; Chief Editor of the «Revue européenne des sciences sociales»; Foreign Fellow of the Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei, Rome
NICOLA CABIBBO (Italy)	Professor of Physics at the University La Sapienza, Rome; Fellow of the Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei, Rome; President of the Pontifical Academy of Sciences
ÉTIENNE GHYS (France)	Research Director at the CNRS, Pure and Applied Mathematics Unit, École Normale Supérieure de Lyon
BENGT GUSTAFSSON (Sweden)	Professor of Theoretical Astrophysics at the University of Uppsala; member of the Royal Swedish Academy of Science, Royal Danish Academy of Sciences and Letters, Norwegian Academy of Sciences and Letters; formerly Counsellor of the government of Sweden and member of the Swedish Science Research Council
JOHN RICHARD KREBS (UK)	Principal of Jesus College, Oxford; formerly Chairman of the UK Food Standards Agency; formerly Chief Executive of the Natural Environment Research Council, Swindon; formerly Royal Society Research Professor, University of Oxford; Fellow of the Royal Society, London
NICOLE LE DOUARIN (France)	Member of the Institut de France, Honorary Permanent Secretary of the Académie des Sciences; Honorary Professor at the Collège de France
PAOLO MATTHIAE (Italy)	Professor of Archaeology and History of Art of the Ancient Near East at the University La Sapienza, Rome; Fellow of the Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei, Rome



**ERWIN
NEHER (Germany)**

Director of the Membrane Biophysics Department, Max Planck Institute for Biophysical Chemistry in Göttingen; Member of the Academia Europaea; Foreign Associate Member of the US National Academy of Sciences and of the Royal Society, London; 1991 Nobel Prize for Medicine or Physiology

**ANTONIO
PADOA SCHIOPPA (Italy)**

Professor Emeritus of Legal History at the University of Milan; President, Istituto Lombardo. Academy of Sciences and the Humanities in Milan

**DOMINIQUE
SCHNAPPER (France)**

Research Director at the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales (EHESS), Paris; Member of the French Conseil Constitutionnel

**GOTTFRIED
SCHOLZ (Austria)**

Professor Emeritus of Music Analysis at the University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna; Fellow of the Sudetendeutsche Akademie der Wissenschaften und Künste, Munich

**DMITRY O.
SHVIDKOVSKY (Russia)**

Rector of Moscow Institute of Architecture; Vice-President of the Russian Academy of Fine Arts; Fellow of the Russian Academy of Architecture

**QUENTIN
SKINNER (UK)**

Barber Beaumont Professor of the Humanities, Queen Mary, University of London; Fellow of the British Academy and of Christ's College Cambridge; Foreign Fellow of the Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei, Rome

**WERNER
STAUFFACHER (Switzerland)**

Professor Emeritus of Internal Medicine at the University of Basle; former President of the Swiss Academy of Medical Sciences, Basle

**KARLHEINZ
STIERLE (Germany)**

Member of the Heidelberger Akademie der Wissenschaften; Professor Emeritus of Romance literatures at the University of Constance; Corresponding Fellow of the Académie des Sciences morales et politiques, Paris; Foreign Fellow of the Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei, Rome

**MARC
VAN MONTAGU (Belgium)**

Professor Emeritus of Molecular Genetics at Ghent University, Chairman of the Institute for Plant Biotechnology for Developing Countries (IPBO), Ghent

**LUZIUS
WILDHABER (Switzerland)**

former President of the European Court of Human Rights; Professor Emeritus of International, Constitutional and Comparative Law at the University of Basle

**SUZANNE
WERDER (Italy)**

Secretary General



International Balzan Foundation “Fund”

Board of the Foundation

ACHILLE CASANOVA (Switzerland)	Chairman	Former Vice Chancellor and Spokesman of the Federal Council, Switzerland
BRUNO BOTTAI (Italy)		Ambassador of Italy and President of the Società Dante Alighieri
LUISA BÜRKLER-GIUSSANI (Switzerland)		Attorney at Law
MARIA CASUTT DIETRICH (Switzerland)		Formerly Director, Credit Suisse Group
CARLO FONTANA (Italy)		Former General Manager, Teatro alla Scala, Milan; Professor, Division of the Humanities, State University of Milan
CLAUDIO GENERALI (Switzerland)		former executive counsellor of the Ticino cantonal government (Switzerland); Regional President of the Council for the Italian- speaking Swiss Broadcasting Association ; Member of the Central Council of the Swiss Broadcasting Corporation SRG SSR Idée Suisse
ARINA KOWNER (Switzerland)		Member of the Board of the Humanitarian Foundation of the Swiss Red Cross

Eugenio Balzan Biography

Eugenio Balzan was born in Badia Polesine (Rovigo) on 20 April 1874 to a family of impoverished landowners. Most of his career was dedicated to working for Corriere della Sera of Milan.

He started working for the newspaper in 1897, and in a few years became editor, leading reporter and special correspondent. In 1903, the Editor Luigi Albertini appointed him managing director of the publishing firm Corriere, and Balzan also became joint owner with a small part of the shares. A capable, shrewd administrator as well as a prominent figure in Milan in his time, he left Italy in 1933 because of the Fascist regime, which was hostile to the Corriere's independent journalism.

He moved to Switzerland, first Zurich and then Lugano, where he had deposited his earnings for years. Once he had successfully settled there, he went on with his intense charitable efforts in favour of individuals and organizations.

Eugenio Balzan officially returned to Italy in 1950, and died in Lugano, in Italian-speaking Switzerland, on 15 July 1953.

The International Balzan Foundation was founded in 1957, when Angela Lina Balzan, inspired by her father Eugenio Balzan's intentions, decided that the considerable inheritance left to her at his death should be used for an institution in honour of his memory.