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Fernando Orozco

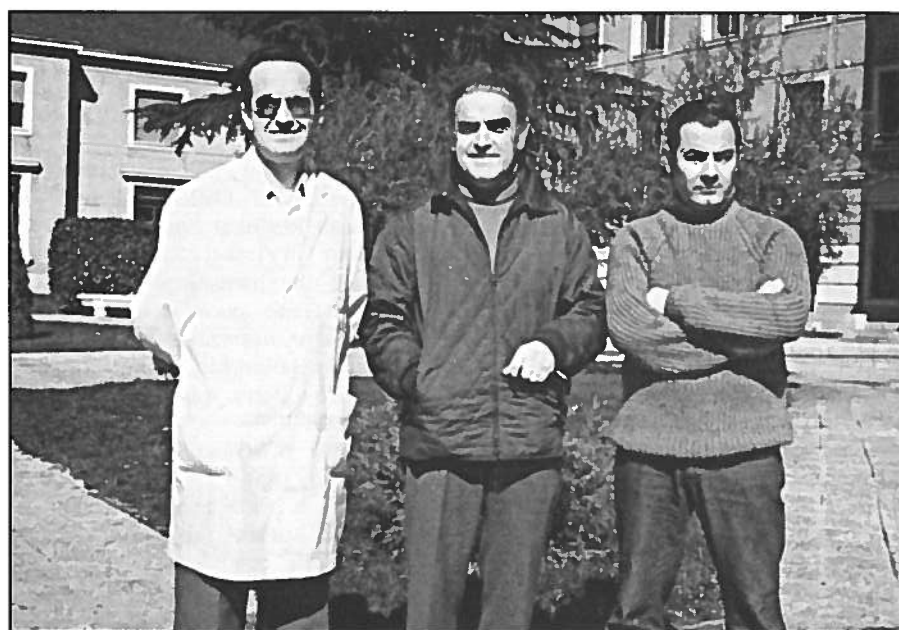
In this article, two leading members of the Spanish Group of the Biometric Society, M.C. Fuentes and Emilio Carbonell, pay tribute to their respected teacher and professor, Fernando Orozco (GSp).

by M. C. Fuentes and Emilio Carbonell

Fernando Orozco retired on 15 March 1991. At this important milestone in his life, it is fair to remember and acknowledge the contribution that this great man has made to Genetics and Animal Breeding, and to Applied Statistics. He received his Dr Ing. Agronomo degree from the Polytechnical University of Madrid and his PhD at Purdue University (Indiana, USA). He has been a member of the Biometric Society since the late 1950s so he is the most senior among all Spanish members of the Society. He owns a full collection of *Biometrics* from the very first number of the journal to the last one being published.

His work as a breeder, on improving and maintaining chicken lines should be pointed out. With the poor facilities that he had available in Spain at that time, he was able to obtain a very high-quality egg-laying strain, competitive with the best foreign commercial lines. At the same time, he preserved, by a conservation program, all the autochthonous lines in danger of extinction in our country.

He was the first to teach Animal Genetics at the School of Agriculture at Madrid in 1963. His incisive mind, his hard work and his pedagogic ability helped all of us, his fortunate students, acquire a very good knowledge of Animal Genetics and Statistical Methods. No one has, since or now, taught so efficiently. His involvement in the organization of Animal Genetics and Breeding, and Applied Statistics courses at the Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Zaragoza has fostered most of the teams working today in Animal Breeding in Spain and in many developing countries. His informal lectures at INIA (National Institute of



Fernando Orozco (centre) with two colleagues.

Agricultural Research) on the Design of Experiments in Agricultural Research made many researchers aware of the need for well-designed experiments, and greatly improved the quality of the research of that institution.

He created what is effectively the Animal Genetics and Breeding Department at INIA even though, for who knows what political reasons, the term 'Animal Genetics' was never accepted by the Directors of the Institute. In spite of that, he was able to pursue his research, thanks to his great determination.

His pioneering research with *Tribolium castaneum* as a model organism has given new insights and theories on Genotype-Environment interactions and on the concept of Heterosis. In both topics he is recognized as an authority on the matter.

And last, but by no means least, we should appreciate his human qualities, his democratic will and his help and encouragement to all people and teams working in Genetics. They were all warmly welcomed in his Department. His deep sense of honesty and critical view of what research should be, was not well-under-

stood by some simple and narrow-minded administrators. However, due to his outstanding qualities, these affairs were resolved. To many of us his life has been an example to follow.

With these words, we who are grateful for his teaching and for the opportunity to work close to him, wish to express our deepest gratitude and respect. ■

Generalized inverses

Generalized Inverse Matrices with Applications to Statistics (Griffin Monograph No. 28, 1971) by Pringle and Rayner, having been declared out of print, about 50 copies are available (together with Updates and Errata by Rayner) free of cost except for postal charges. Please send (per copy) £0.65 or \$US 1.20 (surface), or £2.50 or \$US 5.50 (air), to A. A. Rayner, 22 Shores Road, Pietermaritzburg, 3201, South Africa.