

# Erich L. Lehmann, The Lehmann Symposia, and November 20<sup>th</sup> 1917

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The Lehmann Symposia originated as a result of a conversation I had in the year 2001 with the, then, Director of the Centro de Investigación en Matemáticas (CIMAT), Victor Pérez-Abreu. We both felt that there was an urgent need to bring back into focus theoretical statistics and our proposed solution was a series of Symposia that could serve as a forum for some of the exciting theoretical work being done in statistics. The First Lehmann Symposium took place at CIMAT in May of 2002. Most of the participants were Mexican colleagues. The program can be seen at the site <http://www.stat.rice.edu/lehmann/1st-Lehmann.html>. The second Lehmann Symposium – <http://www.stat.rice.edu/lehmann/> – was held in May of 2004 at the School of Engineering at Rice University. Initially, the venues for the Symposia would alternate between CIMAT and Rice University. However, for various reasons, some being financial, it was decided to hold the 3<sup>rd</sup> Lehmann Symposium in the United States.

The original plans for the Third Lehmann Symposium were to hold the symposium at the Mathematical Sciences Research Institute (MSRI) in Berkeley during the month of November of 2007. The Third Symposium, however, ended up being held at Rice University for a second time during May of 2007. See <http://www.stat.rice.edu/~jrojo/3rd-Lehmann/>. I co-edited webcasts of the Second and Third Symposia, and these webcasts are freely available to the public. They can be found at the following sites: <http://webcast.rice.edu/webcast.php?action=details&event=408> — second symposium, and <http://webcast.rice.edu/webcast.php?action=details&event=1057> — third symposium.

But why was the venue for the Third Symposium changed from California back to Texas, and why was the date changed from November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2007 to May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2007? There were very good reasons for holding the opening of the Symposium on November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2007. For example, November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2007 was the silver anniversary of the greatest big game of all time. See, for example: [http://www.alumni.berkeley.edu/KCAA\\_Multimedia/The\\_Play\\_1982.asp](http://www.alumni.berkeley.edu/KCAA_Multimedia/The_Play_1982.asp). Another good reason to start the Symposium on November 20<sup>th</sup> was to co-celebrate, with our Mexican counterparts, the start of the first major 20<sup>th</sup> century revolution. The Mexican revolution started on November 20<sup>th</sup>, 1910 to remove the dictator Porfirio Díaz who had remained in power for 30 years. This revolution led to the Constitution of 1917 and the start of the Partido Revolucionario Institucional that held power until 2000 when a candidate from the Partido Acción Nacional, Vicente Fox, won the Presidential election. Francisco I. Madero, with the help of Francisco Villa, took over from Porfirio Díaz.

The Constitution of 1917, signed in February 5<sup>th</sup> of that year, is the current Mexican Constitution. The year of 1917, as it turned out, was a very significant

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