
Reviews

Galeote, Manuel (Ed.). *Córdoba lingüística y literaria*. Iznájar, Córdoba: Colección Letras de la Subbética, 2003.

Córdoba lingüística y literaria is the third volume of the collection *Letras de la Subbética*. The main goal of the collection is to present linguistic and literary studies pertaining to the regions of Córdoba and Andalusia in Spain. However, considering the repercussion many figures from this region have had on Spanish cultural life, it will be of value to all those interested in the Iberian Peninsula for, in fact, underlining this collection is a concern with peripheral relationships between these regions and the centres of Spanish cultural and political life.

The articles in this volume are divided into two parts, linguistic and literary studies respectively. The linguistic section comprises articles on sociolinguistics and lexicography. Manuel Galeote presents three studies on a variety of issues such as the urban dialect of Puente Genil or how the lexicon of olive growing, a major economic activity in the area, has permeated the dialects of Andalusia's geographical center. Galeote also discusses pedagogical issues regarding the teaching of Spanish as a foreign language in Córdoba and Andalusia. Felipe Gómez Solís analyzes, from a lexicographical perspective, problem areas, such as grammatical category, in the *Diccionario de la Real Academia Española*.

The literary studies section is the largest in the collection; it presents ten articles on a variety of literary topics with a regional connection. The articles examine Spanish Golden Age Literature, the Romantic period, the Spanish American War and its treatment in the journal articles of literary figures as well as the twentieth-century Spanish Avant-garde.

Two articles, Matilde Galera Sánchez's "Don Juan Valera y el Desastre de 1898" and Josep Esquerrá Nonell's "Julio Burell y la España del 98" study the repercussion of the Spanish American War on two important figures, the author Juan Valera and the journalist Julio Burell. Through the analysis of Juan Valera's newspaper articles and personal letters, Galera Sánchez reveals the author's perceptive analysis of Spain's predicament in the nineteenth-century. Josep Esquerrá Nonell sees the same awareness in the newspaper articles of José Burrell, a native of Córdoba, who, as a journalist and later Minister of Education, was at the center of Spanish intellectual life in the nineteenth-century. Manuel Gahete and María José Porro Herrera, "El *Album Amicorum* de los Marqueses de Peñaflor" and "Un Album Poético cordobés a las puertas del siglo XX" respectively, make a strong case in favor of the poetic album for its importance in understanding the artistic life and influence of literary currents in peripheral areas through to the twentieth century. These biographical and collective poetic enterprises organized in honor of someone often constitute a mosaic of literary tendencies and are, they argue, an invaluable source for the researcher. Antonio Cruz Casado, "Los cuentos de Antonio de Hoyos y Vinent",

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Juana Toledano Molina, "El teatro de Ramón Goy de Silva" and Francisco J. Sedeño Rodríguez, "Entre Montilla y Amsterdam: una 'Peregrinatio Amoris'", also undertake an archeological enterprise. Cruz Casado presents a study of a forgotten early twentieth-century author whose fantastic fiction, mainly short stories, deserves vindication; Juan Toledano Molina does the same with the symbolist Spanish theatre of the nineteenth-century, which she considers to be at the core of twentieth-century innovations in Spanish theater. Sedeño Rodríguez presents the forgotten works of a seventeenth-century Sephardic writer, Miguel de Barrios, who, in Holland, continued to innovate and write in the Spanish literary tradition that exiled him. Lastly, Emilio Quintana's article traces the literary experience of several young vanguard poets in Madrid in the heyday of Ultraism. The critic studies the evolution of these young poets, who, after winning regional literary prizes, arrived in Madrid and clustered around a transatlantic peripheral figure, the Chilean poet Huidobro, head of this avant-garde school.

Córdoba lingüística y literaria, and the collection *Letras de la Subbética*, is an excellent academic enterprise for all interested in these Spanish regions and the Iberian Peninsula in general. Both the linguistic and literary studies in the volume are a fine showcase of academic endeavors in the area. Finally, its focus on region-center cultural interactions provides an enriching perspective on diverse literary topics and traditions.

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Encounters with Malta. Eds. Petra Bianchi and Peter Serracino Inglott. Malta: Encounter Books, 2000.

On Pope John Paul II's visit to Malta in 1990, the pontiff declared that "Malta is not unaffected by the problems and changes transforming the cultural as well as the political face of Europe and the world. Because of its geographical position and history, Malta presents a symbiosis of European and Mediterranean cultures and is thus well-placed to observe and participate in the present changes of outlook" (351). Long before the Pope's declaration, Maltese studies had been a rigorous and fascinating research area with boundaries often crossing and complementing more mainstream disciplines. The central location of Malta and her sister islands in the Mediterranean had lured visitors from around the globe to study and to recount their experiences with her rich culture. Despite the plethora of research materials now available, students outside the archipelago wishing to delve into Maltese studies have had to work diligently in piecemeal fashion to gain a comprehensive overview of Maltese history and culture, especially when in relation to global history and culture. Thankfully, both new and experienced researchers can get that essential overview from *Encounters with Malta*.

This book documents various "encounters" that significant foreigners had with Malta or Maltese culture. Benedict Anderson's seminal study *Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origin and Spread of Nationalism* (1st ed. 1983; rev. ed. 1991) recognised that representations of a culture by foreigners can have as much