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978-0-521-15275-4 - The Baroque Narrative of Carlos de Sigüenza y Góngora: A New World Paradise

Kathleen Ross

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The baroque narrative of Carlos de Sigüenza y Góngora: A New World Paradise

Carlos de Sigüenza y Góngora, one of seventeenth-century Mexico's best-known intellectuals, was a writer of fascinating and complex narratives that exemplify the heterogeneous nature of colonial Spanish American prose. This book is the first critical study to place both the writer and his narrative within the phenomenon of the *barroco de Indias*, or Spanish American baroque. Approaching him as a criollo historian preoccupied with the placement of the New World in a universal context, Professor Ross develops a theoretical framework within which Sigüenza's texts can be read and understood today. She incorporates into her examination such new critical trends in the study of colonial Spanish American literature as the use of narrative theory, the new historiography, and feminist criticism.

Ross focuses on a close reading of Sigüenza's *Parayso Occidental* (1684), a history of the founding of one of Mexico City's first convents. The narrative includes several nuns' life stories – some written by colonial women themselves. Ross examines the strategies at play as a male historian attempts to absorb the writing of women into his universal New World history. Questions of gender, race, and the expression of criollo subjectivity all shed new light on the differences that characterize the Spanish American baroque.

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KATHLEEN ROSS
Duke University



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CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS
Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town, Singapore,
São Paulo, Delhi, Dubai, Tokyo, Mexico City

Cambridge University Press
The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge CB2 8RU, UK

Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press, New York

www.cambridge.org
Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9780521152754

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First published 1993
First paperback printing 2010

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

Library of Congress Cataloguing in Publication data

Ross, Kathleen.

The baroque narrative of Carlos de Sigüenza y Góngora : a New World Paradise / Kathleen Ross.

p. cm. – (Cambridge studies in Latin American and Iberian literature ; 9)

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 0–521–45113–2 (hardcover)

1. Sigüenza y Góngora, Carlos de, 1645–1700 – Criticism and interpretation. 2. Sigüenza y Góngora, Carlos de, 1645–1700. Paraíso occidental. 3. Spanish American prose literature – To 1800–History and criticism. 4. Literature and society – Latin America. 5. Misogyny in literature. 6. Women in literature. I. Title.

II. Series.

PQ7296.S5Z87 1994

863–dc20

93–3630

CIP

ISBN 978-0-521-45113-0 Hardback

ISBN 978-0-521-15275-4 Paperback

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Acknowledgments

Many are the friends and colleagues who have worked with me through my years of wrestling with the colonial baroque. Above all I wish to thank Enrique Pupo-Walker, whose work as editor at Cambridge University Press has produced a series of books among which I am truly privileged to include my own. I am grateful to Roberto González Echevarría for nurturing this project in its early stages, and for his steadfast friendship since then. Others whom I would recognize for aiding me with their time, efforts, and expertise include Electa Arenal, Linda Arnold, Robin Dash, Ariel Dorfman, Aníbal González-Pérez, Alice Kaplan, Asunción Lavrin, Marcella Litle, Stephanie Merrim, Jill Netchinsky, Jean O'Barr, Linda Orr, Cynia B. Shimm, Joan Hinde Stewart, William B. Taylor, John Jay TePaske, and Abby Zanger.

Although my conclusions differ from his, Irving A. Leonard through his pioneering research made the foundation on which I have built my work. I salute him as the dean of scholars dedicated to Sigüenza, and thank him for his continued interest in my efforts.

In Mexico City, my work has been facilitated during repeated visits by Karen Cordero, María Agueda Méndez, Manuel Ramos, Nuria Salazar, and Manuel Ulacia. I thank the sisters of the present-day Convento de Jesús María and of the Convento de San José de Carmelitas Descalzas for receiving me and allowing me to consult their manuscript holdings.

In its initial phase as a doctoral dissertation, the Helena Rubenstein Foundation supported this project through a Woodrow Wilson Research Grant in Women's Studies. The Tinker Foundation – through grants to Yale and Duke Universities – and the American Council of Learned Societies sponsored my archival research in Mexico City on Carlos de Sigüenza y Góngora's *Parayso Occidental*, making possible discoveries that

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Acknowledgments

greatly enriched this study. I thank Duke University for granting me a leave of absence during the 1988–89 academic year.

This book is dedicated to Daniel Szyld, whose love has sustained me through the process of seeing my project reach completion.