CAMBRIDGE STUDIES IN LATIN AMERICAN
AND IBERIAN LITERATURE 9

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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A New World Paradise

KATHLEEN ROSS
Duke University
Para Daniel
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