The Cambridge Companion to the Latin American Novel

The diverse countries of Latin America have produced a lively and ever-evolving tradition of novels, many of which are read in translation all over the world. This Companion offers a broad overview of the novel’s history and analyzes in depth several representative works by, for example, Gabriel García Márquez, Machado de Assis, Isabel Allende and Mario Vargas Llosa. The essays collected here offer several entryways into the understanding and appreciation of the Latin American novel in Spanish-speaking America and Brazil. The volume conveys a real sense of the heterogeneity of Latin American literature, highlighting regions whose cultural and geopolitical particularities are often overlooked. Indispensable to students of Latin American or Hispanic studies and those interested in comparative literature and the development of the novel as genre, the Companion features a comprehensive bibliography and chronology and concludes with an essay about the success of Latin American novels in translation.
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NOTE ON TRANSLATIONS

The titles of original works in the text are followed by an English translation in parentheses. Dates refer to the first publication unless indicated otherwise. A literal translation is provided in quotation marks for those works where no published translation is available. Quotations from original works are followed by the relevant page numbers of the cited edition and an English translation in parentheses. The corresponding page numbers of published translations are also given. Where translations are those of the individual contributors to this volume, this is noted in the text.
CHRONOLOGY

1810–28 Independence of most Latin American Nations with the exceptions of Cuba and Puerto Rico

1816 El Periquillo Sarniento (The Itching Parrot) by José Joaquín Fernández de Lizardi (Mexico, 1776–1827).

1823–72 Slavery is abolished with the exceptions of Cuba and Brazil

1841 Sab by Gertrudis Gómez de Avellaneda (Cuba, 1814–73)

1845 Facundo by Domingo Faustino Sarmiento (Argentina, 1811–88)

1846–48 Mexican–American War concluding with the annexation of California and other South Western states to the United States; Texas had already been annexed in 1845

1855 Amalia by José Marmol (Argentina, 1817–71)

1862 Martín Rivas by Alberto Blest Gana (Chile, 1830–1920)

1863 La peregrinación de Bayoán (“Bayoán’s pilgrimage”) by Eugenio María de Hostos (Puerto Rico, 1839–1903)

1865 Iracema by José de Alencar (Brazil, 1829–79)

1867 María by Jorge Isaacs (Colombia, 1837–95)

1879 Cumandá by Juan León de Mera (Ecuador, 1832–94)

1882 Cecilia Valdés, o La loma del Angel (Cecilia Valdés, or Angel’s Hill) by Cirilio Villaverde (Cuba, 1812–94); Enriquillo (The Cross and the Sword) by Manuel de Jesús Galván (Dominican Republic, 1814–1910)

1886 Abolition of slavery in Cuba

1888 Abolition of slavery in Brazil

1889 Brazil becomes a Republic; Aves sin nido (Birds without a Nest) by Clorinda Matto de Turner (Peru, 1812–1909)

1898 Spanish American War; USA occupies Cuba and Puerto Rico

1899 Dom Casmurro by Joaquim Maria Machado de Assis (Brazil, 1839–1908)

1902 Cuban independence: Os Sertões (Rebellion in the Backlands) by Euclides da Cunha (Brazil, 1866–1909)
1903 The province of Panama breaks away from Colombia and becomes an independent nation with the support of the United States

1911–20 Mexican Revolution

1915 *Los de abajo* (*The Underdogs*) by Mariano Azuela (Mexico, 1873–1952)

1919 *Raza de bronce* ("Race of bronze") by Alcides Arguedas (Bolivia, 1879–1946)

1924 *La voragine* (*The Vortex*) by José Eustasio Rivera (Colombia, 1889–1929)

1926 *Don Segundo Sombra* by Ricardo Güiraldes (Argentina, 1886–1927); the United States deploys troops in Nicaragua; resistance by Sandino will follow; Sandino will be assassinated in 1936

1928 *Macunaima* by Mario de Andrade (Brazil, 1893–1945)

1929 *Doña Bárbara* by Rómulo Gallegos (Venezuela, 1884–1969)

1931 *Las lanzas coloradas* (*The Red Lances*) by Arturo Uslar Pietri (Venezuela, 1906–2001)

1932–35 The Chaco War between Bolivia and Paraguay

1934 *Huasipungo* (*The Villagers*) by Jorge Icaza (Ecuador, 1906–78)

1937 Getulio Vargas establishes an authoritarian regime in Brazil

1938 *Vidas secas* (*Barren Lives*) by Graciliano Ramos (Brazil, 1892–1953); *La amortajada* (*The Shrouded Woman*) by María Luisa Bombal (Chile, 1910–80); Mexican Government expropriates foreign oil companies

1941 *El mundo es ancho y ajeno* (*Broad and Alien is the World*) by Ciro Alegría (Peru, 1909–67); *El jardín de senderos que se bifurcan* ("The garden of forking paths") by Jorge Luis Borges (1899–1986)

1943 Military coup in Argentina sponsored by General Perón who will win the Argentine elections in 1946

1945 The Organization of American States is founded

1947 *Al filo del agua* (*The Edge of the Storm*) by Agustín Yáñez (Mexico, 1904–1980)

1948 Civil war in Colombia

1949 *Hombres de maíz* (*Men of Maize*) by Miguel Angel Asturias (Guatemala, 1899–1974); *El reino de este mundo* (*The Kingdom of this World*) by Alejo Carpentier (Cuba, 1904–80)

1950 *Vida breve* (*A Brief Life*) by Juan Carlos Onetti (Uruguay, 1909–94)
Chronology

1952  Evita Perón dies; Puerto Rico becomes a “free associated state” of the United States

1955  *Pedro Páramo* by Juan Rulfo (Mexico, 1918–86)

1956  *Grande sertão: veredas* (*The Devil to Pay in the Backlands*) by João Guimarães Rosa (Brazil, 1908–67)

1958  *Los ríos profundos* (*Deep Rivers*) by José María Arguedas (Peru, 1911–69); *Balún Canán* (*The Nine Guardians*) by Rosario Castellanos (Mexico, 1925–74)

1959  Cuban Revolution

1961  Assassination of Trujillo after a thirty-year dictatorship of the Dominican Republic

1962  Cuban missile crisis; *La muerte de Artemio Cruz* (*The Death of Artemio Cruz*) by Carlos Fuentes (Mexico, b. 1929)

1963  *La ciudad y los perros* (*Time of the Hero*) by Mario Vargas Llosa (Peru, b. 1936); *Los ríos profundos* (*Deep Rivers*) by José María Arguedas (Peru, 1911–69); *Rayuela* (*Hopscotch*) by Julio Cortázar (Argentina, 1914–84)

1964  *A paixão segundo G. H.* (*The Passion According to G. H.*) by Clarice Lispector (Brazil, 1925–77)

1964–85  Brazil is ruled by a military dictatorship

1965  *Tres tristes tigres* (*Three Trapped Tigers*) by Guillermo Cabrera Infante (Cuba, b. 1929); US military intervention in the Dominican Republic

1966  *Paradiso* by José Lezama Lima (Cuba, 1910–76)

1967  Death of Che Guevara in Bolivia; Nobel Prize in literature awarded to Miguel Angel Asturias; *Cien años de soledad* (*One Hundred Years of Solitude*) by Gabriel García Márquez (Colombia, b. 1928); *Dona Flor e seus dois maridos* (*Dona Flor and Her Two Husbands*) by Jorge Amado (Brazil, 1912–2001); *Morirás lejos* (*You Will Die in a Distant Place*) by José Emilio Pacheco (Mexico, b. 1939)

1968  Tlatelolco massacre in Mexico

1968–80  Military government in Peru

1969  *Hasta no verte jesús mío* (*Here is to you Jesusa!*) by Elena Poniatowska (Mexico, b. 1932)

1970  *El obsceno pájaro de la noche* (*The Obscene Bird of the Night*) by José Donoso (Chile, 1924–96); *Un mundo para Julius* (*A World for Julius*) by Alfredo Bryce Echenique (Peru, b. 1939)

1971  Military coup led by General Banzer Suárez in Bolivia

1973–90  Military dictatorship in Chile led by General Augusto Pinochet

1974  *Yo el Supremo* (*I the Supreme*) by Augusto Roa Bastos (Paraguay, b. 1917)
1975  Soñó que la nieve ardía (I Dreamt the Snow was Burning) by Antonio Skármeta (Chile, b. 1940)

1976–83  Military dictatorship in Argentina

1976  El beso de la mujer araña (The Kiss of the Spider Woman) by Manuel Puig (Argentina, 1932–90); Entre Marx y una mujer desnuda (Between Marx and a Naked Woman) by Jorge E. Adoum (Ecuador, b. 1923); La guaracha del macho Camacho (Macho Camacho’s Beat) by Luis Rafael Sánchez (Puerto Rico, b. 1936)

1977  El último juego (“The last game”) by Gloria Guardia (Panama, b. 1940)

1979  Sandinistas overthrow Somoza dictatorship in Nicaragua; regime lasts until 1990

1980  Military repression in Guatemala resulting from guerrilla activity; Respiración artificial (Artificial Respiration) by Ricardo Piglia (Argentina, b. 1941); La biografía difusa de Sombra Cañada (“The diffused biography of Sombra Cañada”) by Marcio Veloz Maggiolo (Dominican Republic, b. 1936)

1981  La guerra del fin del mundo (The War of the End of the World) by Mario Vargas Llosa; En breve cárcel (Certificate of Absence) by Sylvia Molloy (Argentina, b. 1938); Las genealogías (The Family Tree) by Margo Glantz (Mexico, b. 1930)

1982  La casa de los espíritus (The House of the Spirits) by Isabel Allende (Chile, b. 1942); Nobel Prize in literature awarded to Gabriel García Márquez

1983  Los perros del paraíso (The Dogs of Paradise) by Abel Posse (Argentina, b. 1939); Cola de Lagartija (Lizard’s Tail) by Luisa Valenzuela (Argentina, b. 1938)

1983  Luminífera (E. Luminata) by Diamela Eltit (Chile, b. 1949)

1984  República dos sonhos (The Republic of Dreams) by Nélida Piñón (Brazil b. 1936); La nave de los locos (Ship of Fools) by Cristina Peri Rossi (Uruguay, b. 1940)

1985  Democracy is restored in Argentina, Brazil, and Uruguay; five years later in Chile; this date signals to many the return to democracy in Latin American nations that had suffered dictatorships, and the rise of neo-liberal economic policies; Stella Manhattan by Silviano Santiago (Brazil, b. 1936)

1987  Oscar Arias plan for peace in Central America; on that same year the statesman from Costa Rica wins the Nobel Prize for Peace; Maldito Amor (Sweet Diamond Dust) by Rosario Ferré (Puerto Rico, b. 1938)
**Chronology**

1988

*Domar a la divina garza* (“The taming of the divine stork”) by Sergio Pitol (Mexico, b. 1933); *La mujer habitada* (*The Inhabited Woman*) by Gioconda Belli (Nicaragua, b. 1935)

1989

*El jaguar en llamas* (“The jaguar in flames”) by Arturo Arias (Guatemala, b. 1950); *Relato de un certo oriente* (*The Three of the Seventh Heaven*) by Milton Hatoum (Brazil, b. 1950); *As horas nuas* (*Naked Hours*) by Lygia Fagundes Telles (Brazil, b. 1923)

1990

Mario Vargas Llosa is defeated by Alberto Fujimori in the Peruvian presidential elections

1991

*La liebre* (“The hare”) by César Aira (Argentina, b. 1949)

1992

Nobel Peace Prize awarded to Rigoberta Menchú; *Doña Inés contra el olvido* (*Doña Inés Vs. Oblivion*) by Ana Teresa Torres (Venezuela, b. 1945)

1993

*La loca de Gandoca* (“The madwoman of Gandoca”) by Ana Cristina Rossi (Costa Rica, b. 1952); *Madrugada: El Rey del Albor* (“Dawn: the king of Albor”) by Julio Escoto (Honduras, b. 1946)

1994

Zapatista revolt begins in Chiapas (Mexico); *No se lo digas a nadie* (*Don’t Tell Anyone*) by Jaime Bayly (Peru, b. 1965)

1995

*Santa Evita* by Tomás Eloy Martínez (Argentina, b. 1945)

1996

*Las rímoras* (“The obstacles”) by Elroy Urroz (Mexico, b. 1967)

1997

*Café nostalgia* (*Nostalgia café*) by Zoé Valdés (Cuba, b. 1959); *Ciudad de Dios* (*City of God*) by Paulo Lins (Brazil, b. 1958); *Cartilha do silêncio* (*Manual of silence*) by Francisco J. C. Dantas (Brazil, b. 1941)

1998

*Aprendiendo a morir* (*Learning to die*) by Alicia Yáñez Cossío (Ecuador, b. 1928)

1999

*En busca de Klingsor* (*In search of Klingsor*) by Jorge Volpi, (Mexico, b. 1968); *Salón de Belleza* (*Beauty parlor*) by Mario Bellatin (Peru/Mexico, b. 1960)

2000

President Vicente Fox is elected President of Mexico and for the first time since its foundation after the Mexican Revolution, the PRI (*Revolutionary Institutionalized Party*) is defeated in Mexican election; Sirena Selena vestida de pena (*Sirena Selena*) by Mayra Santos-Febres (Puerto Rico, b. 1966)

2001

*La materia del deseo* (*Matter of Desire*) by Edmundo Paz Soldán (Bolivia, b. 1967); *Libro de mal amor* (*Book of bad love*) by Fernando Iwasaki (Peru, b. 1961)
Chronology

2002 Sombras nada más (“Nothing but shadows”) by Sergio Ramírez (Nicaragua, b. 1942); Dias e dias (“Days and days”) by Ana Maria Miranda (Brazil, b. 1951)

2003 Las películas de mi vida (The Movies of my Life) by Alberto Fuguet (Chile, b. 1964); Budapest by Chico Buarque (Brazil, b. 1944)

2004 2666 by Roberto Bolaño (Chile, 1953–2003)