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This study provides a fresh assessment of Spanish Romanticism through a sympathetic appraisal of its literary theory and criticism. It identifies the origins of Spanish Romantic thought in the theories of German Romantic thinkers, in particular Herder's historicism. The range of reference, from the articles of Böhl von Faber to the judgements made by Cañete and Valera, is counterpointed by the detail of close readings of books and articles published between 1834 and 1844, together with an examination of the ideas which informed the creative work of Fernán Caballero. Derek Flitter's use of the history of ideas offers a corrective to the recent preponderance of political approaches to Spanish Romanticism, countering their stress on its radical and liberal associations with a detailed demonstration that the majority of Spanish Romantic writers derived their inspiration from restorative, traditionalist and Christian elements in their contemporaries' theory and criticism.

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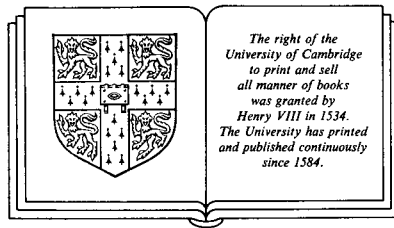
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Spanish Romantic literary theory and criticism

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For my Mother, and in memory of my Father

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Preface

This project first took the form of a thesis presented for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in the University of Oxford. The text has since been revised, but the essential framework and premises of the work have remained largely unaltered. Further research and revision has been made possible by the award of a Laming Junior Fellowship conferred on me by The Queen's College, Oxford, which enabled me to work in Madrid during the academic year 1986–7. Final work on the manuscript has been carried out thanks to a British Academy Post-Doctoral Fellowship which I took up in October 1987.

My greatest debt is to the guidance and inspiration of Dr Ron Truman, the very best of supervisors. His continual support and encouragement have aided me beyond measure, while the fruitful investigation of many key areas of research stemmed directly from his suggestions. Certain chapters of this study were given in an early form as papers to the Research Seminar in Spanish and Portuguese at the University of Oxford, and I should like to thank members of that seminar for their constructive criticisms of my developing project. I likewise benefited from the discussion session which followed my paper on the ideological construct of Spanish Romanticism at the University of Manchester in 1986. In Madrid, I was able to profit from the wise and authoritative counsels of Professor Hans Juretschke, our most imposing specialist on Spanish Romanticism. To be recalled with pleasure are the hours spent in conversation with Francisco Leal Insúa, a devoted biographer of Nicomedes-Pastor Díaz. I also wish to acknowledge here the substantial help afforded me by staff at the Biblioteca Nacional and Hemeroteca Municipal, Madrid, and especially by don Fernando Grau. In the later stages of this project, I was able to incorporate a number of constructive suggestions made by the anonymous readers of the manuscript for Cambridge University Press, and have been encour-

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aged at every stage in the publishing process by the indefatigable enthusiasm of my editor, Dr Katharina Brett. Lastly, and on a more personal note, I could not write this preface without acknowledging the intellectual mentorship of Dr John Rutherford, as my undergraduate tutor and later as my colleague, and as a greatly valued friend.

In preparing this work, I have silently updated spelling and accentuation except in the case of the peculiar orthography used by Bartolomé José Gallardo. I have endeavoured to reduce the number of footnotes to manageable proportions by citing from *Obras completas* collections in the body of the text.

Abbreviations

BAE	Biblioteca de Autores Españoles
BBMP	<i>Boletín de la Biblioteca de Menéndez y Pelayo</i>
BH	<i>Bulletin Hispanique</i>
BHS	<i>Bulletin of Hispanic Studies</i>
BRAE	<i>Boletín de la Real Academia Española</i>
BSS	<i>Bulletin of Spanish Studies</i>
CIPP	Colección de Indices de Publicaciones Periódicas
HR	<i>Hispanic Review</i>
MLN	<i>Modern Language Notes</i>
MLR	<i>Modern Language Review</i>
PMLA	<i>Publications of the Modern Languages Association of America</i>
<i>Prop. Lib.</i>	<i>El Propagador de la Libertad</i>
RABL Barc.	<i>Boletín de la Real Academia de Buenas Letras de Barcelona</i>
<i>Rev. Cient. Lit.</i>	<i>Revista Científica y Literaria</i>
<i>Rev. Cont.</i>	<i>La Revista Contemporánea</i>
<i>Rev. Esp.</i>	<i>La Revista Española</i>
<i>Rev. Esp. Ext.</i>	<i>Revista de España y del Extranjero</i>
<i>Rev. Lit.</i>	<i>Revista de Literatura</i>
<i>Rev. Mad.</i>	<i>Revista de Madrid</i>
<i>Rev. Teat.</i>	<i>Revista de Teatros</i>
RFE	<i>Revista de Filología Española</i>
RH	<i>Revue Hispanique</i>
RHM	<i>Revista Hispánica Moderna</i>
RR	<i>Romanic Review</i>
<i>Sem. Pint.</i>	<i>Semanario Pintoresco Español</i>
<i>St. Rom.</i>	<i>Studies in Romanticism</i>