

CELESTINESCA

Joseph T. Snow. CELESTINA BY FERNANDO DE ROJAS: an Annotated Bibliography of World Interest, 1930-1985. Madison: Hispanic Seminary of Medieval Studies, 1985. iii, 121 pp., ill.

This book represents a further stage in an enterprise begun by its author with the publication (with Jane Schneider and Cecilia Lee) of 'Un cuarto de siglo de interés en La Celestina, 1949-75: documento bibliográfico', Hispania (U.S.A.), 59 (1976), 610-60. Since then a series of supplements has appeared in this present journal, the founding of which in 1977 is a further expression of Professor Snow's tireless commitment to LC and its subsequent tradition. A feature of this commitment and of the Annotated Bibliography is the breadth of coverage, for Rojas' work is not seen simply as the subject of numerous scholarly studies. It is also a living tradition manifest in a variety of subsequent literary contexts and, sometimes translated, adapted and performed, as a piece for theatre, radio, cinema and TV. The phrase 'world interest' is amply justified by references to translations into many languages including Croatian and Japanese and to studies in Chinese and Polish.

The Annotated Bibliography is divided into three sections, devoted to critical studies, translations and adaptations, and editions. Particularly welcome is the second section in which Snow has amassed a considerable amount of information on stage and film adaptations which is not readily obtainable elsewhere. The entries here are detailed and make fascinating reading. Possibly, within the section, translations could have been separated from adaptations for performance, whilst retaining the overall organisation by language.

The third section preserves the distinction between critical editions and popular and student editions established in the 'Documento bibliográfico'. In the recording of the latter publications, Snow again shows an extraordinary capacity for detail. It could be argued that his collector's enthusiasm does not allow a clearer distinction to emerge between the innumerable pot-boilers and admirable editions such as those of Severin (1969) and López Morales (1976) whose company they are permitted to keep. Snow recognises the merits of the latter, but his predominantly descriptive approach devotes as much space to the intricate publishing histories of the former.

The three sections are accompanied by a subject index (which includes persons), an index of authors, adaptors and performers, and a list of abbreviations. The subject index is of considerable importance for the consultation of the first section, as the studies are arranged alphabetically by author. Unfortunately, the subject index is the one drawback to this otherwise excellent piece of work. Some topics are hard to locate. There are no headings 'devil', 'diabolic', or 'demoniacal', but 'demonic presence' does appear. Also, the number of articles cited under certain headings seems small; just one in the latter

case. Cross references and 'see also' references would have helped. Yet more problematic is the use of phrases as headings, rather than key words. Some of these headings are of little use, e.g. 'Rojas' dialectic struggle with his text'. Others similarly conceal the vital notion: studies cited under 'role of language' are not found also under 'language'. Finally, it is most unusual to enter titles of works under the definite or indefinite article. If I have dwelt at length on the subject index it is because it does not make for ease of access to the material contained in the first section. This is a pity as the number and range of studies included is impressive (one article is cited from the Chung Wai Literary Monthly!). Snow's comments summarise, rather than assess, and are thus free from personal bias. References to book reviews are also given, which is most welcome.

A spot check has revealed very few errors in the references and the text has few misprints. However, in no. 82 'Etranger' should read 'Etrangère' and in item 401 'González Roldán' should be González Rollán'. In no. 1226, 'most' should read 'almost'. Rather more serious is a possible electronic error which has produced 'DeGorog', 'DeArmas' etc., rather than 'De Gorog' and 'De Armas'. One final point: it is difficult to locate the full reference to the Actas del Primer Congreso Internacional sobre LC, which is under 'Criado de Val', and not 'ACTAS', as Snow's abbreviation suggests.

With the exception of the subject index, imperfections in the Annotated Bibliography are minor and all Celestina scholars owe Professor Snow an even greater debt than before. My concentration on this one flaw and on details does not disparage that achievement in any way, but is intended to assist in the endeavour he has undertaken with such indefatigable zest and scholarly thoroughness.

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Comedia de Calisto y Melibea: la qual contiene demas de su agradable y dulce estilo muchas sentencias filosofales: y auisos muy necesarios para mancebos: mostrando les los engaños que estan encerrados en siruientes y alcabuetas.

