

EDITORS' NOTE

We are pleased to present the fifteenth issue of *LEF-E*. As always, we thank our referees for their thorough work and our contributors for sharing their expertise, helping to make this issue thought-provoking and stimulating.

In this issue, you will find works from Latin America (Chile, Panama, and Argentina) and Europe (Spain), spanning the Middle-Ages Iberic Peninsula to twentieth-century Latin America. While these contributions address different authors, topics, and periods, they all contain an element of defense. With pronounced differences, they all revisit the intrinsic human aspects of an author or character.

The first articles tackle the defense of women. The first piece underlines the remarkable place of Bombal's work as a contributor to literary existentialism in the Americas (Murillo). In this prototypical avant-garde novel with feminist consciousness, Bombal defends the exasperation of the female protagonist with bourgeoisie monotony by crafting a complex nonconformist being. The following article analyzes the ironic vein of Britton's short story used to advocate for Afro-descent Panamanian women and culture (Rivera). Here, the protagonist is confronted with racial identity conflicts that lead her to attempt to escape marginalization and discrimination by adopting the path of self-denial and defending extraneous values. The third article explores Valenzuela's postmodern thriller in view of French feminist ideas that uphold writing with the body as a liberatory practice (Marting). In the novel, the events and writing practice in action affect the male and female central characters differently. These models allegorize the traumas of many Argentinians and the options for life after the violence of the dictatorship, both positions defending courses of deliverance or emotional healing.

Across the ocean and going back in time, the following article considers a historic personality well known for his open defense of Christianity. Nevertheless, behind the widely accepted perceptions of this historical figure appear his human aspects with his flaws and sparks. The article offers a Francophone view of El Cid, the legendary Spanish medieval hero who fought in the Reconquista wars (Kouadio). The paper confronts the literary figure to the actual warrior, making him less than a perfect hero, but still recognizing the lasting impact of the legendary man whose exploits managed to break through time and borders.

Finally, the *Varia* section includes two appealing and intriguing short stories by the famous Colombian writer, Consuelo Triviño Anzola, also relating to our topic. They defend the feminine presence confronted to the macho culture within different dimensions, the personal and intimate, but also the domestic and its projection as a metaphor of the national arena. The translation of each short-story was done by Dr. Pithamber Rao Polsani.

Enjoy the reading!

Dr. Stéphane Natan, editor

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