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## Abstracts

***The Story of the «Doncella Teodor»: a Greek-Byzantine invention, a tale of the a Thousand and One Nights, and, finally, a pliego de cordel (chapbook)***, Julián González Barrera (Universidad de Sevilla).

The author analyses the evolution and literary sources of a tale which was known in 16th and 17th century Spain as *La doncella Teodor*, and which circulated in chapbooks (*pliegos de cordel*). Working on the hypothesis that the tale originates from a lost Greek-Byzantine prototype, Julián González traces its possible diachrony: from the legend of Saint Catherine of Alexandria, to the tale of the slave Tawaddud in *A Thousand and One Nights*, through the first Andalusian versions and the first Castilian versions, probably during the reign of Alfonso X el Sabio; to its Castilian chapbook edition and, finally, its publication in the Indies.

***The Quixote: Body and Alterity***, by Carlos Hernández Sacristán (Universitat de València).

The author sets out to read *Don Quixote* through Cervantes' treatment of his characters' corporality. This, he argues, opens up new perspectives on the «transcendence» of Cervantes' text: the description of the protagonist's body can be read as a way of constructing his madness and his humanity; the bodily relation between knight and squire during the battles, as an account of their friendship; Quixote's lucubrations on Dulcinea's love can be understood in fundamentally physical terms; the empathy of the reader with the characters, finally, can be read through the description of the latter's bodies. Thus Carlos Hernández understands the reading of the *Quixote* as the process of the readers' identification with the bodily otherness that Cervantes offers.

**Theoretical preludes and samples of the prose poem in 20th century Spain**, by Marta Agudo (Universidad de Alicante).

The author begins her research with a recapitulation of the European origins of the prose poem. She goes back to the first theoretical formulations of the prose poem by Schiller and Hegel, and to the beginnings of the genre with *Gaspard de la nuit*, by Aloysius Bertrand, to then take up Baudelaire's *Petits poèmes en prose* and Rimbaud's *Une saison en enfer* and *Illuminations*, and the main historical definitions of the genre (Edgar Allan Poe, León Felipe, Yuri Lotman, Octavio Paz, etc.). These theoretical premises are then applied to 19th century Spain. Marta Agudo's main observations are twofold: she establishes, on the one hand, that the new European genre rises in a vague and imprecise manner in Spain; and on the other, that formal transgressions of the genre are correlated to political, and often feminist, vindications (Rosalía de Castro, Carolina Coronado, etc.). According to the author, the prose poem is more a field of experimentation than a clearly defined genre.

**American Spanish on the Threshold of 21<sup>st</sup> century. Presentation**, by Mariela de La Torre (Université de Neuchâtel).

This is a brief introduction to the issues that are currently at the center of debates in americanist linguistics. The author considers the necessity to fill in the enormous gaps that still cover the field today and presents five of the talks given at the 2005 Hispanic Journeys which were held at the Université de Neuchâtel. According to Mariela de la Torre, these texts offer a prognostic of the main lines that research on American Spanish should follow in the course of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

**American Spanish: the challenges of pluricentrism**, by José Luis Rivarola

José Luis Rivarola's article offers a general overview of the status of Spanish as a «historical language» at the dawn of this new century, sketching the position of the American varieties of Spanish within the totality of the common language, as well as the different historical periods that account for these positions. The author also offers a series of conceptual guidelines to characterize the pluricentric reality of the Hispanic linguistic culture.

**Linguistic Atlas and varieties of American Spanish**, by Pilar García Mouton

This article reviews the history of the different stages and methodological approaches of American geolinguistic studies up to the beginning of our century, when the *Atlas Diatópico y Diastrático del Uruguay* (2000) was published and similar projects on Central America and Paraguay are on course.

**The actual state of lexicography of American Spanish, and the *Diccionario del español de Bolivia***, by Reinhold Werner.

This article offers a panorama of the Ausgburg project, both of its most recent achievements, such as the *Diccionario del español de Bolivia*, almost completed, and of the projects in course, such as the dictionaries of Spanish of Ecuador and of Peru. Reinhold Werner develops the differential and contrastive perspective of the project, which are among the most important criteria for the selection of lexemes, and for the treatment of words with specifically American referents, as well as those of Amerindian origins, which abound in the Spanish from Bolivia.

**Morphosyntax in the norm. An approach based on the journalistic genre**, by Yvette Bürki.

Yvette Bürki's article addresses the problematic issue of Eurocentrism versus a plurality of norms, specially at the morphosyntactical level, where, unlike the lexical level, monocentric attitudes are still heavily marked. She develops her analysis using material from the press in Lima.

**Words that I learnt in Havana**, by José María Enguita Utrilla.

This article studies the enormous lexical wealth of the Spanish from the Havana, analyzing its lexical unities from three perspectives: that of Spanish in contact with other languages – from the first contacts with Taino to recent ones with English–, that of the adaptation of the peninsular patrimonial lexic to the new reality, and that of the preferences of its speakers.