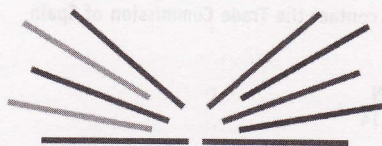


ESSENTIAL GUIDE TO SPANISH READING

Librarians' Selections



AMERICA READS SPANISH

Edited by Lluís Agustí

ESSENTIAL GUIDE TO SPANISH READING: LIBRARIANS' SELECTIONS

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INTRODUCTIONS



Scope of the *Guide*

In Fall 2006, *America Reads Spanish*¹ launched an on-line survey addressed to librarians in charge of Latin American collections in public, academic and research libraries in the United States of America, so that, in their capacity as experts, they would suggest works germane to the creation of a bibliographic Hispanic database which was initially thought would comprise 500 titles. The works would refer to Spanish letters, language and literatures: fiction, poetry, theater, essays, reference works and children's literature.


Booksellers, writers, professors, editors and journalists also answered this call, and helped to significantly enrich the final results. In March 2007, the compilation of materials was closed with nearly one thousand suggested works. From those recommendations, 500 works, as originally foreseen, were selected for inclusion in the *Guide*.

The Risks of a Plural Endeavor

The open, one might say, choral, nature of this bibliography stems from its own genesis; this is not simply a conventional determination of a canon, rather its value and its richness reside in the fact that the recommended works have been previously read, consulted and used by the professionals who suggested them and who so aver.

The procedure for obtaining the titles in this *Guide* was undoubtedly a risky proposition; precedence was given to free participation over the normative pyramidal process involving literary editors, the distribution of areas of expertise, etc., knowing all the while of the possible disparity in authors, themes, eras and geographic areas which might thus obtain.

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The final result presented now demonstrates that it was worth assuming that risk. The *Guide* is a rich and plural, distinctive bibliography, and while many of the names listed therein are found in the canons of the most representative works of our literatures, in other instances one will find lesser known or forgotten authors and works, but which nonetheless are of equal import and interest.

Structure of the *Guide*

The bibliography is divided into five major sections: *Fiction, Poetry and Theater, Essays, Reference Works, and Children's and Young Adult Literature*. In each section, the works are ordered alphabetically by title. Each reference includes the title in Spanish, its translation into English, a brief note about the work, and the name of the author of the comment and his or her profession and/or place of work; the reference concludes with information about existent published translations of the work into English. It was deemed appropriate not to include information relative to places of publication, publishers, collections, and ISBNs. The *Guide* is further supplemented by general indexes by authors, titles and collaborators.

Usefulness of the *Guide*

The *Guide* aspires to be useful for librarians who wish to endow a basic Hispanic corpus or to complete the one they currently possess with quality works. It may also prove valuable for American booksellers who wish to enrich their offerings for a more demanding readership. Undoubtedly, the *Guide* may also provide practical support in the selection of works for teachers and professors of Spanish and Hispanic literatures. The information about existing translations into English may be helpful to editors and translators; from the bibliography one can appreciate that there are many important work of literature in



Spanish which have not been translated or published in English. Finally, the *Guide* may be used by any reader who seeks advice or suggestions.

Acknowledgments

The first acknowledgment must go to *America Reads Spanish*, creators and sponsors of the idea of the *Guide*, who believed in the usefulness of the project since its inception. Acknowledgments are also due to the following: Eduardo de Lamadrid, for his excellent translations of all the comments and titles, and who also contributed valuable suggestions; Alina San Juan, in charge of, and indispensable to, the final review of the works in the English version; Gaspar Orozco, who brought to the fore his profound knowledge of the entire range of Spanish and Hispanic-American literature and deserves special mention; Nashieli Marcano, who provided an excellent and vast representation of Puerto Rican culture; Richard Heyer, for his support and his very incisive suggestions about Peruvian literature; Adán Griego, for his ability to mobilize librarians and for his vital contributions about Hispanic gay culture; Teresa Mlawer, for her helpful suggestions about children's literature; and Sabrina Abreu and Cristina Fabio, who were instrumental to the development and technical preparation of this *Guide*. The list of acknowledgments concludes with each and every one of the collaborators, whose names appear at the end of the book. Thanks to them all.

Lluís Agustí
Librarian



GENERAL INDEX

INTRODUCTIONS & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	5
CATEGORY INDEX	15
LITERATURE / FICTION	17
POETRY / DRAMA	77
NON FICTION	101
REFERENCE	127
CHILDREN / YOUNG ADULTS	147
AUTHORS INDEX	165
TITLES INDEX	191
TRANSLATED TITLES INDEX	217
COLLABORATORS INDEX	235

