

AVENTURA JOURNAL N. 2

Among the activities carried out by the Claudio Rodríguez Permanent Seminar, we can mention the celebration of a Conference about the poet. The first edition was held in October 2005 with the title *New Perspectives on Claudio Rodríguez*, and the proceedings were published in issue 0 of the *Aventura* journal; the second one, *Claudio Rodríguez in Poetry Translation* (2006), was published in issue 1, and the third conference, held in December 2008 as *Claudio Rodríguez, the local and the universal*, in issue 2.

The Seminar aims to establish a clear-cut differentiation between the Conference and the journal edition. Although both are closely related, they do not overlap; instead, they produce different results: the Conference starts from a given topic, around which critics, and scholars, as well as poets related with Claudio Rodríguez read and discuss; and the monographic journal, where the lectures held at the conference are included, together with news about recent publications, unpublished correspondence and any current events related with the Seminar and its Bibliographic Center.

Issue 2 of the journal includes “Claudio Rodríguez, The gift of Harmony” by Antonio Carvajal, one of the greatest experts in prosody who is currently a Professor the University of Granada, apart from a poet and a scholar on Claudio Rodríguez. His lecture was almost exclusively focused on the first line of *Gift of Inebriation*.

The next pages are given to poet and literary critic Jaime Siles’s article *The Popular and Learned Tradition in the Poetry of Claudio Rodríguez*. On this occasion, Jaime Siles recalled the article he had published in the journal *Ínsula* in 1983, “Two Lines by C. R. and a Prose Text by Pedro Salinas: An

Attempt at Reconstruction”. The original language of Claudio within his generation had called his attention and was still the main topic of his new lecture.

Professor, translator and writer José Luis Puerto contributed in third place with his lecture “Poetry as the Telling of Celebration (The Ancestral in Claudio Rodríguez). Puerto summarizes the ancestral world in Claudio and analyzes its transcendence: he invites us to the Águedas celebration, he teaches us to mark the doors with blood, to play hopscotch and ring-a-ring-a-roses, and he reminds us of swallows, the birds so dear to C.R. He confronts us with the reading of the ancestral through the universe and nature, especially from the perspective of cereal fields and their symbolism.

On page 82 emerges Fernando Rodríguez de la Flor, Professor of Spanish Literature at the University of Salamanca. His lecture is called “Glocal. Claudio Rodríguez and the Poetics of the Province”, where he exposes his idea of the universality in Claudio starting from the quotidian and the local.

Dionisio Cañas closes this section with “Claudio Rodríguez in New York”, where the author remembers the visit of Claudio and his wife, Clara, to the isle of Manhattan, and underlines the poet’s international vision. Cañas confirms that Claudio learnt the economy of expression from the English poets, and the tendency towards height from the North American architecture. He was vividly impressed by the diaphanous, wintry light of Manhattan, the brightness of its buildings, the dazzling clarity of dawn: “Almost as in Castile”, he would keep saying.

In addition, the issue includes the collaboration of W. Michael Mudrovic, a Professor of the Skidmore College in New York and a specialist in

twentieth-century Spanish poetry who finds the connections between Claudio Rodríguez's singular language and the abysmal depth of his poetry. In his study "The Irony hidden in the Local, a rereading of "El cerro de Montamarta dice"", he claims that the poem has been neglected by the critics. He focuses on it to open new perspectives about the use of local reference, irony, and structure. He states that only paying attention to the local aspect of Rodríguez's poetry can we appreciate its universal purpose.

As a novelty, issue 2 presents the correspondence between Claudio Rodríguez and Marcelino García Velasco. Born in Palencia, this poet who worked as a schoolteacher and coedited the journal *Rocamador* met Claudio during the latter's first poetry reading in Palencia, in 1954. From then on, they establish a correspondence that García Velasco has kept and is now available to readers.

After the usual section with recent publications, a brief show of the webpage just presented to the public, on occasion of the opening of the Third Conference in December 2008, is displayed.

The volume is closed with the Claudio Rodríguez International Poetry Award (Organized by the Institute of Zamoran Studies Florián de Ocampo), bestowed on Ángel Petisme in its seventh edition for his work *Conveyor Belt*, published by Hiperión.

The Claudio Rodríguez Bibliographical Center, located at the National Public Library in Zamora, hosts countless publications, and aims to contribute to the study and divulging of Claudio Rodríguez's oeuvre. At present its collection possesses almost a thousand documents (further information at www.jcyl.es/bibliotecas and bpzamora@jcyl.es)