



Cervantes and the Comic Mind of his Age

By Anthony Close

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This book relates Cervantes's poetics of comic fiction to the common framework of assumptions, values, and ideas held by Spaniards of the Golden Age about the comic and the kinds of writing which expressed it. This collective mentality underwent significant evolution in the period 1500 to 1630, and the factors which caused it are reflected in the ways in which the major comic genres--satire, the picaresque, the *comedia*, the novella--are re-launched, transformed, and theoretically rationalized around 1600, the moment when *Don Quijote* and Cervantes's most famous *novelas* were written. Though Cervantes is universally acknowledged to be a master of comic fiction, his poetics have never before been considered from that specific angle, nor in such ample scope. In particular, the book sets itself to identify the differences between that poetics and the conceptions of comic fiction of his contemporaries, including Mateo Alemán.

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Editorial Review

Review

"Extremely scholarly and deeply considered.... Cervantes's poetics of comedy are formed in the cross-currents [of the picaresque, the comedia, and the novella]....Few have charted these currents as knowledgeably and as subtly as Anthony Close does in this book."--*Times Literary Supplement*

About the Author

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