



"Háblanse por entre las puertas . . . ."

With this quote from the argumento to Act XII of La Celestina I should like to note what I hope will be the beginning of a long and profitable-to-all international collaboration of scholars, students, readers, editors, spectators, and other aficionados of LC and that rich vein of literature which we term "la celestinesca". Since distance divides us, and ever will, perhaps we, like Calisto and Melibea, can open a dialogue between the doors/covers of this boletín informativo internacional.

The history of the project whose realization you now have in your hands is quite simple. It began when I directed a small project, with the collaboration of two students, in a course I taught in the winter of 1974. It was a modest proposal: to collect in one place the evidence of worldwide interest in LC in the past quarter century. This work filled up not only the time which this course lasted but almost all of the following two years and the result was the compressed, 50-page bibliography which appeared in Hispania 59 (1976), 610-60.

At that time, those of us who prepared the bibliography tentatively made plans for the issuance of regular supplements and conceived the idea of a newsletter. The organic form, the appearance, the nature, and the coverage of this newsletter have been my major occupation for the past year and a half. Having consulted with many people of differing disciplines and having corresponded with Celestina buffs around the world, I was led to the inevitable conclusion that there was a need for just such a means of communication and was provided with much useful advice, not to mention offers of assistance.

And so CELESTINESCA makes its début. It wasn't always called Celestinesca as various names, some humorous, some apropos but perhaps too delicate to serve, others perhaps pedestrian or dull, have all fallen away. CELESTINESCA remains. I should like to share with you, in the paragraphs to follow, a vision of what could be. I would also like to call upon you for help in gathering the materials of future issues, for ideas that will give definitive contours to them, and for the support required for continued existence and service to all.

Ideally, CELESTINESCA would publish what I like to call research-in-progress. That is to say, smaller points of larger studies of sufficient interest to the general readership. These would be notes, largely, of a closely defined nature which study aspects of the text and tradition of 'celestinesque' literature. Once a year (in the Spring number), a supplement to the LCDB \* will appear in its pages (the first supplement is contained in this first number). When it seems necessary, there will an Editorial essay. I would hope we could print reviews of important new studies pertinent to the interests of us all, perhaps even with less delay than is normal in current journals. However, what I envision as the bedrock strength of this boletín is the exchange of information section. It is, in this first number, all too brief a section. Its motto-like

\* LCDB will be the standard way of referring to the Snow/Schneider/Lee bibliography in these pages. It is an abbreviated reference to the full title and stands for LC: documento bibliográfico.

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title, "contarte he maravillas"[LC, VII, 135, Severin ed.], rather than cute, intends to be prophetic. The success of this section will depend on the degree of international co-operation received. The entire network has not been even partly achieved as of this moment. I have either written to or asked personally several people about their being 'national' or 'international' correspondents. The response has been universally enthusiastic. Others have not been given enough time to respond as of this printing but I have proceeded as I thought best and listed them all the same. I hope others, from other areas and from different countries will volunteer. But I want to put especial stress upon the need for everyone to write in with whatever news is at their disposal in the particular areas where they either reside or travel. Thus will we be able, twice a year, to place in the hands of our readership a comprehensive and timely account of la celestinesca on the broadest possible scale.

The items in this estreno issue are the surest steps in the directions CELESTINESCA ought to follow. The two scholarly contributions from Professors DEYERMOND and DIAL represent either side of the Atlantic. The first is a finely realized account of how subtle is the art of Fernando de Rojas in his interwoven patterns of images; the second is a valuable contribution to the future account of the history of the Celestina as living theatre. With these magnums of champagne christening her prow, CELESTINESCA proudly sets sail.

The remaining items are closer to home. The review of the most recent, new classroom edition of LC was prepared by one of the collaborators in LCDB. Then there is the primer suplemento, compiled by the same team and annotated by them as before, but to which many of the authors have contributed offprints and references, in some cases corrections and oversights. And the notes and news section reflects too a local bias in that it reflects items of information which have come from letters, phone calls, and accidental meetings with friends, conference papers I have heard or heard about, and facts which my particular locale make me privy to. For the sake of centralization, this center of collection will remain unchanged; only the radius of the sources of the information will expand.

CELESTINESCA 1, núm. 1, has been printed in the most economical and attractive manner possible. In order to obtain bulk mailing rates, a minimal list of 200 names was needed. Five hundred copies have been printed. A flyer has been mailed with each copy which describes what CELESTINESCA is and what it offers, and how little it costs. At first it will try to survive on individual subscriptions until libraries come to know it better. You are urged to post this flyer, to subscribe if you wish, and most of all to bring to the attention of colleagues, students and friends also interested in la celestinesca the existence of "our" boletín informativo internacional.

Until the next time,  
"quedao*s* adiós"

Joseph Snow  
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