

RECOVERING THE US HISPANIC LITERARY HERITAGE

WRITING/RIGHTING HISTORY

Twenty-Five Years of
Recovering the US Hispanic
Literary Heritage



Edited by Antonia Castañeda
and Clara Lomas

The tenth volume in the Recovering the US Hispanic Literary Heritage Series, this collection of essays reflects on the twenty-fifth anniversary of the project's efforts to locate, identify, preserve and disseminate the literary contributions of US Latinos from the Spanish colonial period to contemporary times.

Essays by scholars recalling the beginnings of the project cover a wide range of topics: origins, identity, archival research, institutional politics and pedagogy. From recollections about funding to personal reminiscences, the recovery of Jewish Hispanic heritage and the intellectual project of reframing American history and literature, these articles provide a fascinating look at twenty-five years of recovering the written legacy of the Hispanic population in what has become the United States.

An additional nineteen scholarly essays speak to specific efforts to recover an extremely diverse Latino literary heritage. Historians and literary critics who research Spanish, English and Sephardic texts examine a broad array of subjects, including colonialism, historical populations, exile and immigration.

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This commemorative 25th Anniversary Volume is dedicated to Nicolás Kanellos and Tomás Ybarra-Frausto, who boldly envisioned and made possible the recovery of our literary heritage, and to the future-generations of scholars who will continue the work of recovering, preserving, publishing and transforming the literary landscapes of the Americas.

Preface

A. GABRIEL MELÉNDEZ

University of New Mexico

As Director of the Center for Regional Studies at the University of New Mexico, I am pleased to lend CRS support to the publication of this 25th anniversary volume celebrating the brilliant work of the Recovering the US Hispanic Literary Heritage Program. Over the last two decades the Recovery Program's work has been to unearth early Latino/a writings and to critically reassemble these writings as the foundational epistemology documenting the experience of generations of Latinos living in the United States and to give proof of the many ways in which each generation has determined and shaped the political and cultural life of the nation. More has been achieved than could have been imagined in 1992 when a group of leading scholars, librarians and archivists from the United States, Mexico, Puerto Rico and Spain, set about "to research, locate, preserve and make accessible all literary-historical documents produced by Hispanics living in the United States from the Colonial Period to 1960." The 25th anniversary volume is an apt testimony to Dr. Nicolás Kanellos's foresight and his unrivaled ability to bring together a remarkable constellation of people to take on Recovery's ambitious mission. The Recovery Program's biannual conference and grant awards programs has stimulated the work of an impressive group of Recovery scholars whose work is reflected here and in prior Recovery proceedings, anthologies and literary histories over the last twenty-five years, so too Recovery's supremely talented in-house team of researchers and editors over the years: Carolina Villaroel, Gabriela Baeza Ventura, Alejandra Balestra, Helvetia Martell and others have through their work, dedication and intelligence secured the future of the Recovery Program. As a member of the Recovery Board, I celebrate the milestone that is the 25th anniversary volume, confident in the knowledge that the celebratory moment is truly deserved and sober in our mutual resolve to continue the unfinished work of fully recovering the *US Hispanic Literary Heritage*.