

Abstract

The theme of the dissertation is the important piece of 16th century Spanish prose, *Retrato de la Lozana andaluza* (Portrait of Lozana: The Lusty Andalusian Woman) by Francisco Delicado. Published anonymously in Venice around the year 1530, it fell into obscurity for the next three hundred years. The only known copy was discovered in the middle of the 19th century in Vienna. Over the next hundred and fifty years this literary curiosity gradually became recognized as an integral part of the Spanish literary canon. Still, the research of *La Lozana andaluza* continues to feature blank spaces and unresolved issues, and is at the same time characterized by its conflicting nature and the absence of a generally accepted consensus. The introduction of the thesis summarizes and evaluates the state and condition of present-day research and outlines the general problems of the literary canon and its exploration through the concept of a philological field. The aim of the first part of the thesis is to present all verified editing data and to focus on those aspects of the work that have been neglected. These include the typography and iconography of the original publication, the narrative structure and the overview and nature of the general meaning-making principles. Delicado's peculiar use of language, his specific structural utilization and accentuation of anticipating the future and his innovative metafictional strategy are analyzed in particular. The first part of the thesis concludes with an overview of Delicado's other literary texts and all the positive information about his life that we have at our disposal. The second part of the thesis deals with the history of the modern canonization of *La Lozana andaluza* within the philological field. The aim is to take into account the changes in the general institutional framework of the field and to characterize and evaluate the personalities, editions, studies and interpretations that have played a significant role in the canonization of this literary work. The conclusion summarizes certain general consequences and risks of philological practice, outlines the directions in which the study of Delicado's work can proceed and suggests a new critical edition.

Keywords

Retrato de la Lozana andaluza, Francisco Delicado, Spanish literature, 16th century, literary canon, philological field