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Introduction

As we proudly present this 35th anniversary issue of *Mester*, we reflect on the significance of releasing a graduate student journal. In times when academic publishing is seen as an ever-increasing challenge, *Mester* has been produced uninterruptedly for the past thirty-five years. Among the longest-running publications of its kind on the UCLA campus, *Mester* is entirely run by graduate students who, year after year since 1970, demonstrate their commitment to the academic community in the promotion and dissemination of scholarship among fellow colleagues and professors alike.

Mester's offerings this year are proof once again that research in Hispanic and Luso-Brazilian studies is as strong as ever. In "Is Nothing Sacred? Spain Performs the Death of God," Alrick C. Knight, Jr. explores the presence of the "sacred" at the turn of the twentieth century in the works of agnostic/atheistic writers such as Miguel de Unamuno, Antonio Machado, Juan Ramón Jiménez, and Benito Pérez Galdós. Vanina Eisenhart challenges traditional interpretations of Júlia Lopes de Almeida's novels by looking at the author's representations of the city and the female body. Similar themes are discussed in other articles on the works by Gustavo Adolfo Bécquer, as well as Rosa Nissán, Josefina Estrada, and Mónica de Neymet. Also featured are engaging interviews with Ana Rossetti and Jo Labanyi, who graced us with their visits this past year. Rossetti shares her thoughts on artistic creation and poetry, while Labanyi discusses, among other things, her contributions to the "memorialization of the Spanish Civil War," and what it means to work in the middle of what must be exciting times for Spanish society as it recovers from the forced amnesia generated in the aftermath of the conflict. Sarah Harris argues that Carmen Martín Gaité's *El cuarto de atrás* is yet another text in which the literary echoes of *Don Quijote* can be heard loud and clear. Finally, Carlos Quicoli's examination of phenomena in Portuguese inflected infinitives demonstrates that "the facts that are part of the Particular Grammar of Portuguese can be deduced from the principles of Universal Grammar," thus bridging the illusory gap between linguistic theory and traditional descriptive grammars. These and other articles illustrate the broad range of perspectives included in this volume of *Mester*.

As conclusion, we would like express our gratitude and appreciation to the UCLA Department of Spanish and Portuguese, the Del Amo Foundation, and the UCLA Graduate Students Association for their support in publishing this issue of *Mester*. Our thanks also to faculty advisor Prof. Maite Zubiaurre for her generous assistance this year. Special recognition goes to Prof. John Dagenais, chair of the UCLA Department of Spanish and Portuguese, and *Mester's* faculty advisor as well, for his invaluable advice and constant encouragement. Thanks also to Marisol Castillo and Iliana Alcántar for leading the way, and most importantly, to this year's entire Editorial Board, whose dedication and professionalism you will see reflected in this issue of *Mester*. A todos, gracias de corazón.

Lizy Moromisato
Editor-in-Chief 2005-2006
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