Writing Paris

Urban Topographies of Desire in Contemporary Latin American Fiction

MARCY E. SCHWARTZ
Contents

List of Illustrations ix

Acknowledgments xi

INTRODUCTION
The City As Text and Paris As Fiction 1

CHAPTER ONE DESIRING PARIS
The Latin American
Conception of the Lettered City, 1840 to 1960 11

CHAPTER TWO THE INTERSTICES OF DESIRE
Paris As Passageway in Julio Cortázar's Short Fiction 27

CHAPTER THREE THE IMMOVABLE FEAST
Paris and Politics in Manuel Scorza's La danza inmóvil 63

CHAPTER FOUR ON THE BORDER
Cultural and Linguistic Trespassing in
Alfredo Bryce Echenique's La vida exagerada de Martín Romaña
and El hombre que hablaba de Octavia de Cádiz 89

CHAPTER FIVE PARIS UNDER HER SKIN
Luisa Futoransky's Urban Inscriptions of Exile 115

Epilogue 145

Notes 149

Bibliography 165

Index 179
Illustrations

Figure 1.1  Antonio Seguí, “La Tour Eiffel”  xiii

Figure 2.1  Photograph of Julio Cortázar by Pierre Boulat  29

Figure 2.2  Drawing by Cortázar from Rayuela manuscript  32

Figure 2.3  Manuscript page from Rayuela  60

Figure 3.1  Photograph of Manuel Scorza  67

Figure 5.1  Collage from De Pe a Pa by Luisa Futoransky  140

Figure 6.1  Antonio Seguí figure  144
Writing Paris
Urban Topographies of Desire in Contemporary Latin American Fiction

MARCY E. SCHWARTZ

Exploring Paris as a desired and imagined place in Latin American post-colonial identity, Marcy E. Schwartz examines fiction by Julio Cortázar, Manuel Scorza, Alfredo Bryce Echenique, and Luisa Futoransky as she uncovers the city’s class, gender, political, and aesthetic resonances for Latin America.

"As an illusory, novelistic city, Paris occupies an unrivaled position in Latin American thought and writing. Schwartz is concerned not with the Paris of geography, history, or demography, but with a Paris of the mind, inscribed in narrative and recreated in the imagination of readers. Her study draws on the work of cultural historians and critics to analyze this imaginary Paris, and her perspective offers a fascinating literary tour. Schwartz pays close attention to questions of language, the role of gender, the impact of exile, and the overall structure of 'desire' within the literary production of Latin American writers who construct Paris."

—Rosemary G. Feal, University of Rochester

"A solid, thought-provoking contribution to the study of contemporary Latin American fiction, cultural studies, and the on-going debate on postcolonial critical theory."

—César Ferreira, University of Oklahoma

MARCY E. SCHWARTZ is Assistant Professor of Spanish at Rutgers University-New Brunswick.

A volume in the SUNY series in Latin American and Iberian Thought and Culture Jorge J. E. Gracia, editor

STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK PRESS
Visit our web site at http://www.sunypress.edu

Cover art: Liliana Porter
Alice VII, 1994
mixed media collage on paper
41 inches x 29 1/2 inches

ISBN 0-7914-4152-0