

**Alejo Carpentier, *The Harp and the Shadow*:
Literature, History and Fiction**

Rodica Grigore¹

Not entirely a historical text, *The Harp and the Shadow*, the last novel published by Alejo Carpentier, takes as its pretext certain historical data in order to offer the readers a specific view of the protagonist, Christopher Columbus. Considered by some the great discoverer of the New World or highly regarded as “The Admiral of the Seas” and despised by many others as an adventurer and a liar, Columbus is also the author of some disturbing writings that still put critics and literary historians in discomfort. This is the novel’s point of departure, together with the intent of Pope Pius IX to initiate the canonization of Columbus, an idea regarded by the great majority of his contemporaries as a complete blasphemy. At the aesthetic level, comparable up to a certain point to the conception of Jorge Luis Borges, Carpentier’s form of understanding and practicing literature is always, in a more or less obvious way, reliant on Cervantes himself. But it is not limited to *Don Quixote*; in *The Harp and the Shadow*, the Cuban author builds an endless network of intertextual associations connecting his own creation to *The Works of Persiles and Segismunda*, the last work by Cervantes. [Article copies available for a fee from The Transformative Studies Institute. E-mail address: journal@transformativestudies.org Website: <http://www.transformativestudies.org> ©2021 by The Transformative Studies Institute. All rights reserved.]

KEYWORDS: Latin American Literature, History, Fiction, Reality, Aesthetic Truth, Illusion.

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The Harp And The Shadow A Novel

Jason Weiss



The Harp And The Shadow A Novel:

The Harp and the Shadow Alejo Carpentier, 1992 *The Harp and the Shadow* Alejo Carpentier, 2007-10 **The Facts on File Companion to the World Novel** Michael Sollars, Arbolina Llamas Jennings, 2008 *Theory of the Novel* Michael McKeon, 2000-12

McKeon and others delve into the significance of the novel as a genre form issues in novel techniques such as displacement the grand theory narrative modes such as subjectivity character and development critical interpretation of the structure of the novel and the novel in historical context *Killer Books* Aníbal González, 2010-07-05 Writing and violence have been inextricably linked in Spanish America from the Conquest onward Spanish authorities used written edicts laws permits regulations logbooks and account books to control indigenous peoples whose cultures were predominantly oral giving rise to a mingled awe and mistrust of the power of the written word that persists in Spanish American culture to the present day In this masterful study An bal Gonz lez traces and describes how Spanish American writers have reflected ethically in their works about writing s relation to violence and about their own relation to writing Using an approach that owes much to the recent turn to ethics in deconstruction and to the works of Jacques Derrida and Emmanuel Levinas he examines selected short stories and novels by major Spanish American authors from the late nineteenth through the twentieth centuries Manuel Guti rrez N jera Manuel Zeno Gand a Teresa de la Parra Jorge Luis Borges Alejo Carpentier Gabriel Garc a M rquez and Julio Cort zar He shows how these authors frequently display an attitude he calls graphophobia an intense awareness of the potential dangers of the written word *Studies and Essays on Romance Literatures* Rodica Grigore, 2025-05-17 Adopting the challenging perspective of Comparative Literature with respect to some important books of the 20th century this collection of essays embodies a symbolic journey trying to find some new and unexplored meanings of certain famous novels short stories or poems decoding images characters and plots in a particular way Covering a wide range of writers from the Romanian poet Lucian Blaga to the Portuguese Fernando Pessoa or from the rather unknown Romanian representative of the avant garde Urmuz to the great Latin American novelists Clarice Lispector Alejo Carpentier Julio Cort zar Gabriel Garc a M rquez or Guillermo Cabrera Infante the studies included in this volume re read some masterpieces of Romance literatures in the attempt to highlight the deep and often hidden truth of these authors great books This quest also tries to metaphorically cover the distance between the two sides of the Atlantic encompassing the initiatory experience often lived both by the above mentioned writers and their characters *The Lights of Home* Jason Weiss, 2014-01-02 Because of political cultural or economic difficulties in their homelands Latin American writers have often sought refuge abroad Their independent searches for a haven in which to write often ended in Paris long a city of writes in exile This is more than solely a group biography of these writers or an explication of material they wrote about Paris it is also a luminous account of the work they wrote while in Paris often based in their homelands It explores how Paris reacted to this wave of Latin American writers and how these writers absorbed Parisian influences and welded them to their own traditions

setting the stage for immense success and power of works coming from Central and South America over the last half of the twentieth century

Wonder and Exile in the New World Alex Nava, 2015-01-14 In *Wonder and Exile in the New World* Alex Nava explores the border regions between wonder and exile particularly in relation to the New World It traces the preoccupation with the concept of wonder in the history of the Americas beginning with the first European encounters goes on to investigate later representations in the Baroque age and ultimately enters the twentieth century with the emergence of so called magical realism In telling the story of wonder in the New World Nava gives special attention to the part it played in the history of violence and exile either as a force that supported and reinforced the Conquest or as a voice of resistance and decolonization Focusing on the work of New World explorers writers and poets and their literary descendants Nava finds that wonder and exile have been two of the most significant metaphors within Latin American cultural literary and religious representations Beginning with the period of the Conquest especially with Cabeza de Vaca and Las Casas continuing through the Baroque with Cervantes and Sor Juana In s de la Cruz and moving into the twentieth century with Alejo Carpentier and Miguel ngel Asturias Nava produces a historical study of Latin American narrative in which religious and theological perspectives figure prominently

The Repeating Island Antonio Benitez-Rojo, 1997-01-10 In this second edition of *The Repeating Island* Antonio Ben tez Rojo a master of the historical novel short story and critical essay continues to confront the legacy and myths of colonialism This co winner of the 1993 MLA Katherine Singer Kovacs Prize has been expanded to include three entirely new chapters that add a Lacanian perspective and a view of the carnivalesque to an already brilliant interpretive study of Caribbean culture As he did in the first edition Ben tez Rojo redefines the Caribbean by drawing on history economics sociology cultural anthropology psychoanalysis literary theory and nonlinear mathematics His point of departure is chaos theory which holds that order and disorder are not the antithesis of each other in nature but function as mutually generative phenomena Ben tez Rojo argues that within the apparent disorder of the Caribbean the area s discontinuous landmasses its different colonial histories ethnic groups languages traditions and politics there emerges an island of paradoxes that repeats itself and gives shape to an unexpected and complex sociocultural archipelago Ben tez Rojo illustrates this unique form of identity with powerful readings of texts by Las Casas Guill n Carpentier Garc a M rquez Walcott Harris Buitrago and Rodr guez Juli

Magical Realism in Postcolonial British Fiction Taner Can, 2014-06-01 This study aims at delineating the cultural work of magical realism as a dominant narrative mode in postcolonial British fiction through a detailed analysis of four magical realist novels Salman Rushdie s *Midnight s Children* 1981 Shashi Tharoor s *The Great Indian Novel* 1989 Ben Okri s *The Famished Road* 1991 and Syl Cheney Coker s *The Last Harmattan of Alusine Dunbar* 1990 The main focus of attention lies on the ways in which the novelists in question have exploited the potentials of magical realism to represent their hybrid cultural and national identities To provide the necessary historical context for the discussion the author first traces the development of magical realism from its origins in European Painting to its

appropriation into literature by European and Latin American writers and explores the contested definitions of magical realism and the critical questions surrounding them. He then proceeds to analyze the relationship between the paradigmatic turn that took place in postcolonial literatures in the 1980s and the concomitant rise of magical realism as the literary expression of Third World countries.

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