LITERATURE, 1936 TO THE PRESENT DAY

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I. GENERAL

The tide of post-Franco radical reassessment is apparently turning and a new structuralist wave washes over us as authors fabulate and critics deconstruct. Traditional approaches still, however, seem valid. Thus Historia de la literatura española, vol. 4, Siglo XX, ed. J. M. Díez Borque, M, Taurus, 513 pp., provides a competent series of surveys by various hands. By way of contrast the special number of Cultures, Paris, 7, no. 1, ‘Profiles of Spanish culture’, offers only a superficial coverage.

The Civil War is the great divide and continues to give rise to polemic. A. M. Ramoneda Salas, ‘En torno al II Congreso Internacional de Escritores Antifascistas’, Insula, 406:4–5, pinpoints the omissions and corrects commentaries in II Congreso Internacional de Escritores Antifascistas (1937), ed. Manuel Aznar Soler and L. M. Schneider, 3 vols, B, Laia, 1978–79. Critics and historians, like the novelists, are seeking to understand the events and how writers responded: José Monleón, ‘El Mono Azul’. Teatro de urgencia y romancero de la Guerra Civil, M, Ayuso, 294 pp. Herein, too, lies the merit of Estelle Irizarry, Rafael Dieste (TWAS, 554), 184 pp., a characteristic survey of the output of the prolific Galician novelist, short-story writer, poet, dramatist and — most importantly — editor of Hora de España. The study is worth reading not so much for the pedestrian analyses of individual works as for the portrait of an amiable polymath inhabiting the mundillo of the Republic and the diaspora. However, the most coherent attempts at analysis focus on the post-war period. Los Ensayistas, 8–9, contains a bibliography of Spanish thought for the period 1955–78 and studies of the more influential gurus: F. Fernández Turienzo on ‘La evolución intelectual de Aranguren’, 37–48; T. Mermall on ‘Tierno Galván: los “ídolos” del humanismo y la secularización del pensamiento español de posguerra’, 49–57. Of greater significance for an understanding of the spectacular literary, as well as philosophical, developments of the last two decades is
J. L. Abellán, ‘La razón en el panorama de la filosofía española. (Notas en torno a la generación de 1956)’, *ib.*, 7–22, which considers the revaluation following Ortega’s death and supplies a chronological framework for the reinterpretation of pre-1898 thought which took place in the 1960s. Changes in attitude were more often discernible in works of creative literature than in philosophical essays. Useful evidence is therefore provided by *Espadaña. Revista de poesía y crítica* (Edición facsimilar), León, 1,061 pp., and might have been expected from *Insula*, 400–01, a disappointing special number commemorating the 35th anniversary but choosing to do so by way of gush rather than analysis.


2. Poetry

Several critics attempt to discern a pattern in the development of post-war lyric. Guzmán Álvarez, *Lírica española del siglo XX. En busca de una trayectoria*, León, Nebrija, 345 pp. Harold Alvarado Tenorio, *La poesía española contemporánea*, Bogotá,