

she was loyal to her class. Unconventional but elitist, Ocampo was as much against the Catholic church as she was against leftists.

Several chapters seem a bit out of place. Emilie Bergman's piece on Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz offers little new information about the first American feminist poet. Francesca Miller's article on Pan American feminism has nothing to do with literature, though it does establish that international women's movements existed from the beginning of the century. The Inter-American Commission for Women, the first international movement in the world to adhere to an international organization (the Pan American Union), enabled women of the American hemisphere to attempt to pass equal rights legislation to circumvent the obstacles placed before them in their home countries.

The seminar argues convincingly that feminist writers throughout the Americas had contact with one another and were aware of perspectives and issues confronting women. The volume also provides future scholars with a good bibliography. There are some startling omissions, however—Cuba, for instance—which might have modified the sense that the Southern Cone produced more feminist writers than other areas of Latin America.

This is a good book that challenges all researchers committed to reanimating feminist or female lives to adopt an interdisciplinary approach. It also wins another point for postmodernist theory by exposing particular and intimate forces that determined women's lives. It does not, however, lose sight of the overarching conditions that influenced women's lives and inspired them to write.

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Conquest of the New Word: Experimental Fiction and Translation in the Americas. By JOHNNY PAYNE. Austin: University of Texas Press, 1993. Notes. Bibliography. Index. vii, 292 pp. Cloth. \$35.00.

Most readers of fiction hold to the minimal creed of having fun, and mainly in silence; whispering alone, as if praying. By contrast, current academic fashions in narrative analysis are bound to resist illusion, irony, magic, and other aesthetic (and anesthetic) literary properties. Instead of being read either as resisting or collaborating entities in dealing with different forms of oppression, texts of the literary sort—even those written as *testimonio*—are now typically X-rayed to spot their oppositional weaknesses, literary birthmarks, and signs of addiction to aesthetic pleasures most often held in suspicion.

This is not the case with the book under review. Taking his cue from one of Borges' several apologies ("La supersticiosa ética del lector") for the task of reading as a radically private act of cultural translation, Johnny Payne offers his own readings of "boom and postboom" authors from Argentina and Uruguay, centered

on the themes and realities of authoritarianism and dictatorship. Particularly in his absorbing discussion of Nelson Marra's "El guardaespaldas" ("The Bodyguard"), Payne holds the reader's attention by shifting gears from analysis to cultural context. The comparative scope of his readings widens from the opening juxtaposition of Marra's fiction with Donald Barthelme's to the middle chapters' counterpointed treatment of Teresa Porzecanski (Uruguay) and Harry Mathews (United States/Paris), Ricardo Piglia and Manuel Puig (Argentina), and John Barth (United States), to a concluding mini-orgy of intertextual suggestions in the last chapter, which is devoted to Luisa Valenzuela (Argentina), Kathy Acker (United States), and the dean of U.S. imperial paranoia, William Burroughs. (Payne's discussion of Burroughs' picture of Tangier as the unalloyed "international zone" of "pure" capitalism [pp. 244ff.] may be reconsidered next to Burroughs' current role in a Nike MTV commercial.)

Except for the idealist characters so often punished by their own self-made reader's fate in Borges' stories, other common readers may find it easier and less risky to travel the word's infinite body than to dwell on any of the world's troubled surfaces. Perhaps this is why, nowadays, such transworldly analytic entities as Fred Jameson's "geopolitical aesthetic" have moved beyond literature(s) and nation(s) while speaking mainly in the idiom of film and the jargon of capital flows and global zones of exploitation. For his part, Payne offers readings that seem to gaze backward, Orpheuslike, toward a receding, traditional, reader-coupled view of literature's many provinces of pain and joy.

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Advancing Health in Developing Countries: The Role of Social Research. Edited by LINCOLN C. CHEN, ARTHUR KLEINMAN, and NORMA C. WARE. Westport: Auburn House, 1992. Tables. Notes. Bibliography. Index. xi, 230 pp. Cloth. \$39.95.

This volume is particularly timely in view of the current national discussion regarding universal health care delivery in the United States, its potential cost and efficacy. The book is the product of a workshop organized by the Harvard Center for Population and Development Studies and conducted by the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in Cambridge in 1989.

The volume is organized into three parts. The first comprises three chapters on social, behavioral, and anthropological research and its relevance to health and social change. The second explores the links between social research and action in a series of case studies. The final section is concerned with direct links between social research and social interventions. It addresses the effects of development on health and the potential contributions social science might make toward health care delivery.

The book's primary emphasis is on developing the concept of the "health tran-