

ABSTRACT

Edda Manga: Gudomliga uppenbarelser och demoniska samlag. En studie av det excentriska idéarvet i Cecilia Rodríguez katolska tänkande. ISBN 91-628-5276-0 med appendix *Santas visiones y pecados extraordinarios. Compilación de textos de Cecilia Rodríguez*. ISBN 91-631-2459-9 Dissertation in Swedish. Department of History of Ideas and Theory of Science, Göteborg University 2002

This thesis constitutes an attempt at exploring a canonical intellectual tradition by reading documents from its peripheral archives as we read its canonical works. The sources are the revelations and letters of Cecilia Rodríguez, an inhabitant of Havana at the end of the eighteenth century. The canonization of certain writers is established by separating them from, and excluding, others that are regarded as marginal. Whether such an exclusion succeeds or not, these writers are never outside the intellectual tradition, they are bound to those defined as canonical. Therefore an eccentric perspective illuminates the canon in a decentralized manner.

The contribution to scholarship made by this dissertation can be summarized in four points: making available in book form the texts of Cecilia Rodríguez (a sizeable selection is included in a separate volume that functions as appendix); conveying the fascinating and the touching aspects of this case overlooked by scholars, as well as its contribution to the history of Catholic sexual morality; studying a woman from the other side of the Atlantic as the thinker in an effort to dismantle the persistent dichotomy between independent thinkers and receivers of ideas; and, finally, raising the issue of the canon and its implicit geographical and gender attributes through an analysis of the relationship between the canonical and the eccentric in a conflict delimited by time and place.

Moreover, this work investigates the way in which Cecilia Rodríguez places herself within the framework of the Catholic intellectual tradition as a cognitive subject (the saints' writer), in the imaginary geography (the Monster's place in the cosmos), and in history (the World's Redeemer). Further, the analysis attempts an interpretation of the manner in which recurring names and concepts are used in her texts and of the references where she herself points outside her texts to concepts, writers and narratives belonging to the history of Catholic tradition.

Key Words: Cecilia Rodríguez, Catholicism, canon, female mystics, saints, demons, history of confession, history of sexual morality, Spanish Inquisition, Havana, Cuba, eighteenth century.