

Latino Literature: Beginnings

Hispanic or Latino literature had its origins in *crónicas* and *relaciones*, which were accounts of discovery, conquest, and colonization of territory. Other literature, usually written in Spanish until the 1960s, was translated into English much later, and often dealt with feelings of discrimination, poverty, and longings for the "old country."

In the 19th and 20th Centuries Latino literature began to establish itself with a variety of genres such as poetry, drama, novels, and short stories. (See also List 147, Multicultural Literature, and List 154, Latino Writers: 20th Century, for more current titles.)

Early *Crónicas* and *Relaciones* (1500–1800)

The Account—Cabeza de Vaca

Discovery of the Seven Cities of Cibola—Fray Marcos de Neza

Florida—Alonso Gregorio de Escobedo

The History of New Mexico—Gaspar Pérez de Villagra

The Misadventures of Alfonso Ramirez (Mexican novel forerunner)—Carlos de Sigüenza y Góngora (Mexican)

Royal Commentaries—Garcilaso de La Vega (Peruvian history by a mestizo)

The Tears of the Indians—Bartolomé de Las Casas

The True History of the Conquest of Mexico—Bernal Díaz del Castillo

Various dramatic, scientific, and poetic writing—Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz

Various journals and diaries—Fray Juan Crespí

Various letters to Mexico—Fray Matías Saénz de San Antonio

Various picaresque travel and adventure stories

19th Century—Mid-20th Century

Azul (poetry)—Rubén Darío (Nicaraguan)

"The Captive" (poem)—Esteban Echeverría

La Charca (novel)—Manuel Zeno Gandía (Puerto Rican)

The Decapitated Chicken and Other Stories—Horacio Quiroga (Argentinean)

Dom Casmurro (novel)—Joaquim Maria Machado de Assis (Brazilian)

Doña Barbara (novel)—Rómulo Gallegos (Venezuelan)

The Eagle and the Serpent (novel)—Martín Luis Guzmán (Mexican)

Early Poems: 1935–1955 (poetry)—Octavio Paz (Mexican)

The Golden Serpent (novel)—Ciro Alegría (Peruvian)

Huaspungo (novel)—Jorge Icaza (Ecuadorian)

Jicontecál (historical novel)—Father Félix Varela

Macunaima (novel)—Mario de Andrade (Brazilian)

Martin Fierro (epic poem)—José Hernández

A Mexican Village (novel)—Josephine Niggli (Mexican)

On the Pyramid of Cholula (poetry collection)—José María Heredia

Plain Verses (poetry collection)—José Martí (Cuban)

A Race of Bronze (novel)—Alcides Arguedas (Bolivian)

Selected Poems—Rubén Darío (Nicaraguan)

Shadows on the Pampas (novel)—Ricardo Güiraldes (Argentinean)

The Underdogs (novel)—Mariano Azuela (Mexican)

Valdés (novel)—Cirilo Villaverde

The Victory of Junín: Hymn to Bolívar—José Joaquín Olmedo

The Vortex (novel)—José Eustasio Rivera (Colombian)

Latino Writers: 20th Century

The following writers represent Latinos and Latinas, those of Latino/a heritage, and others born in the United States who write about Latino subjects. Most of the works were written between the mid-20th century and the present.

- Acosta, Ivan** (Hispanic playwright)—*El Super*
- Acosta, Oscar "Zeta"**—*The Revolt of the Cockroach People; The Autobiography of a Brown Buffalo* (autobiographical novels by a Chicano)
- Alegría, Ciro** (Peruvian)—*Broad and Alien Is the World* (social protest novel)
- Alegría, Fernando** (Chilean)—*Allende: A Novel* (translated by Frederick M. Nunn)
- Algarín, Miguel**—*On Call; Time's Now* (poetry collections by a New York Puerto Rican)
- Alicea, Gil** (Puerto Rican heritage)—*The Air Down Here: True Tales from a South Bronx Boyhood*
- Allende, Isabel** (Chilean)—*Portrait in Sepia; My Invented Country; Daughter of Fortune; The House of the Spirits* (novels)
- Alurista** (Mexican/Chicano poet)—*Et Tu . . . Raza; as our barrio turns . . . what the yoke be on?; Raza Spoken Here 2; La Revista; Calaca 1*
- Álvarez, Julia** (United States born; lived in Dominican Republic)—*How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents; In the Time of Butterflies; Yo!; In the Name of Salome; How Tia Lola Came to Visit (Stay); Before We Were Free* (novels); *Old Age Ain't for Sissies; The Other Side* (poetry); *Homecoming: New and Collected Poems; The Secret Footprints* (children's book)
- Amado, Jorge** (Brazilian)—*Dona Flor and Her Two Husbands* (novel)
- Anaya, Rudolfo**—*Bless Me, Ultima* (Chicano in New Mexico); *Heart of Aztlan* (novel of Chicano in Albuquerque); *The Adventures of Juan Chicaspatas* (poetry collection about Mexico and Southwest); *Elegy on the Death of Cesar Chavez* (children's book)
- Andrade, Carlos Drummond De** (Brazilian)—*The Minus Sign: Selected Poems*
- Ángelo, Ivan** (Brazilian)—*The Celebration* (novel)
- Arqueta, Manlio** (El Salvadoran)—*One Day of Life* (novel)
- Arrivi, Francisco** (Chicano/Puerto Rican poet and playwright) *Via Poetica; Mascara puertorriquena*
- Ballester, Manuel Mendez**—(Puerto Rican playwright) *Invasion y jugando al divorcio; Los Cocorocos*
- Belaval, Emilio**—(Puerto Rican) *Cuentos de la plaza tuerte; Cuentos para tomentar el turismo* (plays)
- Benedetti, Mario** (Uruguayan)—*The Truce* (diary-form novel)
- Bertrand, Diane Gonzales**—*Trino's Time* (boy solves problems)
- Bioy Casares, Adolpho** (Argentinean)—*The Dreams of Heroes* (novel)
- Borges, Jorge Luis** (Argentinean)—*Ficciones* (fiction collection)
- Cabrera, Lydia**—(writer about Afro-Cuban folklore and religion)
- Carlson, Lori M.** (Ed.)—*Cool Salsa* (Latino poetry anthology)
- Carpentier, Alejo** (Cuban)—*The Lost Steps* (novel)
- Castillo, Ana**—*The Mixquiabuala Letters* (two Hispanic women correspond)
- Chavez, Denise**—*The Last of the Menu Girls* (Chicano girl)

- Cofer, Judith Ortiz** (Puerto Rican)—*Silent Dancing* (stories, essays, and poems about author's life in New Jersey)
- Colón, Jesús**—*A Puerto Rican in New York and Other Sketches*
- Cortázar, Julio** (Argentinean)—*Hopscotch* (novel)
- Donoso, Jose** (Chilean)—*The Obscene Bird of Night* (novel)
- Dorfman, Ariel** (Chilean)—*The Last Song of Manuel Sendero* (novel)
- Eshleman, Clayton, and Jose Rubia Barcia** (trans.) (Peruvian)—*Cesar Vallejo: The Complete Posthumous Poetry*
- Esteves, Sandra Maria**—*Yerba Buena* (poetry about Puerto Ricans in the United States)
- Fernández, Roberto**—*Raining Backwards* (novel of Cuban family in Miami)
- Freyre, Gilberto** (Brazilian)—*The Masters and the Slaves* (history)
- Fuentes, Carlos** (Mexican)—*A Change of Skin* (novel)
- García Márquez, Gabriel** (Colombian)—*One Hundred Years of Solitude* (novel); *Love in the Time of Cholera* (novel)
- Goldemberg, Isaac** (Peruvian)—*The Fragmented Life of Don Jacobo Lerner* (novel translated by Robert S. Picciotto)
- González, Rodolfo "Corky"**—*I am Joaquin* (famous poem)
- Guillen, Nicholas**—*Poetic Work, 1920–1958* (Cuban national poet)
- Hernández Cruz, Víctor**—*Rhythm, Content, and Flavor: New and Selected Poems* (by Puerto Rican-American)
- Hijuelos, Oscar**—*Our House in the Last World* (novel of Cuban family in Bronx)
- Hinojosa, Rolando**—*The Valley; Dear Rafe; Klail City* (problems of Chicanos living in United States)
- Kanellos, Nicolas**—*Noche Buena: Hispanic American Christmas Stories*
- Lachtman, Ofelia Dumas**—*Summer of El Pintor* (barrio mystery)
- Laviera, Tato**—“La Carreta Made a U-Turn”; “Enclave”; “Am-e-rican” (poetry about Puerto Ricans in New York)
- Lispector, Clarice** (Brazilian)—*Family Ties* (short stories)
- Marques, René** (Puerto Rican)—*The Oxcart* (famous play)
- Martínez, Max**—*The Adventures of the Chicano Kid and Other Stories* (short stories about Chicanos); *Schoolland* (Mexican Americans in Texas)
- Mistral, Gabriela** (Chilean)—*Selected Poems*
- Mohr, Nicholasa**—*Nilda* (girl in Spanish Harlem)
- Morton, Carlos**—*The Many Deaths of Danny Rosales and Other Plays*
- Muñoz, Elias Miguel**—*Crazy Love* (Cuban family in Florida)
- Neruda, Pablo** (Chilean)—*Canto General* (history); *Residence on Earth and Other Poems*
- Onetti, Juan Carlos** (Uruguayan)—*A Brief Life* (novel)
- Pietri, Pedro**—*Puerto Rican Obituary* (poetry about Puerto Ricans in New York)
- Piñero, Miguel**—*La Bodega Sold Dreams* (poetry about Hispanics in New York); *Short Eyes; The Sun Always Shines for the Cook; Eulogy for a Small Time Thief; Midnight Moon at the Greasy Spoon*

- Portillo de Trambley, Estela**—*Rain of Scorpions and Other Writings* (fiction collection about Chicanos in United States); *Sor Juana and Other Plays* (several plays by Chicana writer)
- Prèda, Dolores**—*Beautiful Señoritas* (play)
- Puig, Manuel** (Argentinean)—*Betrayed by Rita Hayworth* (novel)
- Rivera, Carmen**—*La Lupe: Mi Vica, Mi Destino* (play)
- Rivera, Edward**—*Family Installments* (Hispanic in New York)
- Rivera, Tomás**—*And the Earth Did Not Part* (Chicano farm workers)
- Rosa, Joao Guimaraes** (Brazilian)—*The Devil to Pay in the Badlands*
- Rulfo, Juan** (Mexican)—*The Burning Plain and Other Stories*
- Sábato, Wenesto** (Argentinean)—*The Tunnel* (novel)
- Salas, Floyd**—*Tattoo the Wicked Cross; What Now, My Love; State of Emergency* (novels); *Color of My Living Heart* (poetry); *Buffalo Nickel: A Memoir*
- Saldana, Renae**—*The Jumping Tree* (boy growing up in Texas-Mexican border town)
- Sarduy, Severo** (Mexican)—*Maitreya* (novel)
- Soto, Gary**—*Small Faces* (Mexican American family problems)
- Sullivan, Charles** (Ed.)—*Here Is My Kingdom: Hispanic American Literature and Art for Young People* (collection)
- Tashlik, Phyllis** (Ed.)—*Hispanic, Female and Young* (anthology of Latino student and established writers)
- Telles, Lygia Fagundes** (Brazilian)—*Tigrela and Other Stories*
- Thomas, John Peter "Piri"**—*Down These Mean Streets; Savior Hood My Hand* (autobiographical accounts)
- Valdez, Luis** (Chicano)—*Zoot Suit* (play)
- Vallbona, Rima de**—*Flowering Inferno: Tales of Sinking Hearts* (short story collection); *Mundo, Demonio y Mujer* (feminist novel)
- Vargas Llosa, Mario** (Peruvian)—*Aunt Julia and the Scriptwriter* (novel)
- Vega, Ed**—*The Comeback* (Puerto Rican/Eskimo ice hockey player); *Mendoza's Dreams* (stories of Puerto Ricans in New York)
- Velasquez, Gloria**—*Juanita Fights the School Board* (Latina women)
- Verissimo, Erico** (Brazilian)—*Consider the Lilies of the Field* (prose)
- Villanueva, Tino**—*Hay Otra Vez Poems; Shaking Off the Dark* (poetry about Chicano problems)
- Villareal, José**—*Pocho* (Mexican family problems)
- Viramontes, Helena Maria**—*Under the Feet of Jesus* (Mexican-American field worker)