Melancolia en la poesía de José María Heredia


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Abstract

(Melancholy in the poetry of José María Heredia) This amply documented monograph, which draws on original material from libraries and archives in Cuba, Mexico and the USA, subjects the work of the poet José María Heredia (1803-1839) to a rigorous re-reading, taking the often commented ‘melancolicity’ of the Cuban as a point of departure. Through a detailed textual analysis the study arrives at a penetrating vision of both the concept of melancholy in Heredia’s poetry and its key function for the author’s poetic self-representation. It is shown that the different tendencies in the Cuban's work, which have generally been perceived as largely incompatible, reveal their coherence against the backdrop of European late Enlightenment ideology and aesthetics. The book goes on to challenge the critical commonplace that sees Heredia as a precursor of Hispanic Romanticism or even the first representative of that movement. By bringing out that the Cuban's poetic work and critical thinking are deeply rooted in Sensibility, the study discards as inappropriate the misleading notion of Pre-Romanticism, in favour of a systematic exploration of the genuine preconditions of the poet’s production.

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