

## INTRODUCTION

The essays that compose this thematic issue of *Ilha do Desterro* problematize the relationship between Literature and History under different perspectives, motivating the readers to reevaluate their knowledge of the past in the present. The authors of the texts are professors from Brazil, Hungary and the United States.

In the first text, Alfredo Cordiviola shows the importance of catechesis to understand the facts and tensions of the Mexican colonial period and the outstanding role of Pedro de Gante in opening ways to other missionaries, leading to a careful examination of what is now called Latin America.

Continuing the debates, Antonio Manoel dos Santos Silva approaches the relationship between Literature and History under three main forms. His text focuses on the third one, i.e., Literature as a form of representation of the historical world, and exemplifies that through the analysis of the novel *Os dias do demônio*, by Roberto Gomes.

Brenda Flanagan presents a study on poems written by African American authors of the 1960s, in order to discuss how historical and political facts are reviewed in those texts and also the role they played as a way of resistance and the struggle for Civil Rights in the United States.

Carla Alexandra Ferreira makes a comparison between the novel *Pride and Prejudice* and its adaptation to the cinema, focusing on the

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differences of treatment received by the female characters in the literary text and in the movie and its implications.

Eduardo de Faria Coutinho analyzes the several trends of comparativism and literary historiography, as a means to emphasize the necessity of the existence of a new historiography to comprise the Latin American transcultural context.

Laura Izarra studies the literary production of three female authors, Marion Mulhall, Barbara Peart and Kathleen Nevin, representatives of the Irish Diaspora in Argentina, who address, in their texts, experiences of the Latin American world in the end of the 19<sup>th</sup>. century and in the first decades of the 20<sup>th</sup>. century.

Manuel Fernando Medina analyzes Julia Alvarez's novel *In the Time of the Butterflies*, in which the author reviews historical and political aspects related to Trujillo period in the Dominican Republic.

Maria Luiza Berwanger da Silva discusses *Jacques le fataliste*, by Diderot, to demonstrate the search for the "other" revealed in the relationship historical text/literary text.

Through the study of the novels *Americana*, *Libra* and *Underworld*, Marni Gauthier examines the new representation of historical truth, mainly of the Cold War period, accomplished by the American author Don DeLillo, in the form of historiographic metafiction.

Through the analysis of texts by Roa Bastos, Alexandro Maciel, Omar Prego Gadea and Eric Nepomuceno, Norma Wimmer discusses how these authors review the Paraguayan War in their writings, which are included in the volume entitled *O livro da Guerra Grande*, translated from the Spanish *Los Conjurados del Quilombo del Gran Chaco*.

In his paper, Paulo Sergio Nolasco dos Santos addresses the figure of the "bandoleiro" in the books *Décimas Gaúchas*, by Silvino Jacques, and *Silvino Jacques: o último dos bandoleiros*, by Brígido Ibanhes. The comparison also addresses social, political and cultural matters related to the border Brazil-Argentina-Paraguay.

Péter Hajdu bases his argument on the short story "Mrs. Küsthy's Cucumbers," by the Hungarian author Kálmán Mikszáth, to show the

possibilities offered by the short narrative to approach, besides the official history of the elite, the marginal histories of the lower classes in the period of Ferdinand III, King of Hungary, and George Rákóczi II, Prince of Transylvania.

In the last paper, Sigrid Renaux presents a comparison between the book *The English Patient*, by Michael Ondaatje, and its transposition into film by Anthony Minghella, to propose a concept of aesthetics of violence in art, through the discussion of aspects related to the history of World War II, to violence, and to the different narrative strategies employed in the novel and in the movie.

Celeste Henriques Marquês Ribeiro de Sousa reviews a book by Manfred Beller e Joep Leerssen, which is a reference for comparative studies on imagology.

Thus, the papers that constitute this issue present a wide range of relevant debates on the meaningful relationship between Literature and History and the new possibilities of rethinking historical facts offered by literary texts.

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