

The film does follow, more or less chronologically, the life of the Liberator from birth to death, but it fails to convey the epic nature of Bolívar's struggle, 1810-1830; to give any penetrating military analysis; or to really show the controversy of his political career. It touches unevenly on all of these themes but develops none of them fully. As a result, except for a minimal visual appreciation of the land and people it is hard to recommend this film for anything. More's the pity because Bolivarian iconography and scholarship offer a far richer source than this production makes use of.

In contrast, *Magic and Reality* offers a rewarding opportunity for use by a variety of disciplines, certainly including history and literature. It is visually informative and impressive? effectively weaving materials as diverse as cartoon-like drawings; scenes of everyday life — the mundane as well as the bizarre; brief but memorable newsreel excerpts; and personal interviews with people of varying times and places. There are memorable scenes with and aged "queen of the *cumbia*," a man who was about twelve years old when he witnessed the famous banana zone massacre in 1929; a daughter of one of the banana plantation owners; and an interview with Gabriel Garcia Marquez himself.

The film is organized along two principles, neither of which is consistently dominant: one is historical, more or less chronologically as events occurred in Colombian history; and the other is by work or theme. A given sequence is illustrative of or analogous to a specific work, and these in turn are arranged in a loose chronological order as either the events actually occurred or as they were described in a particular work.

Magic and Reality can be used as a useful point of departure for discussing the historical, literary, ethnographical, or geographical background of the area about which Gabriel Garcia Marquez writes. It helps to understand his characters and motifs as well as selected events in Colombian history. If it contains inaccuracies they are not as blatant as those in *Simón Bolívar*. The film, *Bolívar*, then, is an opportunity largely missed and it is annoying in its distortions — either by commission or omission, whereas *Magic and Reality* is a delightful, informative experience: even if someone more specialized in literature might find inaccuracies in it that were not readily apparent to this viewer.

Raymond L. Williams, editor. ENSAYOS DE LITERATURA COLOMBIANA.

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Este volumen recoge en una nítida impresión las ponencias leídas en el Recinto de Quirama, Antioquia, durante el I Simposio de la Asociación de Colombianistas Norteamericanos, que tuvo lugar en junio de 1984. La publicación de estos materiales tan solo a un año de la celebración de ese Simposio no solo brinda al público lector colombiano una oportunidad de compartir lo que allí se discutió, sino que también indica la intención de la Asociación de establecer y mantener un diálogo con su objeto de estudio: Colombia y sus circunstancias.

En total, la edición recoge 23 ensayos agrupados en cuatro categorías: La Literatura Antioqueña. La Literatura Costeña. La Literatura Colombiana: Nuevas Perspectivas y Nuevos Autores, y finalmente la Historia: obreros y política en la Argentina y Colombia del siglo XIX, aspectos comparativos. Hay variedad de ensayos sobre tópicos tan diversos como Mejía Vallejo, Barba Jacob y *Cien años de soledad*, sobre el Yurupary o "Popo Vuh suramericano", la poesía negra de Artel y también sobre Fanny Buitrago. Son diversas las perspectivas crítico-teóricas que animan dichas ponencias, pero todas tienen de común, según observa en el Prefacio Raymond L. Williams quien compiló la edición, "el interés creciente en la literatura colombiana y una tradición académica con amplios antecedentes".

La edición está dedicada a Kurt Levy, "gran 'carrasquillologo'", y a quien el presidente Betancur otorgó en esa ocasión la Orden de San Carlos. Del propio presidente Betancur es el Prologo, en el que declara que "quiero agradecerles y celebrar también esa mágica, misteriosa simpatía en torno al quehacer de un país que pudiera

decirse les es ajeno si no. fuera porque, para nuestro beneficio, ustedes lo han hecho suyo en virtud de esa implacable apropiación surgida del afecto de la inteligencia, de la simpatía del cora-

zón". La oportuna publicación de este volumen testimonia entonces el creciente intercambio entre las comunidades académicas de EE. W. y de Colombia.