

“Recuerde el alma dormida”:
Medieval and Early Modern Spanish
Essays in Honor of
FRANK A. DOMÍNGUEZ

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Introduction

JOHN K. MOORE, JR.

THE IMAGE OF SEGURA de la Sierra that adorns our cover (in a photo shot by Adriano Duque) has much to do with the *raison d'être* of this essay collection in honor of Frank A. Domínguez. Frank has taught and written that the castle is arguably the most likely birthplace of Jorge Manrique and additionally was an important *encomienda* of his father, Rodrigo, who was one of the thirteen members of the ruling council, or *treze*, of the Order of Santiago and who served intermittently as the head of the order. As such, he was answerable directly to the Pope. Although Rodrigo's top leadership position was often contested and was eventually terminated, he did retain the important outpost of Segura de la Sierra—together with the rents it provided his family—through the end of his days. The loss of this commandery to the Manrique clan after Rodrigo's passing devastated the family, as did the stripping of the legitimacy of Rodrigo's titular role as *maestre* (Domínguez, "Jorge Manrique" 63-65, 71, 75-77; Domínguez, *Love and Remembrance* 6, 9, 11, 139). In this fashion, Segura de la Sierra can be seen as a symbol of the greatness the Manriques achieved and lost together.

Jorge crafted his enduring *Coplas por la muerte de su padre* to reinstate respect for his father's memory and to commemorate his deeds for posterity. Frank has masterfully illustrated that through the *Coplas*, Jorge attempts to reinforce his family's solidarity, and beyond the clan, "he seeks to impress the collective memory of society with the *pathos* of the history [the elegy] commemorates" (*Love and Remembrance* 139). The editors of and contributors to this collection seek to emulate Jorge's example by offering this small monument to the great legacy of our mentor, teacher, colleague, and friend.

A number of colleagues and former students of Frank related brief anecdotes in personal communiqués to me. Some of these are humorous; others are serious (not to be confused with somber); still others display both traits.

All bespeak gratitude to one who has shared so much of his time, energy, companionship, and wisdom.

Beginning with Frank's former students, I would like to let these individuals speak for themselves. Sol Miguel-Prendes related:

Como estudiante graduada recién llegada a los EEUU quedé impresionada no sólo por el talento y la dedicación de Frank a sus alumnos sino sobre todo por sus dotes culinarias. Con él escribí la tesina y la tesis y, además, me enseñó a hacer chocolate-swirl coffee cheesecake. Me enseñó también a comer comida picante, diciéndome cuando, melindrosa, me quejé que las especias me quemaban la lengua: "Sol, it's not a condition."

Adriano Duque conveyed this story:

During a panel at an MLA conference session that Frank was chairing, I read a paper on the *Carajicomedia*. In my argument, I kept referring to "the 'p' word." After I finished, Frank asked me if I could clarify what I meant by "the 'p' word." I then told the audience and him that I could not bring myself to use that word in public. Frank subsequently said: "Well, if you can't say it, I'll say it." And he did.¹

Ryan Giles had the following to say:

My friend and mentor Frank Domínguez has taught me so much, and supported me in so many ways, I'm not sure how to begin. He is one of the best in our profession at teaching students how to research exhaustively and think about "big ideas"—without ever losing sight of the text. He is always encouraging, but definitely not given to overstatement: a proud moment at UNC came when he described one my essays as "quite nice"!

Ryan's last point resonates with my own experience. I planned from the beginning to work with Frank as my dissertation director at Chapel Hill. Before confirming this with him, however, I asked around a bit. One

¹ Readers can observe Frank's unabashed use of "the 'p' word" in question, prick, as well as of other piquant terms, in a recent article on the *Carajicomedia* (Domínguez, "Santilario").

classmate unexpectedly commented, "He's like the Sphinx." "What do you mean?" I asked. "I mean that he answers your questions with a question." What I realized after repeated visits with Frank is that in addition to asking numerous questions, some of which did at the time seem like riddles, he would repeatedly provide references and make suggestions—both in and out of class—that have borne fruit in my research to this day. My notes from our meetings have served as nothing less than an atlas to the Manriquean road of my academic journey. In this sense, Frank has provided a map that continues to lead to new and interesting places, whether or not I possess the "buen tino / para andar esta jornada sin error" (Manrique 91).

Frank's dedication to students is unparalleled, and this surely has something to do with why Adriano and I each had separately hatched our own plans to curate an homage volume before, thankfully, deciding to join forces at the Fortieth International Congress on Medieval Studies in Kalamazoo, Michigan. I once commented to Frank how important teaching seemed to be to him. He responded, "It's always at the top of the list." This was a statement of fact. Frank's careful guidance of those he has mentored (and continues to do so) has fostered and given shape to our careers. For this reason, when former students are named Editor of *La corónica* or incoming Book Review Editor of *Hispania*, and have research that wins the seal of the MLA Committee on Scholarly Editions or the John K. Walsh Award for best article published in *La corónica* during a particular year, it is not overstatement to claim that these accomplishments speak at least as highly of Frank as they do of his students.

Frank's colleagues, both at UNC and beyond, think as highly of him as his students do. Take, for instance, Joe Snow's memories of Frank:

I think of him as a Renaissance man with a great heart and an open mind, willing to build new frames of reference for younger scholars as well as to pave the road for first class reference works. I had the pleasure of working with Frank on two such projects, and he was always sharp-eyed and helpful in his guidance and suggestions for improvements. Most of all, one is impressed with Frank's modesty, an essential element of his wide-ranging charm.

George Greenia contributed the following remembrance:

Frank Domínguez was already a legend when I first went to the Univ. of Michigan in Ann Arbor as a graduate student in 1975. He had just graduated after finishing a formidable dissertation on the *Medieval Argonautica* under the direction of Charles Fraker who in time also directed my own doctoral research, this time on the *Libro de Alexandre*. Fraker was kind enough not to speak too much about Frank; I was scared enough of grad school without having that shining example looming over me. As I started traveling to conferences and meeting more colleagues in the profession, my connection to Michigan always brought up Frank's name as one of the foremost graduates of the program in Ann Arbor. By the time I finally met him I was thoroughly intimidated, something that evaporated within five minutes of conversation in the warmth of his friendship. We finally got a chance to collaborate when he invited me to share duties co-editing the two-volume Dictionary of Literary Biography encyclopedia on *Castilian Writers 1200-1400* and *Castilian Writers 1400-1500*, a project with more ups and down and reversals of fortune than the *Historia Aethiópica* or any Byzantine novel. But we eventually jointly dedicated the first volume of that initiative to our mentor, Charles Fraker, completing the cycle. My final years as Editor in Chief of *La corónica* were greatly enriched by Frank's service on the MLA Division executive committee which guided the journal: he always had the shrewdest advice, the most diplomatic approaches to handling difficult authors, and the most generous feedback no matter which problem faced us. A consummate journal and monograph editor in his own right, Frank Domínguez continues to be a friend and inspiration to hundreds in our field.

María Salgado, a devoted friend and colleague of decades, shared these remarks:

A riesgo de ser tachada de "modernista consumada" quiero describir lo que para mí es el rasgo que mejor define la personalidad de mi entrañable amigo y colega Frank A. Domínguez, valiéndome de las palabras que José María Vargas Vila usó para retratar al insigne poeta Rubén Darío: "apareció como siempre, escoltado del Silencio, era su sombra; el don de la palabra le había sido concedido con parsimonia, por el Destino; [...] la belleza de aquel espíritu era toda interior y profunda" (*Rubén Darío*). El habitual silencio de Frank produjo en algunos momentos divertidas