

Positively Negative:
Pío Baroja, the Essayist

by

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Preface

THIS BOOK WAS NOT supposed to have seen the light in these circumstances, but it gives us great satisfaction that it now reaches the public as our son, Carlos Roberto Saz Parkinson, intended.

First, I would like to include the acknowledgements with which he prefaced his doctoral dissertation, approved in Spring 2007, at Columbia University, a little over a year before his untimely death:

I would like to express my gratitude to Columbia University and the Department of Spanish & Portuguese for their continued support throughout my years at the university. Professors Sobejano, Forcione, and Friedman represent for me models of excellence in scholarship. It is a privilege to have known them and to have enjoyed their teaching and support. I must especially thank Professor Sobejano, my dissertation director, for always giving me the freedom to explore and develop intellectually in any direction I felt to be relevant. I am indebted to Herbert Siegel for his line editing. Now, he has become a friend. I am thankful also to Professors Wadda Ríos-Font and Isabel Estrada for taking the time, at such short notice, to participate in my dissertation defense. Finally, I would like to thank my family for reading through the manuscript, and particularly my brother Pablo for the extraordinary precision with which he did so.

Sadly, Herbert Siegel, who became a friend not only to Carlos Roberto but to all our family, preceded him unexpectedly in death by a few months. We would like to thank his widow, Martha, also a true friend, who has passed on to our family all the correspondence between Herbert and our son.

Thanks to the generosity of Columbia University, the author received the following fellowships, which were instrumental in providing him with both the time and the means to carry out his research:

2006-2007, and 2001-2003: Teaching Fellowship

2005-2006: Dissertation Writing Fellowship

2003-2005: Core Curriculum Preceptor Fellowship, Columbia University

2000-2001: Columbia University Trustees Fellowship

He was also indebted to Columbia University for GSAS Summer Fellowships for study in Russia in the summers of 2002-2006.

He was similarly grateful to Indiana University, Bloomington, where he obtained an M.A. in 1997 in Theatre and Drama (with concentrations in Greek & Romantic Drama, German Expressionism, and Voice and Dialect Training) and an M.A. in May 1999 in Hispanic Literature, for two year-long fellowships in Germany. Between September 1999 and July 2000 he studied at the Freie Universität of Berlin, where he specialized in nineteenth century German philosophy. This is where his profound interest in Schopenhauer and, particularly, Nietzsche, became an enduring intellectual concern. Prior to that, between September 1997 and July 1998, he had enjoyed another Indiana University Fellowship to study at the University of Bayreuth. Here he concentrated on Büchner, Schiller, Brecht, and had his first scholarly introduction to Nietzsche. The Fellowship also enabled him to participate both as an actor and an Assistant Director in various plays produced by the University Company.

I and my family, while grateful to all members of our son's dissertation committee for the support and encouragement they offered him, are deeply indebted to two of the members in particular. His director, Professor Gonzalo Sobejano of Columbia University, has, from the outset, been enthusiastic about the publication of this work. He read the entire manuscript before it was sent for publication and managed to catch several errata which slipped by, in spite of numerous readings. The foreword he has written for the work comes straight from the heart and, in keeping with his dual status as an eminent Professor of Spanish and poet, is more a poem in prose than an academic prologue to the book.

Professor Edward H. Friedman of Vanderbilt University, well-known Hispanist, outside examiner of the dissertation, and former professor of Carlos Roberto at Indiana University, Bloomington, has been an effective liaison with the publisher, Tom Lathrop, in this work. He has also read the manuscript in its entirety and, with his keen eye as editor of a number of scholarly journals over the years, has offered much advice regarding the niceties of the formal aspects.

My modest contribution has been limited to the following aspects. The work contains a vast numbers of quotations in French, German, and Spanish. While the author translated all of the German quotations, and most of the French ones, he left the innumerable Spanish quotations in the original. This book, we believe, will be not only of interest to Hispanists but to all those who are interested in the development and nature of the essay, a genre that is attracting increasing attention, and to those with an interest in the influence on early twentieth century European literature of German philosophy, particularly that of Schopenhauer and Nietzsche. Consequently, we have tried to make the work accessible to those who have no knowledge of Spanish by translating all of the quotations.

Secondly, it was necessary to occasionally add an additional footnote to clarify some aspects of Spanish history or culture that might not be familiar to the non-Spanish reader. Thirdly, although the dissertation was written in English, Spanish editorial forms were followed rather than those common in the U.S. so it was necessary to unify the forms for the American reader. Lastly, although the author was bilingual in English and Spanish from early childhood, there were occasional influences of Spanish on his written English, particularly with regard to prepositions. These changes, however, have been minor. The work is overwhelmingly that of the author.

Carlos Roberto dedicated his dissertation to his maternal grandmother, a dedication preserved in this book. We know that he would also want to dedicate it to the rest of his family: his father, Carlos Saz Pérez, who has read the manuscript many times and greatly helped with corrections, his sister, Zuleika, and his brothers, Fernando, and Pablo, who devoted many hours to reading and correcting the original dissertation manuscript.