

Acknowledgments

This first book of mine has brought home to me the travail faced and overcome by all writers of books, even of those that I do not especially admire. You would not be reading this volume if not for the family, friends, students, and colleagues who helped and encouraged me over the years. The project grew out of an essay on María Zambrano that I wrote for a 2008 special issue of *CR: The New Centennial Review*, “Paying Attention to Rodolphe Gasché.” In “Europe’s Frenzy,” I introduced a reading of Zambrano’s notions of Europe and Spain with brief discussions of Unamuno and Ortega. That was the beginning of this book’s more patient consideration of Spanish intellectuals’ claims to possess a predilection for literary philosophy and philosophical literature. I thank David Johnson for the invitation to contribute to that volume and Rodolphe Gasché for the model of thinking and writing that inspired it.

Over the next decade, I had the opportunity to share my work at conferences and symposia where I received valuable feedback: the Mid-America Conference on Hispanic Literature; the Kentucky Foreign Language Conference; the American Literary Translators Association; and the Mediterranean Studies Association Conference. I thank the students and faculty of the Comparative Literature Department at the University at Buffalo for the invitation to speak on Unamuno in the “Just Theory” speaker series. Some of the ideas in chapter 4 reiterate elements of my contribution to “Literature and the Secret of the World,” a symposium organized by David Johnson at the University at Buffalo. Like “Europe’s Frenzy,” “Ortega: Secrecy and the World” was published in *CR* and contains a few ideas and observations that reappear in this book’s chapters on Zambrano and Ortega. The interpretations in this book form part of a larger analysis and are certainly better for what I learned by presenting and publishing the earlier work.

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