

## PREFACE

The following study is part of a work now in preparation on the subject of the little-known writings of Doña María de Zayas y Sotomayor. This work contemplates a comparatively exhaustive treatment of the author's short stories, her poetry, her play *Traición en la amistad*, and the relative importance of these in literature. It will be accompanied in its completed form by as detailed a bibliography as possible of the entire field. On a subject as extensive as this, it has not been feasible to compress into these few pages more than the discovered facts of the author's life, her salient ideas as exposed in her works, a sketch of the general framework of her short stories, and a study of two of them in particular—*El jardín engañoso* and *El castigo de la miseria*. That Doña María was an ardent feminist is displayed throughout her stories; and this characteristic trait I have stressed as being especially interesting and significant.

I welcome this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to Professor de Onís, who first interested me in Doña María de Zayas, for his advice, criticism and assistance in the preparation of this study; to Professor H. A. Todd to whom I feel especially indebted for his never-failing sympathetic encouragement, for his many valuable suggestions in connection with the work and for the painstaking reading and revision of the manuscript; to Professor Raymond Weeks for his friendly interest and helpful ideas throughout my course of study at Columbia; and, lastly, to my friend Miss Elsa G. Rust, whose confidence in my efforts has always been a source of inspiration.

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