

Nancy Jean Ross
MA in Hispanic Studies, UBC

Castellano's mirror: a study to Rosario Castellanos' writing

Key words: Travel and Gender; Spain; Autobiography; Colonialism and Mexico; Women writing

The Mexican writer, Rosario Castellanos studied in Spain in 1950-1951 on a scholarship from the Institute of Hispanic Culture. She was accompanied by her friend, Dolores Castro. I look at the letters that Castellanos wrote on the ship to Spain, in Madrid and travelling through Europe. My objective is to avoid a traditionally autobiographical reading of Castellanos's letters and so be able to place them in a historical framework. I look at the affiliation between the trajectory of her letters and the trajectory of her scholarship year in Spain. And I explore the following questions: How does Castellanos present herself? What is the relation between the typewriter and the handwriting? What is the division between the public and the private and where do Castellanos's letters cross this divide?

I look at the "I" in the letter and the development of the persona as well as the narrative provided by the letter. I look at how Castellanos writes herself into the national allegory. Finally, I look at the time when Castellanos is waiting in Madrid for Guerra and her subsequent return to Mexico.

Bio:

Nancy Jean Ross is from Vancouver, British Columbia. She completed her MFA in Creative Writing in Spanish at NYU and is currently a master's student in Spanish at UBC. She has published her poetry, essays and translations in *The Malahat Review*, *And Then*, *Paterson Literary Review*, *Bridges* and *i-manhattan*.