

**Uncovering a Hidden History:
The Spanish-Speaking Literary Tradition in Nueva York**

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Gotham Center for New York City History

Short biographies:

Carmen Boullosa is one of Mexico's leading novelists, poets, and playwrights. A prolific author, she has had literally scores of books, essays, and dissertations written about her work and has received rave reviews from critics on several continents. She has won several prizes (Anna Seghers in Berlin, Liberatur in Frankfurt, Xavier Villaurrutia in Mexico), been a Guggenheim Fellow, and Distinguished Visitor at Columbia University, Georgetown University, among others. Her recent novel, *La otra mano de Lepanto*, set in Cervantes' time, was published last year by *Siruela*, in Spain, and by *Fondo de Cultura Económica*, in Mexico. It was named by *Reforma's* distinguished critic Sergio González Rodríguez as the Best Novel published in Mexico in 2005. Her latest book, *The Perfect Novel* (a science-fiction novel set in Brooklyn), was published this year by *Alfaguara* in Mexico. She currently is a Distinguished Lecturer at CCNY. Together with Salman Rushdie, she founded a house for persecuted writers in Mexico City in 2000.

Eduardo Lago surprised Spain's literary world when he won the prestigious *Premio Nadal 2006* with his first novel, *Llámame Brooklyn* (*Call Me Brooklyn*). In an atmosphere of distrust towards literary prizes, particularly the *Premio Planeta*, critics and the public have embraced, with enthusiasm, a literary work that makes no commercial concessions. He is the author of *Cuentos dispersos* (*Scattered Tales*), a collection of short stories, *Cuaderno de México* (*Mexican Notebook*), a memoir of a trip to Chiapas, and *Dark & Yellow Rooms*, an illustrated essay on painting. He has also authored numerous articles and translated works by Charles Brockden-Brown, Hamlin Garland, William Dean Howells, Henry James, Sylvia Plath, Christopher Isherwood, Junot Díaz, and John Barth. Dr. Lago is a professor at Sarah Lawrence College and is currently the Director of the Cervantes Institute.

Eduardo Mitre was born in Bolivia. His books of poetry, *Morada*, *Mirabilia*, *Desde tu cuerpo*, *Razón ardiente*, *Ferviente humo*, *Elegía a una muchacha* y *Línea de otoño*, have been published by the most renowned Spanish language poetry houses (Visor, Pretextos, Vuelta). He is also the author of several books on Latin American poetry, among them *Huidobro*, *hambre de espacio y sed de cielo*. His most recent book is *El paraguas de Manhattan* (*Manhattan's Umbrella*). He has been a professor at Columbia University, Dartmouth College, and Universidad Católica Boliviana and currently teaches at St. John's University.

José Manuel Prieto was born in Havana, Cuba. He received a Guggenheim Fellowship, and in 2004-2005, was a Fellow at The New York Public Library's Center for Scholars and Writers. He is the author of several novels, as well as non-fiction books, articles, and essays, and is a translator of Russian and Spanish Literature. His books include *Livadia*, *Enciclopedia de una vida en Rusia*, *El Tartamudo y la rusa*, short stories, *Treinta días en Moscú*, a travel account, and others. *Livadia* has been translated into more than seven languages with an exceptionally good reception under the title of *Nocturnal Butterflies of the Russian Empire*, which appeared in the United States by Grove Press. It was also favorably reviewed in *The New York Times*, *The New York Review of Book*, *Le Monde*, *Liberation*, and *The Times Literary Supplement*. He has taught at the University of Mexico and is currently Professor and Director of the Joseph A. Unanue Latino Institute at Seton Hall University.

Naief Yehya was born in Mexico City and has lived in Brooklyn since 1992. An industrial engineer by profession, he has written film, music, and cultural criticism in several magazines and newspapers in Mexico. He published the novel *Obras sanitarias (Sanitary Works)*. Some of his most recent books are *The Transformed Body, Cyborgs and our Technological Heritage in the Real World, Science Fiction, War and Propaganda: Mass Media and the Myth of War in the US*, and *Pornografía: sexo mediatizado y pánico moral (Pornography: Mediated Sex and Moral Panic)*.