

## Lope de Vega's 'Comedias de tema religioso': Recreations and Re-presentations (Monografías A)

Elaine Canning



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Lope de Vega's religious plays are a distinctive part of his output, but little scholarly work is available on them. This study focuses on five plays, La hermosa Ester, the Isidro plays, Lo fingido verdadero and La buena guarda. Within the context of the seventeenth-century stage, Canning examines Lope's manipulation of religious material, and his treatment of socio-literary themes - love, the role of women - and the way in which they are employed to generate audience reception. She considers the relationship between religious drama and metatheatre, focusing on Lope's techniques for highlighting the illusory nature of life and the relationship between lo verdadero and lo divino, concepts which lie at the heart of the theocentric world view of seventeenth-century Spain. The conflicting imperatives of human and divine love and the issue of identity are features of all of the plays. And she shows that the interplay between illusion and reality and the relationship between playwright and audience are crucial to Lope's dramatic output.Las comedias religiosas de Lope de Vega constituyen una parte fundamental de su producción dramática. Sin embargo, no han recibido el reconocimiento que merecen. Este libro ofrece un análisis de cinco obras: La hermosa Ester, La niñez y La juventud de San Isidro, Lo fingido verdadero y La buena guarda. Canning examina las distintas formas de recepción por parte del público teniendo en cuenta la manipulación de las fuentes hagiográficas y bíblicas y el tratamiento que Lope da a temas socioliterarios tales como el amor y el papel de la mujer. Además, analiza la metateatralidad de la comedia religiosa y los recursos autorreferenciales empleados por Lope para poner de relieve la relación entre la vida y la ilusión, entre lo verdadero y lo divino, conceptos que formaron una parte intrínseca de la cosmovisión teocéntrica de la España del siglo XVII. Los imperativos contradictorios del amor humano y el amor divino y la complejidad de la identidad son temas que se presentan en todas las obras. Canning demuestra que la conexión entre la ilusión y la realidad y la relación entre el dramaturgo y el público son cruciales para la producción dramática de Lope.

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