

# MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

October 3, 2011

## **The Representation of Early Modern Asturias in the Interludes of Antón de Marirreguera**

This paper examines the three extant interludes (*L'ensalmador*, *L'alcalde*, *Los alcaldes*) of Antón de Marirreguera (c.1605-c.1661), Asturian priest, poet, playwright, and “patriarch of Asturian literature,” according to Xulio Viejo. Outside of Asturias, Marirreguera’s work has received very little critical attention, a fact that parallels the paucity of studies on early modern Asturian literature in general. This really comes as no surprise, since, much like its literature, the Principality of Asturias remained isolated from the rest of the Iberian Peninsula due not only to physical, that is geographical, considerations, but also sociocultural ones since the area was largely marginalized by dominant Castile.

In his short plays, Marirreguera captures the essence of Asturian culture, preoccupations, and pride shared in the region at the time. This is due to a number of factors, perhaps the most obvious being that he wrote exclusively in Asturian; he was the first to have his work published in the language. Marirreguera also recreated the rural sensibilities of the region in his plays, making them accessible and relatable to the local audiences. Familiar subject matter also served to strengthen identity among the Asturian population and to offer commentary about the antagonistic relationship that it held with its Castilian neighbors.

Though still obscure, Marirreguera’s work has recently received more attention from critics and one of his plays was even staged. Both his theater and poetry instill much of the same emotions in the public of today as it did in the past.

Anthony J. Grubbs  
Associate Professor  
grubbsa@msu.edu



### **College of Arts and Letters**

Department of  
Romance and  
Classical Studies

258 Old Horticulture  
Building  
East Lansing, MI  
48824-1112

517-355-8350  
Fax: 517-432-3884  
<http://rcs.msu.edu>