

# The *Comedia* in English Translation and Performance

EDITED BY SUSAN PAUN DE GARCÍA AND DONALD R. LARSON

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For many reasons, but most usually the lack of playable modern translations, the plays of the seventeenth-century Spanish *Comedia* have appeared infrequently on the stages of the English-speaking world. Once such translations began to appear in the final decades of the twentieth century, productions followed and audiences were once again given the opportunity of discovering the enormous riches of this theatre.

The bringing of Spanish seventeenth-century verse plays to the contemporary English-speaking stage involves a number of fundamental questions. Are verse translations preferable to prose, and if so, what kind of verse? To what degree should translations aim to be "faithful"? Which kinds of plays "work", and which do not? Which values and customs of the past present no difficulties for contemporary audiences, and which need to be decoded in performance? Which kinds of staging are suitable, and which are not? To what degree, if any, should one aim for "authenticity" in staging? And so on.

In this volume, a distinguished group of translators, directors, and scholars explores these and related questions in illuminating and thought-provoking essays.

SUSAN PAUN DE GARCÍA and DONALD LARSON are Associate Professors of Spanish at the Universities of Denison and Ohio State respectively.



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