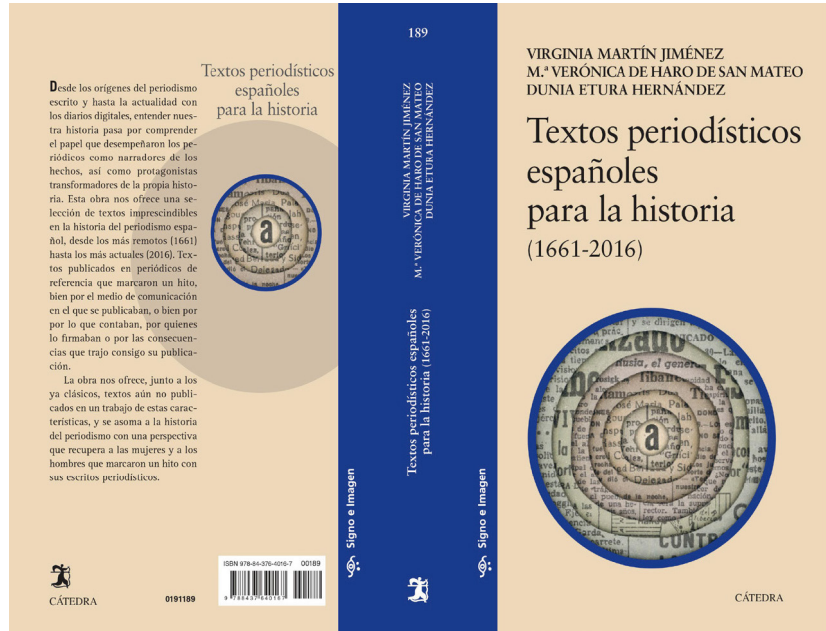


Spanish History in Journalistic Accounts (1661-2016)

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San Mateo & Dunia Etura
Hernández (2019). *Textos
periodísticos españoles
para la historia (1661-
2016)*. Madrid: Editorial
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Since the 17th century, with the first forms of written journalism, to the War of Independence and the crucial role of the press as influencer of public opinion, to the arrival of the newspapers *Sol* and *El País* as representatives of the fourth power, the history of Spanish journalism cannot be understood without looking back at the texts of these and other newspapers that acted as witnesses to the events and all those people who were involved.

Almost like an archeological excavation, in which one wishes to uncover the remains and traces of the past, *Spanish History in Journalistic Accounts* (2019), a collaborative effort

by professors, Virginia Martín Jiménez, María Verónica de Haro de San Mateo and Dunia Etura Hernández, is the result of the difficult task of reviewing that journalistic past, which, although fascinating, contains certain gaps like those mentioned throughout this book

Although some reference manuals name essential articles that represent milestones in journalism, whether for the person who wrote them or for their date of publication, the pages of this book offer an extraordinary contribution that organizes and references an endless number of articles in a complex and confusing sea of texts and, in addition,

provides an absolutely necessary perspective: one that revindicates the contributions of female journalists. Undoubtedly, the authors' careful retrospective review, as shown by the index found in the final pages and the seventy-five journalistic texts included in the book, would be less effective if the spotlight had not been put on the women of the industry, often times silenced, other times repressed. A critical review like this one was much needed to justly portray the role that women in journalism played.

This double objective of noting the most important contributions in Spanish journalism and highlighting

the feminine figures frequently cast aside by historiography constitutes a brilliant anthology, that, beyond the mere updating of titles, names and newspapers, takes on the form of an authentic manual enriched by the authors' teaching experience to offer a very useful learning aid. In terms of structure, the book follows chronological order. After the few initial pages of introduction, the first chapter covers the 17th century. The following six chapters delve into 18th century journalism and the next fifteen chapters discuss the 19th century. The 20th century receives the most attention starting with Chapter 23, dedicated to Emilia Pardo Bazán and his article *Los pazos de Ulloa* (1886) and continuing until Chapter 69 that closes with Joaquín Vidal and his coverage of bull-fighting. The last six chapters of the book relate the technological revolution of the present century, with digitalization and new narrative forms at the forefront.

This book and its incredible contributions are a reflection of a deep love of teaching. Each publication has a foreword that briefly explains its historic relevance, the importance of the man or woman behind its penmanship, and/or the medium by which it was disseminated. In addition, to further enhance the reading experience of older texts, the penmanship has been updated to the current style of writing, allowing readers to overcome the obstacles inherent to reading articles from a

wide range of time periods and cultural contexts.

Despite the fact, like its prologue states, "these aren't the only ones there are", this work achieves its object by far and pays homage to its title by intelligently dissecting and analyzing the "Spanish History in Journalistic Accounts" that, likewise, are written proof of national history. Thanks to the vast selection, which begins with a *Gazeta* from Sevilla printed in 1661 and ends with a look at the 21st century, the reader can go back in time and explore the various news, opinion and editorial pieces associated to such important figures such as Mariano Nipho, a man ahead of his time who was aware of the key role the press played in society. Other figures of national importance such as Concepción Arenal, one of the 19th-century women suffragists; and Manuel Chaves Nogales, international journalist that became a correspondent for England's BBC are also in the book.

The contributions of the latter, together with other entries of figures in the area of philosophy, like José Ortega y Gasset, or literature, such as Leopoldo Alas, Clarín, allow for not only the compilation of indispensable material from a national heritage perspective, but also provide for a review of many of the great thinkers, politicians and intellectuals, influenced by the lines of thought and trends of each era (explaining why

the book isn't limited exclusively to the Spanish context). The book is an intelligent and in-depth exposé of how great journalists throughout Spain's history have made the press an indispensable explanation of the events occurring. Revindicating the efforts of early news reporters, including the many forgotten female journalists, *Spanish History in Journalistic Accounts* certainly constitutes an enormously valuable compilation serving as both literature for personal enjoyment as well as a manual for professors and researchers.

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