



STOCKCERO TEACHING KIT (077)

TEXT: B. Hidalgo - Obra Completa(1888-1822)

AUTHOR: Bartolomé Hidalgo

EDITOR: Olga Fernández Latour de Botas

PART 1: CONTEXT & CRITICAL ANALYSIS

(Based on the Editor's Introduction and Critical Studies)

THE PIONEER OF GAUCHESQUE POETRY:

Foundational Figure:

Bartolomé Hidalgo is widely recognized as the true creator and definer of the "gauchesque" literary form, establishing its parameters for future generations. His work constitutes a unique cultural identity for the Río de la Plata region.

"Cultilatiniparlo":

Despite popular portrayals, Hidalgo was an educated urban man, dubbed a "cultilatiniparlo" by his detractors. This contrasts with the rustic image of the gaucho, yet he masterfully captured the essence of rural speech and life.

A PATRIOT OF BOTH BANDS: UNITY AND INDEPENDENCE:

Río de la Plata's Voice:

- Born in Montevideo and passed away in Buenos Aires, Hidalgo's life and work embody the fraternal union of Argentina and Uruguay. His verses advocated for peace and independence during the tumultuous wars against Spain and Portugal.

Humanitarian Ideal:

- Hidalgo's vision was more humane and just than that of many warriors and statesmen of his era, promoting messages of peace and hospitality, conditioning them on the recognition of the peoples' freedom.

THE GAUCHO AS SYMBOL AND VOICE:

Elevating the Gaucho:

- Hidalgo was the first to elevate the gaucho to a patriotic hero, transforming him from a mere "vago y malentretido" into a spokesperson for American independence. His "Cielitos Patrióticos" were war hymns sung with a dance-like air.

Orality and Literary Convention:

- He adopted popular forms like the *Cielito* and *Diálogo* (featuring characters like Jacinto Chano and Ramón Contreras), mastering the octosyllabic verse. Borges notes that Hidalgo's genius lay in his "convention" of deliberately using and highlighting the oral language of the gauchos, making it a literary form.

PART 2: TOPICS FOR CLASS DISCUSSION

Hidalgo's "Urbanity" vs. Gaucho Identity:



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Discuss the paradox of an educated urban man ("cultilatiniparlo") becoming the voice of the gaucho. How did Hidalgo's background influence his authentic portrayal of rural life?

Gauchesque as a "National Literature":

Analyze the arguments presented by critics (mentioned in the introduction) regarding the originality and importance of the gauchesque genre as uniquely American, contrasting it with European literary models.

The Role of the Cielito and Diálogo:

Examine the significance of the *Cielito* and *Diálogo* as poetic and political forms in Hidalgo's work. How did these forms serve the independence movement and resonate with the populace?

The Legacy of Hidalgo's Characters:

How did Hidalgo's characters, like Jacinto Chano and Ramón Contreras, evolve and influence later gauchesque literature? Discuss the concept of the "cycle of Chano and Contreras" and its continuation by other authors.

PART 3: SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

- **Hidalgo, Bartolomé.** *Obra Completa*. Edited by Olga Fernandez Latour de Botas. Stockcero.
 - **Borges, Jorge Luis.** *El "Martín Fierro"*. (Relevant for the "convención" of gauchesque poetry).
 - **Assunção, Fernando O.** (Contribution to Hidalgo's biography and Rioplatense studies).
 - **Rojas, Ricardo.** *Historia de la Literatura Argentina*. (For the definition of "gauchesque").
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PART 4: QUIZ BANK (Multiple Choice)

Who is considered the pioneer of gauchesque poetry in the Río de la Plata region?

- A) José Hernández
- B) Hilario Ascasubi
- C) Bartolomé Hidalgo
- D) Ricardo Güiraldes

Correct Answer: C

What was a common nickname given to Bartolomé Hidalgo by his detractors, highlighting his educated background?

- A) "El Payador"
- B) "El Cantor Oriental"
- C) "El Cultilatiniparlo"
- D) "El Gaucho Viejo"

Correct Answer: C

What two countries are often referred to as the "two bands" (dos Bandas) in the context of Hidalgo's work?

- A) Argentina and Chile
- B) Uruguay and Brazil
- C) Argentina and Uruguay
- D) Spain and Portugal

Correct Answer: C

Which poetic forms are Bartolomé Hidalgo most famous for?

- A) Sonnets and Epics
- B) Cielitos and Diálogos
- C) Romances and Novellas
- D) Sátiras and Odes

Correct Answer: B

Which two characters frequently appear in Hidalgo's famous dialogues?

- A) Martín Fierro and Cruz
- B) Don Segundo and Fabio
- C) Santos Vega and Juan Sin Ropa
- D) Jacinto Chano and Ramón Contreras

Correct Answer: D

Explore the "The Ultimate Gaucho Collection":

This book is part of our comprehensive collection on the iconic figure that shaped Argentina's and Uruguay's national identities through its foundational literature: *Martín Fierro* (José Hernández); *Don Segundo Sombra* (Ricardo Güiraldes); *Fausto* (Estanislao del Campo); *Santos Vega* (Hilario Ascasubi); and the uruguayan Bartolomé Hidalgo's *Obra Completa*.

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