



STOCKCERO TEACHING KIT (137)

TITLE: *Julián del Casal (In Memoriam)*

AUTHOR/EDITOR: Francisco Morán

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I. OVERVIEW & SIGNIFICANCE

Julián del Casal (In Memoriam) by Francisco Morán is a monumental achievement in Latin American Modernismo studies. This exquisite, full-color "coffee table book" edition serves not merely as a compilation but as a comprehensive archive and critical re-evaluation of Julián del Casal, a pivotal yet often paradoxically marginal figure in Cuban and Hispano-American literature.

Morán's work meticulously gathers an extraordinary array of materials by and about Casal, ranging from his contemporaries' testimonies to modern critical interventions. It traces Casal's life trajectory, the evolution of his critical reception since 1883, and his indelible impact as a literary and cultural modernizer. Beyond textual analysis, the book delves into the visual culture of the fin-de-siècle, reproducing original magazine covers, advertisements, photographs, and caricatures, thus illustrating the intricate intercontinental and transatlantic networks that shaped modernista aesthetics and intellectual life.

This kit provides a framework for exploring Casal's complex legacy through Morán's lens, facilitating advanced discussion on Modernismo, canon formation, and the interplay of text and image in cultural history.

II. CONTEXT & CRITICAL APPROACHES

Morán's *Julián del Casal (In Memoriam)* is more than a biography or a collection of essays; it is an act of scholarly reclamation and a testament to the enduring fascination with Casal.

Casal as a Foundational Modernizer:

Explore how Morán, through his exhaustive compilation, positions Casal as a "literary and cultural modernizer in full" and an "active founding figure of modern Latin American literature."

Discuss the claim that Casal was the "principal animator of Modernismo in Cuba" and how this book supports or complicates that assertion.

The Archive as Critical Method:

Analyze Morán's methodological approach, particularly his emphasis on "expanding the archive" of Cuban Modernismo. How does the inclusion of previously unpublished, scattered, or visually rich materials (magazine covers, advertisements) transform our understanding of Casal and his era?



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Consider the implications of studying "literary texts intertwined with the visual culture of print." How does this intermedial approach challenge traditional literary history?

Reception History & Canon Formation:

Morán's book offers a "meticulous journey through Casal's critical reception from 1883 to today." Discuss how the changing reception of an author like Casal reflects broader cultural, political, and academic shifts.

Address Oscar Montero's observation (cited by Morán) of Casal's "paradoxical" position in the canon—both "canonical and marginal." How does Morán's work attempt to resolve or highlight this paradox?

Casal as a Decadentist Writer:

Morán suggests Casal may be "perhaps the only decadentist writer among our great Modernists." Investigate the characteristics of Decadentism and how they manifest in Casal's work and persona, as revealed in this volume.

Examine the tension between Casal's aestheticism, "mystery," and the "erotismo y sexualidad casaliana" that Morán highlights.

III. ADVANCED DISCUSSION & RESEARCH PROMPTS

These prompts encourage deep engagement with the text, critical thinking, and interdisciplinary connections suitable for graduate-level seminars or research projects.

Beyond the "Coffee Table": Despite its "coffee table book" format, this edition makes a significant scholarly contribution. Discuss how the book leverages its aesthetic presentation to enhance its academic arguments. What are the benefits and potential drawbacks of such a format for serious scholarship?

The Politics of Memory and Canonization: Morán's introduction details the challenges of publishing a comprehensive Casal edition in Cuba versus its realization with Stockcero. Analyze how institutional support (or lack thereof) and political contexts influence literary scholarship and the perpetuation of an author's legacy. How does Morán's personal narrative in the introduction contribute to the book's overall argument?

Modernismo and Visual Culture: Select a specific section of the book that showcases the interplay of text and image (e.g., magazine reproductions, advertisements). Analyze how these visual elements provide context for Casal's writing and for Modernista culture more broadly. What new insights emerge from this integrated approach?

Re-evaluating "Minor" Modernists: Morán's work implicitly argues for the re-evaluation of figures like Casal, Juana Borrero, and Bonifacio Byrne. How does this book challenge the traditional hierarchy of Modernismo, which often foregrounds Rubén Darío and José Martí? What criteria does Morán use for this re-evaluation?

The "Mystery" of Casal: Morán repeatedly refers to "the mystery" of Casal and the inability to decipher him, linking it to "erotismo y sexualidad casaliana." How do the diverse materials (letters, testimonies, critical essays) in this volume contribute to shaping or deconstructing this enigmatic persona? How might a contemporary



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theoretical lens (e.g., queer theory, gender studies) interpret these aspects of Casal's life and work through Morán's compilation?

Comparative Modernismos: While focusing on the Cuban context, Casal's work is placed within a broader Hispano-American Modernismo. How might this volume be used in conjunction with studies of other Modernista figures (e.g., Darío, Martí, Silva) to draw comparative conclusions about regional specificities and transnational commonalities within the movement?

IV. SUGGESTED FURTHER READINGS & BIBLIOGRAPHY

This section complements Morán's work, providing avenues for deeper research.

Primary Text:

- Morán, Francisco, ed. *Julián del Casal (In Memoriam)*. Miami: Stockcero, 2012. ISBN: 978-1-934768-53-2.

Key Secondary Scholarship (as referenced or implied by Morán's Introduction):

- **Borges, Jorge Luis.** *El "Martín Fierro"*. Emecé Editores, 1953. (For contextualizing Argentine national epic and literary debates, a good point of comparison for Modernismo's national role).
- **Glickman, Robert Jay.** *The Poetry of Julián del Casal. A Critical Edition*. 3 vols. Gainesville: University Presses of Florida, 1976-1977. (Mentioned as a significant edition).
- **Lezama Lima, José.** Essays on Casal within his broader critical work (e.g., *La expresión americana, Analecta del reloj*). Morán's volume includes several texts by Lezama Lima on Casal.
- **Ludmer, Josefina.** *El género gauchesco: Un tratado sobre la patria*. Perfil Libros, 2000. (Relevant for discussions on national literature and canon).
- **Montero, Oscar.** *Erotismo y representación en Julián del Casal*. Amsterdam-Atlanta: Rodopi, 1993. (Directly referenced by Morán).
- **Rama, Ángel.** *La ciudad letrada*. Ediciones del Norte, 1984. (Crucial for understanding the role of intellectuals and literary production in Latin American state formation, providing a broad theoretical framework for Casal's context).
- **Salvador, Álvaro.** *Julián del Casal. Poesía completa y prosa selecta*. Madrid: Verbum, 2001. (Mentioned as another significant edition).
- **Vitier, Cintio.** Essays on Casal within his work on Cuban literature (e.g., *Lo cubano en la poesía*). Morán's volume includes Vitier's "Julián del Casal en su Centenario."



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Additional Resources:

Periodical Studies: Encourage students to research other fin-de-siècle Cuban and Hispano-American literary magazines (e.g., *El Fígaro*, *La Habana Literaria*) to understand the broader publishing landscape.

Online Archival Projects: Explore digital archives of Modernista periodicals where available.

V. RELATED STOCKCERO RESOURCES

- **Works by other Modernista authors from Stockcero's catalog:**
 - [Juana Borrero](#) (as mentioned by Morán)
 - [Bonifacio Byrne](#) (as mentioned by Morán)
 - [The Seeds of Time: Poetry of Manuel Maples Arce 1919-1980](#),
 - [Maneuvering Time and Place: the Poetry of Manuel Maples Arce](#)
 - [Anunciación de Henriqueta Lisboa](#)

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