



STOCKCERO TEACHING KIT (196)

TITLE: *Cantares de mio Cid – Textos Originales*

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EDITOR: Alberto Montaner Frutos

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I. OVERVIEW & SIGNIFICANCE

This volume presents the definitive medieval Castilian text of the epic *Cantar de mio Cid*, meticulously edited by the renowned Cidian scholar **Alberto Montaner Frutos**. Montaner, specifically chosen by the Real Academia Española for its 5th Centenary commemorative edition, offers an authoritative and rigorously researched edition that is indispensable for philological study, historical linguistics, and a profound understanding of the original work as it was conceived and transmitted.

Beyond the epic poem, this volume enriches the study of *El Cid* by including a selection of *Romances viejos*—traditional ballads that illuminate the evolution of the Cid's heroic myth—and the original Latin *Carmen Campidoctoris*, a unique historical document likely penned during the Cid's actual lifetime.

A particularly salient feature of this edition, meticulously maintained across the entire three-volume series, is the faithful preservation of the original versification. This means that readers can observe a precise line-by-line, verse-by-verse correspondence between this Original Medieval Castilian text, the Modernized Spanish text, and the English translation. This structural fidelity transforms the set into an extraordinary tool for in-depth linguistic, poetic, and comparative literary analysis, making the text an ideal resource for advanced research.

II. CONTEXT & CRITICAL APPROACHES

This volume is designed for an in-depth exploration of medieval Spanish literature, philology, textual criticism, and the historical development of the Castilian language.

Philological Rigor and Textual Criticism:

Discuss the importance of Montaner Frutos's editorial work, especially his role in the RAE's commemorative edition. What principles of textual criticism are essential for preparing an authoritative edition of a medieval text like the *Cantar de mio Cid*?

Analyze the challenges inherent in working with a single surviving manuscript (Per Abbat's 1207 copy). How do scholars reconstruct the original text and address potential lacunae or corruptions?

Examine how the line-by-line versification across the three volumes facilitates detailed textual comparison and philological analysis, allowing for a deeper understanding of linguistic variants and scribal interventions.

Historical Linguistics & Medieval Castilian:

Explore the linguistic characteristics of medieval Castilian as exemplified in the *Cantar de mio Cid*. Discuss key features that differentiate it from modern Spanish (e.g., phonology, morphology, syntax, vocabulary).



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How does the study of the original text inform our understanding of the evolution of the Spanish language? What insights does it provide into the dynamic linguistic landscape of medieval Iberia?

The Cid: Myth, History, and Identity:

Delve into the interplay between historical fact and literary fiction in the *Cantar de mio Cid*. How does the epic, while rooted in historical figures and events, shape and idealize the narrative of Spain's national hero?

Discuss the significance of including the Latin *Carmen Campidoctoris* in its original language. What does this earliest poetic testimony reveal about the Cid's contemporary reputation and the cultural milieu of the 11th century?

Analyze the *Romances viejos* as expressions of popular culture and collective memory. How do these ballads contribute to the multi-dimensional construction of the Cid's myth, reflecting changing popular perceptions over centuries?

Epic Poetry as a Cultural Artifact:

Position *Cantar de mio Cid* within the broader tradition of medieval European epic poetry. What are its unique structural and thematic characteristics compared to other epics?

Explore the oral origins and transmission of the epic. How do textual features such as assonance-based *laisés* and formulaic expressions reflect its intended oral performance? How do scholars use these features to understand its composition?

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.

Textual Authority and Editorial Choices: Compare specific passages from this edition of *Cantares de mio Cid – Textos Originales* with other critical editions (e.g., Menéndez Pidal's). Analyze and critically evaluate Montaner Frutos's editorial decisions, such as emendations, punctuation, and annotation. What are the theoretical implications of different editorial approaches to medieval texts?

Linguistic Paleography and Historical Grammar: Conduct a detailed linguistic analysis of selected segments of the original text. Identify and explain key grammatical, phonological, and lexical features of medieval Castilian. How does this close linguistic reading enhance understanding of the epic's aesthetic and meaning?

The Carmen Campidoctoris in Context: Translate and analyze a portion of the Latin *Carmen Campidoctoris*. Compare its portrayal of the Cid with that of the Castilian epic. What insights does the *Carmen* offer into the geopolitical and cultural environment of medieval Spain from a non-Castilian perspective?

The Romances as Continuations/Contestations: Choose a specific episode from the *Cantar de mio Cid* and trace its treatment in the *Romances viejos* included in this volume. Analyze how the *romances* interpret, expand, or even subtly alter the epic's narrative, characters, or themes. What does this process reveal about popular reception and the evolution of literary traditions?

Pedagogical Strategies for Original Texts: Design an advanced seminar module focused on teaching the *Cantar de mio Cid* using this volume of Original Texts. How would you leverage the line-by-line versification correspondence with the other two volumes to facilitate a multi-layered understanding for students, including those with varying levels of proficiency in Old Castilian?



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Medieval Hispanism and the Cantar: Research the history of *Cantar de mio Cid* studies. How has the philological and literary understanding of the epic evolved since its rediscovery? What role has Alberto Montaner Frutos played in shaping contemporary Cidian scholarship?

IV. SUGGESTED FURTHER READINGS & BIBLIOGRAPHY

This section complements the study of *Cantares de mio Cid – Textos Originales*, providing avenues for deeper research.

Primary Text:

- Anonymous. *Cantares de mio Cid – Textos Originales*. Edited by Alberto Montaner Frutos. Stockcero. (TK ORDER: 196)

Key Secondary Scholarship (focused on philology and medieval studies):

- **Montaner Frutos, Alberto.** *Cantar de mio Cid*. Crítica, 1993 (and his other works related to El Cid). (Essential for detailed philological insights).
- **Menéndez Pidal, Ramón.** *Cantar de mio Cid. Texto, gramática y vocabulario*. Espasa-Calpe, 1944. (The foundational critical edition and linguistic study).
- **Fletcher, Richard.** *The Quest for El Cid*. Oxford University Press, 1989. (For historical context of the Cid).
- **Michael, Ian.** *Poema de mio Cid*. Cátedra, various editions. (Another widely used critical edition).
- **Deyermond, Alan.** *El «Cantar de mio Cid» y la épica medieval española*. Gredos, 1993. (A key critical study on the epic).
- **Lapesa, Rafael.** *Historia de la lengua española*. Gredos, various editions. (For historical linguistics of Castilian).

Additional Resources:

- Journals specializing in medieval Hispanic studies (e.g., *La Corónica*, *Hispanic Review*).
 - Digital humanities projects on medieval Spanish texts.
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V. RELATED STOCKCERO RESOURCES

- [El Cid: The Complete 3-Volume Reference Kit.](#)
- [Songs of The Cid \(English Translation\).](#)
- [Cantares de mio Cid – Textos Modernizados.](#)

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