



# **Masculinity and Queer Desire in Spanish Enlightenment Literature (New Hispansisms: Cultural and Literary Studies)**

*Mehl Allan Penrose*

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In *Masculinity and Queer Desire in Spanish Enlightenment Literature*, Mehl Allan Penrose examines three distinct male figures, each of which was represented as the Other in eighteenth- and early nineteenth-century Spanish literature. The most common configuration of non-normative men was the petimetre, an effeminate, Francophile male who figured a failed masculinity, a dubious sexuality, and an invasive French cultural presence. Also inscribed within cultural discourse were the bujarr n or 'sodomite,' who participates in sexual relations with men, and the Arcadian shepherd, who expresses his desire for other males and who takes on agency as the voice of homoeroticism. Analyzing journalistic essays, poetry, and drama, Penrose shows that Spanish authors employed queer images of men to engage debates about how males should appear, speak, and behave and whom they should love in order to be considered 'real' Spaniards. Penrose interrogates works by a wide range of writers, including Luis Ca uelo, Ram n de la Cruz, and F lix Mar a de Samaniego, arguing that the tropes created by these authors solidified the gender and sexual binary and defined and described what a 'queer' man was in the Spanish collective imaginary. *Masculinity and Queer Desire* engages with current cultural, historical, and theoretical scholarship to propose the notion that the idea of queerness in gender and sexuality based on identifiable criteria started in Spain long before the medical concept of the 'homosexual' was created around 1870.

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