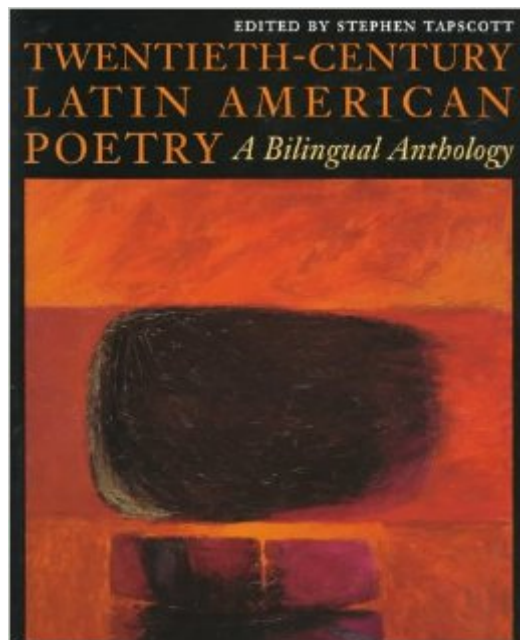


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# Twentieth-Century Latin American Poetry: A Bilingual Anthology (Texas Pan American Series) (English And Spanish Edition)



## Synopsis

Latin Americans have written some of the world's finest poetry in the twentieth century, as the Nobel Prizes awarded to Gabriela Mistral, Pablo Neruda, and Octavio Paz attest. Yet this rich literary production has never been gathered into a single volume that attempts to represent the full range and the most important writers-until now. Here, under one cover, are the major poets and their major works, which appear both in the original language (Spanish or Portuguese) and in excellent English translations. The poems selected include the most famous representative poems of each poetic tradition, accompanied by other poems that represent the best of that tradition and of each poet's work within it. Tapscott's selections cover the full range, from the Modernist generation through the Mexican Revolutionary post-Moderns and the Vanguardist poets to very contemporary younger writers of political and experimental commitments. In all, eighty-five poets, including Pablo Neruda, Nicanor Parra, Octavio Paz, Gabriela Mistral, Nicolás Guillén, Jorge Luis Borges, Julio Cortázar, Carlos Drummond de Andrade, Carlos Pellicer, César Vallejo, and Cecilia Meireles, and over 400 poems are included, often in translations by some of North America's most esteemed poets.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This book is not for the faint-hearted. It might be a text in a poetry or Latin American literature course, and it will be a good text. It covers a wide range of voices of the 20th century, in the original and decent translations. It would also be a good overview for someone truly interested in modern

poetry and the trends that occurred over that century. I believe it could have included other more recent writers, but any such anthology is limited in scope by its editor. The introductions to each poet are also informative.

This anthology does a great job of presenting Latin American poetry from the twentieth century. It is ideal as a jumping board to a more detailed study of these poets. However, this anthology gets a low rating for its poor translations. The poems I have studied carefully are all marred by bad translations. Translators make grievous errors in choosing the synonyms, as well as missing the overall context of the poems. Here are a few examples. (1) from the poem *Deseos* by Carlos Pellicer: *pasare con mis ruidos de vidrio tornasol*, translated as 'move like a great noisy sunflower made of glass' (2) from the poem *Dibujo de la mujer que llega* (translated as 'Sketch of a Frontier Woman') by Claudia Lars: The imagery that runs through the poem is that of Virgin Mary, though not explicitly spelled out. The translator completely misses this point and therefore uses words that do not reflect the grandeur of the original. (3) from *A la Poesia* by Carlos Pellicer: *'reflejo de cien espejos, tu cuerpo'* is translated as 'Like a hundred mirrors I reflect your body. These are just a few examples. Each poem is riddled with so many of these errors that bilingual readers would be very annoyed reading this collection.

This book introduced me to a number of different poets and their work. I'll agree that there are poor translations in this, but unfortunately that is the case with too many language translations and isn't necessarily the fault of this particular author or assemblage of poems- though they make no attempt to correct such. It is an interesting book just for that reason and if you want to try your hand at translating poetry, not too tough to beat most of the translations in this book using some logic and a couple internet translators and you will undoubtedly learn more Spanish by doing so!

I am not a huge fan of poetry, but I am a huge fan of Latin America and have been learning Spanish for the past several years. I use this book to compare the original to the translation (which are conveniently side by side on the same page) and it's interesting having some insight into what is lost in translation. It's also good for expanding vocabulary and getting a grasp of how to communicate more effectively in Spanish. As for a general poetry volume it's fairly comprehensive and features a lot of famous works; Gabriela Mistral, Pablo Neruda, Juan Luis Borges, Ramon Dario, Che Guevara. It also has brief, informative biography info that is helpful and gives a good context for understanding the lives and works of the artists. Useful as a learning tool, comprehensive as a

volume. A good buy.

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