

A glance at the table of contents affirms this representation of American cultural diversity. One may be surprised to see a short story by Djuna Barnes, a speech by Martin Luther King, or "Carved on the Walls: Poetry by Early Chinese Immigrants." "Songs and Ballads" includes songs of the slaves with the works of William Cullen Bryant, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow and others. Included in this collection are works by 109 women of all races, twenty-five individual Native American authors, fifty-three African Americans, thirteen Hispanics and nine Asian Americans. Headnotes have been thoughtfully written by specialists with diverse backgrounds, and the instructor's manual offers important insights for juxtaposing the traditional with the non-traditional.

This anthology reflects the beginnings of change. Obviously with a work of this size there are limitations. Many will justly criticize omission of particular traditional and nontraditional works, and classroom time constraints will severely limit which works students will actually study. However, this is an admirable work, sure to be valued and recommended by both specialists and laypersons. It is an important reference work for any library, private or public.

—Barbara Urrea
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Pedro Amador Llorens. *Shipwrecked of Mona Island.* (San Juan, Puerto Rico: Tanama Publishing Press, 1989) 115 pp., \$8.50.

Historically, migration between the islands of Puerto Rico and La Hispaniola began in pre-Colombian times, but at no other time in our history has this migration had the profound social, economic and political implications that it has today. The political and economic forces that operate in the Latin American world are responsible for the enormous contingents of indigent people that establish themselves in the periphery of large and capital cities, from where they look for the first opportunity to cross into neighboring countries and many times far beyond.

Illegal migration and illegal drug trafficking, two universal themes, are the main topics around which Amador Llorens has constructed this novel. The narration takes off from an incident that took place in 1987 when a boat carrying illegal aliens from the Dominican Republic capsized in the Mona Island Channel, not far from the southwestern coast of Puerto Rico. Dozens of people drowned in this sad incident.

There is an ample body of documentation in the form of essays, newspaper accounts, television documentaries, and even poetry dealing

with the main topics of this narrative, but this is the first time that an attempt is made to write a novel on the subject.

This is the first time that Amador Llorens tried this genre. Prior to the publication of this novel, he had written five collections of poems, a collection of short stories, and a few scripts for television programs.

The protagonist of the story is Jose (Cheito) Ortiz, son of a Puerto Rican father and a Dominican woman, one of many individuals with parents from both islands or countries. Cheito had always wanted to meet his father's family in Puerto Rico. He did not know who they were or how to get in touch with them.

Cheito, who always wanted to be a doctor, was studying engineering in an institute in Santo Domingo. He decided that the time had come for him to go to Puerto Rico and locate his family and at the same time explore the possibility of starting a career in medicine. He paid \$2000 to some people who were in charge of introducing illegal aliens from the Dominican Republic into Puerto Rico. In an old dilapidated boat, 298 people left from from Nagua port, Dominican Republic for Puerto Rico. Among them were seventy women.

Cheito became very concerned when he found out that there were only 200 lifesavers for 298 people, and that in a safe place were stashed 100 kilos of cocaine. Suddenly, the boat split in two. Scores of people fell into the water, many did not know how to swim. To make things worse, a school of sharks was following the boat. Cheito was a very good swimmer; he was able to save many people by getting them to hold on to the ropes from the boat and by being able to, with the help of other young men, keep the sharks away as much as possible.

Helicopters and boats from the Coast Guard of Puerto Rico reached the area where the accident had occurred. Other people who were fishing nearby came to help. Among the people who came was Dr. Mario Ortiz, a famous Puerto Rican cardiologist and an expert in open-heart surgery. Dr. Ortiz sees a family similarity of appearance in the young man, discovers that Cheito is his nephew, and they return to Puerto Rico. Cheito subsequently becomes happily married.

Although Amador Llorens has written a very moving story and the interest of the reader is maintained throughout the novel, the author does not have, as yet, a good command of narrative technique. There are a lot of typographical errors in the text, and sometimes words are used in the wrong context. Otherwise, this is a very absorbing story recommended for those who are interested in the Caribbean novel written in Spanish.

—Luis L. Pinto
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