



Álvaro Cunqueiro: también entre pucheros anda la imaginación [

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text (article)

Analítica

An unorthodox character in both his biography and in his work, Álvaro Cunqueiro lived a life full of wild tales and published novels bursting with imagination, an imagination that also spills over into his gastronomic books. His narrative texts, journalism and travel guides share his culinary knowledge, but it is his cookbooks that reveal the full extent of his irreverence. In order to understand his behaviour and aesthetic construction, we first establish a catalogue of the works in which gastronomy is the main topic. In them, he uses intertextual techniques to transform dishes into worlds of classical heroism or into medieval knights. The cookbooks lose their utilitarian and prescriptive value, instead becoming a source of dazzling literary accounts. The reader, thinking they bought a book that would help them as a cook, instead finds themselves in a room having lunch with Alonso Quijano or observing the balcony scene from Romeo and Juliet. At the same time, Cunqueiro is guided by memories and sensations rather than quantities and ingredients when putting together his recipes; as such, the practical factors that usually characterise cookbooks are lost completely. This article is dedicated to this transfer between worlds that should not normally be connected as well as to Cunqueiro's astonishing imagination

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