Alfonso de Toro Fernando de Toro (Eds.)

# Jorge Luis Borges

Thought and Knowledge in the XXth Century

#### TKKL

#### TEORIA Y CRITICA DE LA CULTURA Y LITERATURA



Investigaciones de los signos culturales (Semiótica-Epistemología-Interpretación)

### THEORY AND CRITICISM OF CULTURE AND LITERATURE

Investigations on Cultural Signs (Semiotics-Epistemology-Interpretation)

The works of Jorge Luis Borges do not fit in with any type of classification. The limits between reality and fiction are permeable, as well as the limits between fiction and philosophy, between the playful and the serious, between genres and fields of knowledge. The only thing certain is that Borges is in the first place an author producing texts in diverse fields of knowledge and playing with various thought patterns and with distinct scientific systems. This makes of Borges not only an outstanding writer of works of fiction, but — in particular — one of the greatest thinkers of our time.

Sociologists and philosophers such as Foucault or Baudrillard as well as semioticians and literary theorists such as Eco, Genette and Alazraki, Rodriguez Monegal, Echavarría and Merrell, have described and established the central importance of Borges as a particular and very special producer of signs. Especially the location of Borges in extraliterary fields, that is to say, the contextualization and interpretation of his works in a broader context than the one of fictional literature, constitutes the centre of interest of this volume. In this way, the volume is intended to make a contribution to those aspects of the works of Borges in which he proves himself to be most ambiguous but at the same time most interesting and complex.

Borges is not a mere pioneer of both literary and philosophical theories that have taken shape, particularly during the second half of this century, but he also introduces complete paradigms into current knowledge and thought.

ALFONSO DE TORO is Full Professor for Romance Philology at the University of Leipzig and Director of the 'Research Center for Latin American Studies' at the same University. He has been invited professor and has given conferences at many European, North American and Latin American Universities. His publications cover the areas of theatre, prose and poetry of Spanish, Latin American, French and Italian literatures, as well as theory of literature and culture.

FERNANDÓ DE TORO is Full Professor in the Department of English at the University of Manitoba, where presently he is the Dean of Graduate Studies. He has published extensively in the fields of theatre, semiotics, and culture. In addition he specializes in Post-Modernism, Post-Colonialism, Deconstruction and Feminism.

## CONTENTS

Preface	7
María Kodama de Borges	
Jorge Luis Borges, Religions and the Mystical Experience	15
Luce López-Baralt	
Borges, or the Mystique of Silence: What was on the other Side of	20
the Zahir	29
Arturo Echavarría	
Textual Space and the Art of Chinese Gardening in Borges' "The	
Garden of Forking Paths"	71
Alberto Moreiras	
De-Narrativizing the Populist State Apparatus: Borges' "La lotería en	
Babilonia"	)7
Fernando de Toro	
Borges/Derrida and Writing	15
Alfonso de Toro	
Borges/Derrida/Foucault: Pharmakeus/Heterotopia or Beyond	
Literature ('hors-littérature'): Writing, Phantoms, Simulacra,	
Masks, the Carnival and Atlön/Tlön, Ykva/Uqbar, Hlaer,	20
Jangr, Hrön(n)/Hrönir, Ur and Other Figures	29
Silvia G. Dapía	
Borges and Mauthner: From Philosophy to Critique of Language 1:	55
C. Ulises Moulines	
The Most Consistent Idealism According to Borges: The Negation	-
of Time	67
Floyd Merrell	
Borges and Calvino: Chaosmos Unleashed?	75

Eckhard Höfner	
Some Aspects of the Problem of Time in the Works of Jorge Luis Borges: An Eclectic between Plato and the Theory of Relativity	207
Beatriz Sarlo	
Borges: Cultural Theory and Criticism	241
Edna Aizenberg	
"Nazism is Uninhabitable": Borges, the Holocaust, and the Expansion	
of Knowledge	255
Rolf Kloepfer	
The Superstitious and the Truthful Ethics of the Reader	263
Elmar Schenkel	
Circling the Cross, Crossing the Circle: On Borges and Chesterton	289
Laura Milano and Rosa María Ravera	
Borges' 'Baroquism'	30:
Ema Lapidot	
Borges between the Printing Press and the Hypertext	32
Authors of this Volume	35