

ABSTRACT**A Critique Of Carpentier's Portrayal Of
Dictator Type Versus The Revolutionary Figure
In Selected Novels****Neil Peter Williams**

This present study attempts to examine two contrasting character types of singular significance in three major pieces of Carpentierian fiction: the dictator and the revolutionary figures. The novels under scrutiny include El Reino de Este Mundo (1949); El Siglo de las Luces (1962) and El Recurso del Metodo (1974). The Thesis partakes of a literary theory and perspective that is essentially feminist in nature, the implication of which is that this critic has conscientiously tried to avoid preconceived notions and positions, to divest himself of prejudices, to be conscious of the patriarchal structure of society and the male dominance of language and symbolification and instead to recognize the duplicitous and political nature of discourse, to let the signifiers give clues to the meaning of the text not in a didactic fashion and to present as total a picture as possible from as informed (be it historically, culturally or literary) a position as possible. I will endeavour to illustrate the importance of these figures in Carpentier's develop-

ing position, his aesthetic vision and philosophy concerning the Latin American and Caribbean peoples. Finally, it is the aim to provoke serious reflection and thought on woman and man's role in life, the meaning they ascribe to their existence and how do we as readers relate those motives and concerns to our actual life's experiences.

...ture in which many
... and races mingle. He was born in Havana
... of a French father and a Russian mother. As
... he lived in many European countries and was
... in France where he studied music. His first
... were musical compositions - ballet, cantata and
... music. Later he turned to writing novels and
... and to films. He has written a history of
... music, has worked in advertising in Caracas and
... accompanied Louis Journer on a theatrical tour
... took them to Haiti. This reflects Carpentier's
... self: a cosmopolitan jack-of-all trades
... on both sides of the Atlantic. But there is
... self: The Carpentier who was imprisoned for
... opinions in the 1930's who wrote "Negra
..." and whose first novel, Boué Yamba-O published
... 1933 described the life of the poor and oppressed
... of the Cuban slums and plantations.
... Carpentier's cosmopolitan education, his interest in
... latest literary theories and techniques, have

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