

ABSTRACT

A Critical Edition and Study of Calderón de la Barca's La aurora en Copacabana

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This thesis presents a critical edition and evaluative analysis of possibly the longest and most diverse of Calderón's dramas. It was inspired by the conquest and christianization of Peru, and written in the dramatist's full maturity.

In the absence of manuscripts, the three earliest editions (1672, 1674, 1688) of the play have been examined comparatively. The editio princeps which shows signs of deliberate authorial revision has emerged as the superior version and forms the basis of this critical edition. The 1674 version appears to have been based on an earlier, clumsier and longer draft of the play. The third edition compounds the faults of its immediate predecessor (1674) with the arbitrary textual intervention of the 1688 editor. This is the edition from which all the modern available versions of the drama have derived. But since the modern editors have also interfered with the text, it is now several removes from that which the author left.

While La aurora has enjoyed some degree of scholarly and critical attention, the studies all seem to have used the corrupt texts as reference, and as a body they have not fully explored the unique features and the bibliographical importance of the drama. This study, based on close, independent, individual analysis of the play, attempts to provide a corrected text as close as possible to the dramatist's final intentions, and to update and expand on the findings of the existing studies, in the presentation of additional information and the results of original research. It explores the play in areas such as textual history, chronology, sources, versification, structure and

treatment of themes, and seeks to present it as illustrative of the dramatist's attitude to the Conquest. This study also attempts to appreciate La aurora as a singular work which not only comprehends the Calderonian oeuvre, but one which also employs and expresses features of Spanish theatre from medieval times to the end of the seventeenth century.