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Printing Nueva York:

Spanish-Language Print Culture and the Literary Imagination in the Age of Electricity

Printing Nueva York brings together a hemispheric archive of texts published in Spanish and English to recover the leading role played by U.S.-based writers of Latin American descent in the media innovation of the late nineteenth-century. During that period, earlier nineteenth-century innovations, including the telegraph and cheaper paper, converged with newer media technologies, such as high-volume presses and the telephone. That changing media context enabled and inspired an influential community of writers and editors—including Nestor Ponce de León, José Martí, Sotero Figueroa, Rafael Serra, Amalia Puga de Losada, and Maria de la Torriente—who participated in a thriving Spanish-language publishing community centered in New York City. They saw their expanding and increasingly interconnected world of print as a means of achieving independence from Spain for Cuba and Puerto Rico—and of promoting democracy and Latin American culture throughout the region. At the very moment when popular English-language newspapers like the New York World were banking their futures on mass circulation and on drawing a clear dividing line between producers and consumers, these and other Hispanophone writers and editors envisioned a collaborative print community that pursued increased participation in the production and spread of ideas.