

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This special issue of *INTI* contains selected presentations from two conferences organized by the Mexican Project at Brown University, a United States - Mexico academic initiative in cultural studies. The first meeting "Mexico, End of the Century," in 1993 was co-sponsored by the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, the Universidad de Guadalajara, the Consejo Nacional para la Cultura y las Artes, the University of Connecticut Research Foundation and the Latin American Consortium of New England. Brown University's Department of Hispanic Studies, Center for Latin American Studies, Watson Institute for International Studies and Lectureship Committee all supported the event. The second conference "United States - Mexico: New Cultural Encounters," which took place in April 1994 was sponsored by *UNAM*, Universidad de Guadalajara, *CONACULTA*, El Colegio de México, Brown University's Watson Institute and Harvard University (one of the sessions took place at Harvard's Center for Latin American Studies).

Faculty and students who participated in the Mexican Project deserve special recognition for their commitment in exploring new interdisciplinary studies and in establishing better lines of academic communication and exchange between the United States and Mexico. I would like to thank Rebeca Barriga Villanueva (El Colegio de México), Raúl Padilla, Victor Manuel González Romero and Dante Medina (Universidad de Guadalajara), Gonzalo Celorio, Hernán Lara Zavala and Ignacio Solares (*UNAM*), as well as Carlos Fuentes, Professor at large in the Department of Hispanic Studies, Brown University. They have made this Mexican Project a productive center of

academic cooperation. Recognition is also due to colleagues and friends who have contributed to this project; Frank Rothman, Thomas Biersteker, Thomas Skidmore, Antonio Carreño, José Amor y Vásquez, Ellen Messer, Fernando de Neocochea, Paul Hanks, Liza Bakewell, Judith Zeitlin, Elizabeth Maham, Anne Norman, Alicia Borinsky, Beatriz Pastor, Doris Sommer, Norma Klahn, John A. Coleman, Helen Anderson, Gerald Martin, George Yúdice and Sandra Ferdman. Claudia Elliott's cooperation in these events was indispensable. Many students from the Department of Hispanic Studies at Brown University were involved, among them Ricardo Krauel, Rocío Quispe Agnoli, María Fernanda Lander, Carrie Chorba, María Brucato and Patricia Parra. Many thanks also to Marie Roderick, Administrative Assistant in the Department of Hispanic Studies, for her daily help. My special gratitude to Brown University's President Vartan Gregorian, whose continuous support made the Mexican Project possible.

Roger Carmosino, Editor of *INTI*, was very enthusiastic about the idea of collecting, selecting and publishing the proceedings of the Mexican Project in this special volume of the journal. The Dirección General de Literatura of the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México also assisted in making this volume possible.

The following publications also resulted from these new approaches to international cooperation at Brown University:

- *Venezuela, Literatura de fin de siglo* (*INTI*, no. 37-38, primavera-otoño 1993) based on the conference "Venezuela: Cultura y sociedad al fin de siglo" (1991), whose proceedings were collected in the volume *Venezuela: Fin de Siglo* (ed. by Julio Ortega, Caracas, Ediciones La Casa de Bello, 1993).
- *Conquista y contraconquista*, selection of the proceedings of the XIX Symposium of the International Institute of Iberoamerican Literature (1990), dedicated to Colonial Literature (ed. by Julio Ortega and José Amor y Vásquez, México, Department of Hispanic Studies, Brown University and El Colegio de México, 1994)
- *Presente y futuro de la literatura mexicana*, proceedings from the symposium of the same title, presided over by Carlos Fuentes and Gabriel García Márquez which took place at the Universidad de Guadalajara, in 1993.

The most recent conference organized by the Mexican Project with the same Brown - Mexico cooperation included a Venezuelan component and was entitled "Venezuela and Mexico Confronting Crises". This meeting, which took place in March, 1995, included the support of the Instituto Cervantes and the Mexican Cultural Institute of New York. Future meetings will continue this comparative approach. For November 1995, plans are underway for a colloquium on Carlos Fuentes' work and the new Mexican and Latin American narrative. Faculty and students interested in participating in these activities in cultural studies can write to The Mexican Project, Box 1961, Brown University, Providence, R.I. 02912.

Julio Ortega
Brown University