Redefining the "Generation of 1927": Concha Méndez's Memorias habladas, memorias armadas.

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Abstract

Despite the systematic exclusion of Spanish women writers of the 1920s and 1930s from the annals of literary history, research reveals that a number of women poets of this period did receive recognition and positive critical attention when their works were published. Moreover, these women were integrated, in varying degrees, in the cultural scene of the period, maintaining personal and publishing ties with their male contemporaries. One member of this group is poet Concha Méndez Cuesta (1898-1986), whose memoirs, Memorias habladas, memorias armadas, constitute the focus of the ensuing discussion. Specifically, this paper will examine the complex relationship between this writer and the cultural environment of 1920s Spain, through an examination of the representation of Méndez as autobiographical subject in Memorias, a testimonial narrative which she wrote in collaboration with her granddaughter.