



we come yet nearer, "though only with great caution," to the ideal of the Renaissance lady (210). Castiglione makes his gentlewoman of the palace equal in worth to the courtier (213). Yet such a woman cannot be said to be a courtier. She is a sort of first-lady, a sort of President's wife. It is interesting to note the Annibal Guasco recommends to the lady at court that her models be the Spanish ladies with which the court of Savoy is filled, since they surpass all others "in pleasing gravity, and grave pleasantness so natural and suited to this nation" (225). [In Boscán's *Historia de Leandro y Hero*, Musaeus' Grecian maiden is converted into a dama incorporating Castiglione's ideal, see *Del del Inca Caro y Cuervo*, IV [1948], 90-101.] In the absence of her husband, the lady may govern and preside over the council of state (240). The lady of lesser rank may be secretary to a duchess or governess to a princess. Like the Secretary of the United Nations, she is a general peace-maker. As widow, she may rule as regent. In this chapter Miss Kelso comes nearest to what she is looking for, the lady considered from the same point of view as the gentleman. But the books that so consider her are a mere handful, hundreds of others reduce her to the level of wife (265).

In Chapter VIII (Conclusion) the author insists that no synopsis is possible, that each chapter has had to have its own conclusion (266). As a consequence she proceeds to touch on miscellaneous aspects. Most interesting is Tasso's discussion of heroic women who transcend in virtue not only all women but all human beings. Here at last a single standard prevails "If heroic men are not made infamous by incontinence, then women of heroic mold are not either" (277).

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La Florida del Inca, Historia del Adelantado Hernando de Soto, Gobernador y Capitán General del Reino de la Florida, y de Otros Heroicos Caballeros Españoles e Indios, Escrita por el Inca Garcilaso de la Vega, Capitán de Su Magestad, Natural de la Gran Ciudad del Cuzco, Cebada de los Reinos y Provincias del Perú. Prólogo de Aurelio Miró Quesada, Estudio bibliográfico de José Durand, Edición y Notas de Emma Susana Speratti Piñero. México-Buenos Aires, Fondo de Cultural Económica, 1956: lxxxv, 471 pages.

In Spain's literary history the year 1605 stands as a towering landmark with the appearance of *Don Quixote*. In a more modest fashion that date is memorable in Spanish American letters, for it witnessed the publication of a work of art by an author who may be rightly designated as "the first American writer." The work is *La Florida del Inca*, a novelesque account of the De Soto expedition, and the author was the mestizo offspring of a Spanish conquistador and an Incan princess. Born

de Soto!
de Soto!

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