



'Lector Ludens': The Representation of Games & Play in Cervantes (Toronto Iberic)

Michael Scham

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In sixteenth- and seventeenth-century Spain, debating the acceptability of games and recreation was serious business. With *Lector Ludens*, Michael Scham uses Cervantes's *Don Quijote* and *Novelas ejemplares* as the basis for a wide-ranging exploration of early modern Spanish views on recreations ranging from cards and dice to hunting, attending the theater, and reading fiction.

Shifting fluidly between modern theories of play, little-known Spanish treatises on leisure and games, and the evidence in Cervantes's own works, Scham illuminates Cervantes's intense fascination with games, play, and leisure, as well as the tensions in early modern Spain between the stern moralizing of the Counter-Reformation and the playfulness of Renaissance humanism.

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