

## The New World, Lands and Myths

After several recent special issues, conceived and prepared successively by R. H. Robbins and E. M. Uhlenbeck (no. 153, "The Cultural Heritage: Languages in Peril"), Y. M. Coppens (no. 155, "From the Heavens to the Mind"), M. Matarasso (no. 158, "Shamans and Shamanism: On the Threshold of a New Millennium"), *Diogenes* turned to Julio Labastida, coordinator of the study of the social sciences at the National University of Mexico and contributing editor to *Diogenes* (he is in charge of the Spanish edition), and asked him to gather together for the current issue a certain number of articles devoted to themes related to the five-hundredth anniversary of America's "discovery" and its entry into a unified world.

Many studies have already been devoted to this great event. Our special aim in this issue of *Diogenes* has been to highlight the work of scholars from the new continent. With the exception of Charles Verlinden and Ananda Abeydeera, all the collaborators for this issue come from the American continent and their articles are devoted to various aspects of the New World. The thread of the new continent's destiny was broken by Europe. At the same time, the old world, and especially Europe, would not be what it is today without the contributions of the peoples that the Europeans set out to conquer.

*Diogenes's* tribute to the American continent on the occasion of its five hundredth anniversary is not limited to the current issue. In *Diogenes* 157, Miguel Leon-Portilla broached the theme of the encounter of the two worlds and expressed his opinion on the significance of the anniversary in an article entitled, "The New World 1492–1992: An Endless Debate?" In the same issue, Gilbert Larochelle addressed a related theme: "Image and Representation of the Other: North America Imagines South America." The last of the articles gathered by Julio Labastida will be published in *Diogenes* 160. It is the text of a speech delivered by Carlos Fuentes, entitled "America's Imagination."

This same 160th issue of *Diogenes* will mark an anniversary which, although of far less moment than the discovery of the new world, is important to us: founded in 1952 by Roger Caillois, and directed by him until his death in 1978, *Diogenes* will celebrate its fortieth anniversary.

I wish to express my gratitude to all the authors who contributed to this tribute to America and would especially like to thank Julio Labastida who acted as editor-in-chief of this enterprise.

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