THE QUEEN'S TWO BODIES: BEYOND PRIVATE AND PUBLIC IN THE BIOGRAPHY OF ISABEL II OF SPAIN

Isabel Burdiel (University of Valencia)



LIFE-WRITING IN EUROPE: PRIVATE LIVES, PUBLIC SPHERES AND BIOGRAPHICAL INTERPRETATIONS

University of Oxford, 20–21 April, 2012



BASIC CHRONOLOGY (I)

- **1830.** Born in Madrid. Eldest daughter of Fernando VII and his fourth wife and niece, María Cristina of the Two Sicilies.
- **1833.** Fernando VII dies. Isabel II becomes Queen at the age of three. María Cristina becomes Regent. The so called *Carlist War* begins. The ultra-absolutist brother of the late King refuses to accept the abolition of the Bourbon law of succession that prevents women from reigning. Isabel II is supported by the Liberal parties.
- **1836.** Disentailment of Church lands and other Liberal socio-economic measures that ensure private property and market economy.
- **1837.** Progressive-Liberal Constitution.
- **1839.** Isabel's Liberal supporters win the civil war.
- **1840.** The Liberal-Progressive General Espartero replaces María Cristina as Regent.
- **1843.** Liberal-Moderates send Espartero into exile. Isabel II comes of age at thirteen and ascends the throne.
- **1845.** Liberal-Moderate Constitution.

BASIC CHRONOLOGY (II)

- **1846.** The sixteen-year-old Queen is forced to marry her first cousin, Francisco de Asís.
- **1851.** Concordat with the Holy See.
- 1854. Liberal-Progressive pronunciamiento marks the beginning of the "Liberal Biennium".
- **1856.** Liberal-Moderates return to government after a military coup.
- **1866.** Pact of Ostend unites all opposition forces against the Moderates.
- 1868. The so-called "Glorious Revolution" sends Isabel II into exile.
- 1868-1875. Liberal-Democratic regime.
- **1875.** Restoration of the Bourbons under Isabel's son, Alfonso XII. The ex-Queen is forced to remain in exile.
- **1904.** Isabel dies in Paris at the age of seventy-three.

MAIN CHARACTERS OF "THE BOURBONS IN THE BUFF"

Isabel II: Queen of Spain.

Francisco de Asís: The Queen's husband.

Infanta Isabel: The Queen's eldest daughter.

Prince Alfonso: The Queen's son and crown prince.

Father Claret: The Queen's confessor.

Sister Patrocinio: The so-called "Nun of the Stigmata" and Queen's close adviser.

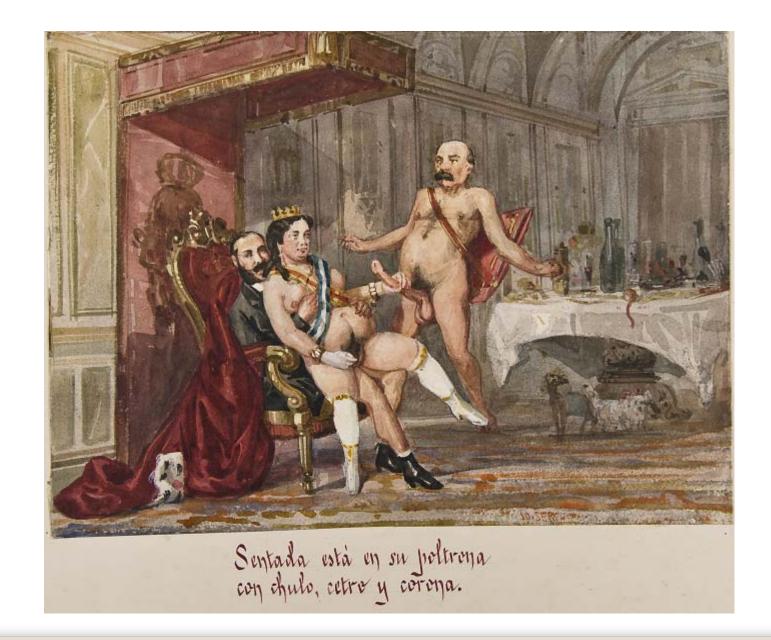
Luis González-Bravo: Last President of Isabel's Council of Ministers.

Carlos Marfori: The Queen's supposed lover on the eve of the revolution of 1868.

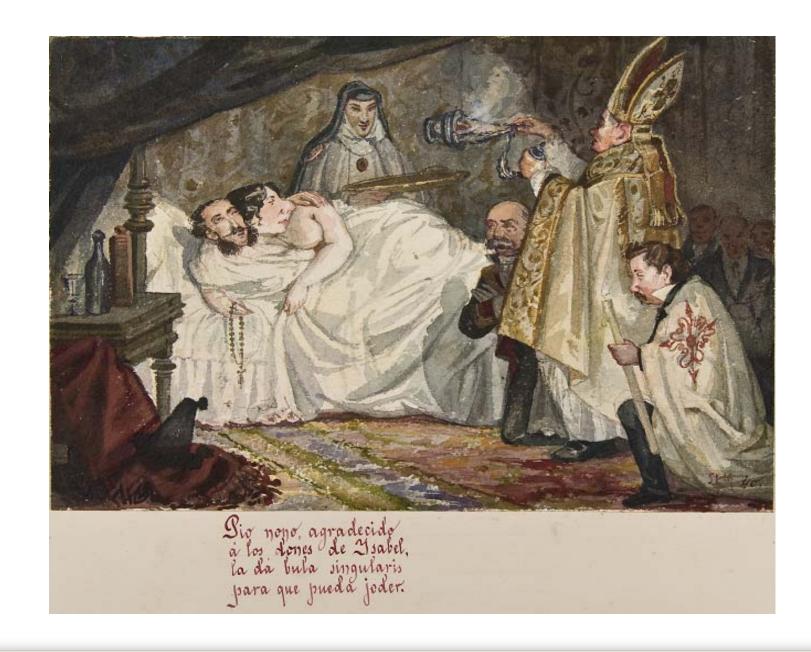








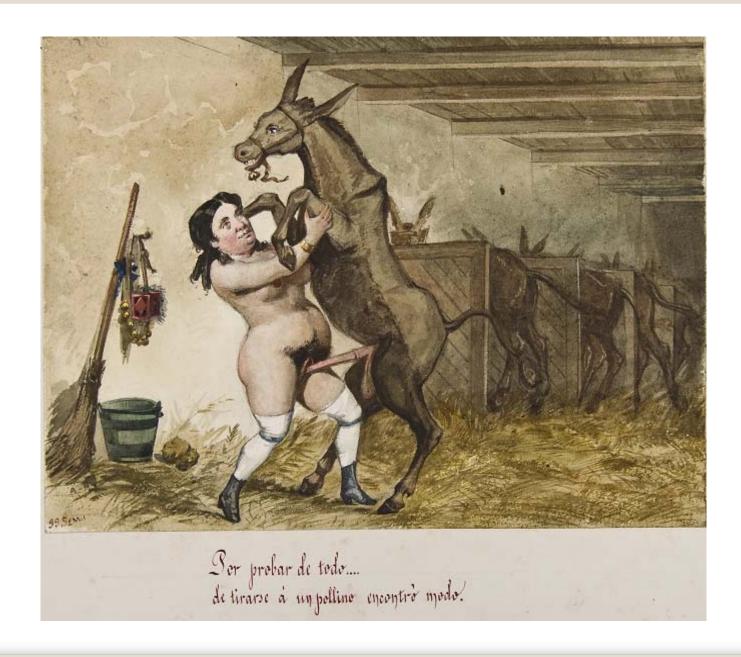








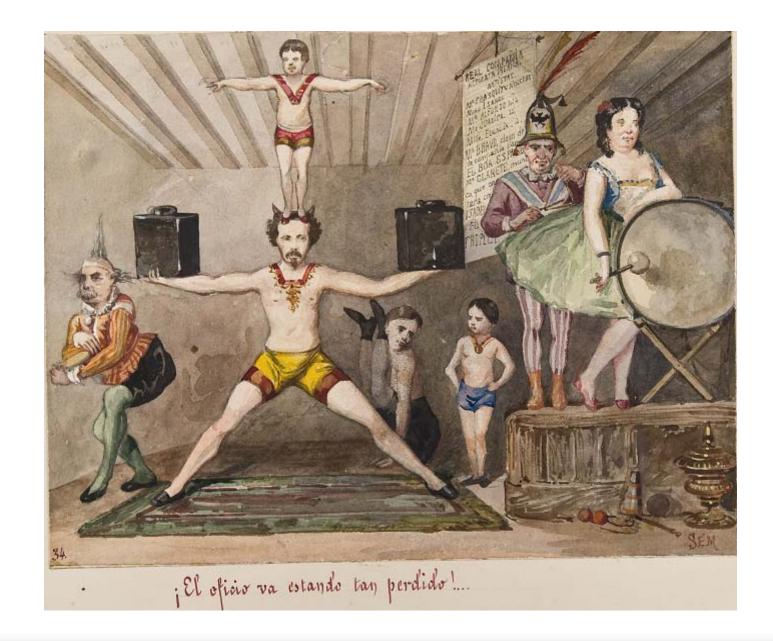








; No es l'àstima que una niña como èstor, que se encuentra bien en su casor, voujor d' buscar los deshechos de lors agenois?





THE QUEEN'S TWO BODIES: BEYOND PRIVATE AND PUBLIC IN THE BIOGRAPHY OF ISABEL II OF SPAIN

Isabel Burdiel © 2012

Red Europea sobre Teoría y Práctica de la Biografía

EETBB

