

June 2008

Eating Moors and Christians

Sandra M. Castillo

Follow this and additional works at: <https://orb.binghamton.edu/harpurpalate>

Recommended Citation

Castillo, Sandra M. (2008) "Eating Moors and Christians," *Harpur Palate: a Literary Journal*: Vol. 8: Iss. 1, Article 40.

Available at: <https://orb.binghamton.edu/harpurpalate/vol8/iss1/40>

This Poetry is brought to you for free and open access by The Open Repository @ Binghamton (The ORB). It has been accepted for inclusion in Harpur Palate: a Literary Journal by an authorized editor of The Open Repository @ Binghamton (The ORB). For more information, please contact ORB@binghamton.edu.

Castillo: Eating Moors and Christians

EATING MOORS AND CHRISTIANS

Sandra M. Castillo

We eat the mixture of two Cuban staples: *arroz blanco y frijoles negros*, cooked together until the rice is brown, *mestizo*. I can smell the oregano, *comino*, the cilantro Mother removes, though I can still taste it, and we crowd around the small dining table (which has been moved to the backyard), pass the bread, the *papitas fritas* in this corner of *Marianao*, *La Habana*, Cuba, seven hundred and fifty-one years after *La Reconquista* though Spaniards still parade through the streets of Alcoy dressed as Valencian peasants, *peones*, Navarre soldiers (marked with the cross of St. George), stage battles of victory against those who choose to play *Moros*, to carry the scimitars, Saracen war axes, the Muslim crescent, to ride camels or elephants against the *Cristianos* who take the *papier-mâché* castle in the afternoon, burn effigies against the Valencian sky, beat Al Athrak, who surrenders to *Los Reyes Católicos*, signaling the coming of Columbus.