Desire and Death in the Spanish Sentimental Romance, 1440-1550

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As Gerli states, Celestina’s uniqueness lies in its exploration of the human subject as something that emerges out of a fundamental reconfiguration and rethinking of desire, and from the trauma of the conclusive awareness that lives lived desiring have no reachable or knowable metaphysical object or foundation.

In addition, Gerli stresses the importance of language to communicate desire and eroticize objects, such as Calisto’s chain and Melibea’s girdle (chapter one, The Chain of Desire: Linking Language and Longing in Celestina); and the characters who experience or traffic in desire, in their pursuit of longing, in the end find not only the end of desire but the end of.