A Bibliographic Genealogy of Migraciones

Gloria Gervitz has described Migraciones both as “a poem that grows in me like a tree” and as a “poem-river.” The first stream of poetry emerged from its headwaters when Gervitz began writing “Shajarit” in August or September of 1976. Since then, the poem has also grown like a tree.

The genealogy of Migraciones could be represented as follows:

1 Fragmento de ventana subsumes, alters, and expands on Shajarit.
2 Yiskor subsumes, alters, and expands on Fragmento de ventana and includes a new, second part: "El libro de Yiskor."
3 Migraciones (1991) subsumes, alters, and expands on Fragmento de ventana and the second half of Yiskor, which become parts I and II respectively of the new poem, and "Leteo" (published previously as a separate poem in three, successive iterations) is added, as part III.
4 Migraciones (1976–1996) subsumes, alters, and expands on Migraciones (1991), by incorporating Pythia as part IV of the poem and "Equinoccio" as part V.
7 Treno is published as a bilingual chapbook, edited by Hernán Bravo Varela and Roberto Tejada, in collaboration with the author. This publication contains an updated text in Spanish of "Treno" with an English translation by Roberto J. Tejada.
8 Migraciones/Migraciones, a bilingual edition with the English translation by Mark Schafer, contains a revised and expanded text of Migraciones. This book was first published in the UK by Shearsman Books and a few months afterward by Junction Press. The Junction Press edition incorporated a few, very minor changes to the Spanish and English texts that appeared in the Shearsman Books edition.
9 On the eve of Paso de Barca’s 2017 publication of *Migraciones: 1976–2016*, a last-minute question about pagination leads Gervitz to radically reformat the entire poem, removing all section divisions, titles, and epigraphs, and nearly all capitalization and punctuation. This edition incorporates a revised version of the text of *Blues*, which in turn had subsumed and dramatically expanded on the 1996 publication of "Just the Blues" and what, in the 2002 edition of *Migraciones*, had been titled "Equinoccio".


12 The Libros de la Resistencia edition, Gervitz's final version of *Migraciones*, incorporates minor changes to the text, including shifting a line in Hebrew back one page, resulting in the final, revised pagination of the entire poem.

© 2021, Mark Schafer