



Azorín: la invención de la literatura nacional. Edición de José María Ferri Coll, Enrique Rubio Cremades y Dolores Thion Soriano-Mollá, con prólogo de Miguel Ángel Lozano Marco. Madrid: Iberoamericana/Frankfurt am Main: Vervuert. 2019. 383 pp.

Azorín: la invención de la literatura nacional is an extensive study of the prolific and long-lived Spanish journalist, essayist and novelist José Martínez Ruiz (1873–1967), also known as Azorín. The book is divided into five Parts, each containing between two and six studies: I. ‘La ideación azoriniana del concepto de nación’; II. ‘Nacionalidad literaria’; III. ‘Cervantes, padre de la nación literaria española’; IV. ‘Azorín, modelo de la literatura nacional’; and V. ‘Europa y la nación literaria española’. The first Part of the book focuses on Azorín’s shifting politics; the second examines and problematizes his notion of ‘national literature’; the third deals specifically with Martínez Ruiz’s interpretation and application of Cervantes (and Velázquez); the fourth with his contributions to the journal *Destino* (Barcelona); and the fifth and final one mainly with his later works. Azorín is difficult to categorize because of the diversity of his work and because he lived so long. The label ‘Generation of 1898 author’ seems particularly constraining in relation to Azorín. He wrote regularly, even throughout the 1950s, with three significant novels published during the 1940s.

[...]

[...]

While I have not been able to mention all of its valuable contributions in this short review, I heartily recommend the entirety of this volume to readers interested in immersing themselves in the ideas of this uncategorizable author. Azorín is subjective, oneiric and allusive (maybe even elusive!), and at the same time perceptively aware of the world around him.

