

Comedia famosa: Casa Con Dos Puertas Mala es de Guardar
Num. 96
Calderón de la Barca, Pedro, 1600-1681

This copy of “Casa Con Dos Puertas Mala es Guardar” is a suelta (num. 96) which was published by Joseph Padrino in Seville, calle de Genova. It begins on page 1 and ends on page 32. It is difficult to make out, but handwriting written in ink on the back indicates that it was being sold in Lima, calle Concha en la Imprenta Yornas (the last word is difficult to make out).

William James Cameron published *A Bibliography in Short-title Form of Comedias Seltas printed in Sevilla, 1748-1772 by Joseph Padrino*, which is a part of the Western Hemisphere Short Title Catalog Project, but the Library of Congress does not own this title (number 38 in the series); an inquiry for the book was made, but it is out of print and unavailable. It was published in London, Ontario at the University of Western Ontario in 1987. The best estimate, based on the information provided in the title of Cameron’s work, would be that the suelta was printed between 1748 and 1772.

Hilborn (1943, p. 124) and Briones (1991, Vol. 1, p. 273) note that “Casa con Dos Puertas Mala es de Guardar” was written in 1629. It was included in the *Primera Parte de Comedias*, published by Don José Calderón in 1632 (Briones, 1991, Vol. 1, p. 273). The play is modeled after “La Dama Duende” which had been met with great success in 1629 (Briones, 1991, Vol. 1, p. 273).

Hesse (1967) writes that “The House with Two Doors” is “one of the best” cloak and sword plays (p. 48). The plot revolves around two sets of couples. Lisardo, who just came back from the wars in Flanders, is staying at his friend Felix’s home. Felix’s sister, Marcela, also lives in the home, and to protect her honor, he orders her to keep away and stay hidden under a veil. Marcela, however, meets Lisardo while wearing her veil out on the street and later shows him

her face, but he does not know that she is Felix's sister. Felix, on the other hand, used to love Laura but now has fallen for Nise, but he discovers that Nise doesn't love him. After Nise's rejection, Felix assures Laura that he still loves her, but throughout the play she has her doubts.

Hesse explains,

The tempo of the action is stepped up as the four lovers become more and more enmeshed in a complex situation that involves jealousy, the persistent attempt by Marcela to keep Felix from discovering her dealings with Lisardo, Laura's effort to retain her faith in Felix's love...and Lisardo's unsuccessful attempts to identify Marcela. (p. 50)

Much of the play takes place in Laura's house, which has two doors that the characters constantly enter and leave through; these quick comings and goings add to much of the confusion of identities. At the play's end, all is revealed and both couples wed (p. 50-51).

Works Cited

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Hesse, E.W. (1967). *Calderón de la Barca*. New York: Twayne Publishers, Inc.

Valbuena Briones, A. (1991). *Obras completas: Pedro Calderón de la Barca* (2nd ed.) (Vol. 1).

Madrid, Aguilar.