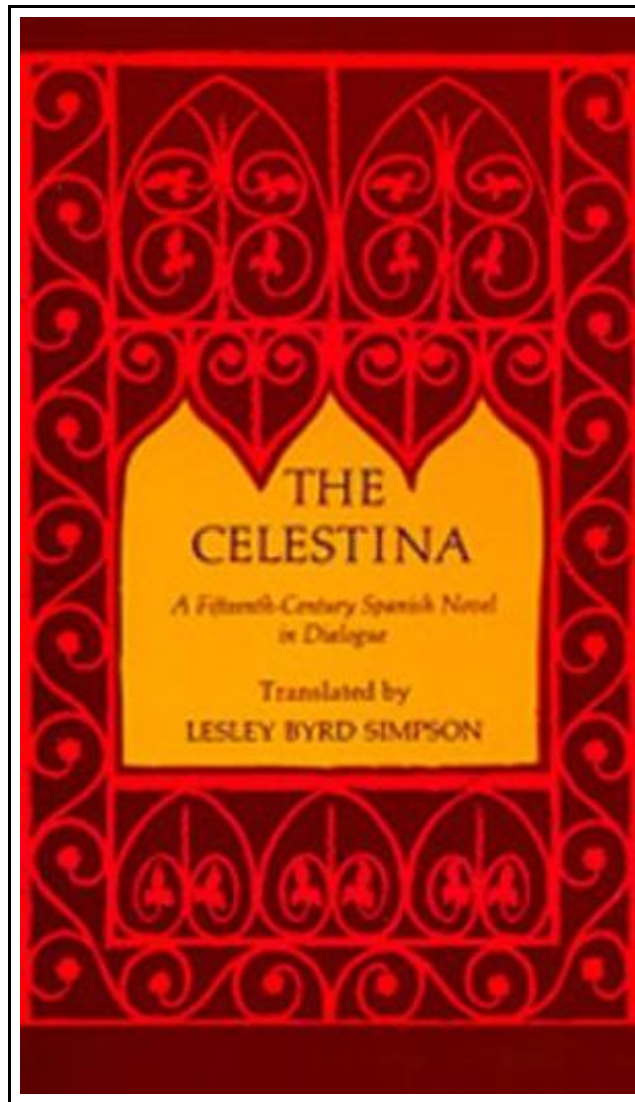


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University of California Press, United States, 1958. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 183 x 109 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. The Celestina is the first European novel, a fifteenth-century Spanish masterpiece remarkable for its originality, depth, handling of dialogue, and drawing of character. The plot is simple. A young nobleman enlists the services of Celestina, an old bawd, to help him seduce a girl; the seduction ends in tragedy. It is not, however, the love story that is important. It is Celestina who dominates the scene. She is a frank and lusty old pagan of the Renaissance, brimming over with classical lore and a salty wisdom gained in the course of a vigorous and sinful life, which she still loves with a wonderful heartiness. Her greatest regret, indeed, is that in her remote youth she neglected some few opportunities to enjoy herself. In her old age her pleasure is in purveying pleasures to others. She is one of the great creations of all literature and has a secure place beside her two compatriots, Don Quixote and Sancho Panza. This Spanish classic, the greatest of the forebears of Cervantes, was originally published anonymously, in 1499; later editions bear the name of Fernando de Rojas as author, in acrostics. Readers familiar with Lesley Byrd Simpson's translations of *Two Novels of Mexico* by Manuel Azuela, *The Poem of the Cid*, and *Little Sermons on Sin: The Archpriest of Talavera* will not be surprised that he has preserved the vigor and colloquial flavor of the original. Notes on the edition, from the translator's preface: The Burgos edition of 1499 [the earliest surviving edition and the one upon which this translation was based] was published anonymously. After 1501 the name of Fernando de Rojas appears in acrostics as the author; but he,...

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