

A Brief History of the PALABRA Archive

(The Archive of Hispanic Literature on Tape)



The Hispanic Reading Room

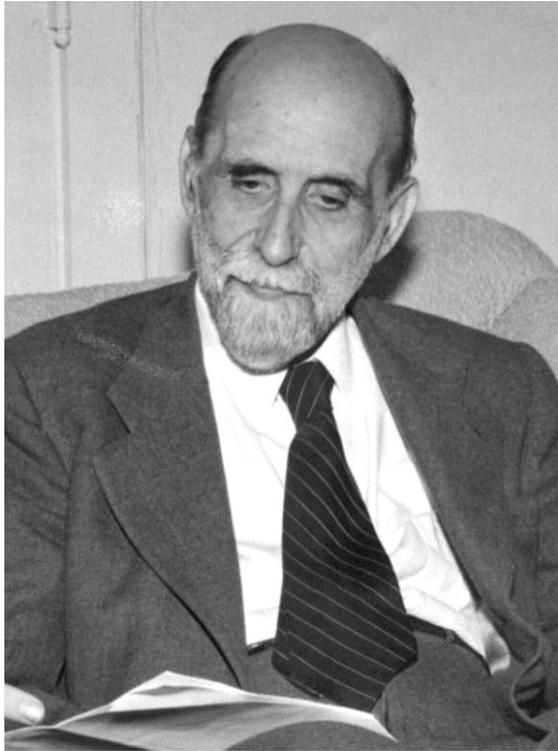
- Hispanic Division is founded in 1939
- Literary readings at the Library of Congress begin to be recorded and archived (Archive of Recorded Poetry and Literature is born)
- In 1943, the first session for the PALABRA Archive is recorded.



Pablo Neruda recording for the PALABRA Archive in 1966

A Brief History of the PALABRA Archive

(The Archive of Hispanic Literature on Tape)



Juan Ramón Jiménez



Gabriela Mistral

- Juan Ramón Jiménez is Recorded in 1947
- Gabriela Mistral records in 1950 and advises the LOC to also record writers in their native countries.

Cradle Song

(by Gabriela Mistral, translated by
Langston Hughes)

The sea cradles
its millions of stars divine.
Listening to the seas in love,
I cradle the one who is mine.

The errant wind in the night
cradles the wheat.
Listening to the winds in love,
I cradle my sweet.

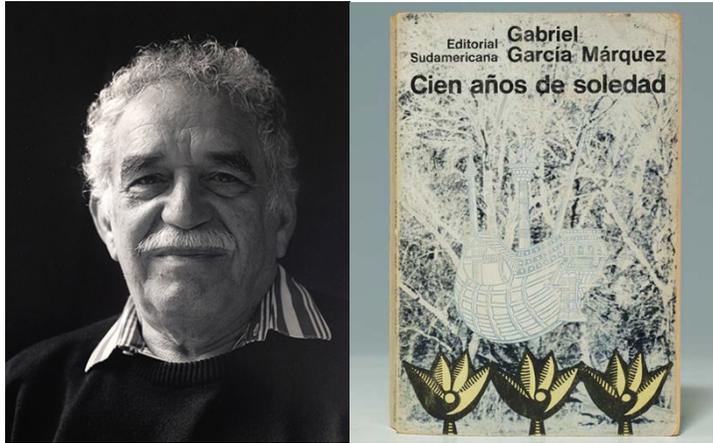
God Our Father cradles
His thousands of worlds without sound.
Feeling His hand in the darkness,
I cradle the babe that I have found.



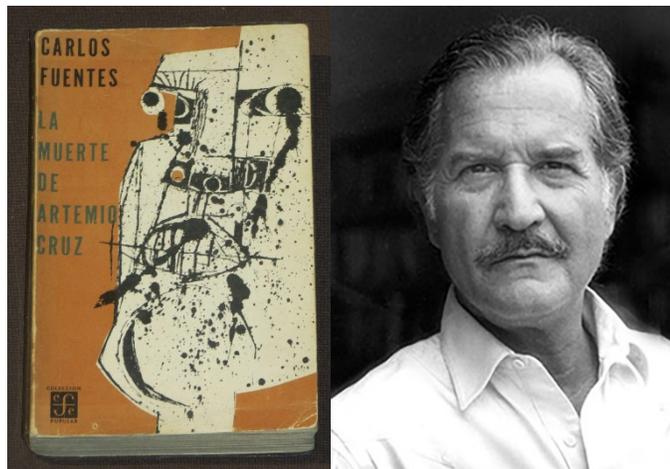
Francisco Aguilera,
first curator
of the Archive

- 162 recordings are captured in Latin America between 1958 and 1961 by F. Aguilera.

A Brief History...

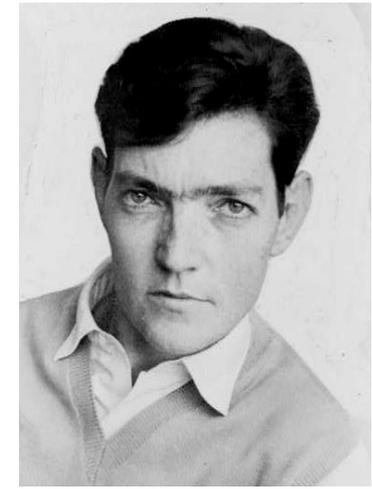
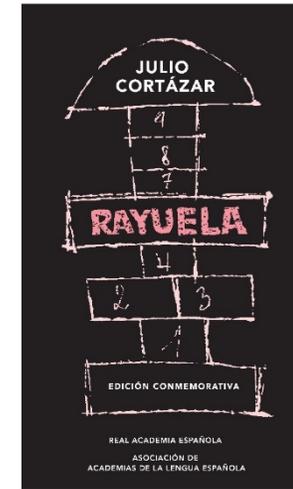


Gabriel García Márquez and cover of *One Hundred Years of Solitude* (1965)

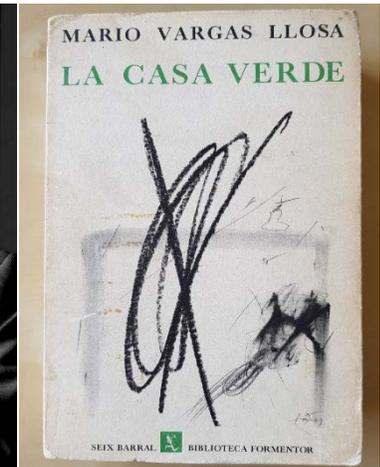
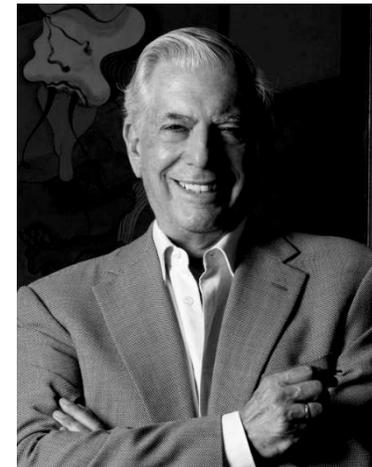


Carlos Fuentes and cover of *The Death of Artemio Cruz* (1962)

Latin American
'Boom' writers
record in the
1970s



Julio Cortázar and cover of *Hopscotch* (1963)



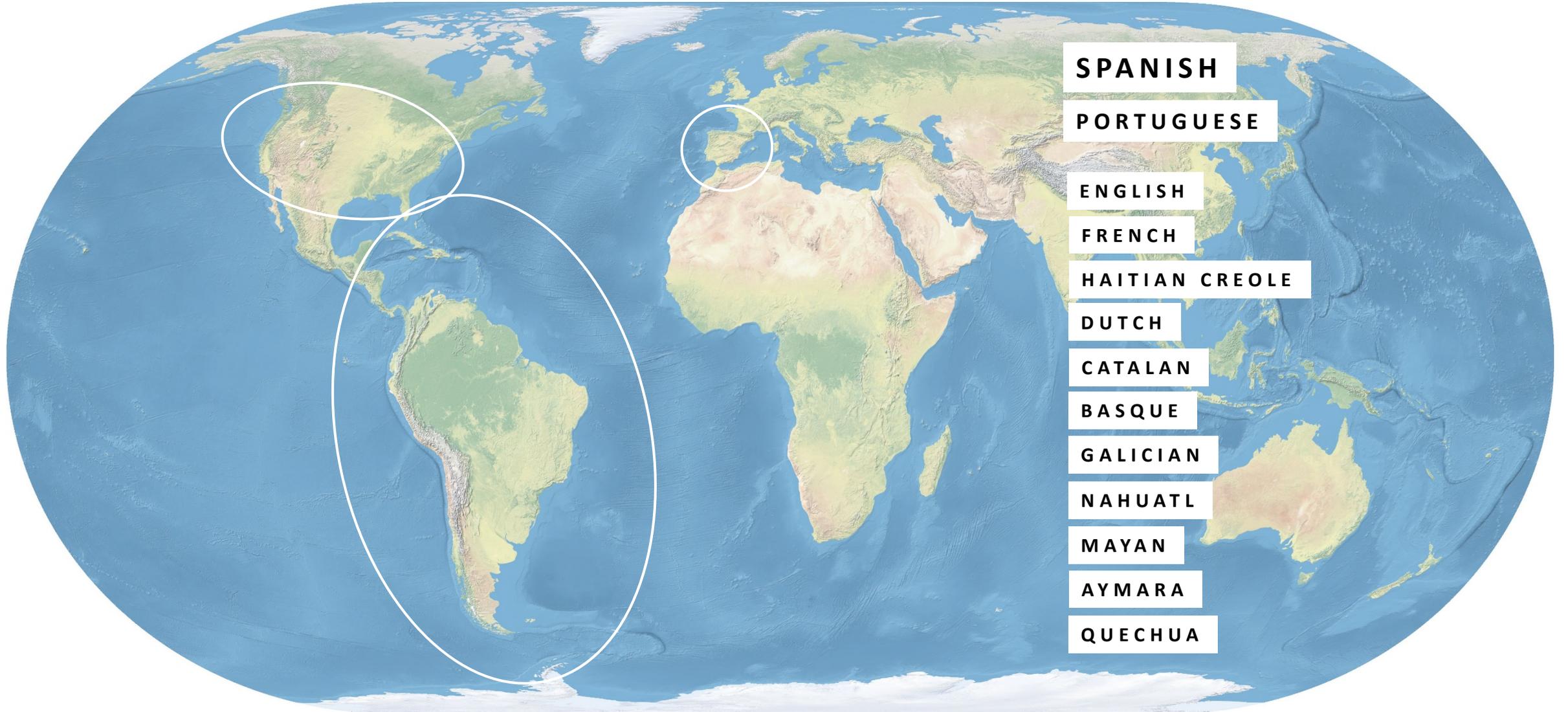
Mario Vargas Llosa and cover of *The Green House* (1966)

A Brief History...



- 2006 – born digital recording begins
- 2013-2017 – Digitization of analog recordings
- 2015 – Recordings are made available online
- 2020 – New brand
- Today the Hispanic Division continues recording authors

Languages Covered



Highlighting Indigenous Languages

AUDIO RECORDING

Maya Tzeltal playwright Isabel Juárez Espinosa reading from her work

Maya Tzeltal playwright Isabel Juárez Espinosa reading from her work

00:00

About this Item

Title

Maya Tzeltal playwright Isabel Juárez Espinosa reading from her work

Summary

Ms. Juarez describes her experience as a Maya Tzeltal playwright and reads an excerpt from her work.

Contributor Names

Juárez Espinosa, Isabel, 1958-

Archive of Hispanic Literature on Tape (Library of Congress)

Created / Published

2019.

Contents

Part of

The Palabra Arch
Archive of Hispan
Library of Congres

Format

Audio Recording

Contributors

Archive of Hispanic Literature on Tape (Library of



Maya writers Manuel Bolom Pale, Isabel Juárez Espinosa, and Juan Álvarez

Accessing the PALABRA Archive

The screenshot shows the top navigation bar with the Library of Congress logo and a search bar. Below the navigation, there's a breadcrumb trail: "Library of Congress > Digital Collections > The PALABRA Archive > About this Collection". The main heading is "COLLECTION The PALABRA Archive". Underneath, there are tabs for "About this Collection" and "Collection Items". A "Featured Content" section displays five audio recording thumbnails with navigation arrows. Below this, there are sections for "About this Collection", "Rights and Access", and "Expert Resources".

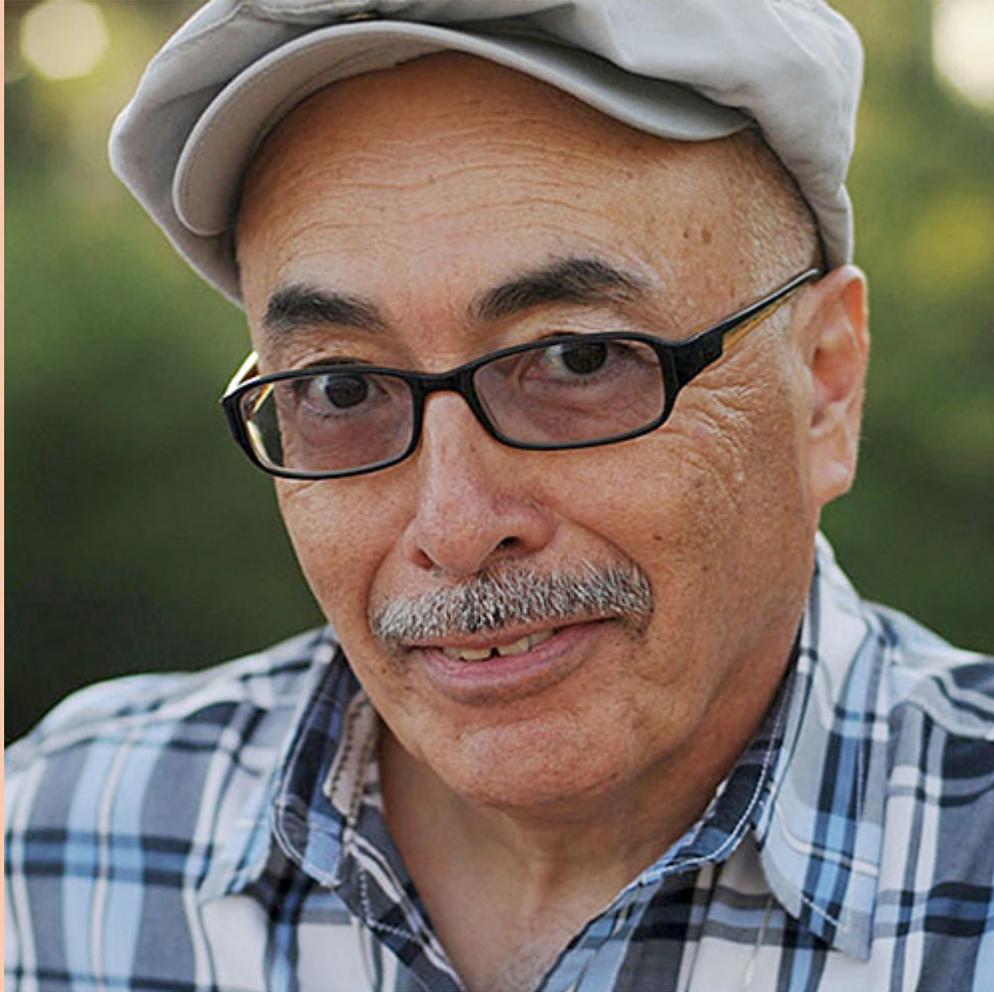
- The PALABRA Archive Online Feature contains a portion of the archive available for online streaming.

The screenshot shows the "RESEARCH GUIDES" section of the website. The main heading is "The PALABRA Archive at the Library of Congress". Below this, there's an "Introduction" section with a sub-heading "Introduction". The text describes the archive as a collection of original audio recordings of poets and writers from Latin America, the Iberian Peninsula, the Caribbean, and other regions with Luso-Hispanic heritage. A sidebar on the left lists various categories: "Recorded Authors", "South America - Recordings", "Central America - Recordings", "North America - Recordings", "The Caribbean - Recordings", "Europe - Recordings", "Africa - Recordings", "Spotlight on U.S./Hispanic Writers", and "La Biblioteca Podcast". There's also a "Caribbean, Iberian & Latin American Studies" section with a "Ask a Librarian" button. At the bottom, there's a "FEATURED RECORDING" section with a video player showing a recording of Gabriel García Márquez.

- The PALABRA Archive Research Guide provides reference to the complete archive.

The PALABRA Archive in the Classroom





Former U.S. Poet Laureate Juan Felipe Herrera

**Join us
next week!**

Contact us!

Catalina Gómez cgom@loc.gov

Hispanic Division hispref@loc.gov

- [Subscribe to our mailing list](#)
- [Subscribe to the 4 Corners of the World Blog](#)
- [Follow us on Facebook](#)

Thank you!

**Questions? Post them in the chat
box!**

