THEATRE IN THE SPANISH GOLDEN AGE
1500-1700 C.E.
THE FLOURISHING
OF AN EMPIRE

- literary
- arts
- music
- science
- exploration
- imperialism
- baroque
- explosion of the ornate
THE RENAISSANCE

SPAIN

Painting
Sculpture
Architecture
Theatre

Francisco Pizarro- Conquistador
The conquest of Inca Peru was led by Francisco Pizarro, 1531
Las Meninas
(1656, English: The Maids of Honour)
by Diego Velázquez

Diego Velázquez artist

Cervantes
writer- Don Quixote

Lope de Vega playwright, poet
SPANISH DRAMA

SPANISH RELIGIOUS DRAMA-

- Autosacramentale- associated with Corpus Christi - the sacraments
- combined cycle plays and morality plays
- performed by tradespeople/guilds
- toured neighboring towns- performing on wagons or cares
- by 1647- fixed platforms, also performed in front of churches
SPANISH DRAMA

SPANISH SECULAR DRAMA -

- 1470-1550 - the study of Classical Greek - including plays
- some secular performances - not as common as Religious Drama
- by 1550 professional acting troupes
- by 1590 some 30,000 plays had been written in Spain
- early playwrights: Lope de Rueda, Juan de la Cueva, Miguel de Cervantes (Don Quixote)
- Lope Felix de Vega Carpia - the most prolific playwright - changed the structure of drama - or deviated from classical tradition (Aristotle - The Poetics)
NEW COMEDY
SPANISH DRAMA

• New Comedy- broke from tradition
• developed in Spain
• incorporated mixture of classes
• used contemporary themes, plots, characters
• mixed style of language- blank verse, varied meters
• did not adhere to one locale, one time, or one plot
LOPE DE VEGA
TRAGEDIES, COMEDIES, STYLE

- Lope Félix de Vega Carpio or Lope de Vega
- 25 November 1562 – 27 August 1635
- born a few years before Marlowe and Shakespeare- lived longer
- considered Spain’s most important playwright
- wrote over 2200 plays- over 500 survive
- also wrote poetry and novels
- wrote a treatise on the art of drama- titled- The New Art of Writing Plays
LOPE DE VEGA
ASPECTS OF HIS WRITING

• clearly defined actions, arousing suspense, dealing with conflicting claims of love and honor

• happy resolved endings

• characters representing every rank and condition of people

• female roles among his best

• extended the simpleton character (gracioso)

• natural and lively dialog – many forms used- meter-blank verse, etc.

source: http://novaonline.nvcc.edu/eli/spd130et/spanish.htm#gol
REVIVAL OF WORK
IN 21ST CENTURY

- Dog In The Manger
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wkp56UsWfwo
- https://vimeo.com/ondemand/thedogof
ANOTHER WORK
THE FOOLISH LADY, THE SIMPLETON LADY, THE STUPID WOMAN

- recent translations
- adapted for film
- recent stage adaptation
- Wit’s End

Short Description:
A very fast and funny comedy about a pair of sisters in love with the same man, although the marriage arranged for the younger sister with another nobleman throws the house into chaos. The ‘foolish lady’ is Finea; her older sister Nise is as educated as her sister is silly. However, through the power of love, Finea gains a new kind of intelligence.

http://www.outofthewings.org/db/play/la-dama-boba