Contents

Acknowledgments

ix

Introduction

3

Chapter 1.

Humboldt in Mexico: The Aleph in Latin America

18

Chapter 2.

Désiré Charnay in Mexico: Between Politics and Science

41

Chapter 3.

Fanny Calderón in Mexico: Objects and Identity

59

Chapter 4.

John Reed in Mexico: Between Comedy and Epic

78

Chapter 5.

Gabriela Mistral in Mexico: Teacher, Mother, and Saint

Chapter 6.

Antonin Artaud in Mexico: The Economy of Failure

120

Chapter 7.

The Beats in Mexico: Vagabond Poets William Burroughs and Jack Kerouac

142

Chapter 8.

"An Oasis of Horror in a Desert of Boredom": Mexico in Roberto Bolaño

165

Conclusion

186

Notes

189

Bibliography

215

Index

227