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An Interview with *EDGARDO COZARINSKY*

Literary and film critic, writer of fiction and film scripts, director of features and documentaries, Edgardo Cozarinsky (Buenos Aires, 1939) keeps genres and discourses in constant flux, permeating each other in an ongoing dialogue of forms. Through the 1960s he frequented literary and film circles in Buenos Aires, especially the group around Victoria Ocampo's illustrious journal and publishing house Sur, which included Borges, Bioy Casares, and Silvina Ocampo. He published an early book on Henry James, and eventually made a first film in 1971, but his work as a filmmaker and as a writer mostly developed only after he left Argentina and settled in Paris in the mid-1970s.

His departure coincided with what was quickly becoming a wave of exiles from the Southern Cone, due to military dictatorships in Chile, Argentina, and Uruguay that lasted well into the next decade. Though many exiles headed for Mexico or Spain, a substantial number of intellectuals went elsewhere in Europe, especially Paris. Ever since the nineteenth century, writers and artists from Latin America (from Spanish America, above all) looked to Paris as a place of pilgrimage, an almost obligatory rite of passage in their cultural formation. Rubén Darío, Miguel Angel Asturias, Alejo Carpentier, César Vallejo, and Alfonso Reyes were but a few who spent significant years in Paris through the first half of the twentieth century; later, most of the writers in the so-called Boom spent time there, either early in their career (Mario Vargas Llosa, Gabriel García Márquez), or intermittently, or even for most of their adult life (Julio Cortázar, Severo Sarduy). Moreover, the French reception of such literature was well in advance of its interest among Anglo-Americans. Paris was the place where writers from throughout the continent were most likely to cross paths, and during much of the twentieth century it was somewhat considered the capital of Latin American literature. For more recent generations of writers, coming of age amid