

VII col·loqui internacional Mimesi



Vides d'escriptors a l'Edat Moderna: retòrica, història i poètica

IV. POÈTICA I HISTORIOGRAFIA

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Poetics in Gregori Maians' lives of literary writers

Poetics are an inherent element of biography, with which they maintain a close link. This relationship is clearly manifested in Gregori Maians' lives of poets, making it an excellent field to explore its materialization during the Enlightenment. This is precisely the aim of this presentation: to offer an analysis of the Valencian's biographies of literary writers in a way that contributes to a better understanding of the relationship between theoretical and biographical discourse during the 18th century. In other words, the concurrence of interests and methods of poetics in biographical discourse is explored through the examination of the lives that Maians dedicates to Antonio de Solís (1732), Miguel de Cervantes (1737), Luis de León (1761) and Virgil (1778). With that being said, the tendency to incorporate theoretical discourse into biographical discourse was already consolidated in the 18th century, and, therefore, it is essential to take its antecedents into account. This

is why the presentation also studies, albeit briefly, the development throughout the Renaissance and the Baroque of this long-standing trend.

Finally, analysing the presence of these theoretical notions in the biographies of writers also implies examining the aesthetic ideas that Maiani conveys using biographical writings as a medium. Therefore, the presentation also traces his beliefs surrounding concepts such as the purpose of art, eloquence, verisimilitude, *imitatio* and good taste, and surrounding notions such as rarity, fecundity, and wonder, among others. The way this second group of terms should be approached leads to a final thesis: there is a clear need to review the animosity towards the Baroque that has traditionally been attributed to Maiani.