

SHORT STORIES FOR ORAL SPANISH

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Short Stories for Oral Spanish by Anna Woods Ballard & Charles Oran Stewart

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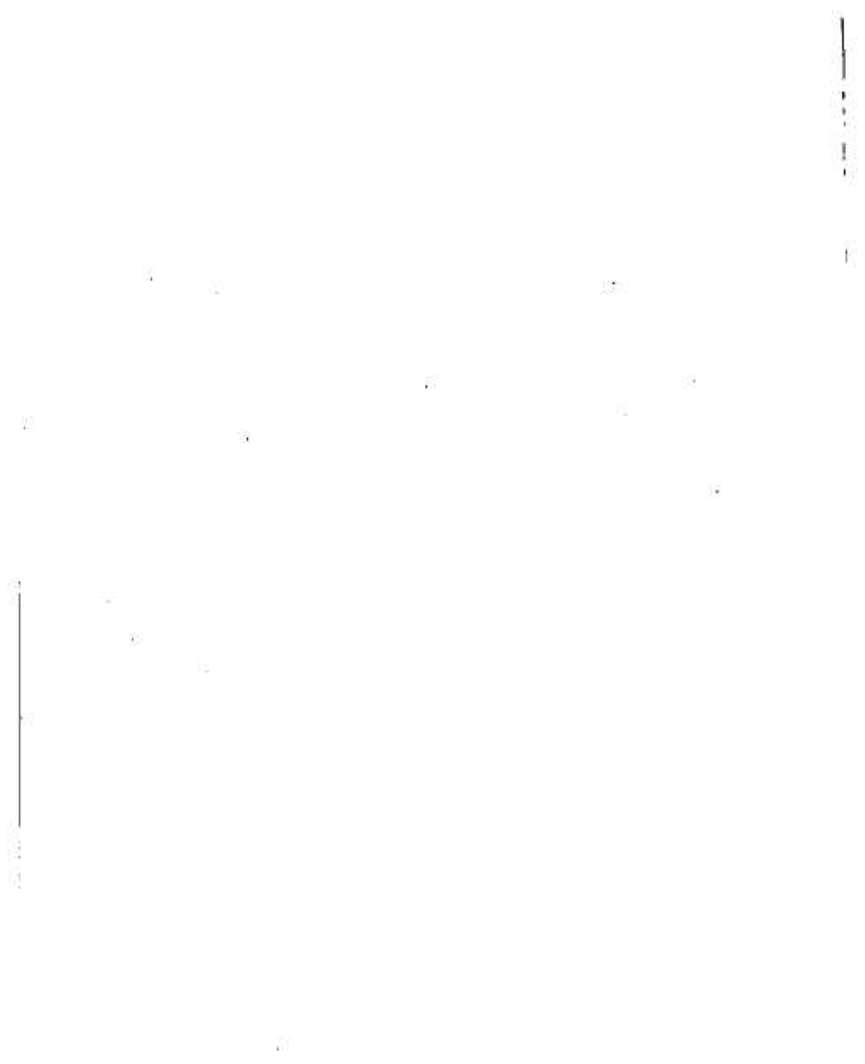
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BY

ANNA WOODS BALLARD, M.A.

DIPLOMÉE DE L'ASSOCIATION PHONÉTIQUE INTERNATIONALE
IN CHARGE OF FRENCH IN THE SCHOOL OF PRACTICAL ARTS, TEACHERS COLLEGE
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

AND

CHARLES ORAN STEWART, M.A.

HEAD PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH, STATE NORMAL COLLEGE, KUNTZVILLE, TEXAS

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PREFACE

This collection of simple stories is offered to teachers and pupils for oral work. It is difficult to find material easy enough and interesting enough for successful conversation; yet, in oral work that he can thoroughly master, the pupil finds the most stimulating exercise in his modern-language work. Once the story is his own to tell freely it is a short step for him to write it correctly.

It is a principle of the Reform Method never to require work to be written that cannot be spoken fluently; always to require a correct written reproduction of what is known orally. The willing spirit in which pupils meet these demands is the surest guarantee of their soundness.

The very complete—some will say too complete—questions have been added to encourage the pupil who finds oral work difficult. Many find it very hard who would like to do it well. Even the slowest of mind can prepare himself perfectly for any question on the text by mastering the questions set for him, and will gain almost unconsciously the power to tell the story.

No attempt has been made to grade the stories as to difficulty except that the easiest come first. Practically all have been simplified and shortened. They can be used for oral work no matter what other text-books are appointed, and suitable stories for all grades are included. They are arranged in the hope of helping and stimulating those who have hitherto done little oral work or who foresee difficulties in attempting it.

If the written work is required constantly as the sequence of the oral, the effort put forth by the pupils and the successful

results will astonish teachers. What they love to do they do well.

Especially able assistance, which is gratefully acknowledged, both in the preparation of material and in the reading of proof, has been given by Miss Alegra Hutton of John C. Frémont High School, Oakland, California, by Miss Anna Ford and Señor Rafael Echeverría of University School, and by Señorita Pilar Mériz of Madrid.

A. W. B.

C. O. S.

PREFACE TO SECOND EDITION

The authors wish to express their heartiest thanks to Erasmo Buceta of Johns Hopkins University for the care and painstaking attention with which he has read the proof of this new edition of "Oral Spanish."

A. W. B.

C. O. S.

HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

1. Tell the story slowly with pupils' books closed, being sure that all understand. Explain in Spanish the meaning of any word new to the class; make constant use of action, often the easiest way to explain words.

2. Have the class open their books at the story; let the teacher pronounce it sentence by sentence, the class repeating after him; drill on words hard to pronounce; then have the class read the story through to be sure they pronounce correctly.

3. On the following day the pupils should be ready to answer orally any question on the story; they are to prepare to do this by trying to answer readily the questions that follow the story. The class should be able to tell the story at this lesson. They may do this sentence by sentence in order as they sit, or one pupil may tell the whole story.

4. The next day they should be able to write the story in class.

5. All stories learned should be thoroughly and frequently reviewed throughout the year. When they are well known, many stories can be told in the space of fifteen minutes.

6. The method of treating the stories must vary according to the class. In the case of adults who have done no oral work, the books should be open from the beginning; the story should be read sentence by sentence after the teacher until the class can read it fluently together. Then the questions should be read and answered in class before the lesson is assigned for home work. This method may be followed in the beginning with any class which has studied Spanish without oral work and does not understand the spoken