

The Warring Brothers: Borges Reads Kafka and Flaubert

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This article examines the preparatory materials that Borges used to teach courses at the Colegio Libre de Estudios Superiores in Buenos Aires, on Kafka in 1951 and on Flaubert in 1952. Though several well known essays emerged from these courses – “Kafka y sus precursors”, “Flaubert y su destino ejemplar” and “Vindicación de Bouvard et Pécuchet” – the manuscripts reveal far more of Borges’s research and thinking about the two authors. Key concepts that he develops in these essays include his unusual (and influential) idea of the “precursor” that is only revealed through reading later works and heterodox ideas about realism and verisimilitude. [Article copies available for a fee from The Transformative Studies Institute. E-mail address: journal@transformativestudies.org Website: <http://www.transformativestudies.org> ©2020 by The Transformative Studies Institute. All rights reserved.]

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In the early 1950s Borges taught a series of courses, and gave talks, at the Colegio Libre de Estudios Superiores, an institution that had been founded in 1930 just before the coup d’état against Hipólito Yrigoyen and that during what is usually called “el primer peronismo,” the presidential terms of Juan Domingo Perón from 1946 to 1955, served as a sort of open university. Three of his talks there were published at the time in the Colegio’s magazine, *Cursos y Conferencias*, while some were

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