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The Denial translated by the author and James Brasfield

Arturo Fontaine

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The Denial

On a radio program
about writers of the thirties,
Luis Castro was pronounced dead.
But we meet him on the street;
he has made his denial.
He told them very serenely —
first, that it is not true;
that his last book is *Lute*.
Secondly, there are two new books
ready, waiting for a publisher.
And thirdly, that at sixty-three
he probably has a lot more poetry to write.
Finally, in any case,
it was not his intention to offend,
and he was grateful for the mention.

Staring at his polished shoes
as if absentminded, he asks:
And you young people,
what do you think of my poetry?
But he says goodbye suddenly
before anyone can speak.

Arturo Fontaine

*Translated from the Spanish
by the author and James Brasfield*