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Nota di contenuto	Acknowledgements -- Preface -- A clearing in the jungle: from Santa Monica to Macondo -- The law of the letter: Garcilaso's comentarios -- A lost world re-discovered: Sarmiento's Facundo and E. da Cunha's Os Sertoes -- The novel as myth and archive: ruins and relics of Tlon -- Bibliography -- Indices.
Sommario/riassunto	This book offers a theory about the origin and evolution of the Latin American narrative, and about the emergence of the modern novel. It argues that the novel developed from the discourse of the law in the Spanish Empire during the sixteenth century, while many of the early historical documents concerning the New World assumed the same forms, furnished by the notarial arts. Thus, both the novel and these first Latin American narratives imitated the language of authority. The book explores how the same process is repeated in two key moments in the history of the Latin American narrative. In the nineteenth century, the model was the discourse of scientific travellers such as von Humboldt and Darwin, while in the twentieth century, the discourse of anthropology - the study of language and myth - has come to shape the narrative. Professor Gonzalez Echevarria's theoretical approach is drawn from a reading of Carpentier's <i>Los pasos perdidos</i> , and the book

centres on major figures in the tradition such as Columbus, Garcilaso el Inca, Sarmiento, Gallegos, Borges and Garcia Marquez.
