

**Publishing:** Fundación Uxío Novoneyra, Valumbo collection Nº 7

**Poetry:** Uxío Novoneyra

#### Texts, reading and illustration: Inacio

**English translation:** Mark Wiersma and Tareixa Iglesias

**Composition and musical performance:** Benxa Otero

Chorus on "Galicia´s litany" ("Letanía de Galicia"): María Vilasó, Antonio Fernández and Marta Negro

#### **Sound technician:** Arturo Valdasano

Music studio: Beograd

**Photography:** M. J. Méijome (*pp. 9, 13, 14, 17, 20, 26 e 35*) Lavandeira (*retrato de Uxío Novoneyra. Madrid, 1964*)

#### Language consultant: Elva Rey

Language revision: Marta Negro Language style of poet was always respected on his texts.

**Editorial design:** Inacio, Álvaro Negro and Niko Alvarellos

## Graphic design and layout:

Niko Alvarellos Designed using Indesign, Illustrator and Photoshop, and Swift of Gerard Unger, Helvetica Neue of Max Miedinger and Edouard Hoffmann fonts.

#### Printing:

Alvarellos, S.L. Printed on paper Cocoon offset recicled 160 gr. en interior. Cover on card board Cocoon offset recicled 350 gr.

© Edition, Fundación Uxío Novoneyra © Works of Uxío Novoneyra © Play writing and drawings, Inacio © Music, Benxa Otero

DL: LU 34-2013 ISBN: 978-84-941161-0-0

#### **Play fact sheet**

#### Texts:

Uxío Novoneyra (Os eidos; Do Courel a Compostela; Tempo de Elexía; Poemas da doada certeza i este brillo premido entre as pálpebras and Dos soños teimosos)

**Play-writing, staging and scenography:** Inacio

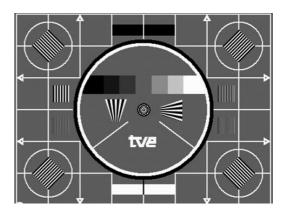
**Soundplasty:** Benxa Otero

Performers: Inacio and Benxa Otero (horn, guitar and loop station)

**Video Editing:** Marcos Vilariño and Alberto Quintá

Wardrobe: María Chenut There's no need for it to be told for whom this canticle is for.

1 In 1963 Uxío Novoneyra directed the RTVE program Versos a Medianoche [Midnight Verses] broadcasted with the testcard.



In that program Uxío called on universal literature: Mallarmé, Rilke, Mayakovsky—here called Maya to overcome censorship—the beatniks... On July 25, the Galician Day of Patriotism, and with the dictatorship in full swing, Uxío had the courage to recite Xosé María Díaz Castro's "Penelope":

ONE step forward and another one back, Galiza, and the fabric of your dreams remains unmoved...

Upon finishing, "Negra Sombra" [Black Shadow] plays.



Awe is the name of this piece in which poems by Uxío are interwoven with fragments of a long interview granted to Emilio Araúxo and documented in *Dos soños teimosos* [Of stubborn dreams].

2 I must go to Pía Páxaro and to Boca do Faro lay down in a clearing in the Campa da Lucenza



I must go to Devesa da Rogueira and on to Donís out to Rebolo to Pinza and to Chao dos Carrís.

I must go to Lousada and to Pacios do Señor to Santalla, to Veiga de Forcas, and on to Fonlor.



I must go to Cebreiro passing through Liñares ascend Iribio to Cervantes and on to Ancares



I must go to Cido and to Castro de Brío descend and stroll along the shore of the river.

I must go to Céramo, over to Faro and then sweep down slowly towards Oéncia and León.

I must go to Vales and Pena da Airexa and to a field where no one can see me.



3 Writing as if nothing were written and the idea that words don't cover the silence was the purpose of *Os Eidos* [Home Fields].

WOLF traps! Boar paths! lonely expanses where no one went nor nor will go.

The wolf of *Os Eidos* is not a perverse animal, although I know that in reality it is, that it's very crafty, and hunt really well hunt very well...like a man, and understands how to hunt a roebuck like a man. No, no, my wolf is a prince of solitude.



The wolf! The eyes the back of the wolf!

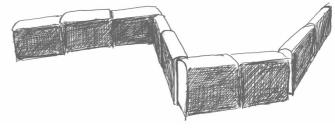
The wolf shoots through the forest's scope moving in yew tree's twigs rustling in the trails' dry leaves searching out the loneliest and frightening ravine...

Tracking It stops and sniffs Sets its paw lifts its head and wails at the moon with all the night's shadows in its mouth.

4 For this reason I'm telling you that more and more I'm amazed at that state of **Os Eidos**. Not of **Os Eidos** as a book. What amazes me, and what I'm amazed at, still amazed at, is what I felt, do you understand? The experience of how I arrived there and how I installed myself in that world, and succeeded in having that world filled me. IT runs through the mountain scanning like a maniac passing deep paths and the rocky, mountain steps.

It crosses the entire range alone bringing along no companion other than the great presence of the sky over the silence of the bog.

I don't know where it goes while I stand there watching it I only know that there's where the dream I'm dreaming comes true...



The road ascends descends twists and dies in the distance...

Few descriptions, nothing can give the impression of a land as well as merely names of the places and the toponyms that are now also starting to disappear with the last farmers.

THERE goes José de Parada crossing all alone the Devesa do Rebolo.

Galloping lazily he crosses wine country towards Viana do Bolo.

He leaves the range behind He carries a soul that's signed with the sadness of the road. When one of them vanishes, its not only one individual that vanishes; its a home, a village, a way of life that believed itself to be eternal and which was the basis of the Language that vanishes.



HERE come the ropers to weave the cords! The work has finished. The snow has arrived. I see the rain and the wind for those who can't be inside

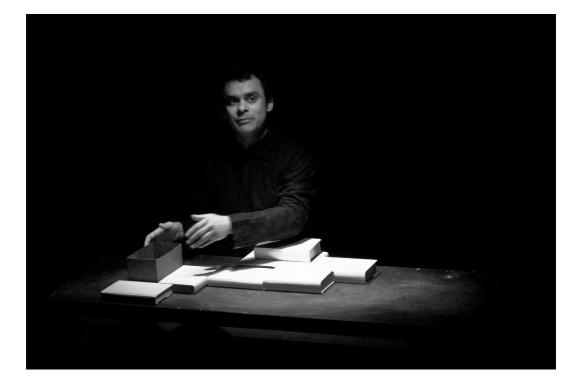
I in mine and each in theirs with bread with firewood with grass for the oxen and later come what may: It's the farmers prayer.

Fatten the pigs kill them salt and smoke them. Bit by bit dripping in the fat Little by little the coals getting closer Something always needs doing at home.

5 I was born and raised in Parada do Courel

## THE PARADA HOUSE

The old stone and lime house sunroom and windows facing the mountain range made a hundred years ago according to my taste



It was a really well-made house, with a very solid roof. At its corner were extremely thick blocks, and when the strong winds came I was never afraid that the wind would pull off the roofing. It gave a feeling of security, and therefore the wind didn't frighten me, perhaps because I was certain of this.

THE wind roams free through the fields with all its wings flayed out impregnating the chestnut trees ripping stone plates from the roofs whirlpooling in the doorways.

If I had once witnessed my own house's roof flying off, well then, the wind would alarm me. This explains why in the elegies, there's this verse that tells of the trust there is in the winter wind: "Winter wind, from where do you know me?" Observe the peacefulness it's spoken with, as if they knew each other.

At any rate, a safe house is always very important in the mountains.

IT SNOWS like as I say it snows in that poem

IT SNOWS on the peak's chin snowing already on the slopes it snows on the roof and the farmland.

IT SNOWS thick drifts in the tiny valley It snows over Corzariza It snows on rocky badlands It snows on the tall oaks And covers all the undergrowth It snows on the chestnut groves and on absolutely all the branches It snows on stones and on the holm oaks It snows for me before my eyes

.....

The snow falls powder-like.





6 Childhood and war went together. I remember war, maybe because it was so mixed up with childhood, as an incredibly rich period. It was the only time in which there was music in the village every Sunday. It's strange. Indeed, there was music in the village every single Sunday with dancing, bagpipers...Every single Sunday.

THE WINDS arrived, blowing towards Rodela The fairs arrived time for the little girl to show a little leg.

Little girls, little girls, little girls little damsels with thin waistlines young little girls of the new harvest The fairs came, the feasts arrived.



It must be something that happens with wars in general, that the vital impulse is multiplied, youth's vital impulse, perhaps due to the risk.

# 7 The house of Manuel Cela Macía, from Parada, who was taken for one-way ride having just turned 21 in 1936.

The repression. They killed Manuel. I wrote it forty years after they took him for a walk. I've carried these events inside, without having written about them, for forty years. Forty years.

#### BALLAD OF MANOEL FROM RIBADAIRA

To Federico Garcia

THROUGHOUT the mountains the men are searching At night they knock MANOEL CELA they called out MANOEL DE RIBADAIRA to those who know him They tear him away from the arms of his parents its told they've said that they came down

on his back all the way down **REAL** They say that he promised them the double barrel shotgun and the hunting dog he'd trained and that he would not appear for years that they'd slice off a finger and take it as proof to those who had sent them to kill him.

They went past SAVANE e MEIRAOS Few saw them, all stepped back in sight of TEIXEIRA they came to a stop next a large gully they chose the spot he turned in the air with the first shot then there was a second, a third, and a fourth they tossed in his body without finishing him off threw stones and brush in afterwards something had been seen, cattle ranchers had heard a poor man carrying a sack brought word the PARADA city council went to pull him out they had to take two lines and attach them to his father's waist who goes down tied up with crossed loops and buckles they bring up MANOEL, dead, followed by his old father, then carry him over the slippery terrain placed on a litter crossing places through a through a dreadful hole stomping crowded feet he who left on foot and returned on a litter all the way to SAVANE and behind the church square

turning up REAL the council quiet all with the same silence charged they arrive in PARADA the entire town is waiting for them in front of the house there was I a child of six and the most piercing cries from the mother and sisters until one by one they began to faint



it's told it was four men who took him for a walk and that all of them died tormented they were four and I silence their names it's now been forty years to the day



I'VE been cleaning the house of junk and furniture cupboards and attic leaving no trace Flirting with touching my ancestor's hands

8 I recall, and I don't think it was something that only happened to me, it happened in many places, not only in Galicia, [but also] in Spain, that wearing some piece of red clothing automatically meant repression. They told my mother to make me take off the red sweater but she didn't do it. And so once, at the fair, the falangists came after me. I was what, seven years old or so? and with a pocket knife they cut it right off of my skin. They took the sweater and gave me a long lecture, they tore the sweater to shreds and lectured the entire town, that's what they told me.

EVER since I was small I always went to see the overflowing river giving me this gesture that I know.

In '55 I was in Betanzos. This is the memory I brought from Caneiros to Tesos Cumes.

MANDEO, gently, to the sound of the night

The river's ripples softly subsided carrying lonely boats through the infinite sea and night.

Regarding the boats:

women! wine! viands!

The river's ripples softly subsided carrying lonely boats through the infinite sea and night.



We eat and drink to happiness.

The river's ripples softly subsided carrying lonely boats through the infinite sea and night.

Wine and viands raise me up to the full moon.

The river's ripples softly subsided carrying lonely boats through the infinite sea and night.

When the red wine that doesn't lose its color in hearts is no longer enough for our thirst we bring our lips to deeper glasses

The river's ripples softly subsided carrying lonely boats through the infinite sea and night.

Women were true like wine.

The river's ripples softly subsided carrying lonely boats through the infinite sea and night.

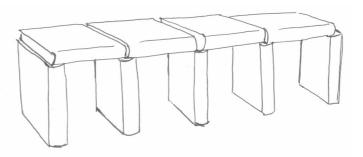
As time passed, it pushed me further from death.

The river's ripples softly subsided carrying lonely boats through the infinite sea and night.

In the long miracle I always tried to follow, subsiding, in the boats

In Madrid, at the National Library, I began to undertake my research. It's where I found primitive literatures, primitive poetry, and the great cultures of the past. And then, upon returning to Galicia and being drawn to defensive and critical nationalism, I began to read our classic writers, first Pondal and Rosalia, and then the medieval ones, which I read a lot of.

WITH YOU I speak with you King Alfonso Esguío e Torneol Pero Meogo and Mendiño that you carry in flower with you King don Denís of Portugal Per Amigo Roi Fernández from Santiago Martín Códax from Vigo with you hoarse-voiced Galicians, glass-crafted Galicians Xoan Airas Airas Nunnes Bernal de Bonaval Martín de Padrocelos near where I was born Esteban Coello—gorgeous rags and soft song Xohan Zorro of the dance and boats at Lisbon Cerceo Bolseiro that from Armea that from Guillade that from Ambroa and that from Ponte Lourenzo Martín Moxa Eanes do Cotón Roi Paes Soares Lopes Lopo Lías and so many others.



And among all acrobatic performers only you María a Balteira beautiful sweet dice caster of the first dance.



I am troubadours of the thought who should not consider himself troubadour a troubadour who troubles himself with troves without likewise being the empty sufferer unable to hush without bursting

There's no need for it to be told for whom this canticle is for.

10 You already know about the poem of Ith. They asked me for a poem, they asked me for the Poem of Ith for a new magazine, because there was already another magazine called "Ith." And do you know what I told them? It was mid-October, and I told them: if the general strike is a success I'll write you this poem. And you'll recall that it was that strike in which the workers cut the power to the Television at midnight, and which had such an impressive apparatus of worker and union strength.



Of course it wasn't just the midnight coup, the next day the total triumph of the general strike appeared on television. And so I, having finished lunch as the TV news program concluded, walk to the living room and write the Poem of Ith. •••

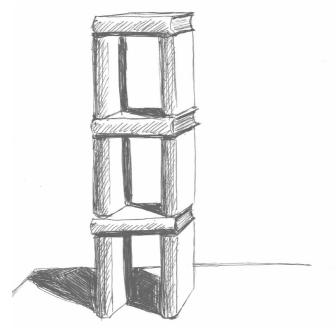
**SO** Ith, son of Breogán, he who saw, and who went to Ireland from the Tower of Hercules, who saw it in the mirror, and is a visionary, and the symbol of certainty and confidence in the future.

> In the tower of night listen to the calling of far-off farness

Ith came down from the tower at sunset. It's unknown whether it flees.

Or if it's carried along solely by certainty towards the nighttime Boreal North.

Hey there Future Man! We've been waiting for a moment of certainty such as yours. Oh tower that finds itself climbed!



## AND WITHOUT WITHHOLDING, MOVE THE BORDER

And without withholding (withholding ourselves is what they say we Galicians do). Withholding and taking all precaution, conscious of our own strength and of the difficulty.

#### 11 I toss aside a pillow

and adjust the name of the homeland to mend a dream

Elegiac pain is basically founded upon or provoked by a consciousness of death or by distance. The impetus for the Elexias do Courel [Courel Elegies] was probably the death of two friends in the same year, in 1958: the poet Luís Pimentel in Lugo,

YOUR death left me naked With your loss I feel all that I have to lose Your image is before me, in the space pain envisions The owl cries and I hold vigil.

And then later, a short time after, the painter Carlos Maside in Compostela.

CAN a man die? Where is Compostela now? I don't now how to think of you dead. I open the window and watch the sierra for you

In 1973 Ernesto Che Guevara dies, and in the same year María Mariño, the Noian of the Courel, also dies. Dynamiter of speech, she squeezes, breaks, struggles with, smacks conventional syntax, detrivializing expression-knowing, perhaps, that the true essence of our language is freedom. María Mariño wrote:



WHITE paper, shredded. paper, yell, yell among the strong from where my words hurt you. Then came the deaths and elegies to Luís Seoane, 1979; Reimundo Patiño, 1985; Ánxel Fole, 1986; Xosé María Díaz Castro, 1990, e Antón Avilés de Taramancos, 1992.

12 As Galicians at this time we ended up obsessed with Galicia. We ended up being, and continued to be for a long time, obsessed.



GALICIA I say another says GALICIA we all say Even those who remain silent say and they know

GALICIA of pain GALICIA of sadness GALICIA of silence GALICIA of hunger GALICIA blindfolded GALICIA ears plugged GALICIA tied GALICIA GALICIA GALICIA we know

cries against its will sad against its will silenced against its will emigrant against its will blind against its will deaf against its will still against its will

free to serve	free to serve
free to not be	free to not be
free to die	free to die
free to flee	free to flee

farmer GALICIAour GALICIAmariner GALICIAour GALICIAworker GALICIAour GALICIAbrotherhood GALICIAGALICIA still lives

I assemble you from off the GROUND	you're deep down
I assemble you from the PEOPLE	you're in everything
I assemble you from HISTORY	you're blurry

I assemble you and raise you up in the whole word in the true word that the people speak I assemble you for the youth who are coming in strength for those who haven't yet been marred by manacles for those who know that you can be something else for those who know that humankind can be something else

> we know that you can be something else we know that humankind can be something else

## **13** Poetry of declaration or intervention?

Yes, there is something that wants to be made patent, that wants to be communicated, without a doubt. There's even a will towards communication, an impetus towards communication.



THOSE who have us like this only have of ours our names in the census.

What relationship do you weave between poetic and political discourse?

In Courel a Compostela the word is made to be orally communicated, to be thrown.

GALICIA, will it be my generation who saves you? Will one day I go from the Courel to Compostela via liberated land?

No, the strength of our love cannot be in vain!

# How do you conceive of nation and poetry? Could you retrace the origins of the Vietnam Song?

When I write the **VIETNAM CANTO** I am already back in the Courel, having come from Madrid. I already had a feeling—like a premonition—that some new form of the word would come to me. Naturally, I was very invested, very taken by the epic of those people. They were doing alone what we all should have done together, you know? and so, after making some notes, from out of those disparate fragments, I begin to construct the poem, I start to play with the typewriter.

# PEAKS PEAKS PEAKS PEAKS WITH THESE ECHO ONCE FOR EACH DEATH

one dead two dead three / thirty dead three hundred / three thousand dead TET OFFENSIVE 22000 / 100000 dead all the os become zeros 0000000000000000000 beneath each 10 / 100 / 10000 dead by machine precious deceased that the night welcomes among reeds beneath the monsoon's deluge do monzón under the moon of TET



living now shames me living now and watching **SPRING** unfold when does a nation come to and end?

a nation is always being born

it never ends never ever nevereverneverevernever

I know because of you a people like mine tiny **GALICIA** alone everyone's responsibility

the dead	dead
dead	dead



O indeed, I have so much of you small as I am this dead peace

```
nightnight
split this n / i / g / h / t into bits
so that in each only one man fits
standing
up
```

they enter the cities of the SOUTH EAST and yet now they're all the neighboring village HUE SAIGON DANANG

far





with my brothers and relatives day-to-day Galicians but who didn't forget it as we've forgotten it so much that sometimes, close, they call man and we scan for him

I'ts not me too who stays here who's killing there GALICIA struggling like KANSAS NEW JERSEY CALIFORNIA COLORADO IOWA struggles











such clean names?



let's empty out the names but still stillstill people I can say yours with a strength Still your name can be said of those who there fell we can

from them we again have

	man nation	,
/ MARÍA MARIÑO	dynamiter of SPEECH /	
	man-nation	
	man-nation	

# MAN-NATION

for centuries it had been a nation like mine mine for centuries had been a nation just like it

#### GALICIAN BROTHERHOOD VIETCONG

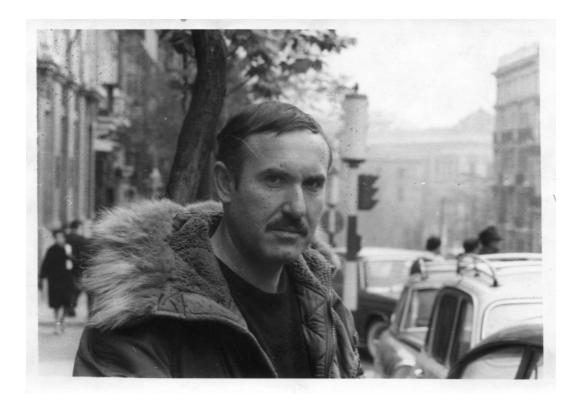
between my mother ANA love they between them love ANA you three students in LUGO nameless in VIGO MÉNDEZ FERRÍN with him and you MARÍA MARIÑO CHÉ tears 1967



no

I know that singing is not the same forgive as well this time since words although sincere have evening on their sides and ellipses traced from a cannon's refrigerators

# the singing stopped without ending



This book was published on March 10th, 2013, 41 years after the assassination of two workers from Bazán at the hands of the police, and to whom Uxío dedicated the following poem:

# TO AMADOR REI RODRÍGUEZ AND DANIEL NIEBLA GARCÍA

Ferrol / morning March 10, 1972

YOU got up early that day / the habits of work / early morning to furnish us with your death