

This subject was also chosen on account of Lillian Hellman's concern for truth and her abhorrent feeling for injustice. Her persistent pursuit of truth is implicit in any item of her work, and is here studied in *The Children's Hour*, *The Searching Wind*, *The Autumn Garden*, and *Toys in the Attic*.

11. Maria Luiza Cyrino Valle. *The Quest for the Human: Characterization in T.H. White's The Once and Future King and The Book of Merlyn.*
Advisor: Ana Lúcia Almeida Gazolla, Ph.D. 10/09/82.

This work is an analysis of characterization in T.H. White's version of the Arthurian Legend, a tetralogy entitled *The Once and Future King* and a fifth novel, *The Book of Merlyn*, which was published posthumously.

The first part of this study presents an outline of the legend up to and including Sir Thomas Malory's text, which is the basic source for T.H. White's Arthurian series.

The second part deals with the novels which constitute the tetralogy: *The Sword in the Stone*, *The Queen of Air and Darkness*, *The Ill-made Knight* and *The Candy in the Wind*, and also with *The Book of Merlyn*. More emphasis is given to *The Sword in the Stone*, the first novel of the tetralogy, which narrates the boyhood of King Arthur under the guidance of Merlyn, since it is White's original contribution to the legend and for its bearing on the other novels.

Characterization is discussed as it becomes a thematic vehicle for White's contemporary preoccupation with the search for identity. The quest for the human is at the same time a theme and the basis of the process of characterization used by T.H. White.