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Cervantine Curiosity and the English Stage

- My paper will take as its point of departure the tale of the *Curioso Impertinente* from *Don Quijote* I, 33-35, a text that has not only given rise to an intriguing diversity of conflicting interpretations, to numerous Spanish plays as well, but in addition, to at least six English works for the stage in the 17th-century alone.
- Benjamin's concept of allegory, developed from *The Origins of German Tragic Drama*, will serve to analyze the Cervantine prose text as well as to illuminate my discussion of three English theatrical adaptations of it ranging from tragedy to comedy.
- An attempt will be made to account for the generic shift from the prose text designed to be read aloud by one narrator to the multimedial nature of theater, as well as to determine whether the theatrical appropriations conform to a consistently English set of cultural values and controversies.