

Gabriel Garcia Marquez

lays down pen

Language & Literature

By Paul Hamilos

HE is the 82-year old giant of Latin American literature who pioneered the school of magical realism and inspired a generation of novelists.

But now fans of Gabriel Garcia Marquez – who has barely written a word since his last novel, *Memoirs of My Melancholy Whores*, five years ago – are facing the prospect that after a career spanning half a century the Colombian author has finally laid down his pen.

His agent, Carmen Balcells, told the Chilean newspaper *La Tercera*: “I don’t think that Garcia Marquez will write anything else.”

Despite long-standing rumours he would never write again, hopes were raised last year when

the Colombian writer Plinio Apuleyo Mendoza, a friend, said Marquez was in fact working on a new novel.

But Balcells’s comments seem to put paid to that, and were supported by Garcia Marquez’s biographer, Gerald Martin, who told *La Tercera* he too doubts anything new will be published in his lifetime.

“I also believe that Gabo won’t write any more books, but I don’t think this is too regrettable, because as a writer it was his destiny to have the immense satisfaction of having a totally coherent literary career many years before the end of his natural life,” said Martin.

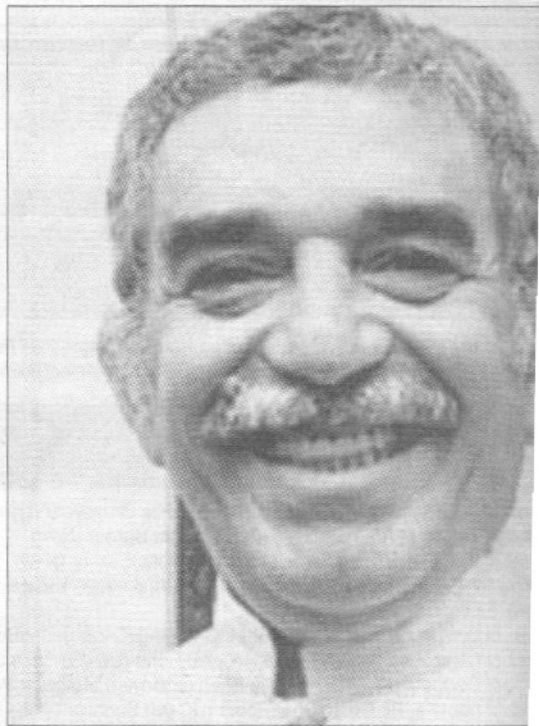
Garcia Marquez has in the past talked openly of the strain placed on him by his literary career. Last December he told fans

at Mexico’s Guadalajara book fair that he was worn out by writing: “It’s a lot of work for me to write books.”

He had previously admitted that 2005 “was the first [year] in my life in which I haven’t written even a line. With my experience, I could write a new novel without any problems, but people would realise my heart wasn’t in it.”

Garcia Marquez is best known for *One Hundred Years of Solitude*, *Love in the Time of Cholera*, and *News of a Kidnapping*. He was awarded the Nobel prize for literature in 1982.

A number of older, completed manuscripts are rumoured to be in his possession, but no decision has been made as to whether they will be published while he is still alive.—*Dawn/The Guardian News Service*



GABRIEL Garcia Marquez