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ON SOME SPANISH POETIC MANUSCRIPTS FROM THE BIBLIOTHECA PHILLIPPICA NOW IN CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

SOBRE MANUSCRITOS POÉTICOS ESPAÑOLES DE LA BIBLIOTHECA PHILLIPPICA AHORA EN CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

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ABSTRACT

A group of Golden Age Spanish literary manuscripts, among them several poetic collections or *cancioneros*, was acquired by Cambridge University Library at a Bibliotheca Phillippica auction in 1970. A summary list of these is provided, together with lists of other similar MSS acquired at auction in 1973 and by bequest from the library of E. M. Wilson (d. 1977). In the light of some recent studies referring to the 1970 acquisitions, consideration is given to desiderata in scholarly reference to manuscripts formerly in the library of Sir Thomas Phillipps (1792-1872).

KEYWORDS: Sir Thomas Phillipps; *cancionero* manuscripts; Bibliotheca Phillippica; Golden Age Spanish literature.

RESUMEN

Un grupo de manuscritos literarios españoles, entre ellos varias colecciones poéticas, fue adquirido por la Biblioteca de la Universidad de Cambridge en 1970 en una subasta de parte de la famosa Bibliotheca Phillippica. Dicho grupo se describe brevemente, junto con listas de otros manuscritos del mismo tipo adquiridos en una subasta de



1973 y por un legado establecido en el testamento del catedrático difunto E. M. Wilson (m. 1977). Además una norma deseable para citar los manuscritos procedentes de la bibliotheca de Sir Thomas Phillipps (1792-1872) se considera a la luz de problemas planteadas por varias referencias recientes a estos MSS.

PALABRAS CLAVE: Sir Thomas Phillipps; cancioneros manuscritos; Bibliotheca Phillippica; literatura aurea española.

In a recent article published in *RCIM*, Professor Patrizia Botta (2019) studies various textual questions arising from a poem by Quevedo, in the light of readings found in a hitherto little-known witness preserved in Rome, MS Corsini 625. In passing, the learned Italian scholar refers to three Quevedo MSS from the library of Sir Thomas Phillipps, citing them as «otros tres manuscritos (1317, 1319 y 1320) pertenecientes a la Bibliotheca Phillipica de Sir Thomas Phillipps en Inglaterra, que se subastó en Londres en 1970 (los tres manuscritos fueron a parar a la Biblioteca de la Universidad de Cambridge)» (Botta 2019: 35-36, n. 42-43). These numbers cited by Botta, however, are neither the actual Phillipps catalogue numbers of the MSS in question, nor their current Cambridge shelfmarks, but are merely the auction lot numbers; Botta very properly makes it perfectly clear that she had not inspected the MSS personally but was relying on the information provided by Blecua (1969-1981, III).¹ Blecua in turn states that he had worked not from the MSS but from a photocopy of them provided to him through the good offices of Prof. E. M. Wilson, together with the catalogue of the 1970 auction (Sotheby & Co. 1970). Neither of these factors is inherently a grave problem; the descriptions given in the 1970s Sotheby's catalogues of the Bibliotheca Phillipica auctions are generally adequate, and often are near-definitive. Two points arise, however, from these references to these three Cambridge Quevedo MSS. Firstly, the latter constitute only part of a remarkable group of over a dozen acquisitions by Cambridge University Library of MSS copies of Golden Age and Enlightenment literary texts from the 1970 sale of part of the collection of Sir Thomas Phillipps (1792-1872) in which we may detect the influence and interests of Wilson, including amongst others a fourth MS containing prose works by Quevedo. More similar material was acquired from a further auction of 1973, and a final batch of manuscripts enhanced the Cambridge collections in a bequest to the University Library following the death of Wilson in 1977 (Parker & Cruickshank 1983: 666). Secondly, it is obvious that what has long been a near-universal standard scholarly procedure in other fields for reference

1 Apéndice II: Nuevos manuscritos, pp. 494-521, at pp. 508 ff.

to MSS formerly in the Bibliotheca Phillippica is not yet established firmly in Hispanic Studies: that is to say, the inclusion of the numbers assigned to Phillipps MSS by Sir Thomas and his successors in cataloguing his library —namely his executor Edward Bond, and his grandson Thomas Fitzroy Fenwick— in all references to such MSS, as an integral element of identification equal in importance to the current location and shelfmark of the manuscript in question.² It is notable that Blecua nowhere cites the actual Phillipps numbers of the three MSS in question, although these are given by the sale catalogue lot descriptions whose numbering he uses to identify the manuscripts. These two separate but related points will be discussed in turn here.

BIBLIOTHECA PHILLIPPICA MSS OF HISPANIC INTEREST IN CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

The Quevedo MSS referred to by José Manuel Blecua and Patrizia Botta were acquired at the Bibliotheca Phillippica, New Series, VI, sale of June 1970 at Sotheby's (= BPNS, VI), which was one of the prolonged series of auctions of material from that library which took place over nearly a century between 1886 and 1981 —and even after that in the case of the residue of Phillipps material held by H.P. Kraus.³ There can be little doubt that Cambridge University Library arranged the purchase of these, and other, Phillipps manuscripts because of the interest and expertise of, and very probably at the suggestion of the University's Professor of Spanish at the time, the renowned Golden Age scholar Edward M. Wilson. The latter's involvement in this auction and in that of BPNS, IX (1973), as a consultant expert to Sotheby's in the identification of Spanish manuscripts, is attested by an introductory note to that effect in the 1973 catalogue, acknowledging his assistance in that role; I also know

2 For problems in the cataloguing and numbering of Phillipps MSS, see Hook 2004 and 2017: I, 232-261. Notwithstanding these peculiarities, wherever a MS bears a number or numbers assigned by Phillipps, Bond, or Fenwick, these numbers should be used as an integral form of identification in referring to that MS.

3 Abbreviations are those used in my study and catalogue of the Bibliotheca Phillippica's Hispanic materials, mentioned by Botta (Hook 2017); an account of the auction history of the collection may be found therein (I, 200-231).

personally of his interest in the New Series auctions because he was in contact on this matter with his counterpart at Oxford, Professor Peter Russell, while the latter was my research supervisor in 1973 (Sotheby & Co. 1973: viii).

The Phillipps numbers for the MSS concerned are as follows, together with their current Cambridge shelfmarks; the latter were not available to Blecua because the MSS had not yet been catalogued there when he was writing, and consequently are not given by Botta either. I also include the Sotheby's lot numbers to facilitate reference to the comments of Blecua and Botta:

<i>Bibliotheca Phillippica</i>	<i>Cambridge UL</i>	<i>Sotheby's Sale & Lot no.</i>
Phillipps MS 2915	CUL, MS Add. 7820	BPNS vi, lot 1317
Phillipps MS 2916	CUL, MS Add. 7825	BPNS vi, lot 1319
Phillipps MS 9615	CUL, MS Add. 7822	BPNS vi, lot 1320

In addition, CUL MS Add. 7821 (Phillipps MS 17447 [18029]) contains prose works by Quevedo.⁴ Other Cambridge acquisitions from the same 1970 sale that contain Spanish works of the xvith-xviiith centuries are MS Add. 7824 (Phillipps MS 8370), a copy of Lope de Vega's *La dragontea*; MS Add. 7812 (Phillipps MS 2475), a «Miszelania curiosa» of poetry and prose; MS Add. 7814 (Phillipps MS 2471), a volume of poems by Juan Alfonso Guerra y Sandoval; MS Add. 7815-7816 (Phillipps MSS 20979 and 8258), two volumes of poetry and prose by Diego Hurtado de Mendoza; MS Add. 7818 (Phillipps MS 2490), poems by Diego Molina Liñán y Arellano; MS Add. 7819 (Phillipps MS 7250), poems by Bartolomé Cairasco de Figueroa; MS Add. 7823 (Phillipps MS 3059), poetry and prose by Antonio de Solís. Later authors are present in two other MSS from the same source: Add. MS 7813 (Phillipps MS 8429), Nicolás Fernández de Moratín's *Arte de putear*; and MS Add. 7817 (Phillipps MS 8185), a volume of bibliographical notes by Juan Antonio Mayans. All of these are briefly described

⁴ The double numbering of this MS is caused by its having been catalogued twice in the Phillipps library; it is one of a small number of MSS affected by this mistake — a far larger quantity were not catalogued until after the death of Phillipps, and some indeed were never numbered at all.

among the entries for Cambridge MSS on the Janus database; fuller descriptions and lists of contents can in most cases be found in the Sotheby's sale catalogue entries for the items concerned.⁵

These acquisitions of 1970 were followed in June 1973 by a further eight former Phillipps MSS of a similar nature, five of which are of particular interest here for their poetic content. Phillipps MS 2466 (CUL, MS Add. 7939) is a volume of «Poesías varias», containing 236 poems by a number of authors including Antonio de Solís and other prominent figures; Phillipps MS 2420 (CUL, MS Add. 7940) has Pellicer on Góngora; Phillipps MS 2243 [24780] (CUL, MS Add. 7941) contains works by Diego Hurtado de Mendoza; Phillipps MS 2406 [24088] (CUL, MS Add. 7942) has a collection of poems on sacred subjects; and Phillipps MS 2405 (CUL, MS Add. 7946) has one of «Poesías serias y morales a varios asuntos». ⁶ The other three MSS acquired in 1973 were copies of dramatic works: Phillipps MS 2484, Vélez de Guevara's *El cerco del Peñón* (CUL, MS Add. 7493); Phillipps MS 20857, Martínez de la Rosa's *Lo que puede un empleo* (CUL, MS Add. 7944); and Phillipps MS 16988, *La cautiva española* (CUL, MS Add. 7495).⁷

A further group of manuscripts, with much more mixed content, arrived after the death of Edward Wilson, as a result of his bequest to the Cambridge University Library; among this batch there are some purchases which had been made in Wilson's

5 Their respective lot numbers from BPNS, vi, are as follows: 1318 (Ph. MS 17447 [18029]), 1333 (Ph. MS 8370), 1261 (Ph. MS 2475), 1278 (Ph. MS 2471), 1282 (Ph. MS 20979), 1283 (Ph. MS 8258), 1298 (Ph. MS 2490), 1252 (Ph. MS 7250), 1329 (Ph. MS 3059), 1271 (Ph. MS 8429), and 1292 (Ph. MS 8185). I am greatly indebted to Dr Frank Bowles, archivist of CUL, for his generous assistance in personally checking the four Quevedo MSS for me and providing me with their current shelfmarks (personal communication, July 2019). Dr Bowles also provides a reference to the Janus database (from which the entries for all these Spanish MSS can be located by searching chronologically through the corpus of Additional MSS acquired between 1973 and 1978): <https://janus.lib.cam.ac.uk/db/node.xsp?id=EAD%2FGBR%2F0012%FMS%20ADD.7820-7822%2c%207825>.

6 It must be noted that there were no fewer than four separate MSS numbered «2405» in the Bibliotheca Phillippica.

7 The lot numbers of these MSS in Sotheby 1973 (BPNS, ix) are as follows: 2097 (Ph. MS 2466), 2120 (Ph. MS 2420), 2125 (Ph. MS 2243 [24780]), 2192 (Ph. MS 2406 [24088]), 2200 (a mixed lot: Ph. MSS 2484, 20857, and 16988), and 2201 (Ph. MS 2405).

own name or through intermediaries at Sotheby's Bibliotheca Phillippica auction sales in 1970 and 1976.⁸ The manuscripts concerned are CUL, MSS Add. 8150, 8151, 8152-8153, 8154, 8155, 8156, 8157, 8158, 8159, and 8161. Only some of these are poetic MSS of relevance here: Phillipps MS 2455 (CUL, MS Add. 8150), Juan de Jaureguí's *Orfeo*; Phillipps MS 2206 (CUL, MS Add. 8152-8153), two volumes of poems by Joseph Laynez de Torreluenga; and Phillipps MS 22216 (CUL, MS Add. 8156), the *Cancionero de don Joseph del Corral*.⁹

A REFERENCE PROTOCOL FOR BIBLIOTHECA PHILLIPPICA MSS

The question of what constitutes scholarly «best practice» for reference to ex-Phillipps MSS is acutely posed here by the use of the numbers 1317, 1319, and 1320 cited by Botta (2019) and by her source José Manuel Blecua (1969-1981: III, 508), because these are simply the lot numbers assigned to the three MSS in question for the auction of June 1970 at Sotheby's salerooms in London, and were taken by Blecua from its catalogue. These numbers have, therefore, nothing to do with the numbering of the MSS in Sir Thomas Phillipps' library, nor with that of their current location, Cambridge University Library. If one consults the primary source for information on Phillipps manuscripts, namely Sir Thomas' own printed *Catalogus librorum manuscriptorum in bibliotheca D.Thomae Phillipps, Bt.*, one finds that his MSS 1317, 1319 and 1320 actually have no connection whatsoever with the Hispanic world, but belong to a group of French MSS Phillipps had acquired from Paris:¹⁰

1317 Compte de Trésor Royal, 1384.

1319 Procès entre l'Archevêque de Bordeaux, et le Chapitre de St. Severin, sur l'Exemption Ecclesiastique.

1320 Rentale et Cartulaire de l'Abbaye de Fristorf de Metz.

8 For the fact of Wilson's bequest, see the obituary by Parker and Cruickshank (1983: 666).

9 The lot numbers of these are as follows: Sotheby 1976 (BPNS, XVI), 3943 (Ph. MS 2455); Sotheby 1970 (BPNS, VI), 1253 (Ph. MS 22216) and 1254 (Ph. MS 2206).

10 *Catalogus* 1837-1871. Orthography in quotations is that of the source cited.

It should also be noted that, unless it is prominently accompanied by precise details of the specific sale concerned (i.e., its date and number), the use of lot numbers as a primary identifier for Phillipps MSS is potentially imprecise to the point of being misleading because of the repetition of the same lot numbers in different sales. Thus, even the relatively high lot numbers cited by Blecua and Botta are encountered elsewhere on four separate occasions in other sales during the prolonged series of *Bibliotheca Phillipica* auctions at Sotheby's: Original Series sale I (1886) had 3346 lots; II (1889) had 1413 lots; VIII (1896) had 1441 lots; and XII (1903) had 1355 lots (Hook 2017: I, 206-210). No fewer than five different Phillipps manuscripts could therefore be identified with each of the numbers cited by Blecua and Botta; only the precise reference both of these scholars give to the specific sale involved enables this potential confusion to be eliminated. It should also be noted that whilst the Original Series of auctions numbered the lots afresh from Lot 1 for each successive sale, the lot numbers of the ordinary New Series manuscript sales followed a single cumulative sequence throughout the Series. Account should also be taken of the fact that frequently in the *Bibliotheca Phillipica* sales one single lot could contain several manuscripts, sometimes consisting of quite disparate material; so that use of the lot number alone would be inherently imprecise in such cases for this quite separate reason. A further consideration is accessibility of the sale data to scholars; the relative rarity of complete sets of the sale catalogues nowadays means that there are few such in the academic libraries of Great Britain, and even fewer elsewhere. Obviously the sale details and lot number are an important detail in the construction of a full descriptive catalogue entry for a Phillipps MS, and constitute an essential point of reference in its provenance history; but for the purpose of summary identification use of the lot number alone is fraught with potential difficulties, as outlined above.

It should be noted that at least the references by Blecua and Botta specifically mention the *Bibliotheca Phillipica* provenance of these MSS, and sufficient information is provided within their studies to enable them to be tracked in the

relevant catalogues and identified securely. The same is unfortunately not always true elsewhere; a reference to one of these Cambridge Phillipps MSS (Add. 7822) by Alfonso Rey (2005) in his edition of Quevedo's *Grandes anales de quince días* makes no mention whatsoever of its Phillipps provenance or Bibliotheca Phillippica number, citing only the current Cambridge University Library shelfmark while simply pointing the reader to an earlier study by Victoriano Roncero López (1988) for further details and a description.¹¹ When, however, one looks at the relevant entry (no. 35) in Roncero López's list of witnesses for the text of the *Grandes anales*, one finds that nowhere does it record the Phillipps number of the manuscript in question, nor does it even mention Sir Thomas Phillipps or the Bibliotheca Phillippica.¹² This omission by Roncero López, followed by Rey, completely obscures the Bibliotheca Phillippica connection; the latter is, however, important for several scholarly reasons. Firstly, the Phillipps number of a manuscript generally leads us to what is often the earliest description or listing of the manuscript concerned, in one of the catalogues or lists produced by Sir Thomas or his successors. Secondly, where the Bibliotheca Phillippica catalogue listing is not in fact the earliest reference to a manuscript, it may still in turn lead us to such a previous listing in a catalogue of the sale or collection from which Phillipps had acquired the MS in question. Finally, knowledge of the former presence of a MS in the Phillipps collection is an important indicator of its possible accessibility or probable inaccessibility to specific scholars between its acquisition by Phillipps and its eventual sale during the decades-long dispersal of his library.

To sum up: MSS 1317, 1319, and 1320 of the Bibliotheca Phillippica have nothing to do with the Hispanic world. The use of the lot numbers from the prolonged series of Bibliotheca Phillippica auctions for the purpose of identifying ex-Phillipps

11 Rey (2005, III: 503-504), citing Roncero López (1988: 244-245), for a «descripción bibliográfica».

12 Roncero López (1988: 244-245, nº 35). The omission of provenance data does not seem, however, to be a consistent policy in Roncero López's catalogue of textual witnesses: for instance, the next entry (nº 36) states that «Pertenebió a la Colección Isasi». I am extremely grateful to Prof. José Manuel Fradejas Rueda and Sra. María José Pérez Martín for kindly providing me with a copy of this item, inaccessible in Britain.

MSS is best avoided; whilst the auction dates and the associated lot numbers have an essential role in producing a complete catalogue description for a manuscript, of course, they have little place in a summary reference because of the confusion that may arise from several causes associated with their use. Even for brief identification and passing citation, ideally the original Phillipps numbers should be an essential point of reference. The shelfmarks subsequently added by libraries and private owners following their acquisition of former Phillipps MSS must also be included as primary data for the convenience of other researchers. A clear and simple formula for including both pieces of information is to follow a model such as Cambridge University Library, MS Add. 7812 (ex-Phillipps MS 2475); or that given by José Manuel Fradejas Rueda (2014) for another former Phillipps manuscript: Madrid, BNE, Res. 270 (*olim* Phillipps 11719). The sequence of the two pieces of data can be reversed, naturally, if the focus of a study is the Phillipps collection rather than the specific manuscript or its present location, thus: Phillipps MS 2475 (now CUL MS Add. 7812). The use of the Latinisms *ex* and *olim* here is, of course, common practice in manuscript studies. What is not advisable, in scholarly terms, is the omission of all reference to the former presence of a particular manuscript in the Bibliotheca Phillippica, for the reasons outlined above. In this respect, whilst the references to the Cambridge Quevedo MSS by Blecua and Botta do enable us to trace their provenance history and their Phillipps connections, those by Rey and Roncero do not.

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