

INTRODUCTION TO THE THIRD EDITION

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The work being re-edited contains the *Editio Princeps* of the manuscript *Prolegomena ad Lexici Prophetici partem secundam*, enriched and revised for its third edition in English version, the reproduction of its facsimile, its English translation and a study in which the scientific, theological and philological aspects related to the text and its edition are of particular interest.

The manuscript is written by the author himself and it belongs to the *corpus* of theological writings of Isaac Newton which the author did not publish in his lifetime and which, after many vicissitudes, have remained almost entirely unpublished.

The need to publish a new edition of a work can come about for different reasons: because the print run has sold out and due to its special interest it is wise to republish it, because new information or aspects can be contributed which could improve the work or because the state of research on the topic has changed substantially and it is necessary to offer information on this evolution. To these three reasons we must also add, in this case, the need to translate the work to English, given the origin of the author of the manuscript, one of the greatest geniuses of Humanity, who elaborated and spread his science both in Latin and in English.

THE SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL REPERCUSSIONS OF OUR EDITION

By way of an introduction, it could be especially significant to evaluate the scientific and cultural repercussions that the edition of

the *Prolegomena* has had over the years since its first appearance in 1996 to the present day when a new revised and updated edition is being undertaken.

My intention here is not to give concrete information of reviews, studies or mentions made of the work in hand. At this point I only wish to contribute some reflections on the significance of preventing a work of Isaac Newton's from falling definitively into oblivion, but rather that it can be handed over to the world of culture and science to bring about new knowledge, to provoke new ideas and to occupy the place it deserves in that chain of marvels which is the evolution and progress of humanity.

Thus important is the challenge faced by the editor of any work, but the task carries a special relevance if, as is the case, this work was written by one of the greatest geniuses of our history. We are dealing, also, with a manuscript which has remained, for almost three centuries, in an undeserved anonymity because a accumulation of circumstances related to Newton's beliefs rendered its publication unadvisable in the author's lifetime.

The responsibility of revealing such a well-kept secret invites one to give one's all to the service of the task to ensure that the work derived from the manuscript, the printed edition, offers, with complete exactitude and clarity, that which the author would have wanted to grant personally to the printing presses. To do so, in such cases as this, is a long and conscientious task, destined to bring the work from the formal "chaos" in which it is found, to a "cosmos" in which the value of its content can be clearly identified. The reader will, on careful observation of the facsimile, be able to intuitively check part of what I am saying.

Carrying out this type of work is the practical dimension of a science, philology, which requires an important arsenal of theoretical knowledge of the discipline and a deep and specialised knowledge of the language in which the manuscript is written.

Today, in an age when we hand our work over to the publishers in its electronic form, in clear, computer generated writing, and prac-

tically composed and formatted, we find it difficult to imagine a scientific work of philological nature such as that which I have just described and which, in the case of the manuscript of the *Prolegomena*, is made worse by the difficulties which I will indicate below. Surprisingly, it has been in these years, of such intense technological development, that European legislation has taken an interest in these subjects and has come to value them, capturing in its articles a fair and just recognition of the work of the authors of editions of hitherto unpublished works, inserting an article which especially protects their intellectual property rights.¹

Aside from the repercussions to which, generically speaking, I have just alluded, I wish to dedicate some lines to another type of more concrete influences, some more direct and others more indirect, that the publication of the work, in 1996, has exercised in the field of the edition of the unpublished theological works of Isaac Newton.

EVOLUTION OF RESEARCH IN THE FIELD OF EDITIONS IN THE LAST YEARS

In April 1996 I had the satisfaction of holding in my hands, already printed, my first edition of the work *Isaac Newton, El templo de Salomón*.² With this work the *Editio Princeps* of the manuscript, handwritten by Isaac Newton, *Prolegomena ad Lexici Prophetici partem secundam*, which we have been referring to and whose subject matter

¹ The current Spanish Intellectual Property Law—complying with an European Union directive (Council Directive 93/98/EEC, 29 October 1993, “harmonising the term of protection of copyright and certain related rights”)—establishes a particular protection—under the title of intellectual property—to the edition of previously unpublished works (that is *Editiones Principes*) when the patrimonial rights of their authors or their heirs over such works has expired. The law, in such cases, grants to the scientific and the commercial editors, the patrimonial right over these works with the same conditions of exploitation as would have corresponded to their authors, but only for a period of twenty-five years (*cf.* art. 129.1 of the codified text of the Spanish Intellectual Property Law [text updated in 2007]).

² *Isaac Newton, El Templo de Salomón*. Edición crítica, traducción española y estudio filológico a cargo de Ciriaca Morano. Introducción de José Manuel Sánchez Ron. Edición Príncipe. Madrid, CSIC-Debate, 1996, col. Clásicos del Pensamiento (First reprint, Madrid, CSIC, 1998).

(as indicated by a subtitle written by another hand) was the Temple of Salomon, saw the light of day.

The *Prolegomena*, like so many other Newtonian manuscripts on theological subjects, had slept a sleep of centuries before making the crucial jump in the history of every written text, the step from being an unpublished to a published work. The satisfaction which I enjoyed at that moment as the author of the edition of the unpublished work more than made up for the arduous task that its elaboration had been and which I will later describe synthetically (cf. pp. L-LXI).

The print run sold out in six months, it was reprinted for the first time in 1998 and it has long since sold out.

Over the many years since the 1998 reprint, the state of research in the field of the Newtonian manuscripts related to theological topics has evolved notably, both with respect to editions and to studies. It is not my aim to give a synopsis of the current state of the question on these topics, but rather I wish to refer to an event which is directly related to the publication of our work, the undertaking, in 1996, of the research project titled *Critical Edition of Unpublished Latin Texts of Isaac Newton*.

The experience of the edition of *The Temple of Salomon* led me into a fascinating scientific field then unknown to me: that of the Newtonian manuscripts of theological and biblical subject matter which as yet remained unpublished and which, surprisingly, were very numerous. I was witness to the growing interest which these manuscripts were awakening in the scientific community of different fields and that many researchers were taking on the difficult task of exploring them in order to carry out studies on their content, despite the fact that the majority were as yet unpublished.

When I published the edition of the *Prolegomena* in 1996, I had already spent ten years dedicated to works of critical edition of Latin biblical manuscripts with special difficulties. Despite this experience, I can say that the edition of the *Prolegomena* was the most difficult and arduous task of my scientific career. The numerous corrections, amendments, the practically illegible readings, the problems of com-

position (which I was able to resolve only by consulting and studying the original in depth, both in the aspects related with the medium and the content) led me to the conviction that such work could only be carried out successfully by Latinist philologists who are very expert in the edition of unpublished works and with a complete dominion of the Latin language.

All these circumstances called for the need and the opportunity to initiate a project whose objective was to systematically edit Newton's unpublished theological manuscripts in Latin and I felt, of course, that it was essential that the project be constituted by experienced Latinists. It was to my great surprise that I found that nobody, neither in Spain nor abroad, had yet carried out a similar project.

In November 1996, I applied for a Research and Development project from the Spanish state, which I was granted, and since then it has been carried out, uninterruptedly, under my leadership in the research field of Latin Philology and at the Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas (Spanish National Research Council, CSIC) with the title: *Edición crítica de textos inéditos de Isaac Newton en Lengua Latina* (*Critical Edition of Unpublished Latin Texts of Isaac Newton*). In the selection of these unpublished texts priority is given to theological questions.

The early days were somewhat precarious as the subvention received was inversely proportional to the magnitude of the panorama which was unfolding and so I found myself obliged to spend four years working alone; subsequently a group of Latinists who have worked or have been trained on the project have collaborated. Allow me, for his efficacy and continuity, to make a special mention of Dr. José Manuel Cañas, currently a researcher at CSIC, who has been working on the project since 2001 and Dr. Pablo Toribio, who joined the project in 2007. He prepared his doctoral thesis on this project, under the direction of Dr. Cañas, and he has won two national research prizes for his work. There have also been occasional collaborations from researchers of other disciplines, such as the history of science, in order to enrich the studies from an interdisciplinary perspective.

With reference to the objectives and the scope of the project I must distinguish between two periods. In the first period we were intent only on publishing critical editions printed in book format which would follow the model of *The Temple of Salomon*, with an introduction which would contextualise the manuscript in the author's career and explain the fundamental issues of the work, as well as the philological aspects and aspects of textual criticism related to the publishing of the manuscript. Each work would be accompanied by a facsimile of the manuscript, by the critically edited Latin text and its Spanish translation.

In 1998, a group of researchers from the Imperial College of London, from the scientific field of the history of science, undertook a project, the *Newton Project*, directed by Robert Iliffe, with an objective which was similar in certain aspects to that which we had been carrying out since 1996. In this case, the objective was to edit unpublished works by Newton, in English and in digital format in order to publish them on the Internet. As a result of lengthy discussions, we came to an agreement in December 2000 to work interrelatedly, which meant an amplification of the English project as it would include the Latin manuscripts which we were editing in Spain, and also an extension of our own initial objective as we decided that the material of the editions would be published both in book and in electronic formats. In 2001 I joined the Editorial Board of the *Newton Project* as the party responsible for the supervision of the Latin manuscripts and Robert Iliffe was included in our project as an expert on the history of science. In 2004 other projects to edit unpublished Newtonian works in the English language began in Indiana (USA) and in Halifax, Nova Scotia (Canada).

To date two researchers from the Spanish team (myself included) have, on the web page of the *Newton Project*, published editions of three manuscripts from the Yahuda Collection, Jerusalem which were carried out within the framework of the CSIC research project: manuscripts 2.3 and 12, under the direction of José Manuel Cañas and 2.2 under the direction of Ciriaca Morano. Manuscript 1 of the Keynes Collection of King's College Cambridge, under the direction of Ciriaca Morano, is also ready for codification. Work on the edi-

tions in book format also continues and to date the work corresponding to manuscripts 2.2, 2.3, 12 and 19 of the Yahuda Collection is very advanced.

It is no exaggeration to state that the edition of the *Prolegomena* is at the basis of this editorial movement of recent years, of unpublished theological Newtonian texts, as it was this work which clearly caused and made possible the birth and development of the Spanish project of systematic publication of unpublished Newtonian theological texts in the Latin language. The rest of the story we have just told has come about, doubtlessly, as a natural development of facts, linked to so many scientific achievements (of editions and studies) as are caused by the work of this great genius with whom history continues to hold a debt, by allowing a large number of his theological writings to still, shamefully for humanity, bear the tag “unpublished”.

The current state of research calls for an increase in the number of editions and, of course, for care in the quality of the editions, in order to faithfully conserve, by way of careful publication, the cultural heritage of the manuscripts. We must bear in mind that, until there is a significant advance in the field of editions, the conclusions of the studies on the nuclear issues of Newton’s theological thinking and their implications on the scientific thinking will, naturally, be provisional. Even so, we have available at this point many interesting studies on these issues, some of which we will refer to later.

In the state of research sometimes not only are there advances, but there are also backward steps and, albeit succinctly, I must allude to an occurrence which, shortly before the publication of the second edition, when it was already quite advanced, was surprising and worrying for me.

The *Prolegomena* manuscript, the object of this edition, has been published and remains, on the web page of a well known prestigious project under the authorship of a person who obviously uses the *Editio Princeps* as a source, but without recognising it or asking the two legitimate owners of the copyright, Ciriaca Morano and CSIC, for the preceptive editorial permits.

The text remained on the web for two months without the slightest reference to my work, the only existing one (the title *El Templo de Salomón* was mentioned only as “related material”). Subsequently, when, after unsuccessful talks the abuse and violation of property rights was reported to the party responsible for the online publication, minimum references to “coincidences” between one work and the other were introduced. They refused, however, to acknowledge the alleged plagiarism and to remove it from the web page. This is not the time to enter into further detail, which will be explained before the relevant scientific and judicial bodies.

The CSIC, in the persons of the former Director of publications, Miguel Ángel Puig-Samper, and the Director of the *Clásicos del Pensamiento* collection, Txetxu Ausín, demonstrated their awareness to the need to protect the editorial heritage which editions, in general, and particularly those of such important authors as Newton represent. Thanks to this sensitivity we were able, in 2009, to publish a second edition of *The Temple of Solomon*. The third edition, which we present here, for the first time in the English language, contains modifications which affect the Latin text, its translation and the new study which precedes the edition.

We continue with the same editorial criterion, which, in my opinion, best favours scientists’ study of these materials: the intention to edit the text without errors and corrections combining editorial intervention with a total and absolute respect for the contents which the author would have wanted to transmit. Lastly, in the focus and the carrying out of the study which precedes the edition we have born in mind the current state of the question with reference to editions and studies which are directly or indirectly related to the manuscript which concerns us.