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978-0-521-13567-2 - Spanish and English Literature of the 16th and 17th Centuries:
Studies in Discretion, Illusion and Mutability

Edward M. Wilson

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Studies in discretion, illusion and mutability



EDWARD M. WILSON

Formerly Professor of Spanish

University of Cambridge

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PREFACE

In 1973 Edward Wilson retired from the chair of Spanish in the University of Cambridge. For some time he had been thinking of publishing a collected volume, in English, of his critical essays, and hoped (in vain) that his retirement would leave him free to prepare it. He began in 1974 to assemble suitable articles, but the final contents had still not been settled at his death in November 1977. He left three draft lists: one dated December 1973, the others undated but clearly later. I feel that my main obligation is to respect the intention of the two later lists (as far as they can be reconciled); but I also believe that the author's death puts the whole volume in a different perspective. For this second reason I have included two previously unpublished articles which do not appear in any of the draft lists.

One of these unpublished articles, on Calderón's comedies, was written as part of a book (never completed) on Calderón; it would have joined the articles on *El príncipe constante*, *La vida es sueño* and Calderón's dramatic poetry. These were published separately when the Calderón book was abandoned, and it seems fitting to bring them all together at last. His many friends and colleagues were disappointed that what promised to be a major work on Calderón was never finished; the present collection of Calderón articles is perhaps as near as we are likely to get to it. The unity of the planned original will be clear to anyone who reads the collection as a whole. It will be clear, too, that the unity is provided by Wilson's own view of Calderón as a thoroughly consistent dramatist, constantly returning to the themes of *discreción* and *desengaño*, discretion and need to rid oneself of worldly illusions.

The other unpublished article, on Lope's *El caballero de Olmedo*, would certainly have represented an important contribution to the study of the play twenty years ago, when it seems to have been written. If it now appears a little conservative, this is no reason for omitting it: Wilson had a healthy contempt for what was 'fashionable' in literary criticism. Indeed, it can be looked on as a valuable counterweight to the present critical trend, coming as it does from a scholar who was perhaps more familiar than anyone with the play's literary antecedents. Again, readers will notice

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how the three Lope articles are unified by what Wilson saw as a unifying theme in Lope's work: discretion, and the dangers of its opposite, rashness; in his article on *Peribáñez* he describes discretion as 'one of the main concerns of the seventeenth century'.

My editorial intervention has been as minimal as possible. Some previously published articles were left in a state of partial revision, with footnotes omitted; this was also true of some footnotes in the unpublished ones. These I have supplied [thus], in some cases with the help of Dr Cecilia Bainton, like myself, a former pupil of Wilson's. Dr Bainton subedited the volume, and it owes a great deal to her painstaking efficiency. The article on *Peribáñez*, originally published in French, was only half translated, and I completed the translation. The article on *El caballero de Olmedo* had evidently been composed in Spanish, and resisted translation into straightforward English. I am grateful to my colleague Martin Cunningham for his help here, but I must be blamed for inelegancies that remain. Finally, I must thank Michael Black and Professor A. A. Parker for their help and advice.

University College, Dublin
August 1979

D. W. Cruickshank

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SOURCES AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

‘The four elements in the imagery of Calderón’ derives from Wilson’s doctoral dissertation (i.e. it dates from the early thirties) and was first published in 1936 in *Modern Language Review*. He revised some footnotes for this reprint, which is produced by permission of the editor of *Modern Language Review* and the Modern Humanities Research Association.

‘Fernando: the Constant Prince’ was written as a chapter in Wilson’s projected Calderón book, and must date from the late thirties. It was published in *Modern Language Review* in 1939 as one of the two articles in ‘Calderón’s *Príncipe constante*: two appreciations’ (W. J. Entwistle wrote the other). Wilson revised his text for this edition, taking account of Entwistle’s views and defending his own. It is reprinted by permission of the editor of *Modern Language Review* and the Modern Humanities Research Association.

‘On *La vida es sueño*’: also planned as a chapter in the Calderón book, it first appeared in 1946, some eight years after it was first written, as ‘*La vida es sueño*’ in the *Revista de la Universidad de Buenos Aires*; it is now reprinted with the editor’s permission. Wilson made some slight revision for an English version in 1965, and again for this volume.

‘The discretion of Don Lope de Almeida’: planned as a chapter in another book on the theme of marital honour and wife-murder; written in the late forties and published in 1951 as ‘La discreción de don Lope de Almeida’ in *Clavileño*. Wilson himself prepared an English version for publication in 1973, but he did not revise it again.

‘Towards an appreciation of *El pintor de su deshonra*’: contemporary with, and in the same category as the previous article, but not published until 1970, when it appeared in *Ábaco* as ‘Hacia una interpretación de *El pintor de su deshonra*’. Wilson translated the Spanish text for this volume, making minor additions and revisions; it is published by permission of Editorial Castalia.

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‘The cloak and sword plays’: unpublished. Planned as a chapter in the Calderón book, so possibly first drafted in the nineteen thirties, although the most recent work referred to in the notes is dated 1941.

‘A key to *Psalle et sile*’: first published in 1959 in *Hispanic studies in honour of I. González Llubera*. Wilson added a note and made one or two minor changes for this edition.

‘Calderón’s dramatic poetry’: planned as an early chapter of the Calderón book; the original Spanish version was delivered first as one of the Archer M. Huntington lectures at the University of Madrid on 10 April 1964. It was published in 1968 as ‘La poesía dramática de don Pedro Calderón de la Barca’ in *Litterae hispanae et lusitanae: Festschrift zum fünfzigjähren Bestehen des Ibero-Amerikanischen Forschungsinstituts der Universität Hamburg*. This version is Wilson’s own translation, with fuller notes; it is published by permission of Max Hueber Verlag.

‘Images and structure in *Peribáñez*’: first published in 1949 as ‘Images et structure dans *Peribáñez*’ in *Bulletin Hispanique*; it was a by-product of Wilson’s interest in the theme of marital honour, and was also prompted by the publication of the Hachette edition of the play (edited by Aubrun and Montesinos). The English original was lost, and this translation is part Wilson’s, part mine. It is published by permission of the editors of *Bulletin Hispanique*.

‘Quando Lope quiere, quiere’: another intended chapter in the wife-murder book, it first appeared in 1963 in *Cuadernos Hispanoamericanos* in Spanish. Wilson revised his original English typescript for this edition, which is published by permission of the editor of *Cuadernos Hispanoamericanos*.

‘The exemplary nature of *El caballero de Olmedo*’: unpublished, and evidently not planned as part of any book. Typed on Wilson’s Hermes 3000 (i.e. 1959 or later). Possibly dates from the early nineteen sixties.

‘A Hispanist looks at *Othello*’: another result of Wilson’s interest in the wife-murder theme. Part of it was published as ‘*Othello*, a tragedy of honour’ in *The Listener* in 1952, but this, the complete version, is unpublished. Wilson kept and revised slightly his original typescript. He had a particular fondness for this article, and it appears in all three of his draft lists of articles for this volume.

‘Tragic themes in Spanish ballads’: first published in 1958 as the eighth in the *Diamante* series. A characteristically Wilsonian piece, which perhaps only he, with his exceptional knowledge of the ‘popular’ literature of both

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Spain and Britain, could have written. Cambridge University Press gratefully acknowledges the permission of the Hispanic and Luso Brazilian Council to reprint the article.

‘Spanish and English religious poetry of the seventeenth century’: published in the *Journal of Ecclesiastical History* in 1958. Not merely contemporary with the previous item but also akin to it in the way in which it finds similarities and differences in a distinct but related genre.

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A LIST OF THE PUBLICATIONS OF EDWARD M. WILSON

The first list of Wilson's publications appeared in his *Festschrift: Studies in Spanish literature of the Golden Age presented to Edward M. Wilson*, edited by R. O. Jones (London, 1973), pp. 3–8. It contained ninety-nine entries, even though it excluded reviews and review articles. It has been possible, adopting the same criteria, to add some thirty works which were not in print when the *Festschrift* went to press, as well as a few which were omitted from it. The important memoir of his friend Don Antonio Rodríguez-Moñino was included in the first check-list; Wilson himself included other such memoirs in a list he made in 1963. For these reasons memoirs are included in the list below.

ABBREVIATIONS

<i>BH</i>	<i>Bulletin Hispanique</i>
<i>BHS</i>	<i>Bulletin of Hispanic Studies</i>
<i>BRAE</i>	<i>Boletín de la Real Academia Española</i>
<i>Comedias</i>	Pedro Calderón de la Barca, <i>Comedias</i> , a facsimile edition prepared by D. W. Cruickshank and J. E. Varey. 19 vols. London, 1973. Vol. 1: Edward M. Wilson and D. W. Cruickshank, <i>The textual criticism of Calderón's 'comedias'</i> , ed. D. W. Cruickshank. Vol. xix: <i>Critical studies</i> , ed. J. E. Varey
<i>Entre las jarchas</i>	Edward M. Wilson, <i>Entre las jarchas y Cernuda: constantes y variables en la poesía española</i> . Barcelona, 1977
<i>HR</i>	<i>Hispanic Review</i>
<i>MLN</i>	<i>Modern Language Notes</i>
<i>MLR</i>	<i>Modern Language Review</i>
<i>NRFH</i>	<i>Nueva Revista de Filología Hispánica</i>
<i>PQ</i>	<i>Philological Quarterly</i>
<i>RABM</i>	<i>Revista de Archivos, Bibliotecas y Museos</i>
<i>RFE</i>	<i>Revista de Filología Española</i>
<i>RP</i>	<i>Romance Philology</i>
<i>TCBS</i>	<i>Transactions of the Cambridge Bibliographical Society</i>
<i>TCWAAS</i>	<i>Transactions of the Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society</i>

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- The solitudes of Don Luis de Góngora*, translated into English verse by Edward M. Wilson. Cambridge, 1931; 2nd edn, New York, 1965 (a piracy, with unauthorised revisions); 3rd (authorised) edn, Cambridge, 1965
- 'Two modern Spanish poets' [Federico García Lorca and Jorge Guillén], *Bookman* (September 1931), 288–9; to be reprinted in *Modern Iberian literature*, ed. I. Stern and M. J. Schneider
- 'Note on a sonnet of Rioja's', *HR*, II (1934), 155–7
- 'El texto de la "Fábula de Píramo y Tisbe", de Góngora', *RFE*, XXII (1935), 291–8; revised and reprinted in *Entre las jarchas*, pp. 333–42
- 'Sobre la "Canción a las ruinas de Itálica" de Rodrigo Caro', *RFE*, XXIII (1936), 379–96
- 'The four elements in the imagery of Calderón', *MLR*, XXXI (1936), 34–47; reprinted in *Calderón de la Barca*, ed. Hans Flasche, *Wege der Forschung*, vol. CLVIII. Darmstadt, 1971, pp. 112–30; and in *Comedias*, vol. XIX, pp. 191–207. Also reprinted as 'Los cuatro elementos en la imaginería de Calderón' in *Calderón y la crítica: historia y antología*, ed. M. Durán and R. González Echevarría, Madrid, 1976, pp. 277–99. (A translation only subsequently approved by the author.)
- 'Some extinct Kendal customs', *TCWAAS*, n.s., XXXVIII (1938), 164–79
- 'Calderón's *Príncipe constante*: two appreciations' (with W. J. Entwistle), *MLR*, XXXIV (1939), 207–22
- '*La vida es sueño*', *Revista de la Universidad de Buenos Aires*, IV (1946), 61–78; revised and reprinted as 'On *La vida es sueño*' in *Critical essays on the theatre of Calderón*, ed. Bruce W. Wardropper. New York, 1965, pp. 63–89; and in *The great playwrights: twenty-five plays with commentaries by critics and scholars*, chosen and introduced by Eric Bentley. 2 vols. New York, 1970, vol. 1, pp. 866–88. Also reprinted in *Calderón y la crítica: historia y antología*, ed. M. Durán and R. González Echevarría. Madrid, 1976, pp. 300–28. (A reprint of the Spanish original, only subsequently approved by the author.)
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- 'La estrofa sexta de la canción *A la flor de Gnido*', *RFE*, XXXVI (1952), 118–22
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- 'Nuevos documentos sobre las controversias teatrales: 1650-1681', *Actas del segundo Congreso internacional de hispanistas*. Nimega, 1967, pp. 155-70
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- 'The *Cancionero* of Don Joseph del Corral', *HR*, xxxv (1967), 141-60

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