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Francisco Sanches: That Nothing Is Known

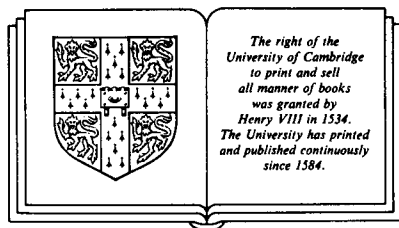
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Francisco Sanches (Franciscus Sanchez)

That Nothing Is Known
(QVOD NIHIL SCITVR)

Introduction, notes, and bibliography by
ELAINE LIMBRICK
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Latin text established, annotated, and translated by
DOUGLAS F. S. THOMSON
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IN MEMORY OF CHARLES B. SCHMITT

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Elaine Limbrick and Douglas F. S. Thomson
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

Contents

Preface	<i>page</i> ix
Introduction	i
QVOD NIHIL SCITVR	89
That Nothing Is Known	165
Bibliography	291
Index Nominum	307

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0521350778 - That Nothing is Known: Francisco Sanches
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[More information](#)

Preface

I am grateful to the Warden and Fellows of All Souls College, Oxford, for kindly providing a photocopy of the *Quod nihil scitur* (Lugduni: apud Antonium Gryphium, 1581) which has served as a basis for this critical edition and translation. The marginal glosses which appear in the 1581 edition and all subsequent editions have been omitted; the vague references to sources have been incorporated in my notes to the translation. I was obliged to consult the original sources, often unacknowledged in the text, in order to determine the exact references and quotations made by Sanches. As the *Quod nihil scitur* is in the main a running commentary and attack on the works of Aristotle, I have endeavoured to identify as far as possible the major references to individual works of Aristotle, although at times Sanches is as obscure and confused as he states Aristotle is.

The most useful modern edition of the *Quod nihil scitur* is that of Joaquim de Carvalho, included in his Coimbra 1955 edition of Sanches's *Opera philosophica*, republished in 1957 with a different pagination. In my introduction and notes I refer to the 1957 Carvalho edition. The large body of critical studies on Sanches produced by Portuguese scholars has been mainly neglected by North American and European scholars. In order to make these studies known I have listed them in the bibliography. I thank Senhora Pereira for correcting the Portuguese quotations.

The most recent Latin-French critical edition and translation of the *Quod nihil scitur*, *Il n'est science de rien* (Paris: Klincksieck, 1984) by Andrée Comparot, who generously sent me a copy of her edition, stresses Sanches's indebtedness to the Spanish humanist Vives. Mme Comparot's fine French translation brings out the rhetorical aspects of Sanches's Latin.

For Charles Schmitt, who first encouraged me to publish my

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[More information](#)

Preface

research on Sanches, I mourn: he was a great Renaissance scholar and devoted friend.

My greatest debt is to my colleague, Douglas F. S. Thomson, of the Department of Classics, University of Toronto, who willingly undertook the difficult task of translating the *Quod nihil scitur* in the spring of 1980. Professor Thomson also kindly accepted the laborious task of establishing the Latin text. Without his magnificent contribution this book would not have seen the light of day.

I would like to extend my thanks to friends and colleagues in France for inviting me to Paris to lecture on Sanches in December 1980 and for their many kindnesses in facilitating my research; in particular Robert Aulotte, Claude Blum, Jean Céard, Jean Ecole, Joseph Moreau, and Philippe Sellier.

The research for this critical edition was carried out thanks to the generous support of the University of Victoria and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada. I am grateful to the libraries and librarians of the Bibliothèque Nationale, the Centre Culturel Portugais (Paris), the Institut Catholique de Toulouse, the British Library, the Warburg Institute, and the University of Victoria. Without their courteous help the research for this book would have been even more difficult.

Finally I would like to express my gratitude to Dr Samuel Scully for aiding me with the Greek text of Aristotle; to my colleagues in the Department of French Language and Literature for enabling me to make frequent research trips to Europe; to my typist, Mrs Lucie Miller, for undertaking such a difficult manuscript and never complaining; to my editors, Mary Byers and Louise Calabro Gruendel, for their infinite care and patience; and to my son, David, for understanding long absences from Victoria.

Victoria, British Columbia

Elaine Limbrick