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978-1-107-68269-6 - Spanish and Portuguese Romances of Chivalry: The Revival of the
Romance of Chivalry in the Spanish Peninsula, and its Extension and Influence Abroad

Henry Thomas

Frontmatter

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THE REVIVAL OF THE ROMANCE
OF CHIVALRY IN THE SPANISH
PENINSULA, AND ITS EXTENSION
AND INFLUENCE ABROAD

BY

HENRY THOMAS, D.LITT.

NORMAN MACCOLL LECTURER IN THE
UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE, 1916

CAMBRIDGE
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PREFACE

THE following chapters represent, in an extended form, a course of six lectures on Spanish and Portuguese romances of chivalry delivered as the Norman MacColl lectures in the University of Cambridge during the Spring of 1917. Their chief object is to provide a comprehensive review of a remarkable popular literary movement which began in the Spanish Peninsula about the turn of the fifteenth century, spread over western Europe, including our own country, and having flourished and exercised a considerable influence for a time, died out so completely as to be well-nigh forgotten nowadays except by students. Various aspects of the movement, and a number of the problems connected with it, have been treated by different writers in modern times; their results have been taken into account, occasionally with corrections, in the following pages, and some new material has been contributed, especially in the later chapters.

The early editions of these romances of chivalry, which are in most cases the only existing editions, are extremely rare; but the writer has had facilities for studying or examining the romances, either in Spanish libraries, or in the still richer collections, public or private, in England. The following sketch—the first to relate in connected form the fortunes of these romances in the various countries they invaded—is offered as some return for the advantages enjoyed. Having at hand the

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resources of the British Museum, the writer could not refrain from supplementing the narrative with foot-notes giving in most cases the original authority for statements made, or in some cases additional matter which it did not seem convenient to include in the text. While the ordinary reader need not be burdened by these foot-notes, it is hoped that with their help the student may be saved some trouble.

How far the writer has relied on his predecessors in the same field will be evident from the references in the text. To all, and especially to those whose names appear in the bibliography, he gratefully acknowledges his indebtedness.

H. T.

April, 1920.

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N O T E

In these chapters the present system of accentuation for Spanish words is followed only in citing the names and works of modern authors, and modern editions of ancient works.