

In memoriam : Ignacio Miguel González Llubera : 1893-1962

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In memoriam

Ignacio Miguel González Llubera

1893–1962

The death occurred in Cambridge, on 19 March 1962, of Ignacio Miguel González Llubera, Emeritus Professor of Spanish in the Queen's University of Belfast, where he had worked for forty years until his retirement in 1960. The eldest son of Leoncio González Llopis, he was born in Barcelona in 1893, and was there educated by the Jesuits at the Sagrado Corazón. At the Universities of Barcelona and Madrid he specialised in Semitic languages.

Llubera, by which name he was known in these islands, was a man of great learning. In the world of scholarship he will be remembered for his editions of works by Spanish, Catalan and Portuguese Jews on a variety of subjects. Almost all of these works were in manuscript in Hebrew characters, often without vowel-points. The meticulous care with which he prepared these MSS for publication could not be bettered; he left nothing to chance: *waw* appears as *u^w* or as *o^w*, *yod* as *i^y* or as *e^y* and all scribal errors, such as the omission of expected diacritic marks, are faithfully recorded and emended. Professor Llubera demanded, and almost always received, from compositors as high a standard as he imposed upon himself; this scrupulousness makes it certain that one can place implicit faith in an edition made by him. Not only did he present his texts in immaculate form, but, in his Introductions, he provided a wealth of information on all manner of subjects and, in a great number of footnotes, he gave all the variants and full bibliographical references. Never did he fail to give credit where credit was due.

Among his books and articles, I mention only the more recent outstanding examples of his matchless scholarly method in his editions of:

Joseph ben Mē'ir ibn Zabara, *Llibre d'ensenyaments delectables*, Barcelona 1931;

Coplas de Yoçef, Cambridge University Press, 1935;

"Three Jewish Spanish Ballads", *Medium Ævum* 7, 15-28;

Santob de Carrión, *Proverbios Morales*, Cambridge University Press, 1947;

"A Transcription of MS C of Santob de Carrión's *Proverbios Morales*", *Romance Philology* 4 (1950/51), 217-256.

I first met him in 1931 when I was his Assistant for a regrettably short time; then, raw and inexperienced, I did not fully appreciate his intellectual acuity, but, later, I came to realise what an inspiration he had been to me.

His devotion to Catholicism and his happiness in his family life made him gay and expansive; time did not leave its mark upon him. Thirty years later he was the same small spare man of unbounded energy, sparkling with wit and humour, kindly to those who needed his help, a fine but unpretentious scholar.

Only a few days before the motor accident last October from which he never recovered, Professor Llubera wrote to me and mentioned a new article he had almost completed on certain Hebraisms in a Catalan author that had hitherto passed unnoticed. The letter was full of that zest for life and enthusiasm for learning which characterised him. Scholarship and his many friends have been dealt a heavy blow.

Leeds

Cynthia M. Crews