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SIEPM – Project “Second Scholasticism”

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Dear Colleagues,

Once again, I am writing to you to request your support.

As I told some time ago, after receiving and analyzing the opinions of many of you about what are the most urgent and necessary tasks to be undertaken in the study of early modern Scholasticism and the means that should be applied for their achievement, some collaborators on the SIEPM project on “Second Scholasticism” have been exploring alternatives for getting the necessary financial and institutional support. A report on this and other activities concerning the aforementioned project is going to be published in the forthcoming issue of the *Bulletin de Philosophie Médiévale* (n. 51/2009).

An important opportunity for this can be found in the preparations for the celebration of the 8th Centennial of the University of Salamanca (1218-2018) that the Government of Spain is assuming as an Estate project. You can see information on this at <http://centenario.usal.es> . In this context, the signers of this letter have prepared an ambitious research and publication project that follows very closely the trends of work proposed in the SIEPM project on “Second Scholasticism”. Professors Fuertes and Poncela are going to submit it to the correspondent authorities and, if it obtains their support, it would certainly be a great help for the advancement of this field of scholarly research.

The project may result in the creation of a Center or Institute for the study of the School of Salamanca (16th and 17th centuries) and its projections to America and Europe. It would pursue and foster the following goals and activities: 1) identification, cataloging and digital conservation of sources, especially manuscripts; 2) creation of a collective database; 3) critical editions of selected works; 4) a line of studies of its reception in the philosophy of Rationalism and Empiricism and other related fields –law, economics, etc.–, which would emphasize the concrete and text-based documentation of that reception; 5) a more properly philosophic line of studies, which would stress the investigation of the possible relevance of the proposals of the School of Salamanca and other thinkers related to it for problems and questions of interest for the present. For the realization of some of these tasks, there would be international open-calls for concrete projects and for scholarships for the preparation of young and not so young researchers.

In accordance with the objectives that the Spanish political authorities and of the University of Salamanca have set for the preparation of its 8th Centennial, the proposal emphasizes that the activities that the project would foster or assume correspond to a very ample interest of researchers and institutions, both European and Latin American, which would be well-disposed to collaborate with it or even to become part of it. In fact, if the proposed project is approved and supported, it would certainly have its operative

center at the University of Salamanca, but it would also have a very collective and international profile. It is possible that, for subsequent stages of its development and complementarily, it would be necessary to present an application for European funds or from other institutions. In that case, it would be proposed to some of you a more formal compromise and a more concrete definition of the tasks that each one would undertake.

Consequently, it is of the highest importance for the proposal to be accepted by the corresponding authorities that it could be presented along with as many and varied expressions of support as possible. It would also be highly desirable that they include a declaration, certainly preliminary and non-binding, stating your disposition to collaborate with the activities of the project in case it is approved. In order to facilitate these expressions of support, I have written out a letter of support for the project addressed to the Director of the Office for the 8th Centennial of the University of Salamanca, Professor Carlos Palomeque. It would suffice if you send the letter back to us with your name added as signer or, even easier, if you replay with an e-mail expressing your agreement with the inclusion of your name as supporter for the initiative. Of course, you can also or alternatively address a letter of your own redaction to Professor Palomeque or to Professors Fuertes and Poncela.

Considering the great importance that the Spanish Government and the University authorities are lending to the 8th Centennial of the University of Salamanca, we are convinced that this is a great opportunity for achieving a significant progress in this field of study, for which many of you have previously showed a deep interest and made valuable contributions. Therefore, we keenly request from you to manifest your support for this initiative and, if possible, to seek it from other colleagues and institutions.

I look forward for receiving news from you.

Yours sincerely,



Santiago Orrego

P.S.: The address and contact information of Professors José Luis Fuertes (Director of the Department) and Ángel Poncela are these:

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