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## GUIDE TO THE ANALYSIS OF ITALIAN TRANSLATION OF THE *CARTAS* OF VALENTÍN DE FORONDA

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### 1. PRE-READING

#### 1.1 INTRODUCTORY TOOLS

What do you know about Spanish historical and political situation in XVIII Century? And what about the Italian? Do you know what Enlightenment is? Do you know who the Grand Duke Leopold of Lorraine was? Before reading Italian translation of the Foronda's *Cartas*, you can read up connecting to these links. Remember however that the reliability of wikipedia as a source for scholarly research is uncertain. More reliable biographies can be found in your library.

[http://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/L%27Illuminismo\\_in\\_Spagna](http://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/L%27Illuminismo_in_Spagna)

[http://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carlo\\_III\\_di\\_Spagna](http://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carlo_III_di_Spagna)

Another introductory tool is the most recent version of The New Palgrave Dictionary of Economics (2008) existing both as a book and as an online version. Look for the same opus in your University Library. They have probably one copy or subscription to the online edition. The following is the entry in the Catalogue of the British Library about Spanish economy:

<[http://www.dictionaryofeconomics.com/article?id=pde2008\\_S000526](http://www.dictionaryofeconomics.com/article?id=pde2008_S000526)>

doi:10.1057/9780230226203.1581



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Fig. 1. Charles III of Spain. Anton Raphael Mengs, 1761



Fig.2. Leopold the II of Tuscany. Pietro Benvenuti, 1828

[http://www.treccani.it/enciclopedia/illuminismo\\_%28Enciclopedia-delle-Scienze-Sociali%29/](http://www.treccani.it/enciclopedia/illuminismo_%28Enciclopedia-delle-Scienze-Sociali%29/)  
[http://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/Illuminismo\\_in\\_Italia](http://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/Illuminismo_in_Italia)

<http://www.treccani.it/enciclopedia/leopoldo-ii-granduca-di-toscana/>  
[http://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pietro\\_Leopoldo\\_di\\_Lorena](http://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pietro_Leopoldo_di_Lorena)

Now that the historical and philosophical situation in Spain and in Italy in the XVIII Century is clearer, we can talk about the author and the translator.



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### 1.2 Valentín de Foronda

Valentín de Foronda (1751-1821) was one of the most important personalities contributing to the diffusion of the Enlightenment ideas in Spain. He was a remarkable traveller, and performed the charge of general Consul of Spain in USA. To increase your knowledges, link to:

[http://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Valent%C3%ADn\\_de\\_Foronda](http://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Valent%C3%ADn_de_Foronda)

[http://mises.org/journals/qjae/pdf/qjae12\\_1\\_7.pdf](http://mises.org/journals/qjae/pdf/qjae12_1_7.pdf)

*Diccionario biográfico del Trienio Liberal*, Madrid: El Museo Universal, 1991.

or read this paper: J.M. Barrenechea González, «Valentín de Foronda y el pensamiento económico ilustrado», in Enrique Fuentes Quintana (dr.) *Economía y Economistas españoles. La Ilustración*, vol. 3, Barcelona, Galaxia Gutenberg - Círculo de Lectores, 2000, pp. 529-567.

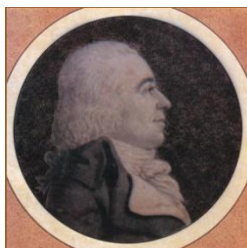


Fig.3. Valentín de Foronda

### 1.3 Giovanni Fabbroni

His biography is very similar to Foronda's. When he was fifteen, he went to the USA, where he formed his liberal and radical ideas. He strenghtly contributed to the reformist political of Leopold's the II of Lorraine administration, who made Tuscany a role-model for Europe. He is considered the youngest and the strongest defensor of the social liberty values. Probably he came in contact with Foronda's ideas –with whom he totally was agreeing– during one of the Spanish author's travels in Italy. To increase your knowledge about this author, read

[http://www.treccani.it/enciclopedia/giovanifabbroni\\_%28Dizionario-Biografico%29/](http://www.treccani.it/enciclopedia/giovanifabbroni_%28Dizionario-Biografico%29/)

Furthermore, to better understand these two personalities you can deepen the concepts of physiocracy, liberism and mercantilism:

<http://www.treccani.it/vocabolario/fisiocrazia/>

<http://www.treccani.it/vocabolario/liberismo/>

<http://www.treccani.it/vocabolario/mercantilismo/>



Fig.4. Giovanni Fabbroni



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## 2. READING

### 2.1 Source text

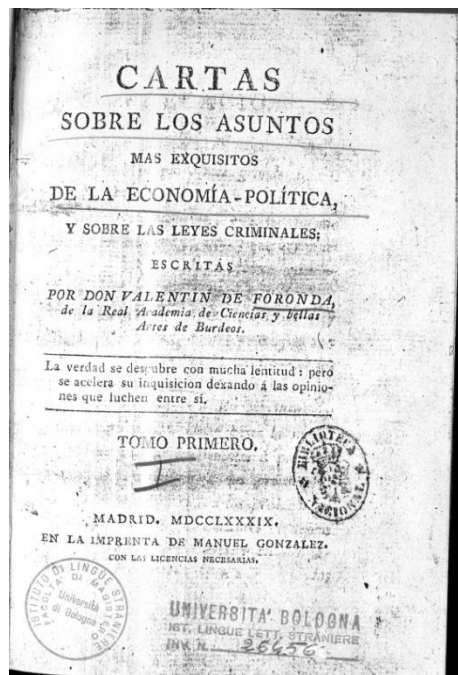


Fig. 5. Title page of the first volume of the *Cartas*

The *Cartas sobre los asuntos más exquisitos de la economía política* were published between 1788 and 1790 by the Madrid newspaper *Espíritu de los mejores diarios que se publican en Europa*; they are Valentín de Foronda's most important economic texts. The *Cartas* address to a prince, of whom the author conceives to be the counselor "...me figuraré que Vmd. ha hecho mucho dinero, que lo ha empleado en comprar una Isla, ó algun principado independiente: que me llama Vmd. por su consejero". They were printed in a book in 1821, with small changes compared with the text published in the newspaper. The book is composed by two tomes: index is shown in the fig. 6 and 7:



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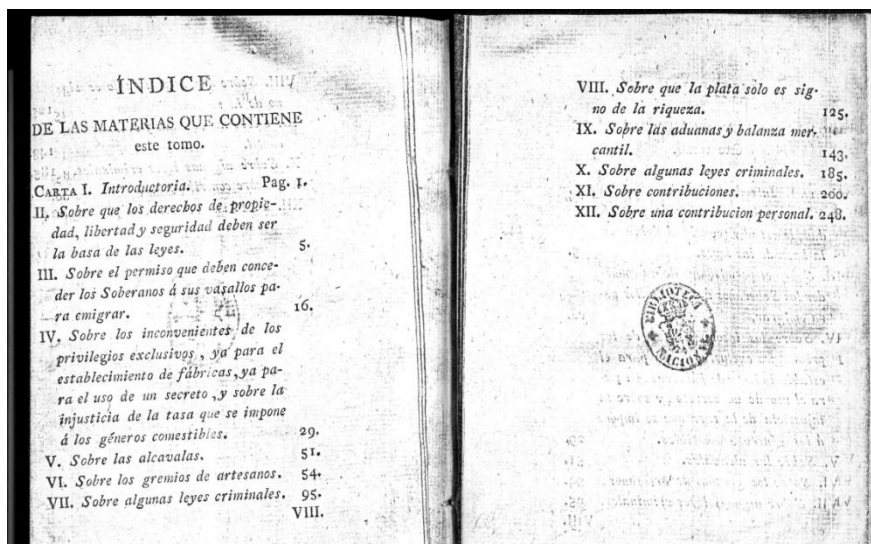


Fig. 6 Tome I Index

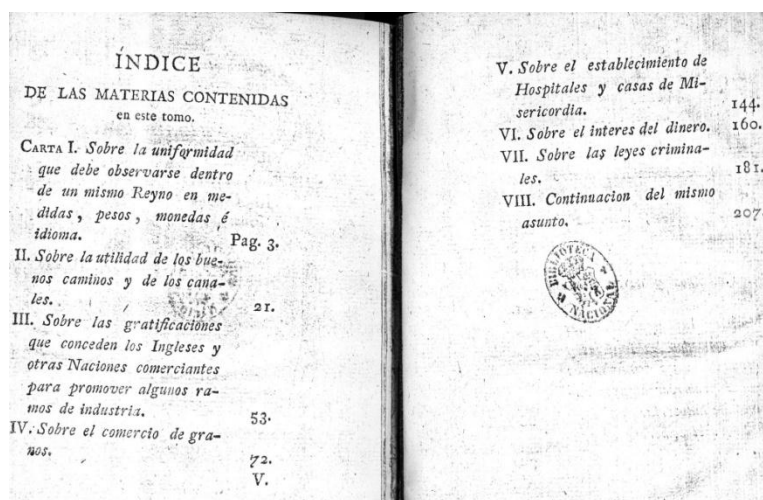


Fig. 7 Tome II Index

As you can see, the *Cartas* debate subjects extremely important to the time: individual rights (property, liberty and security); free movement for people and goods; the taxes; the currencies; the grain commerce; the possibility to export merchandises, etc.

You can find the Spanish text to the EE-T' portal, or to *Google books*:

<https://play.google.com/books/reader?id=MB7tnoWrnKgC&printsec=frontcover&output=reader&authuser=0&hl=it&pg=GBS.PR1>



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You can also better understand the text, reading this paper:

Scandellari, Simonetta (1996): “La difesa delle libertà individuali nelle *Cartas sobre los asuntos más exquisitos de la economía política*” *I castelli di Yale*, I (1). pp. 89-128.  
<http://eprints.unife.it/537/1/Valentin%20de%20Foronda1.pdf>

## 2.2 The translation

*Della prosperità nazionale, dell'equilibrio del commercio e dell'istituzione delle Dogane* is published in Florence in 1789, and again in 1847 in *Scritti di Pubblica Economia del Cav. Giovanni Fabbroni*. (Giuseppe Fabbroni ed.) pp. 85-110. Source texts are nr. 161 and 162 of 1788 of the *Espíritu de los mejores diarios*; the translation is almost literal. The text addresses: “quelle classi di persone spaventate dall'inusitato vocabolario degli economologi [...] non ai pensatori sublimi” (l'Editore, [1789] 1847: 85). In 1791, is printed in Florence *Dei premi di incoraggiamento che si retribuiscano alla mercatura*. Source text of the first and third translation is the *Espíritu de los mejores diarios*. This of the second one, the letter dated Vergara, Mayo 29 de 1788, published in the 1789 book.

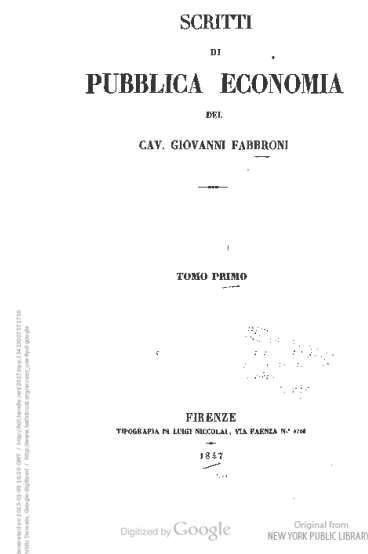


Fig. 8. Title page of the *Scritti di Pubblica Economia*

When the two texts were published in 1847 in *Scritti di Pubblica Economia del Cav. Giovanni Fabbroni*. (Giuseppe Fabbroni ed.). pp. 113-170, the book editor – Fabbroni’s grandson – denied that the text was a translation, saying that his grandfather’s ideas are contained “*in varie altre brevi dissertazioni cui piacque dare la forma di lettere, e come se queste fossero tradotte dallo spagnolo...*” (*Prefazione Generale* 1847: VII).

The editor’s introduction clearly shows the intentions that base this publication:

“Un libercolo di poca mole, e di tenue costo, facilmente passa per le mani di ognuno; e se è in stil familiare, ed è in frasi comuni, chiunque sa leggere, e combinar due idee, è in stato di intenderlo, di impararvi qualcosa, o di censurarlo” [...] “È utile adunque il richiamar l’attenzione dei negozianti, e artigiani (che non han tempo da studiare i trattatisti) a riflettere sul vero interesse



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della società della quale fan parte” [...] “**..le intenzioni dell’Autore, del Traduttore, e mie, sono buone**, non abbiamo nessun fine secondario; ci sprona solamente il piacere di giovare ai nostri simili, tentando di diminuirgli il numero dei pregiudizj e aumentargli quello delle utili veritadi”.

You can find the text of the translation to the EE-T portal, or to *Google books*:  
[http://books.google.it/books/reader?id=\\_fIKAAAYAAJ&hl=it&printsec=frontcover&output=reader&pg=GBS.PR3](http://books.google.it/books/reader?id=_fIKAAAYAAJ&hl=it&printsec=frontcover&output=reader&pg=GBS.PR3)