il semble que, dans certains chapitres, le typographe ait mis sa coquetterie à en insérer régulièrement au moins une par page; la déformation des noms propres est particulièrement horripilante. Il est scandaleux de trouver le nom de Michel Zink défiguré dans le texte alors qu'il est correctement orthographié dans la note afférente, et *vice versa*.

En définitive, cette grande thèse prendra une place méritée à côté des ouvrages canoniques qui analysent l'histoire de la culture littéraire occidentale, de R. Curtius à I. Silver et à H. Weber, d'E. Garin à G. Castor et à K. Meerhoff.

GUY DEMERSON, *Université de Clermont-Ferrand*

Collected Works of Erasmus, Volume 33, Adages II i 1 to II vi 100, translated and edited by R. A. B. Mynors, and *Volume 10, The Correspondence of Erasmus: Letters 1356 to 1534 (1523 to 1524)*, translated by R. A. B. Mynors and Alexander Dalzell, annotated by James M. Estes. Toronto and Buffalo: University of Toronto Press, 1991. Pp. x, 479. And 1992. Pp. xxi, 515.

With the publication of these two volumes CWE is approaching the halfway mark in two important sections of its gigantic enterprise. One half of Erasmus' volume of *Adages* and nearly half of his correspondence are now available in English translation. The *Adages* are Erasmus' huge collection of Greek and Roman proverbs and other sayings deemed by him to be commonplace. Most of them were never before translated into a modern language. Like its two predecessors, this new volume of CWE *Adages* was critically edited and translated by the late Sir Roger Mynors, who has also translated almost all of Erasmus' correspondence so far published, including most of the letters in this latest volume. Sir Roger's translations have won unanimous praise. His empathy with the author and just the right degree of freedom from the Latin sentence structure ensure that Erasmus' precision, elegance, wit and colloquial readability are, all of them, preserved in modern idiom. The *Adages* are a medley of classical citations, explanatory narrative and scholarly annotations. Translating them requires particular ingenuity. To mention just one problem, the Greek lines and single words can either be rendered in Greek characters, as Erasmus always did, or transliterated or translated. Sir Roger solved the problem by combining all three of these options on the basis of commonsense rather than following rigid rules (see e.g. *Adages* II iii 80-81).

Once the translation of the *Adages* is complete, we are promised an introductory volume that will trace the development of the collection—Erasmus kept adding to it throughout his working life—and survey his sources, which must include nearly all of the classical literature then available. A complete index of Erasmus' classical sources is as crucial to Erasmus scholarship as an index of the patristic sources used in his

editions of the New Testament. As far as the *Adages* are concerned, some initial relief is provided by the Amsterdam *Opera Omnia*, whose volumes have individual indexes. Amsterdam tackled the *Adages*, beginning with the last part of the collection and has now begun to overlap with CWE, which started at the beginning.

The reader of this new volume will notice a number of sayings that have a familiar ring and will realise that Erasmus' *Adages* are largely responsible for their remaining in common use. Who of us would think of classical antecedents when we speak of a "rare bird," "golden fetters," or "crocodile tears" (II i 21, iv 25, 60)? Two adages marking the start of a fresh lot of 500 (II, i 1, v 1) have been developed into proper essays on moral issues. The former, *Festina lente*, focuses on abuse and excellence in the printing industry, reserving accolades for Erasmus' own printers, Aldus and Froben, whose emblematic printer's marks serve as an initial point of reference. The latter, *Spartam nactus es, hanc adorna*, advises rulers to stick to their home turf by presenting recent examples of the dire consequences of expansionist policies. This was written for the 1515 edition of the *Adages*. Coming at a time when Erasmus' own prince, the future Charles V, was in line for the crowns of half of Europe, the message was clear enough. Erasmus often used the *Adages* to express his political convictions, his love of freedom and democracy and his hatred of all forms of tyranny (e.g. II i 1, p. 12, iii 31, v 24).

The new *Correspondence* volume covers the time from April 1523 to the end of 1524. Since Erasmus himself released many of his letters for publication in various collections that appeared from time to time, it is interesting to note that for the period covered by this volume the incidence of letters never published in his lifetime is high. This means that the reader has the privilege of sharing with Erasmus a number of intelligences that he did not wish to reveal to a mass of his contemporaries. Indeed, right then he had plenty of reasons to be uneasy and to feel misunderstood. This volume encompasses the bitter clash with Hutten and his friends that continued for a while even after Hutten himself had died, and Erasmus' painful decision to confront Luther with his *De libero arbitrio*. Direct exchanges between these protagonists present some rather sad highlights in this volume, but there are also gratifying ones, such as Erasmus' memorable and discriminating tribute to Cicero in the dedicatory letter to an edition of the *Tusculanae quaestiones* (Ep 1390), while Epp 1436 and 1437 offer precious and private information on Erasmus' youth.

James Estes' preface draws attention to Erasmus' desire, expressed in many letters, to turn his back on Basel and the German-speaking world. But whither should he turn? At times his assertions of eagerness to move to Rome seem almost sincere, whereas a glittering offer from Paris left him visibly cold and pressure combined with promises could not make him face a return to his native Netherlands. He knew what relentless critics awaited him in Rome, at the Sorbonne and in Louvain. Above all, he knew better than to trust any prince. He remained in Basel because he knew of no other place that could offer him the freedom and the independence he so badly needed. The letters of this volume also offer glimpses of domestic harmony in the lodgings he

rented from Froben amid such neighbours as the printer's own family and his trusted friend, the canon Ludwig Baer. The city council too was conservative and could be counted on for support against irreverent criticisms.

All editors of Erasmus' correspondence will forever remain indebted to the sharp eye and thoroughness of P. S. Allen who spent the best part of his life with the tracing, dating and annotating of Erasmus' letters. At the same time this new CWE volume offers many introductions to individual letters and notes that update, complement and sometimes correct the information provided by Allen. Good examples of such new elucidations are the introductions and notes to Epp 1369 and 1528. Some very useful new notes are also found in Epp 1367, 1376, 1382, 1400, 1418, 1469, 1519 and 1523, to give a random selection. Five letters have been assigned new dates—judiciously so, especially in the case of Ep 1436, where the new date may well suggest that the unidentified addressee was Goclenius. If, however, Ep 1477A is to be dated from after the definitive departure of Farel from Basel, one wonders why Erasmus would not strengthen the case he is making by mentioning that Farel had indeed been expelled. Amid many incidences of fine scholarship, the flaws are rare. To make sense, Ep 1488:65f ought to be translated: “. . .whose carelessness has caused the [previously mentioned] horse to arrive here greatly weakened.” The “unidentified” archdeacon in Ep 1359 is, of course, Ferry Carondelet (cf. Ep 1350: too obvious, Allen assumed, to require a note). Ep 1365: 34-6 conceals an allusion, typical with Erasmus, to Pliny's *Natural History* 8.126 (cf. CWE Ep 1236 n. 23). With half of the *Correspondence* volumes published, perhaps it would not be too late for the CWE editors to adopt finally Allen's ingenious system of clarifying, at one glance, the sequence of letter answering letter. It is often important to read a correspondence in sequence, but in the present CWE volume the pertinent information is sometimes hard to find in the middle of a lengthy introduction or, in a number of cases, it is not given at all.

PETER G. BIETENHOLZ, *University of Saskatchewan*