The Collected Works of Erasmus

R. J. Schoeck

Toronto has long been the centre for Renaissance Studies in Canada – indeed, one of the two or three centres in North America – and this edition of Erasmus has come into being as a natural product of that strength, galvanized by the initiative of the University of Toronto Press. It occurs at a time when J. K. McConica, D. F. S. Thomson and R. J. Schoeck were together on the University of Toronto campus, with Wallace K. Ferguson nearby at Western Ontario; these four, and Peter Bietenholz at Saskatchewan and Sir Roger Mynors of Oxford, comprise the central group of scholars in the project.

The Collected Works of Erasmus will make Erasmus available in accurate and readable English, in a well-annotated, scholarly form. For the correspondence, the text will be that of the Allen edition, Opus Epistolarum, translated by Sir Roger Mynors and D. F. S. Thomson. For Erasmus' other works, which will appear concurrently with the volumes of correspondence, the Latin text chosen will be the one which, in the judgment of the editors, is the definitive one; the editing and translating will be in the hands of scholars in North America and Europe.

Volumes in the CWE will include introductory essays, critical notes, relevant biographical and bibliographical material, and indexes, as appropriate.

It would be well to begin with the structure of the Edition and to look at the Editorial and Executive Committees.

Editorial Committee:

Literary Co-Editors: Historical Co-Editors: Co-ordinating Editor:
D. F. S. Thomson (Toronto) J. K. McConica (Toronto) R. J. Schoeck (Toronto)
Sir Roger Mynors (Oxford) W. K. Ferguson (Western Ont.) Chairman

It will be the responsibility of the Literary Editors to create an 'accurate and felicitous text' of Erasmus in English. The Historical Editors will primarily be concerned with presenting Erasmus and interpreting his writings historically; theirs will be the responsibility for introductions, annotations, biographical registers, etc. The Co-ordinating Editor – in cooperation with the literary and historical editors, and with the Executive Committee – organizes and coordinates the workflow of individual volumes and the planning of the project as a whole.

Executive Committee:

This committee is comprised of scholars and members of the University of Toronto Press and is responsible for bringing the work of the above editors into being; it will be actively involved in the long-range planning of the project as a whole. As Chairman of the Executive Committee, the Coordinating Editor will maintain liaison between it and the editors.

Members:

P. G. Bietenholz J. C. Jamieson
Professor of History, Saskatchewan – Editor, Humanities, U. of T. Press
at I Tatti, Florence, for 1969-70
As I have commented (in an article on 'Group Scholarship' in the ACLS Newsletter, November 1969), we have designed this structure to place research and editorial responsibilities with scholars who are responsible for the text and apparatus, and long-range planning and publication with an executive committee that will have full representation of the Press — with, obviously, an interlocking membership to ensure the fullest communication and liaison (reinforced by the feature of having the Co-ordinating Editor function as chairman of both committees).

Advisory Committee:
We have already drawn upon advisors for counsel and guidance, and we plan to continue — indeed, we are looking forward to a meeting of all members of the Editorial, Executive and Advisory Committees here in Toronto during 1971. The names of members of the Advisory Committee are as follows:

Bainton, Roland H.
Yale University;

Bataillon, Marcel
Paris, France;

Gilmore, M. P.
Villa I Tatti, Florence, Italy;

Gilson, Etienne
Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies,
Toronto;

Greenslade, Rev. S. L.
Christ Church, Oxford;

Hardison, O. B., Jr.
Director, The Folger Shakespeare Library;

Herding, Otto
Historisches Seminar der Albert-Ludwigs-
Universität, Freiburg i. Breisgau, Germany;

Kaegi, Werner
Universität Basel, Switzerland;

Kingdon, R. M.
Professor of History, University of Wisconsin;

Margolin, Jean-Claude
Paris, France;

Pelikan, Jaroslav
Professor of History, Yale University;

Phillips, Mrs. Margaret Mann
Surrey, England;

Sage, Pierre
Université de Laval, Québec;

Sylvester, R. S.
Yale Edition of the Works of St. Thomas More;

Thompson, Craig R.
Professor of English, University of Pennsylvania;

Trapp, J. B.
The Warburg Institute, London.
Arrangement of Volumes

The CWE will comprise about 35 volumes, consisting of Correspondence (15 volumes) and other writings (20 volumes). It is expected that the second group will be arranged thematically more or less as follows:

Erasmus and the Classical Tradition
(including his writings on rhetoric, eloquence, and education (largely in vol. I of the Opera Omnia, Leiden ed., plus the Apophegmata in vol. IV)

Literary Works [volume editor: R. J. Schoeck]
(Moriae Encomion, Iulius Exclusus, Querela Pacis, Institutio principis Christini, Panegyricus, Declamatio, Oratio funebris... and Oratio de pace, and the Poems)

Adagia [volume editor: M. M. Phillips]
Erasmus and the New Testament
(including the Paraphrases) [M. A. Screech]
Erasmus and the Church Fathers [volume editor: S. Greenslade]

Erasmus and the Philosoplia Christi
(Enchiridion, Commentaries on the Psalms)
Erasmus and Pastoralia [volume editor: L. Boyle]
(on religious instruction, the methods of confessing, preaching and praying)
Erasmus and Spirituality
(work on religious inspiration, sermons, prayers)
The Pre-Reformation Controversies of Erasmus
Controversies with the Reformers [volume editor: J. Pelikan]
Controversies with Catholic Theologians after 1521

The Colloquies

A final volume of index and bibliography

Finally, a word on progress. If the year 1968-69 was a year of consultation, 1969-70 has been a year of planning. We have gathered the nucleus of our working scholars and are in the process of making assignments both of volumes to volume editors (whose responsibilities may range from a total supervision of the volume as a whole to the writing only of the introductory essay); we are now looking forward to the assignment of individual works within those volumes which will have a relatively high priority. For the correspondence, the Editorial Committee is now planning the publication of several volumes together (probably to carry Erasmus' correspondence through the year 1520), a multi-volume launch which will include a General Introduction (both literary and historical), biographical registers, appendices, and index. Professors Mynors and Thomson have already begun the work of translation. For the other writings, the Editorial Committee is at present completing the provisional groupings into volumes and the assignment of volume editors. Individual scholars are encouraged to write the Coordinating Editor both to ask for further details and to provide information concerning their own work in progress.