

vota si valerent, omnibus bonis floreret tua maiestas et sub te regnum longe florentissimum. Codicem recentem adhuc ab officina statim misi ad Christianiss(imam) M. T. per Hilarium famulum
 25 meum, fidelem et in bonis litteris non vulgariter doctum, qui olim Tolose diu professus. Per hunc si congruero meum studium tibi fuisse gratum, vehementer gaudebo. Dominus Iesus maiestatem tuam diu seruet incolumem ac florentem.

Basileae xvi Calend. † Iunias Anno xxiii.

1404. TO MARGARET ROPER.

Commentarius in Nucem Ouidii, f^o. D⁵.

Lond. xxix. 65 : LB. v. 1337.

Basle.

25 December 1523.

[The preface to a commentary on Prudentius' hymns for Christmas and Epiphany; printed with Ovid's *Nux* (Ep. 1402), Basle, Froben, 1524 (a). For this also there seems to have been no authorized edition until the Basle *Opera*, 1540, vol. v, p. 1120 (β). As the book was in the press on 17 Feb. 1524 in preparation for the spring fair (VE. 380; cf. Basle MS. C. VI^a. 73. 229), it is evident that the year-date here is of a year beginning at Christmas.

For Margaret Roper see Ep. 999. 174n.]

ERASMVS ROTERODAMVS CASTISSIMAE PVELLAE, MARGARETAE
 ROPERAE, S. D.

TOTIES iam prouocor tuis sororumque tuarum literis, optima
 Margareta, tam sanis, tam argutis, tam modestis, tam candidis, tam
 amicis, vt etiam si quis titulos detrahat, Thomae Mori γνήσια τέκνα
 possim agnoscere. Ne vero semper videamini cecinisse surdo,
 5 studiis quibus obruor, paululum otii suffuratus, hisce diebus
 Nataliciis, parauit munusculum quod spero vobis non ingratum
 futurum.

Quod felix faustumque sit, Guilielmus Roperus, ea morum integritate,
 suauitate modestiaque praeditus, vt, ni sponsus esset tuus,
 10 germanus videri posset, dedit tibi auspiciatissimas coniugii primitias,
 aut, si mauiis, tu illi dedisti: vel vt verius dicam, vterque dedit
 alteri παιδίον quod dissuauietur. En mitto tibi et alterum puerum
 multo auspiciatissimum, Iesum nascentem Iudaeis et mox illucescentem
 Gentibus, qui connubii vestri prouentum bene fortunabit;

1404. TIT. DES. ante ERASMVS add. β.

1403. 23. recentem adhuc] The presentation copy was sent off so quickly after completion that the ink of f^o. A² has blotted across on to the verso of the title, which is blank.

24. Hilarium] Bertulf; see p. 13.

1404. 1. literis] Cf. Ep. 1402. 32. Unhappily none of them have survived.

8. Roperus] (c. 1496—4 Jan. 1573) son of Jo. Roper, who owned property at Well Hall near Eltham (cf. Ep. 104 introd.) and at St. Dunstan's, Canterbury, and was Sheriff of Kent 1521, † c. 7 April 1524. William entered More's household c. 1518—19, and resided there continually sixteen years and more.

In 1523 he was associated with his father in the office of Clerk of the Pleas of the King's Bench, and continued to hold it till 1577. He entered Parliament 1529; but, remaining a Roman Catholic, retired into private life after the end of Mary's reign. He is best known as author of the life of his father-in-law; first printed in Paris, 1626. See DNB.

12. παιδίον] From the genealogical table given by <B. Buckler>, *Stemmata Chicheleana*, suppl. 1775, no. 363, this must be their elder son Thomas; who succeeded his father as Clerk of the Pleas in 1577, † c. 26 Feb. 1593, and was buried at St. Dunstan's, Canterbury.

quique studiorum vestrorum verus erit Apollo, cuius laudes pro 15
fesceninis tuis infantulis lyrae poteris occinere. Solus enim hic
dignus est qui fidibus, qui fistulis, qui voce, qui musices omni
genere, sed praecipue modulatis piaie mentis affectibus iugiter
celebretur.

Non dedignabitur a talibus coniugibus decantari, quorum ea est 20
vitae totius puritas, concordia, tranquillitas, simplicitas, vt aegre
reperia virginitatis professores qui se ausint comparare. Rarum
exemplum hoc praesertim seculo, sed quod video breui ad plures
permanaturum. Habetis isthic Reginam velut istius sanctissimi
chori Calliopen. Sunt et in Germania familiae non obscurae, quae 25
neutiquam infeliciter meditantur quod vos hactenus felicissime
praestatis. Bene vale, non infimum aevi Britanniaeque tuae decus,
et totum istum chorum mihi saluta diligenter.

Basiliae ad Christi natalem. Anno M.D.XXIII.

1405. FROM OTHO BRUNFELS.

Brunfelsii Responsio, f^o. e^o v^o.

<Strasburg ?>

<c. December 1523.>

[The preface to Brunfels' *Pro Vlricho Hutteno defuncto, ad Erasmi Roter. Spon-*
giam Responsio, Strasburg, J. Schott, s. a. (a); of which a revised edition (B)
followed very shortly (HE, pp. 82*, 83*), each being affixed to a corrected edition
of Hutten's *Expostulatio* (see Ep. 1356. 63n). The *Responsio* answers the second
edition of the *Spongia* (Ep. 1389); and its publication may be placed between
19 Jan., when Erasmus was expecting its appearance (Ep. 1411), and 13 March
1524 (Ep. 1429; cf. Ep. 1437. 30-1, Horawitz v. 72, and Herminjard 103). By
21 July the second edition (B) was in circulation (Ep. 1466. 25-6; cf. Ep. 1477).
In view of these dates, this letter and Ep. 1406, which are printed in both editions,
may be placed about the end of 1523; and this is corroborated by the sequence
of events narrated in Ep. 1406, where Brunfels describes his long hesitation to
take up his pen.

I cannot trace certainly where he was at this time; but Ep. 1406. 14 seems to
imply that he had left Neuenburg, and, as the book was printed at Strasburg,
his settlement there had perhaps begun.

Otho Brunfels or Brunnfels of Mainz (c. 1488—23 Nov. 1534) was the son of
a cooper who traced his origin to Braunfels near the Lahn, in the domains of the
Counts of Solms. After taking an M.A. at Mainz, in pursuit of leisure he entered
the Carthusian house outside the walls of Strasburg. Before long he was dis-
illusioned; finding that, though allowed considerable freedom in correspondence,
he was debarred from effective contact with reform. His first publications were
educational, printed by Schott at Strasburg; *De corrigendis studiis seuerioribus*,
1519, and *Aphorismi institutionis puerorum*, 30 Aug. 1519, with extracts adapted
from Rud. Agricola, and Erasmus' *De ratione studii*, and a preface to his Provincial,
Greg. Reisch of Freiburg (Ep. 308), expressing admiration for Erasmus. In Jan.
1520 he introduced himself to Beatus Rhenanus, and c. 17 May 1520 to Erasmus
(BRE. 145, 176); and his letters of this period to Beatus show him furtively using
the manuscript treasures of his monastery for the benefit of the humanist printers.
In May 1520 L. Schurer at Schlettstadt printed for him a *Confutatio sophistices*;
which attacks Erasmus' opponents, Dorp and Luther. By 1521 he had determined
to seek release, and on 10 June wrote to Spiegel asking for the help of Aleander

24. Reginam] Cf. Epp. 1028. 4n, 1381. 38.

25. familiae] Erasmus was probably thinking, not only of such married couples as the Peutingers (Ep. 1247), but of learned women like Pirck-

heimer's sisters and daughters (see Ep. 409. 28n). Cf. also Epp. 1233. 103n, 1469. 247.

28. istum chorum] Of Margaret's sisters and their companion in More's 'school': cf. Ep. 1402. 30-32.