

Hollandicarum decus; et magistrum Henricum, festiuissimum hominem, reliquosque mei amantissimos. Vxori tuae dulcissimae iucundissimisque liberis omnia fausta laetaque precor. Vale.

Londini postridie Calendas Apriles.

191. TO RICHARD WHITFORD.

Luciani Opuscula f. 30.

Lond. xxix. 7 : LB. i. 265.

The Country.

1 May 1506.

[The preface to Erasmus' Declamation in reply to Lucian's *Tyrannicida*, printed in *Luciani Opuscula*, 1506 (see Ep. 187; where a list of editions is given). In  $\beta$  this preface precedes the *Tyrannicida*, but a note in the *corrigenda* says that it should be placed before the Declamation. All the subsequent editions however repeat the error.

There is no reason to question the date. Whitford was now probably chaplain to Foxe. See Ep. 89 introd.; and cf. the dedication of Ep. 187. For Erasmus' movements at this time see App. 6. He may have been paying a farewell visit to Mountjoy at Bedwell (cf. Ep. 103 introd. for the vagueness of the address) before departing for Italy.]

ERASMVS ROTERODAMVS RICARDO VVITFORDO BRITANNO DOCTO  
IVCVNQVE AMICO S. P. D.

QVVM annis iam aliquot totus Graecanicis in litteris fuerim, Ricarde charissime, nuper quo cum litteris Latinis redirem in gratiam, Latine declamare coepi, idque impulsore Toma Moro cuius (vti scis) tanta est facundia, vt nihil non possit persuadere vel hosti; 5 tanta autem hominem charitate complector vt etiam si saltare me restimque ductare iubeat, sim non grauatim obtemperaturus. Tractat ille idem argumentum, et ita tractat vt nullus sit omnino locus quem non excutiat eruatque. Neque enim arbitrator (nisi me vehemens in illum fallit amor) vnquam naturam finxisse ingenium hoc vno 10 praesentius, promptius, oculatius, argutius, breuiterque dotibus omnigenis absolutius. Accedit lingua ingenio par, tum morum mira festiuitas, salis plurimum, sed candidi duntaxat, vt nihil in eo desyderes quod ad absolutum pertineat patronum.

Quare non hoc animo laborem hunc suscepi, vt tantum artificem 15 vel aequarem vel vincerem, sed vti cum amico omnium dulcissimo, quicum libenter soleo seria ludicraque miscere, in hac ingeniorum palestra quasi collectarer; idque feci eo libentius quod magnopere

Ode 3 (Ep. 49). But his chief composition was a History of Holland entitled *De rebus Batavicis Libri xiii*, first published in 1620 by his kinsman, James Cool (Brassica) at Frankfort; cf. LB. App. 474. He is found in Adolphus' service in 1524 (Leiden MS. Vule. 66, f<sup>o</sup>. 131) and again in 1533 (cf. p. 229) when he composed a Paraphrase on the Psalms, published at Louvain in 1534. Cornelius Gerard,

who speaks frequently of Snoy as his patron, dedicated to him the two parts of his *Batavia* (p. 206). See a life by Cool prefixed to the *De rebus Batavicis*.

190. 11. Henricum] Cf. Ep. 83. 76 n.

191. 1. Graecanicis] Cf. App. 6.

7. idem argumentum] More's translation of the *Tyrannicida* and Declamation in reply are printed in his part of the volume, ff. BBb<sup>6</sup> v<sup>o</sup>-CCc<sup>4</sup> v<sup>o</sup>.

cupiam hoc exercitii genus, quo nullum aliud aequae frugiferum, in ludis nostris aliquando instaurari. Neque enim aliud esse in causa puto, quod hac nostra tempestate, quum tam multi sint qui scriptores 20 eloquentissimos evoluant, tam pauci tamen existant qui non infantissimi videantur, si quando res oratorem poposcerit. Quod si tum Ciceronis Fabiique auctoritatem, tum veterum exemplum sequuti in huiusmodi *μελέταις* diligenter a pueris exerceremur, non esset (opinor) tanta dicendi inopia, tam miseranda infantia, tam pudenda 25 balbuties, etiam in his qui litteras oratorias publice profitentur.

Nostram declamationem ita leges ut eam me pauculis diebus lusisse cogites, non scripsisse. Hortor autem ut et Moricam conferas, itaque iudices numquid in stilo sit discriminis inter hos quos tu ingenio, moribus, affectibus, studiis usque adeo similes esse 30 dicere solebas, ut negares vltos gemellos magis inter se similes reperiri posse. Vtrunque certe ex aequo amas, vtrique vicissim ex aequo charus. Vale, meum delictum, Ricarde festiussime.

Ruri. Ad calendas Maias. MDVI.

## 192. TO THOMAS RUTHALL.

Luciani Opuscula f. 22.

London.

Lond. xxix. 6: LB. i. 255.

(June init. 1506.)

[The preface to *Timon* in *Luciani Opuscula*, 1506 (Ep. 187), written just before leaving London at the outset of the journey to Italy. Though Erasmus was not in Basle when  $\beta$  was printed, the dates were probably added at his direction. But his memory for dates was inaccurate (p. 2n.); and that assigned here is manifestly wrong, since Ep. 181 makes it impossible to suppose any visit to England between 1500 and 1505.

Thomas Ruthall or Rowthall (†4 Feb. 1523) was now Dean of Salisbury. He was in the royal service in 1497 (Rymer, *Foed.* xii. 667), and on return from an embassy to Louis XII in 1499 was appointed King's Secretary. In 1503 he was Chancellor of Cambridge University. In 1509 Henry VII nominated him Bp. of Durham; and the appointment was confirmed by Henry VIII, whom he continued to serve as Secretary until his death. See DNB.; which is wrong in stating that he was Dean of Lincoln. Le Neve shows that he was Dean of Salisbury, 10 Oct. 1502-9; and Ammonius' poems (see Ep. 218) also connect him with Salisbury.]

ORNATISSIMO IVRIS VTRIVSQVE DOCTORI RUTHALLO SECRETARIO  
REGIO ERASMVS S. P. D.

VIDE quantum audaciae mihi suppeditet singularis quaedam ingenii tui morumque facilitas, humanissime Ruthalle; qui quum neutiquam ignorem te inter aulicos primores vel auctoritate vel gratia vel splendore vel eruditione praecipuum esse, tamen non verear meas nugae rudes adhuc vixque e prima scheda repurgatas 5 ad tuam excellentiam mittere. Sed quid facerem? Iam vrgebat

191. 18. aequae  $\alpha$ : magis  $\epsilon$ .

24. in huiusmodi  $\alpha$ : *ἐν τοιαύταις β*.

192. TIT. NVNC EPISCOPO DVNELMENSIS post REGIO add.  $\beta$ : POST EPISCOPO DVNELMENSIS  $\delta$ .