

officia quam authorum vtriusque linguae studia. Quicquid autem opere successiuæ extiterit, Hebreis simulac Chaldeorum monumentis
30 locabo; iis in transitu, tanquam canis e Nilo bibens fugiensque, fruiturus.

De epistola gratiam habeo. Est elegans imprimis et, vt vniuersas eius dotes vno verbo significem, Erasmicum *αὐτότατον* redolet. Non tam laudas, Erasme mi, Fabricium tuum quam ad propositam
35 imaginem, vt studia sua confingat, excitas mireque extimulas. Soles enim, quasi quem amas celebraturus, salubriter pariter et obiectius admonere. Quemadmodum nunc quoque eum pinxisti, non qualis ipse sum sed qualem me futurum exoptas. Cuiusmodi decreta sanctissime recondita mecum exemplar erunt euenturæ vitæ, si
40 quam euenturam diuinum numen donauerit. Bene vale, gemma praeceptorum. Basileae idus Iulii 1517.

584,597601. FROM THOMAS MORE.

Deventer MS. 91, ff. 94 (a) and 218 v^o (β).
LB. App. 148.

London.
16 July (1517).

[For the text cf. the introductions to Epp. 559 and 574, which were sent with this letter. β² is perhaps only Hand B correcting itself. The year-date is supplied from Ep. 597.]

THOMAS MORVS D. ERASMO ROTERODAMO S. P.

IN magnam me sollicitudinem coniecisti, Erasme charissime, proximis litteris tuis (nam binas accepi), quibus intelligo Petrum nostrum neque satis adhuc esse commoda valetudine, et nescio quid preterea pertimescere. Quod quale sit vt tu diuinas magis quam scis,
5 sic vtinam quicquid ipse diuinas, id mihi quoque fuisses vaticinatus: qui nunc quum ne diuinare quidem quicquam queam, vt meticulosa res est amor, multa cogor vero fortasse deteriora metuere. Tum hoc male me habet, quod tanquam parum malorum habeant morbus
10 atque aegritudo, vxoris aborsus etiam velut in cumulum adiectus est. Vide quam iniqua est rerum vicissitudo mortalium, quibus quum prospera non nisi sensim atque gradatim adrepant, aduersa cunctim ingerunt sese, raroque accidit vt malum aliquod incomitatum veniat. Sed tamen vt sunt res humanae mutabiles neque omnis dies nouerca, spero fore vt omnis eius molestia magno quopiam rursus

600. 29. subcisiuæ cont. LB: successiuæ MS.
8. morbus αβ²; moribus β¹. 9. abortus LB.
12. αβ²: ingerant β¹.

601. 5. quoque αβ²: om. β¹.
cumulum αβ²: camelum β¹.

600. 30. canis] Cf. *Adag.* 88o.
32. epistola] Ep. 541, which had been printed in C¹.

601. 7. amor] Cf. *Ov. Her.* 1. 12.
14. nouerca] Cf. *Hes. Op.* 825, quoted in *Gell.* 17. 12. 4; and *Adag.* 764.

atque insperato bono rependatur: quod vt quam maturrime videam 15
in primis mihi votis est.

Niger ille Carmelita quod tibi tam iniquus sit, haud herele miror; homini dissimillimo, nempe indoctus doctissimo ac malus optimo. Sed in Moriam quod inuehitur, id vero vix credi potest, homo totus ex Moria conflatus. O hominem insolenter ingratum! Adeon' eum pudet 20
imperatricis suae? quae mellitissimam ei filiolum suam philautiam

Connubio iunxit stabili propriamque dicauit,

qua se perpetuo oblectet, alioqui sibi ipsi non ferendus. Sed nec illud quidem agnoscit deae tam propiciae tam recens beneficium, quae nuper ei tanti muneris candidato sola suffragatorum calculos eblandita est? 25
dum offuso luminibus eorum praestigio, illius diuinum oculis afflavit honorem, fecitque vti plausibiliter honoratissimorum hominum praerogatiua tanto munere dignus renunciaretur, scilicet os humerosque deo similis, competitore interim turpiter ob maciem atque caluicium tristibus sapientiae signis eiecto. Ergo fugitiuus nunc ingrattissimus 30
debaechatur in dominam, et pretensa τῆ σοφίας λεοντῆ μωρίας ὄνον dissimulat sese. Bene habet quod extant auriculae saltem, quibus, vt spero, ex ephippiis et phaleris ad elitellas aliquando retrahetur.

Sed illius alterius boni senis non possum satis demirari sententiam, qui pius scilicet ac modestus tam immodeste dimicat pro gloria: qua 35
si sic insistet, totus excidet. Quanto melius tu qui laecessitus ad pugnam pacem agitas, itaque temperare statuis stilum vt neque veritatem deseras indefensam et emulum etiam mitiges, ne res in rabiem exeat. Denique hoc est victoria parta remittere triumphum, fructumque studiosorum ducere tua ipsius gloria potioem, ne dis- 40
sensione Graecorum inualescant barbari, eorum pugna pro se vsi. Quam mentis moderationem si cum animi sui magnitudine coniunxisset olim Caesar, clariorem haud dubie famam conseruatae ab se reipublicae quam ab omnibus victis ac subiugatis gentibus reportasset. Quanquam ego vel maxime istam ipsam modestiam tuam 45
existimo ab magno atque excelso pectore proficisci. Quid enim ea humilitate sublimius, quae deam ipsam superborum despicit ac deridet gloriam? quae te fugientem ita quouis sequitur instatque, vt iam saturo pene fastidio sit.

Tabellam quae mihi tuam Petrique nostri imaginem referat non 50

19. ex aβ²: et β¹. 22. aβ²: iuxit β¹. dicauit aβ²: dedicauit β¹.
27. β: progatia a. 30. aβ²: eiecto β¹. 31. τῆ β²: τῆ aβ¹. β²: λεοντι
a: λεοντῆ β¹. β²: μωρίας aβ¹. 38. aβ²: emulam β¹. 40. dissenti-
tione β. 50. non aβ²: nos β¹.

22. Connubio] Verg. *Aen.* 1. 73.
26. oculis] Cf. Verg. *Aen.* 1. 591.

28. os humerosque] Verg. *Aen.* 1. 589.
34. senis] Faber.

credas quam auide expectem, quamque male precer illi morbo qui vota mea tam diu remoratur. Dominus Cardinalis amantissimam nuper apud me tui mentionem habuit, et plane videtur tibi magnum aliquod bonum destinare. Epistolam meam, qua scribis te nolle 55 fraudari, Guilielmus meus tam diligenter reposuit vt inuenire non possit. Tamen, quando ita vis, vbi vbi sit, inuentam et ad te missam curabo. Vale. Londini raptim 16^a Iulii.

Mitto ad te fasciculum ab oratore Veneto atque eius secretario, praeterea ab Episcopo Roffensi.

602. TO JOHN FROBEN.

Basle MS. G. II. 13^a. 43.(Louvain.)
(July 1517.)

[An autograph throughout. M. Philippe Renouard has kindly allowed me to avail myself of his intimate knowledge of Badius' publications, and in answer to my inquiry at once indicated that the book here referred to is the *Antiquae Lectiones* of Caelius Rhodiginus. The first edition of this was published by the Aldine firm in Feb. 1516, and a copy reached Froben through the Frankfort fair in Sept. 1516 (Ep. 469. 8 n.). He printed it in the winter of 1516-7 (Ep. 556. 27), and the colophon is dated 18 March 1517 (not 1518, as Panzer). Meanwhile Badius also was reproducing the Aldine edition, 13 June 1517, and in his preface of the same date, to Remigius Ruffus, he writes: 'Tu enim istis libris quos mihi suppeditasti non carebas, at sciebas duplo minoris a nobis quam ab reliquis redimendos' (cf. Ph. Renouard, *Bibliographie de Josse Badius*, iii. 209, 10). But the priority of Froben's edition is apparent, not real; for its title-page contains on the recto the preface suggested here by Erasmus, which can only have been written after the appearance of Badius' volume.

For this conflict of dates three explanations are possible: (1) that Froben's book is to be dated in March 1517. (2) that the British Museum copy, which is the only one I have examined—it once belonged to John Toker, Cardinal College, Oxford—is a re-issue with a new title-page. (3) that the substantive part of the book was completed by the date given in the colophon, but that this being too late for the Frankfort spring fair, the introductory sheets (forty folios of indexes, &c., with separate signatures) were finished more leisurely; and that thus there was time for Erasmus' preface to be included. No. 1 seems to me improbable. The German year usually began at Christmas or 1 Jan., and I know of no other instance in which Froben uses the 'old style'; though Erasmus sometimes adopts it in his letters to friends who were accustomed to it (cf. Ep. 522 introd.). Of the practice suggested in No. 2 Dr. Bernoulli has shown me an example in two copies of the *Adagia* of 1515 (Ep. 269 introd.) in the Basle University Library, where the title-pages differ considerably, but otherwise there is no apparent variation. But though this was doubtless done in other cases also, there is no suggestion in this letter of substituting a new preface for one already used; and I therefore prefer the third explanation.

As to the date, there is no clear indication as to Erasmus' correspondence with Basle in the summer of 1517, except that he sent one packet in May (Ep. 584. 15), which was answered from Basle, c. 13 July (Epp. 598, 9); and that he replied to these answers with another budget of letters, c. 23 Aug. (Epp. 625-35). But as none of these announce Erasmus' arrival at Louvain, it is

51. quamque scripsi (q̄q̄) : q̄q̄ αβ : quamquam LB. 55. Guilielmus β.
56. et add. β. 57. 16 β. 58. Mitto . . . 59. Roffensi add. β².

52. Cardinalis] Cf. Ep. 577.
55. Guilielmus] Gonell; cf. Ep. 274 introd.
58. fasciculum] Epp. 574, 590, 559, 591, which follow α in the MS. in this order: β is preceded in the MS. by Epp. 539 and 574.
59. Roffensi] Ep. 592.