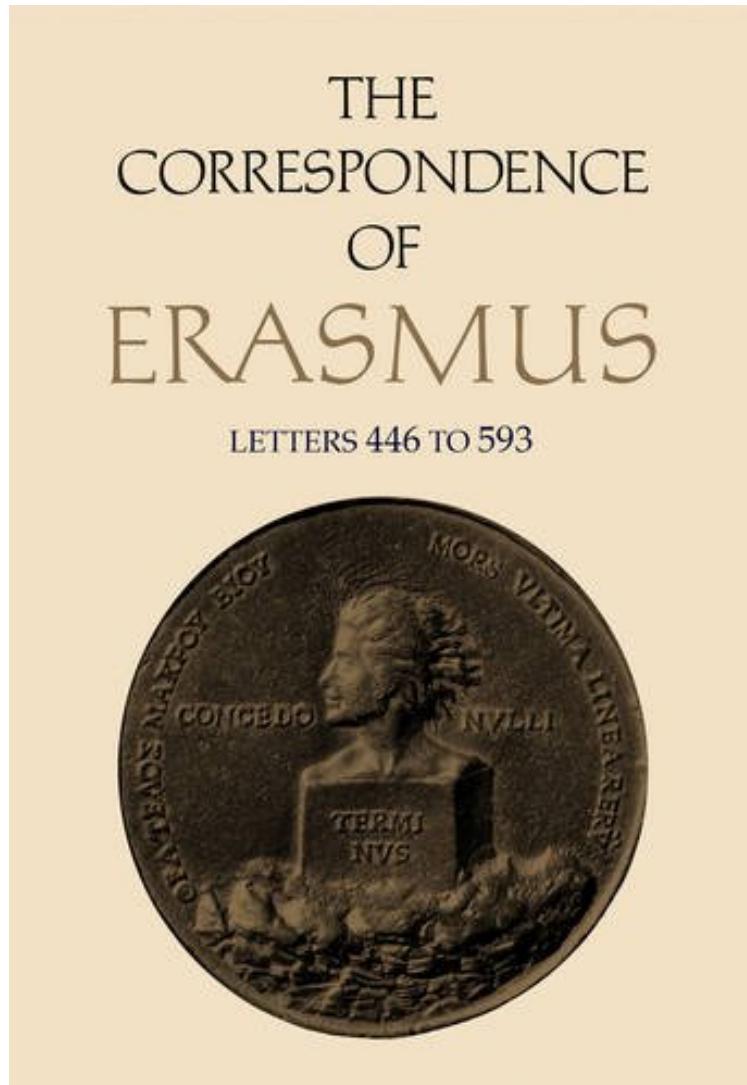


## The Correspondence of Erasmus: Letters 446-593 (1516-17) (Collected Works of Erasmus)

*Desiderius Erasmus*

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**Desiderius Erasmus : The Correspondence of Erasmus: Letters 446-593 (1516-17) (Collected Works of Erasmus)** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Correspondence of Erasmus: Letters 446-593 (1516-17) (Collected Works of Erasmus):

The year that began in August 1515 was the annus mirabilis of Erasmus' career, the year, notably of the epistles of St

Jerome and the first edition of his New Testament. In the months following, covered in this volume of the CWE, from August 1516 to June 1517, the active exchange of letters that began with volume 3 continued, giving a vivid impression of the impact of Erasmus' great achievement upon his contemporaries. In his own words, "The New Testament has made me friends everywhere." To Erasmus, the most important event of these months was intensely private, the dispensation granted by Leo X allowing him to escape permanently from the restraints of his religious community, to earn his living with the freedom of a secular priest. In elucidating the complex circumstances surrounding this crucial development in Erasmus' career, Dr McConica advances a new view of the obscure circumstances surrounding Erasmus' illegitimacy. We are also given Erasmus' thinly veiled account of his boyhood in the "Letter to Grunnius," and, in an Appendix, the closely related account in the *Compendium vitae*, a vital if controversial document for our knowledge of his early life. In the background are the life and enterprise of the Low Countries. Pursuit of personal promotion, the politics of the Burgundian Court, and the emergence of the young Prince Charlesoon to be Charles V in the European scene, provide further tuition for the great humanist in the use and abuse of princely power. In this volume Erasmus moves between the Burgundian court at Brussels and the domestic quiet of Pieter Gillis' household at Antwerp, where he was preparing further work for the Froben press at Basel. He is drawn to Louvain but avoids it, fearing a scrutiny of his works by the hostile theologians of the University. The England of Tunstall and More is always at hand, and the letters of volume 4 incidentally provide the most important chronicle for the publication of More's *Utopia*, over which Erasmus kept a watchful eye. This volume records important developments in Erasmus' manyfaceted philosophy, especially in politics and education. There is the sharpest condemnation of princely power beneath the veil of rhetorical courtesy, with classical statements of Erasmus' programme for men of education and Christian principle, the rulers upon whom he rested his hope for the reform of Christendom. Educated Europe now waited upon Erasmus' words, and, as a French humanist writes, "Words never fail him; and such words!" Volume 4 of the *Collected Works of Erasmus* series

About the Author Desiderius Erasmus (c. 1466-1536), a Dutch humanist, Catholic priest, and scholar, was one of the most influential Renaissance figures. A professor of divinity and Greek, Erasmus wrote, taught, and travelled, meeting with Europe's foremost scholars. A prolific author, Erasmus wrote on both ecclesiastic and general human interest subjects. R.A.B. Mynors is Corpus Christi Professor of Latin, Oxford University. Douglas F.S. Thomson is Professor Emeritus of Classics, University of Toronto.