



# EXETER CATHEDRAL

## The Scholar Erasmus (1466-1536): holdings of his work in Exeter Cathedral Library

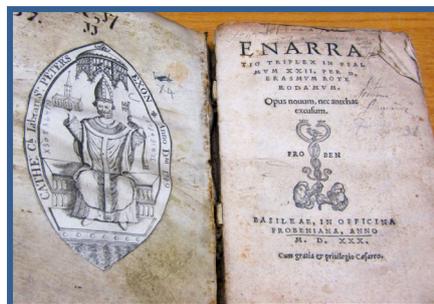
There are 33 entries for Erasmus in the Exeter Cathedral Library catalogue; 23 are writings by Erasmus (or to which he has contributed) and 10 are books about him.

Of the books by Erasmus the majority (16) are in Latin; three are in both Latin and Greek, two are in Greek alone and two are in English.

The two books in English are:

1. A commentary on the four Gospels and the Acts of the Apostles dated 1551, which has only recently (2013) come to the Cathedral. It was previously at the Parish Church of Pilton (Barnstaple).
2. A book of commentary on Pilgrimages to Our Lady (St Mary) of Walsingham and St Thomas of Canterbury. This book is in the collection donated in the 19<sup>th</sup> century by the Reverend Canon E.C. Harington of Exeter Cathedral (part of the Harington Collection). It has been in the Cathedral since Canon Harington's death in 1881.

However the typical book in this group of works by Erasmus is in Latin; about half of them deal with secular matters and an example is an edition of Aristotle (384-322 B.C.). The other half are religious – an example of a religious Latin work in this group is his *Enarratio Triplex in Psalmum XXII* (1530).



Erasmus keeps broad and exalted company, both historically and among his contemporaries, and they are represented here. Thus historically his books in this collection include, beside the four evangelists, the author of Acts, Aristotle and St Basil: St Ambrose, Porphyry, St Hilary, St Jerome, Josephus, Lucian, Plutarch and Galen.

Among his contemporaries with whom he writes or corresponds, or by whom he is translated, are: Nicholas Udall (1504-56), Thomas Caius (c.1505-1572), William Warham (1450?-1532), John Colet (1467-1519), Thomas More (c.1478-1535) and Martin Luther (1483-1546).

One of the biographies held in the library is: Butler, Charles. *The Life of Erasmus: with Historical Remarks on the State of Literature between the Tenth and Sixteenth Centuries* (1825).

There are other sources of information on Erasmus, such as: Rotterdam Public Library (Netherlands), University of Toronto (Canada), and Queens' College Cambridge (where Erasmus was once a member of staff).

The collection at Exeter, however, is representative of his output and his concern to make the Gospel available and clear to everyone.

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