

Anthony Grafton

2002 Balzan Prize for the History of the Humanities

For his outstanding work on the history of scholarship, especially of the classical tradition in European intellectual history since the Renaissance, including the history of the evolution of scholarly practices, techniques and attitudes, and the links between humanist learning and the development of modern science.

Joseph Justus Scaliger (1540-1609). Edition of the Correspondence Warburg Institute, University of London

Adviser for the General Balzan Committee: M.E.H. Nicolette Mout

Half of the Balzan Prize awarded to Anthony Grafton in 2002 has been devoted to the creation of a complete critical edition of the correspondence of the great French humanist and historian Joseph Justus Scaliger (1540-1609). A complete edition of Scaliger's correspondence has long been the wish of Anthony Grafton. In an era of great encyclopaedic minds, Joseph Scaliger was recognized by friends and enemies alike as the most learned and intelligent man in Europe – as the only one who could rival Aristotle as the “greatest scholar of all times”. An erudite philologist, Scaliger could restore ancient texts like Virgil, Festus, Catullus, Tibullus, Apuleius, Caesar and Polybius to their original form. He also wrote treatises of “historical chronology”, the highly complicated but indispensable study of dates and calendars in ancient and recent history, and made fundamental contributions to various fields of knowledge. Anthony Grafton has dedicated an important and innovative biography to Scaliger (*Joseph Scaliger. A Study in the History of Classical Scholarship I. Textual Criticism and Exegesis*, Oxford 1983; *Joseph Scaliger. A Study in the History of Classical Scholarship II. Historical Chronology*, Oxford 1993) that not only deals with the man, but also suggests a network of his contemporaries and their many-faceted activities. As a leading figure of intellectual life and a privileged witness of the political and religious events of his time, Scaliger, through his correspondence, played a central role in the trans-national community of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. Scaliger's letters, in French and Latin, are especially rich, but they have never been edited or analysed as a whole.

The Scaliger Project was established at the Warburg Institute in September 2003 by Professor Anthony Grafton of Princeton University, to produce a critical edition of this important correspondence. Two editors, Dr. Paul Botley and Dr. Dirk van Miert,

were appointed to undertake this task. By the end of the fourth year of the project, the text of the corpus had been established. The surviving correspondence of Joseph Scaliger amounts to some 1650 letters, written between 1561 and 1609. The entire correspondence had been transcribed and collated with its extant sources; this text had been edited and provided with a full textual apparatus; every letter had been provided with textual and contextual headnotes; and every letter had been supplied with an English synopsis.

Efforts during the fifth year have focussed on compiling elucidatory footnotes to accompany the letters, and on the preface and bibliography for the entire edition. Most of the textual work has been done from microfilms, photographs and photocopies: final visits to Paris, Munich, Hamburg and Copenhagen were made in September 2009 to check the original manuscripts where these reproductions are unclear.

As part of their Fellowships, Dr. Botley and Dr. van Miert spent one day a week on their own research. Dr. Botley contributed to the teaching of the MA in *Cultural and Intellectual History, 1300-1650*, and taught Latin at the Institute and at Queen Mary, University of London. He is compiling an inventory of the correspondence of Isaac Casaubon (1559-1614) for which he received a small British Academy grant in January 2009, and preparing a monograph on the Anglo-Dutch scholar Richard Thomson (c.1570-1613). Dr. van Miert contributed to the teaching of the MA course *Aspects of Humanism* at the Institute, and taught two undergraduate courses in the History Department of the University of Amsterdam. He has been preparing for the press a number of articles and two conference volumes, has co-organized an international symposium in Leiden (autumn 2009), and has submitted to the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research a substantial research proposal entitled *The Philological Roots of Early Modern Science*. At the end of 2008, Dr. van Miert left the Project to take up a position as a postdoctoral fellow at the Huygens Institute of the Royal Dutch Academy of Arts and Sciences in The Hague. Dr. Botley remained to complete the six volumes of the letters. He will also compile the seventh volume, an essential companion to the text, containing undated letters, a number of textual and exegetical appendices, an extensive biographical glossary, and the indices.

Dedicated website: <http://warburg.sas.ac.uk/scaliger/indexjjsscaliger.htm>

Publications: The complete edition of Scaliger's Correspondence is to be published in seven volumes.

Publications by Dirk van Miert:

- *Anne Mercier: Xantippe of Tanaquil? Een herwaardering van een hoogleraar-vrouw uit de Gouden Eeuw*, in: Frans Blom et al. (eds), *De brede Gouden Eeuw. Opstellen voor Henk van Nierop bij zijn zestigste verjaardag*, Amsterdam, 2009, pp. 113-120.
- *Keuchenius, Robertus and Scaliger, Joseph for the On-line Bio-Bibliography of Dutch Humanists*, The Hague, (www.humbio.nl/biografieen_nederlands).
- *Neolatinisten Nieuwsbrief nr. 21* (co-edited, with H.J.M. Nellen and A. Wesseling), The Hague, September 2008.

Lectures by Dirk van Miert:

- 'Humanism and warfare: philology and military engineering in the decades around 1600', *The Making of the Humanities. First International Conference on the History of the Humanities*, Amsterdam, 24 October 2008.
- 'Confessionalisering in de Republiek der Letteren', *History Department, University of Amsterdam*, 19 November 2008; 'Scaliger Scatalogus. Retorische en filosofische achtergronden van scheldkannonades in de brieven van Joseph Scaliger', *Classics Department, University of Amsterdam*, 3 December 2008.
- 'De Canon van Amsterdam: het Athenaeum Illustre', *Beliën & Van Tol Stadsverkenningen, Amsterdam Historical Museum*, 14 December 2008; 'De filoloog met de hamer. Radicale filologie in de briefwisseling van Joseph Scaliger', *History Department, University of Amsterdam*, 26 May 2009.
- He was also a panel member, with Anthony Grafton and Marika Keblusek, for a public discussion on 'The Republic of Letters', *Historisch Café*, Amsterdam, 25 February 2009.

Statement by the Prizewinner and other statements:

The Foundation's generosity will enable me to continue my own studies in the best of conditions and to woo younger scholars to carry on this kind of research for another generation. Anthony Grafton (Rome, 13.11.2002)

Professor Anthony Grafton (Princeton University) has established a research project at the Warburg Institute (London) with the proceeds from his Balzan Prize, for the preparation of a critical edition of the correspondence of Joseph Justus Scaliger (1540-1609). The Scaliger Institute of the University of Leiden acts as co-sponsor. (<http://warburg.sas.ac.uk/scaliger/indexjjscaliger.htm>)