

# Anthony Grafton

**Henry Putnam University Professor of History at Princeton University**

## **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.*

**Institution Administering Research Funds:** Princeton University

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

## **Joseph Justus Scaliger (1540-1609) - Edition of the Correspondence**

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 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 on “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 a biography to Scaliger (*Joseph Scaliger. A Study in the History of Classical Scholarship*, Vol. I. *Textual Criticism and Exegesis*, Oxford 1983; Vol. II. *Historical Chronology*, Oxford 1993) that not only deals with the man, but also presents a network of his contemporaries describing 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, 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 has been transcribed and collated with its extant sources; this text has been edited and provided with a full textual apparatus; every letter has been provided with textual and contextual headnotes; and every letter has been supplied with an English synopsis.

Efforts during the fifth year focused 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. Professor Henk Jan de Jonge of Universiteit Leiden, who served as supervisory editor of the correspondence, read and commented on the entire body of texts and notes, making many improvements and stimulating the editors to make many more.

At the end of 2009, Dr. van Miert left the Project to take up a position as a postdoctoral fellow at the Huygens Instituut voor Nederlandse Geschiedenis of the Koninklijke Nederlandse Akademie van Wetenschappen (KNAW) in the Hague. Dr. Botley remained to complete the eight volumes of the letters. He also worked on compiling the final volumes, containing an essential companion to the text, undated letters, a number of textual and exegetical appendices, an extensive biographical glossary, and the indices.

In 2011, Dr. Botley completed all work on the remaining volumes, in occasional consultation with Dr. van Miert. The distinguished publisher Max Engammare of Librairie Droz in Geneva agreed to publish the correspondence in the series *Travaux d'Humanisme et Renaissance*. After Dr. Botley configured the final texts to the required specifications, the volumes appeared in July 2012.

**Lecture by Paul Botley:**

- 'The Letters of Isaac Casaubon (1559-1614) and Richard Thomson (c. 1570-1613)'. *Cultures of Knowledge Project*, University of Oxford, 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2010.

**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<sup>th</sup> October 2008.
- 'Confessionalisering in de Republiek der Letteren', History Department, Universiteit van Amsterdam, 19<sup>th</sup> November 2008.
- 'Scaliger Scatologus. Retorische en filosofische achtergronden van scheldkannonades in de brieven van Joseph Scaliger', Classics Department, Universiteit van Amsterdam, 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2008.
- 'De Canon van Amsterdam: het Athenaeum Illustre', Beliën & Van Tol Stadsverkenningen, Amsterdams Historisch Museum, 14<sup>th</sup> December 2008.
- 'De filoloog met de hamer. Radicale filologie in de briefwisseling van Joseph Scaliger', History Department, Universiteit van Amsterdam, 26<sup>th</sup> May 2009.
- He was also a panel member, with Anthony Grafton and Marika Koblussek, for a public discussion on 'The Republic of Letters', Historisch Café, Amsterdam, 25<sup>th</sup> February 2009.

**Researchers:**

Paul Botley

Dirk van Miert

**Publications:**

The complete edition of Scaliger's Correspondence is now complete and the eight volumes were published by Droz in July 2012.

**Publications by Paul Botley:**

- *Latin Translation in the Renaissance: The Theory and Practice of Leonardo Bruni, Giannozzo Manetti, and Desiderius Erasmus*. Cambridge and New York: Cambridge University Press, 2004.
- *Learning Greek in Western Europe, 1396-1529: Grammars, Lexica, and Classroom Texts*. Philadelphia: American Philosophical Society, 2010.

**Publications by Dirk van Miert:**

- 'Anne Mercier: Xantippe of Tanaquil? Een herwaardering van een hoogleraarsvrouw 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/biografi\\_een\\_nederlands](http://www.humbio.nl/biografi_een_nederlands)).
- *Neolatinisten Nieuwsbrief nr. 21* (co-edited, with H.J.M. Nellen and A. Wesseling), The Hague, September 2008.

**Link:**

<http://warburg.sas.ac.uk/scaliger/indexjjscaliger.htm>