191. To Richard Whitford.

Lond. xxix. 7 : LB. i. 265. 1 May 1506.

[The prologue to Erasmus' Declamation in reply to Lucian's *Pyramo.1.1cidae*, printed in Luciani Opuscula, 1506 (see Ep. 187; where a list of editions is given). In this prologue precedes the *Pyramo.1.1cidae*, but a note in the *corrigenda* says that it should be placed before the Declamation. All the subsequent editions however repeat the error.

There is no reason to question the date. Whitford was now probably chaplain to Foxe. See Ep. 83 introd.; and cf. the dedication of Ep. 167. For Erasmus' movements at this time see App. 6. He may have been paying a farewell visit to Mountjoy at Bedwell (cf. Ep. 103 introd. for the vagueness of the address) before departing for Italy.]

ERASMVS Roterodamvs RICARDO VVITFORDO BRITANNO DOCTO
IVCVNDQVE AMICO S. F. D.

Qvmm annis iam aliquot totus Graecansicis in litteris fuisse, Ricardo charissime, nuper qui cum litteris Latinis redirem in gratiam, Latinum declamare coepi, idque impulsore Toma Mora cuius (vbi seis) tanta est facundia, vt nihil non possit persuadere vel hosti; tanta autem hominem charitate complicer vt etiam si saltare me restimque ducate iubeat, sin non grauatum obtemperatus. Tractat illo idem argumentum, et ita tractat vt nullus sit omnino locus quem non excutiat eruat. Neque enim arbitrator (nisi me vehementis in illum fallit amor) unquam naturam finxisse ingenium hoc vno praeestantius, promptius, oculatus, argutius; breuiterque debitus omnigenis absolutius. Accedit lingua ingenio par, tum morum mira festituis, salis plurimum, sed candidi duxatut, vt nihil in eo desideres quod ad absolutum pertinent etiam patronum.

Quare non hoc animo laborem hunc suscepi, vt tantum artificem
vel sequarem vel vincere, sed uti cum amico omnium dulcissimo, quicum libenter soleo seria ludicraque miscere, in hae ingeniorum palestra quasi collaterare; idque feli in eo libentius quod magnopere

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Odo 3 (Ep. 49). But his chief composition was a History of Holland entitled De rebus Batavorum Libri xxxi, first published in 1620 by his kinsman, James Cool (Brassica) at Frankfort; cf. LB. App. 474. He is found in Adolphus' service in 1524 (Leiden MS. Vule. 66, F. 131) and again in 1533 (cf. p. 299) when he composed a Paraphrase on the Psalms, published at Louvain in 1534. Cornelius Gerard, who speaks frequently of Snoy as his patron, dedicated to him the two parts of his *Batavia* (p. 206). See a life by Cool prefixed to the *De rebus Batavorum*.

7. [Idem argumentum] Moro's translation of the *Pyramo.1.1cidae* and *Declaratio* in reply are printed in his part of the volume, cf. BBL v. v. CO. v.
1506] TO RICHARD WHITFORD 423
cupiam hoe exercitii genus, quo nullum aliud aeque frugiferum, in
judis nostriis alienando instaurari. Neque enim aliud esse in causae
puto, quod haec nostris tempestate, quam tam multi sint qui scriptores 20
eloquentissimos evoluti, tam pauci tamen existant qui non inlan-
tissimi videantur, si quando res oratorum poposserit. Quod si tam
Ciceronis Fabrique authoritatem, tam veterem exemplum sequi,
in huissimodi melioras diligenter a pueros exerceremur, non esset
 opinor) tanta dicendi inopia, tam miseranda infantia, tam pudenda 25
balubities, etiam in his qui litteras oratorias publice profittenur.

Nostram declamationem ita leges ut eam me pauculis diebus
lusisse cogites, non scripsisse. Horat autem ut et Moriacem
conferas, itaque judices numquid in stilo sit discriminius inter hos
quos tu ingenio, moribus, affectibus, studiis usque adeo similis esse 30
dieere solebas; ut negares illos gemellos magis inter se similis
reperiri posses. Venique certe ex aequo amas, virgine vicissim ex
aequo clarus. Vale, meum delicium, Ricardo festiuiissime.

Ruri. Ad calendas Maias. MDVI.

192. TO THOMAS RUTHALL.

Luciani Opuscula f. 22. London. Lond. xxix. 6: LB i. 255. (June init. 1506.)

The preface to Livius in Luciani Opuscula, 1506 (Ep. 187), written just before
leaving London at the outset of the journey to Italy. Though Erasmus was not
in Basle when δ was printed, the dates were probably added at his direction.
But his memory for dates was inaccurate (p. a.n.); and that assigned here
is manifestly wrong, since Ep. 187 makes it impossible to suspect any visit
to England between 1500 and 1505.

Thomas Ruthall or Rowthall (†4 Feb. 1523) was now Dean of Salisbury.
He was in the royal service in 1497 (Rymer, Poet. xii. 668), and on return from
an embassy to Louis xiv in 1499 was appointed King's Secretary. In 1508
he was Chancellor of Cambridge University. In 1509 Henry vii nominated
him Ep. of Durham; and the appointment was confirmed by Henry viii, whom
he continued to serve as Secretary until his death. See DNB; which is wrong
in stating that he was Dean of Lincoln. Le Neve shows that he was Dean of
Salisbury, 10 Oct. 1502-9; and Ammonius' poems (see Ep. 218) also connect
him with Salisbury.

ORNATISSIMO IVRIS VTRIVSQUE DOCTORI RYTHALLO SECRETARIO
REGIO ERASMUS S. P. D.

VIDE quantum audaciei mihi suppeditet singularis quaodam
ingenii tuo morumque facilitas, humanissime Ruthalle; qui quum
neutiquam ignorem te inter aulicos primores vel authoritye vel
gratia vel splendore vel eruditione praecipuam esse, tamen non
vereor, meae magis rudes adiuce vixque e prima scheda repurgatas 5
ad tuam excellendiam mittere. Sed quid facerem? Iam vergebant

191. a. aequae a: magis e. 24. in huissimodi a: in resedtus β.
192. vtr. NATO EPISCOPO DIVELMENSI POST REGIO ADD. β: POST EPISCOPO DIVELMENSI δ.