Desiderius Erasmus Roterodamus

Lucian of Samosata’s Πρὸς τὸν ἀπαίδευτον καὶ πολλὰ βιβλία ἰδέουμεν (Adversus Indoctum) (circa 125CE – after 180CE): Ρίθηκος ὁ ρίθηκος . κἂν χρυσά ἔχη σύμβολα.

Desiderius Erasmus’ Adagia (1520): Simia simia est, etiamsi aurea gestet insignia. [An ape’s an ape, nevermind its gold necklace.]

James Howell’s Paroimographia (1659):
An Ape’s an Ape,
A Varlett’s a Varlett,
Though they be cladd in silk, or scarlett.

Thomas Fuller, M.D.’s Gnomologia (1732):
A Varlet’s a Varlet,
Tho’ they be cladd in Silk or Scarlet.

Henry Thoreau’s Walden (1854): [B]ut a goose is a goose still, dress it as you will.
**WALDEN**: I live in the angle of a leaden wall, into whose composition was poured a little alloy of bell metal. Often, in the repose of my mid-day, there reaches my ears a confused tintinnabulum from without. It is the noise of my contemporaries. My neighbors tell me of their adventures with famous gentlemen and ladies, what notabilities they met at the dinner-table; but I am no more interested in such things than in the contents of the Daily Times. The interest and the conversation are about costume and manners chiefly; but a goose is a goose still, dress it as you will. They tell me of California and Texas, of England and the Indies, of the Hon. Mr. ______ of Georgia or of Massachusetts, all transient and fleeting phenomena, till I am ready to leap from their court-yard like the Mameluke bey. I delight to come to my bearings, not walk in procession with pomp and parade, in a conspicuous place but to walk even with the Builder of the universe, if I may, not to live in this restless, nervous, bustling, trivial Nineteenth Century, but stand or sit thoughtfully while it goes by. What are men celebrating? They are all on a committee of arrangements, and hourly expect a speech from somebody. God is only the president of the day, and Webster is his orator. I love to weigh, to settle, to gravitate toward that which most strongly and rightfully attracts me; -not hang by the beam of the scale and try to weigh less,- not suppose a case, but take the case that is; to travel the only path I can, and that on which no power can resist me. It affords me no satisfaction to commence to spring an arch before I have got a solid foundation. Let us not play at kitty-benders. There is a solid bottom every where. We read that the traveller asked the boy if the swamp before him had a hard bottom. The boy replied that it had. But presently the traveller's horse sank in up to the girths, and he observed to the boy, "I thought you said that this bog had a hard bottom." "So it has," answered the latter, "but you have not got half way to it yet." So it is with the bogs and quicksands of society; but he is an old boy that knows it. Only what is thought said or done at a certain rare coincidence is good. I would not be one of those who will foolishly drive a nail into mere lath and plastering; such a deed would keep me awake nights. Give me a hammer, and let me feel for the furring. Do not depend on the putty. Drive a nail home and clinch it so faithfully that you can wake up in the night and think of your work with satisfaction, -a work at which you would not be ashamed to invoke the Muse. So will help you God, and so only. Every nail driven should be as another rivet in the machine of the universe, you carrying on the work.
“NARRATIVE HISTORY” AMOUNTS TO FABULATION,
THE REAL STUFF BEING MERE CHRONOLOGY
October 28, Tuesday (Old Style): On or about this day, birth of Desiderius in Rotterdam in the Burgundian Netherlands.

NOBODY COULD GUESS WHAT WOULD HAPPEN NEXT
Nicolas Copernicus began legal studies at Bologna.

Desiderius, born in Rotterdam, adopted the additional name Erasmus (therefore he is now known to us, in full, as Desiderius Erasmus Roterodamus, or Erasmus of Rotterdam).

DO I HAVE YOUR ATTENTION? GOOD.
Desiderius Erasmus of Rotterdam went with delight to Oxford.

LIFE IS LIVED FORWARD BUT UNDERSTOOD BACKWARD?
— No, that’s giving too much to the historian’s stories. Life isn’t to be understood either forward or backward.
Desiderius Erasmus of Rotterdam taught at Oxford.

THE FUTURE IS MOST READILY PREDICTED IN RETROSPECT
Thomas More met Desiderius Erasmus for the 1st time.

THE FUTURE CAN BE EASILY PREDICTED IN RETROSPECT
The development of printing and typography was proceeding swiftly. Since 1445 more than 1,000 printing offices have produced approximately 35,000 books with approximately 10,000,000 copies. A papal bull ordered the burning of books that were against papal authority.

Desiderius Erasmus wrote *Enchiridion Militis Christiani*.

(At Erfurt, population 20,000, a city boasting 6 hospitals, 22 monasteries, 23 churches, and 36 chapels, this was read by a 17-year-old, Martin Luder.)

**WHAT I'M WRITING IS TRUE BUT NEVER MIND**
**YOU CAN ALWAYS LIE TO YOURSELF**
Desiderius Erasmus’s *Adagia* (Proverbs) proverbalized Aesop’s fable as Αἰθῆσας οὖν λένωνετο.

**CHANGE IS ETERNITY, STASIS A FIGMENT**
Desiderius Erasmus would be lecturing at Cambridge until 1514.

Upon the demise of King Henry VII, Thomas More was able to return to public life. Erasmus dedicated his THE PRAISE OF FOLIE to this close friend.

A converted Jew, Johann Pfefferkorn, was commissioned by the Holy Roman Emperor to confiscate and destroy all Jewish books in Germany, especially the TALMUD (the humanist Johann Reuchlin opposed this).
Desiderius Erasmus wrote *INSTITUTIO CHRISTIANI PRINCIPIIS*. 
Desiderius Erasmus was made Professor of Greek at Cambridge University.
Desiderius Erasmus completed his translation of the NEW TESTAMENT in Greek and published it with Latin and Greek texts.

Death of Ferdinand II of Spain, who would be succeeded by his grandson Charles, archduke (age 16), afterward Holy Roman Emperor Charles V (he would be the richest man in Europe, for his inheritance from his father Philip I would include The Netherlands, Luxembourg, Artois, and “Franche-Comté,” the Free County of Burgundy, his inheritance from his maternal grandfather Ferdinand II would include Aragón, Navarre, Granada, Naples, Sicily, Sardinia, Spanish America, and joint kingship with his insane mother over Castile, and his inheritance from his grandfather Maximilian I would include the Hapsburg lands in Austria).¹

During this year and the following one, Herr Professor Martin Luder would be offering courses of lectures on Saint Paul’s epistle to the GALATIANS. When the Black Death struck the city and others fled, he remained in his tower study. It may be that he had during this period what he would describe as his “tower experience” of justification through faith alone, obtained during a re-reading of familiar passages from the letters of the first great apostle:

ROMANS 1:17
“For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just

¹. Please bear clearly in mind that in this complicated world, the fact that Charles would be a lifelong Catholic and a primary opponent of Protestantism does not entitle you to presume that he and the Pope would always see things eye to eye. This ruler would on occasion be an opponent of the Papal hegemony (when that worked for him) and would on occasion toss tidbits to the dissident Protestants (when that worked for him).
as it is written [Habakkuk 2:4], ‘The righteous will live by faith.’”

ROMANS 3:22
“...This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe.”

He would state that he felt that he had altogether been born again — “That place in Paul was truly my gate to paradise.” What these passages meant to him was that the Scriptures themselves revealed, without any parsing, that all this fasting, all this mortification of the flesh, all this confession of sins, in which the Roman Catholics were indulging, was worthless, ineffectual, and entirely unnecessary. Forgiveness came directly and only from God’s grace period paragraph. To pass the course you don’t need to bribe the professor, you don’t need to pull an all-nighter, you merely need to somehow come up with all correct answers on the test.
Desiderius Erasmus wrote *Colloquia*.
Desiderius Erasmus’s *Adagia*. 
Desiderius Erasmus wrote *Ciceronianus*, a satire in Latin scholarship.
Desiderius Erasmus considered it impolite to greet someone while they were urinating or defecating.
The first complete edition of the works of Aristotle was compiled by Desiderius Erasmus and published.
July 12, Wednesday (Old Style) Desiderius Erasmus died suddenly at the age of 59 in Basel. The body would be placed at Basel Minister.
Álvar Núñez Cabeza de Vaca (circa 1490/1507–circa 1557/1559)’s LA RELACIÓN.

The oldest “American printed book” now in existence—discounting the Native American codexes which escaped destruction by the Catholic intrusives into Central America because although books these codexes were painted or inscribed or drawn rather than printed—was published in this year in Mexico City. This was an introduction to Christian doctrine for the Native Americans, written by Fray Juan de Zumárraga, the Bishop of Mexico, who borrowed liberally for this purpose from the writings of Desiderius Erasmus.
William Hunnis prepared a transliteration in metre of Psalms 51, 56, 57, 113, 117, and 147 (in the numbering of Matthews’s Bible), “The Songe of Zacharias,” “The Songe of the three children,” “A thanksgivinge to God for delivering from adversitie,” “Ecclesiasticus the laste,” “The complaint of a sinner.” This would be printed in the following year, and such things proving popular, by 1562, by a number of pens, all the Psalms would be thus transliterated in metre; the Princess Elizabeth prepared one, King Henry VIII had prepared one. These metrical versions of the Psalms were sung during church services all across England to popular tunes of that day, as an antidote to what was called the “curious music” of Popery.²

² Desiderius Erasmus, who as a boy had been one of these choristers, came to oppose the entire practice of music in the English church, pointing out that the performers were not thinking of the “gibble gabble” they were singing, and the listeners were not hearing what was sung.
John Eliot graduated from Jesus College of Cambridge University. He had fallen—or would—under the influence of Thomas Hooker of Connecticut.

There had been a stone statue in Rotterdam in honor of Desiderius Erasmus Roterodamus, since that had been the city of his birth — but at this point it was replaced with a statue of bronze.
Charles Butler’s Book of the Roman Catholic Church. Also, his The Life of Erasmus: With Historical Remarks on the State of Literature between the 10th and 16th Centuries (London: J. Murray).

Publication in London, also, of the four volumes of David Henry’s required textbooks, that would eventually be found in his personal library, Horace’s Quinti Horati Flacci Opera Omnia Ex Editione J C Zeunii Cum Notis et Interpretatione in Usum Delphini Variis Lectionibus Notis Variorum Recensu Editionum et Codicum et Indice Locupletissimo Accurate Recensiti. This variorum edition contains all the then-known variants of the texts, with notes by Johann Carl Zeune (1736-1788). It had been part of a large series of Latin classics prepared originally for Louis, le Grand Dauphin, in the 17th century, and was republished in London by Abraham John Valpy (1787-1854).
September 3, Tuesday: David Henry Thoreau checked out, from Harvard Library, The Life of Erasmus; with Historical Remarks on the State of Literature between the 10th and 16th Centuries (London: J. Murray, 1825).
(Disambiguation: The Charles Butler who was the author of this was not the New York lawyer Charles Butler but the English Catholic barrister Charles Butler.)

“MAGISTERIAL HISTORY” IS FANTASIZING: HISTORY IS CHRONOLOGY
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“It’s all now you see. Yesterday won’t be over until tomorrow and tomorrow began ten thousand years ago.”

- Remark by character “Garin Stevens” in William Faulkner’s Intruder in the Dust

Prepared: January 3, 2015
This stuff presumably looks to you as if it were generated by a human. Such is not the case. Instead, someone has requested that we pull it out of the hat of a pirate who has grown out of the shoulder of our pet parrot "Laura" (as above). What these chronological lists are: they are research reports compiled by ARRGH algorithms out of a database of modules which we term the Kouroo Contexture (this is data mining). To respond to such a request for information we merely push a button.
Commonly, the first output of the algorithm has obvious deficiencies and we need to go back into the modules stored in the contexture and do a minor amount of tweaking, and then we need to punch that button again and recompile the chronology— but there is nothing here that remotely resembles the ordinary "writerly" process you know and love. As the contents of this originating contexture improve, and as the programming improves, and as funding becomes available (to date no funding whatever has been needed in the creation of this facility, the entire operation being run out of pocket change) we expect a diminished need to do such tweaking and recompiling, and we fully expect to achieve a simulation of a generous and untiring robotic research librarian. Onward and upward in this brave new world.

First come first serve. There is no charge.
Place requests with <Kouroo@kouroo.info>. Arrgh.