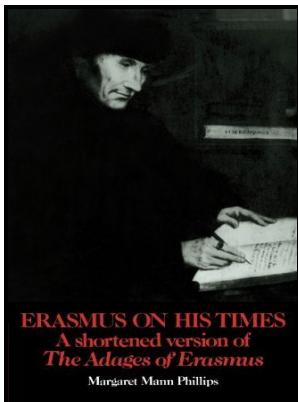


Review of Margaret Mann Phillips: The Adages of Erasmus

Renaissance Society of America - The Adages of Erasmus by Erasmus



Description: -

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Friends Hold All Things in Common

The letter to Lord Mountjoy, with which Eden opens the work, would suggest that this is an important feature of the work. The first edition, titled *Collectanea Adagiorum*, was published in 1500, in a slim of around eight hundred entries. Synopsis Erasmus' *Adagia* has been called 'one of the world's biggest bedside books,' and certainly the more than 4000 proverbs and maxims gathered and commented on by Erasmus, sometimes in a few lines and sometimes in full-scale essays, have great appeal for both scholar and educated layman.

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It also encourages scholarship at the intersections of cultural and intellectual history -- for example, the history of the book and of visual culture. The third edition of Hamlet offers a completely new introduction to this rich, mysterious play, examining Shakespeare's transformation of an ancient Nordic legend into a drama whose philosophical, psychological, political, and spiritual complexities have captivated audiences world-wide for over 400. For this volume, William Barker selected and introduced 119 of these adages.

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His massive compendium, characterized by his wit, his elegance, his bursts of satire alternating with serious views, was among the most learned and widely circulated of Renaissance books. He has, then, significantly altered the import of the notion of traditio insofar as it defines Christian wisdom. While there is communication between the two projects, they do not work in tandem.

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The author approaches Erasmus from classical philosophy; this reviewer from Christian literature.

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