Basel 1516

Erasmus' Edition of the New Testament
Ed. by Martin Wallraff, Silvana Seidel Menchi, and Kaspar von Greyerz


Published in English.

In 1516, Erasmus of Rotterdam's version of the New Testament, featuring the editio princeps of the Greek text, a revised Latin translation and comprehensive annotations, was published by Johann Froben in Basel. The edition proved to be of great significance for the history of scholarship and books. It marked a milestone in classical text publishing and laid the foundation for the reception of the Biblical text during the Reformation and Counter-Reformation. The Greek text was also to remain the standard form – textus receptus – for centuries. With the extended and revised Erasmus editions of 1519, 1522, 1527 and 1535, the work enjoyed unique commercial success.

The contents of this volume are based on a conference held in Basel in anticipation of the edition's forthcoming 500th anniversary. Contributions by 15 internationally acknowledged specialists provide a comprehensive overview of the latest research results on this epochal edition. The philological pre-history, the Greek text and additions (forewords, annotations, Erasmus' Latin translation) as well as communication and reception of the work are highlighted. It also offers new insights into Erasmus' publication activities and the history of the Biblical text.

Survey of contents

Kaspar von Greyerz/Silvana Seidel Menchi/Martin Wallraff: Preface

The Novum Instrumentum 1516 and its Philological Background
Mark Vessey: Basel 1514: Erasmus' Critical Turn – Erika Rummel: Biblical Humanism – August den Hollander: Late Medieval Vernacular Bible Production in the Low Countries – Ignacio García Pinilla: Reconsidering the Relationship between the Complutensian Polyglot Bible and Erasmus' Novum Testamentum

The Text of the New Testament and its Additions

Communication and Reception

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