

Preface

This is the last of the seven volumes of The Collected Works of Erasmus that are devoted to the *Adagia* – the final one with respect to its date of publication, though the first of the seven in its volume number. The content falls into two parts.

The first comprises an essay, ‘Erasmus’ Adages,’ on the original publication of adages in the *Collectanea* (3), the development from this to the full *Adagia* (20), and Erasmus’ sources for proverbs (38). This is followed by a translation and annotation of the *Collectanea* (85). The debt owed to the fine edition of the *Collectanea* which was begun by Felix Heinimann and completed by M.L. van Poll-van de Lisdonk and published in ASD II-9 in 2005 is considerable. The indexes to the whole of the *Adagia* that also appear in that volume were also valuable for the statistics provided in the sections ‘From the *Collectanea* to the *Chiliades*’ and ‘Erasmus’ sources.’

The second part contains seven indexes to the adages in volumes CWE 30 to 36. A modern index would normally try to cover all names, subjects, and even material in the commentary of the footnotes. We have instead followed the approach set forth in Erasmus’ note of 1528, which begins the index section of this volume. Because of limited space, caused by indexing in three languages, we were not able to cover all the possible subjects or footnoted material. The modern user who has access to the electronic version of these volumes will, however, be able to access everything, though subjects will always remain elusive, as Erasmus himself acknowledged in his note. Included are: Erasmus’ 1528 Note on Indexes (369), a Greek index to the adages (372), a Latin index (447), an Index of Early Modern English Proverbs (550), a translation of Erasmus’ own Index of Topics followed by a listing of the topics in alphabetical order, English and Latin (568), the main English Index of Erasmus’ Adages (635) with a Supplementary Index of Names (767), and an Index of Scriptural References (836).

Normally the volumes in this series do not acknowledge the exceptional editorial assistance provided by individuals at the University of Toronto Press. Nevertheless, for her ingenious solutions and extraordinary labour in compressing the indexes to fit within this volume, both editors wish to express their profound thanks to Philippa Matheson.

JNG and WB