

2-5-1962

To/From: John McRay (McRay's reply filed first;
letter from F.W. Mattox attached)

John McRay

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Recommended Citation

McRay, J. (1962). To/From: John McRay (McRay's reply filed first; letter from F.W. Mattox attached). Retrieved from <https://scholarworks.harding.edu/hst-chalk-personal/4745>

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Harding College
Searcy, Arkansas

BIBLE DEPARTMENT

February 5, 1962

John Allen Chalk cc: Dr. Mattox
Box 474
Cookeville, Tenn.

Dear John:

I just received your letter carbon to Dr. Mattox about the Eternal Kingdom and your references to the inadequacy of John Colet's Greek knowledge. May I point out that one need not have much knowledge to teach elementary Greek and that such would have been most likely all that was offered in England in Colet's time. Colet studied Greek under William Grocyn who was "the first man of his age to introduce Greek literature into England and to profess it publicly at Oxford." (The Life of John Colet, J.A.R. Marriott, Methuen & Co. Ltd, London, p. 53)

I have read Harbison's work on Christian Scholarship in the Age of the Reformation but feel that he is speaking somewhat out of turn on his denial of Greek knowledge to Colet. Preserved Smith in his Age of the Reformation also states that he "knew no Greek" (Henry Holt and Co., New York, p. 53). However, these sources need consideration also:

"On his return to Oxford, although not yet ordained to the priesthood, he began expounding St. Paul's Greek epistles in public, the lectures being given gratuitously." (Philip Schaff's History of Xtnty, VI, p. 648 Eerdmans, Grand Rapids Mich., 1960)

"John Colet...he too travelled in Italy (1493-96) and learnt there the rudiments of Greek. On his return he resided in Oxford, of which university he was an M.A." Cambridge Medieval History, VIII, p. 801
This work later acknowledges that he had only a "smattering of Gk."

"In 1493 he went to Paris and thence to Italy, studying canon and civil law, patristics and Greek." Ency. Brittanica, VI, p. 12

"While on the continent he studied Greek canon and civil law, and the writings of the fathers." He "founded and endowed the earliest school in England in which Greek was a regular part of the curriculum." Ency. Americana, VII, 249.

"Colet in particular...urged him (Erasmus, J.M.) to study Greek." Williston Walker, History of Christian Church, Revised, p. 293.

Sincerely
John M. Kay

Harbison, E. Harris. The Christian Scholar in the Age of the Reformation. (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1956.) 177pp.

1. Speaking of Colet's lectures on Romans Harbison says, "His whole work of interpretation upon the Vulgate, since he never learned Greek (to his later regret)." p. 62
2. Colet's weaknesses and strengths as a scholar are discussed. "He knew the importance of getting back to the sources, but he knew no Greek and so could not thrust aside the final veil between himself and the mind of his beloved Paul." p. 70

Dr. F. W. Mattox
President, Lubbock Christian College
Lubbock, Texas

Stephen and Lee, The Dictionary of National Biography, Vol. IV
Dear (Dr. Mattox: Oxford University Press, 1950)

I have enjoyed your work in The Eternal Kingdom. To survey the period which you chose is to set a hard task. You have done an excellent job of giving perspective to such a large area. p. 778, Vol. IV

I am sure that someone has pointed out a weakness on page 267, Chapter Twenty-Five. The suggestion as to John Colet's activities at Oxford after his return from the Continent leaves an impression concerning his Greek knowledge which I have not been able to substantiate. The statement under consideration says, "In 1496 he returned to England to teach Greek at Oxford."

On the following page I have submitted some works with appropriate quotations where necessary to show that Colet's major weakness, as a scholar, was his failure to understand or have a good working knowledge of Greek.

1. This author suggests Colet's lack of Greek knowledge on page 267. Please accept my gratitude for a volume which imminently fits a need in the local congregation and on the college campus.

Aubrey, John, Aubrey's Fraternally yours, (Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 1949) 341 pp.

1. Here it is suggested that Colet lectured in Latin and that this was his John Allen Chalk outside the mother tongue. p. 70

JAC/sw

cc: Mr. John McRay, Department of Church History, Harding College, Searcy, Arkansas

Harbison, E. Harris. The Christian Scholar in the Age of the Reformation (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1956.) 177pp.

1. Speaking of Colet's lectures on Romans Harbison says, "His whole work of interpretation rested upon the Vulgate, since he never learned Greek (to his later regret)." p. 62
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Stephen and Lee, The Dictionary of National Biography, Vol. IV (London: Oxford University Press, 1950)

P. O. Box 474

1. "...he read, besides the ordinary scholastic philosophy, all the classical literature to which a knowledge of Latin gave him access." p. 778, Vol. IV
2. On page 782 of this work it is suggested by one scholar that he knew nothing of Greek in any slight way until he was fifty years of age.
3. This work takes the position that he did have a slight knowledge of Greek but not a thorough understanding of it.

Garwin, Katharine, The Great Tudors (London: Ivor Nicholson and Watson, 1935) 658 pp.

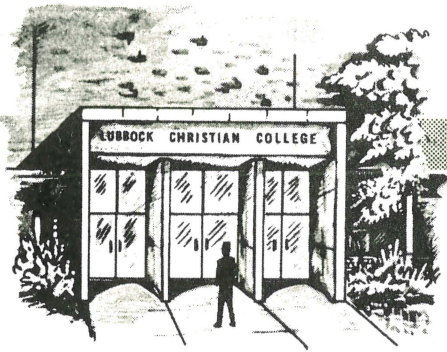
1. This author suggests Colet's lack of Greek knowledge on page 38.

Sincerely yours,

Aubrey, John, Aubrey's Brief Lives (Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 1949) 341 pp.

1. Here it is suggested that Colet lectured in Latin and that this was his only real medium outside the mother tongue. p. 70

F. W. Mattox
FWM/ps



LUBBOCK CHRISTIAN

College

5601 W. 19TH STREET

LUBBOCK, TEXAS

F. W. MATTOX, PH.D.
PRESIDENT

February 16, 1962

Mr. John Allen Chalk
Broad Street Church of Christ
P.O. Box 474
Cookeville, Tennessee

Dear Brother Chalk:

I have your letter of February 1 and also a copy of the letter from John McRay to you concerning whether or not Colet had a knowledge of Greek.

I appreciate your interest in accuracy, and I want to have all of the information possible which would make a revision of The Eternal Kingdom an improved book. Apparently, there is some discrepancy in the scholars as to this matter; but I will give it a more thorough investigation and do want to express sincere gratitude for your help in being as accurate as possible. Should you have other suggestions for revision, I would appreciate your letting me have the benefit of your thinking and your scholarship.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "F. W. Mattox".

F. W. Mattox
President

FWM/ps