

Letter 36: [End of February 1520, Louvain], Desiderius Erasmus to Capito

Printed in Allen IV, pp. 198-201, #1074 and CWE 7, Ep. 1074.

[*Summary*]: Erasmus informs Capito that Edward Lee has published his *Annotations* against Erasmus' New Testament. He uses abusive and violent language to describe his critic. Lee "wormed his way" into his acquaintance at Louvain and learned Greek with the sole purpose of criticizing Erasmus' New Testament. At first, Lee submitted critical notes to Erasmus, but he found most of them useless, except for two or three which made him reread and compare some passages. Lee resented Erasmus' attitude and sent no more notes, but spread the rumour in England that he had found three hundred places where Erasmus was wrong. The vice chancellor of the university, Briard of Ath, has refused to arbitrate between them. Lee then threatened to publish his work and circulated it among his friends, while refusing Erasmus the opportunity to read it. Finally the book was brought to the attention of some of Erasmus' friends who strongly advised Lee to make his peace with Erasmus. Instead of doing so, Lee spread the rumour that his work was being published at Bonn, while it was in fact being printed at Paris. Erasmus predicts that Lee will be laughed at by learned and judicious English scholars.