

others in other times, the great influence of Savanarola was in places far from Italy..particularly in England through the work of Colet and later through his influence on Erasmus.

The Continental Renaissance

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On the Continent there was a vigorous work in France through the influence of LeFevre and some humanist faculty persons at the Sorbonne. There was considerable opposition and the renaissance speakers sometimes needed the services of an armed guard for their safety. But the humanism of the age pervaded the university system and led to a stronger identification of the academic world and the needs of men.

In Germany the work of von Hutten and Reuchlin served the cause. The latter did much to revive an interest in Hebrew and the study of the ancient languages while the former did a lot to defend the latter and provoke the ecclesiastical authorities.

England (I know it is not on the continent!) saw the work of Colet and the Oxford scholars. They championed the renaissance humanism and spoke against the monasteries and the mendicant orders. If they did not succeed in obtaining the end, they at least helped put a fire in the work of Henry VIII when he later moved against the established church.

While we cannot document more particularly this movement against the establishment, one can see it clearly in such works as In Praise of Folly and in the pseudonymous work Julius Excluded from Heaven..a satirical piece showing why Julius could not make it there.

The derisive works were joined with some very productive academic works as well. Cardinal Ximines (1436-1517) argued for the clergy being students of the Scripture and prepared a Greek Testament to this end as well as the Complutensian Polyglot. Erasmus likewise published his New Testament (to become the foundation of the Textus Receptus) slightly before Ximines although the latter actually finished his work somewhat earlier. Jacob ben Chayyim, a converted Hebrew, produced a new rabbinic Bible which was the Hebrew Bible of the Reformation and the background for such studies for more than 400 years... and it is known to us for the place of its printing..The Bomberg Bible or the Bomberg Text.

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