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Amsterdam-O., Zoölogisch Museum, Zeeburgerdijk 21.

The editions of Goedaert's "Metamorphosis naturalis"

by
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The first question to be settled is, which of the editions, the Dutch or the Latin, is the original one.

HAGEN and HORN & SCHENKLING give the Latin edition as the original one. It is clear, however, that this edition is a translation; for on the page after the "Dedicatio" we read:

"Typographus Lectori.

Experimenta haec historica ab autore Belgicè edita, non tam elegantiae sermonis quam veritatis habita ratione, ne quicquam mutatum videretur, verbum de verbo, latina lingua expremimi curavi".

Many years ago the late Dr. A. C. OUDEMANS wrote in private correspondence that it is possible to establish the approximate dates of publication of the Dutch edition by deduction. See also his *Kritisch Historisch Overzicht*, vol. 1, note on p. 12.

In Vol. I of the Dutch edition in "Aen den goetwilligen Leser" on page (C) 2 recto and verso we read: "hoewel ick den tijdt van vier ende twintich jaren daer in besteedt hebbe, beginnende anno 1635" (in translation: "though I have spent 24 years on it, starting in 1635"). Therefore this introduction to Vol. I must have been written in 1659.

In Vol. II in the Dedication, GOEDAERT tells us on p. 7, that part I had appeared some years before, and on p. 8, that he had spent 30 years of his life studying insects. Consequently this Dedication must have been written in 1635 + 30, i.e. about 1665.

As the Latin edition is dated "27 Januarii 1662" it is clear, that the first Dutch edition of Vol. I was issued before this date (see above). It may be put at 1660—1661. The "Octrooi" (the monopoly to print the work) was given to Jacques FIERENS, the editor, on 30th Nov. 1660.

Vol. III appeared after his death which occurred in Febr. 1668, for the dedication is by his widow Clara DE BOCK and "Aen den goet-willigen Leser" was signed by the editor "den eersten Januarii 1669". For the dedication of Vol. III to Gecommitteerde Raden, this commission presented the widow of the author with 40 Carolus guilders on October 24, 1669.

The dedication to the Burgomaster of Middelburg, Henrico THIBAUT, of the Latin edition is dated in Vol. I: 27 Januarii 1662, in vol. II: IV Decembr 1667, and vol. III: Undated.

All the "editions" of the Dutch text of Vols. II and III are identical, for we

find the same broken letters with different title pages. Only of plate 34 in Vol. II we know variations, A. with No 37 instead of 34, and B. correctly numbered No. 34.

The plates with No. 34 may again differ: A. base of the wings without striation, and B. base of the wings with striation.

Vol. I, however was edited more than once.

Type 1. The normal edition is with a dedication to Gecommitteerde Raden van de Grafelijkheid van Zeeland as all copies of Vol. II and Vol. III, but there do exist some copies dedicated to the Towncouncil of Middelburg: "Achtbare, Wijze, Voorzienige Heeren, mijn Heeren Baljouw, Burgemeester, Schepenen ende Raaden der wijtberoemde Koop-stadt Middelburgh".

As the Middelburg archives were destroyed in May, 1940, it is now impossible to settle the question if the Towncouncil had perhaps ignored this dedication. This must however be the case, as the rest of the edition was dedicated to the „Gecommitteerde Raden of the Province of Zeeland". Hence most probably this edition with the dedication to the Towncouncil must be the original one, the second having the same text but a dedication to Gec. Raden. The text, however, of both is identical and may be recognized by the following characteristics.

1. In "aen den goetwilligen Leser" the r of leser is somewhat damaged on the right side, the breadth of the r is 5 mm.

2. The head of "Eenige aenteyckeningen meest uyt de voorreden des seer geleerden ende hoogh-beroemden Ulysses Aldrovandus" is printed in good sized letters, page (C) 3 ends with: "einde, ende".

3. The sheet on which is printed the "Byvoeghsel des Geleerden D. Joannis de Mey" ends with a blank page.

4. The printers mark is a scorpion below a zigzag.

5. Page 64 first line 8th letter from the right is a damaged "a".

6. Page 152 "Eynde", the "d" with a hairline.

Type 2.

There is another edition of Vol. I, which also appeared with FIERENS at Middelburg. It is different from the edition described in the following points:

1. "Goedwilligen Leser" is not damaged and is smaller, only somewhat more than 4 mm.

2. Head of „Eenighe aenteyckeningen etc." with a smaller letter, page (C) 3 ends with "kleyneydt".

3. Behind "Bijvoegsel des Geleerden D. Joannis de Mey" is a poem: "Metamorphoseos Naturalis encomion: ofte Lauwer-lof".

4. Printersmark as in the edition mentioned above.

5. Page 64 first line all "a" the same and entire.

6. "Eynde" as in type 1.

Type 2 b i s.

There is a variety of this edition,

1. The fullstop behind "Leser" is placed too high.

2. 5° & 6° are the same as in the second type.

3. After the word Mey of the „By-voeghsel" etc. is a black patch.

4. page 64 third line from top the second "e" of "besyen" is damaged;

5. page 97 second line from below, the first "n" of "blinckend" is damaged; same page third line from below, the capital "A" has a black dot above the cross bar.

Type 3, edition of 1700.

The Dutch edition has a French title page with the printer's name "Adrian Mortiens à la Hay", followed by the title page of FIERENS with 3 conventionalized lobsters or cramp-irons.

1. Aen den goedwilligen Leeser with double e.
2. Page with "Eenige aenteyckeningen etc." with "ende" as in type 1, but the first line in type 1 ends with "voorre".
3. No poem.
4. Printer's mark three conventionalized lobsters or cramp-irons.
5. Page 64 no damaged second e of besyen.
6. Page 152 the "d" of "Eynde" is a common type.

According to HAGEN this edition exists also with title pages of FIERENS, 1700, Middelburg, and GALLET, 1700, Amsterdam.

Front pages.

The front pages of the Middelburg editions do not differ. But of the edition of 1700 copies are known with the Middelburg front pages and with the front pages in reverse. Of Vol. II there are copies with a new front page with willow leaves.

Translations. Vide HAGEN, page 288—289.

1. The latin translations.
 - A. Ed. I by D. J. MEY, Middelburg, edited by FIERENS. Vol. I 1662, Vol. II 1667, Vol. III after 1668.
 - B. Ed. II. by LISTER, edited by SMITH, 1685.
 - C. So called Ed. III, Amsterdam, 1700. Edited by GALLET in Amsterdam, but with the same letter press as Ed. I, only the title page differing.
2. English translation by LISTER, edited by WHITE in York, 1682.
3. French translation, 1700, edited by "MOETENS, la Haye", and „by MORTIER à Amsterdam”.
4. German translation, ? 1690.

In the GOEDAERT No 494 G 1 of the Leiden University Library is a note, that there exists a German translation by DOCKS of 1690. [The first part of this name is illegible.]

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