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Jacob Hoogstraten

Information to the Reader, 1519

Jacob Hoogstraten (d. 1527) was a graduate of the University of Louvain (MA, 1485), where he also taught for a while. He then entered the Dominican order and studied theology at Cologne (doctorate, 1504). He was prior of the Dominican convent in Cologne, a member of the faculty of theology at Cologne, and from 1510 on inquisitor of the archdioceses of Cologne, Mainz, and Trier. He became involved in a controversy with the humanist and jurist Peter of Ravenna and was instrumental in forcing him to leave Cologne in 1508. His role in the Reuchlin controversy is outlined above, pp. 20–2. After his appeal to the papal court was protracted, he returned to Cologne and published an *Apologia* (Cologne, 1518), consisting of three sections: a list of ‘heretical’ passages excerpted from Reuchlin’s *Eye Mirror*; passages from Reuchlin’s *Defence* and his rebuttals; and a dialogue between Hoogstraten and a defender of Reuchlin, Georgius Benignus, who had been a member of the Roman commission appointed by Pope Leo X to examine the Reuchlin affair.¹ The last section was also, in part, a reaction to Willibald Pirckheimer’s defence of Reuchlin.² In response, Count Hermann of Neuenahr, a champion of Reuchlin, published a collection of three letters under the title *Epistolae trium illustrium virorum* (Letters of Three Famous Men, Cologne, 1518). The letters, written by Reuchlin, Buschius, and Hutten, were addressed to Neuenahr. Neuenahr added a letter of his own to Reuchlin, which served as a preface to the collection, and furthermore appended a tract entitled ‘A new defence of Johann Reuchlin, brought here from Rome.’ The latter circulated in Rome in 1516 under the name ‘Johannes.’ The author has not been identified. Hoogstraten responded to the *Letters of Three Famous Men* with an *Apologia Secunda* (Second Apologia, Cologne,