

ÉTIENNE DOLET

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# ETIENNE DOLET

The Martyr of the Renaissance

1508-1546

A BIOGRAPHY

BY

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## PREFACE

NINETEEN years have elapsed since the publication of the first edition of this book, which aroused considerable interest in Dolet, and met with a very favourable reception from the leading organs of the Press, not English only, but also American, French, and German. Having profited—I hope—by the friendly criticisms which the book then received, and having in the past nineteen years gathered a certain amount of new matter, I now issue this second edition thoroughly revised and corrected, and embodying such fresh materials as have come to my knowledge. But although I have found in the original edition a considerable number of trifling and verbal errors, some of the press, others of the author, all of which are, I hope, corrected in this new edition, and though I have been able to add important and interesting additional matter, I have not discovered any material error of fact, nor any reason for altering any of the views I expressed in the original volume, as to Dolet, his opinions, writings, or the causes of his misfortunes.

The most important of the additions to this volume are, first, the Act of Association, or Partnership between Dolet and Helayn Dulin, as printers, which, besides giving us other information, lets us know how Dolet obtained the capital with which to commence business; and secondly, the Documents relating to the arrest of Dolet at Troyes in 1543, and his subsequent removal to Paris, which clear up several hitherto obscure points in this period of his life. The Act of Association and these Documents are curious and interesting, and I have accordingly printed them in full, as far as they can be deciphered, in the Appendices to this volume. In 1881, M. O. Douen wrote two articles in the *Bulletin de la Société d'Histoire du Protestantisme*, in which he controverted my view of the religious opinions of Dolet, and I have given at some length (pp. 493-95) my reasons for adhering to the view I originally held and expressed on this point.

The Bibliographical Appendix has been partly re-written, and, I think, considerably improved, although somewhat condensed. I am now able to enumerate eighty-four books as printed by Dolet, having discovered the existence of three since 1880, while on the other hand two volumes which I then attributed to his press I have ascertained were not printed by him. Copies of forty-five of the books are in my own possession, while there are only nine out of the eighty-four of which I am unable to refer to a copy as now or lately existing. I have also discovered several additional

reprints of his more popular books, and also one book edited by him for Sebastian Gryphius. Much of the bibliographical and descriptive matter which was in the edition of 1880 is omitted, but all this, together with considerable corrections and many additions, will be found in the Bibliography prefixed to the French translation of the work by M. Casimir Stryienski, Professor of the University of France, published at Paris by the Librairie Fischbacher in the year 1886. The book in its French dress met with a very cordial reception, and one result of the attention thus called to Dolet was, that in 1889, a statue of him was erected at the cost of the Municipality of Paris, in the Place Maubert, where he met with his death.

My thanks are due to M. Stryienski for undertaking the search in the National Archives at Paris, resulting in the discovery of the documents relating to Dolet's arrest at Troyes in 1543, and for obtaining a transcript of them, and revising the proofs of these documents.<sup>1</sup> I have to thank Mr. W. Stebbing for the assistance he has rendered me in reference to some passages of Dolet's Latin compositions; but my thanks are especially due to Mr. John Cree, without whose aid it would have been impossible—

<sup>1</sup> M. Stryienski was also so good as to cause the documents comprised in the *Procès d'Estienne Dolet*, published by M. Taillandier in 1836, to be compared and collated with the originals, with the satisfactory result that the omissions and errors, although fairly numerous, are so unimportant, being almost entirely confined to errors of spelling, that I have made very little use of them.

owing to my long and still continuing illness—for the book to have appeared in anything like a correct and satisfactory form. I am indebted to him for many corrections of clerical and printer's errors in the first edition, for the correcting of the proofs of the present edition, for suggestions as to many notes, and for the compilation of the present Index.

RIBSDEN, WINDLESHAM,  
*August 1899.*

## P R E F A C E

### TO THE ORIGINAL EDITION

IN offering to the public the result of the scanty leisure of the past eight years, I am fully sensible of its deficiencies, but the difficulty of the task which I have undertaken may perhaps be admitted as an extenuating circumstance, if it does not altogether relieve me from censure.

England possesses hardly any materials for writing the life of a French scholar of the first half of the sixteenth century. Rich as the British Museum is in many departments, it is singularly deficient in the French and Franco-Latin books of this period. But if this is generally the case, it is especially so in reference to Étienne Dolet, whose own works are among the rarest writings of the time, and the other contemporary authorities for his life are only one degree less so.<sup>1</sup> Of many of the books cited in this volume, which I have had to refer to, and in some cases to read through, more than once, no copies are to be found in England. Of some, a copy does not even exist in the

[<sup>1</sup> Since this sentence was written, the British Museum has added largely to its collection of books printed by Dolet. 1899.]