in 1914, ‘down burning streets raked by rifle fire’ with an important collection of sixteenth-century humanist letters hidden under his coat.\footnote{The quote stems from the preface in Percy S. Allen and Helen M. Allen (eds.), *Opus epistolarum Des. Erasmi Roterodami. Tom. V.* See for the story also Michiel Verweij, ‘La correspondance de Cranevelt et le cercle d’Adrien VI: un réseau humaniste en plein fonctionnement’, in *De paus uit de lage landen Adrianus VI 1439-1523*. Catalogus bij de tentoonstelling ter gelegenheid van het 550ste geboortejaar van Adriaan van Utrecht (Leuven: Leuven University Press, 2009) Supplementa Humanistica Lovaniensia, 27, pp. 107-116, esp. p. 108.} He thus made sure that these letters would eventually get published in 1928 as the first volume of *Humanistica Lovaniensia*, a new series of monographs and editions on the history of humanism in Brabant, founded by De Vocht himself. This edition, like many of his subsequent publications, was enriched by his unmatched knowledge of the archival material concerning the Old University of Leuven kept at the State Archives in Brussels, which he studied during his enforced stay in the capital from 1914 to 1918. Throughout his career, De Vocht made many research trips, especially to the United Kingdom, but also to Scandinavia, Germany and Central Europe. He maintained friendly contacts with several prominent colleagues, such as the great editor of the correspondence of Erasmus, Percy Stafford Allen (1869-1933). He furthermore taught a course on the history of humanism at the University of Leuven from 1937 onwards, which he continued to teach after his official retirement in 1950. His unabated enthusiasm for scholarship is also evident in his publication list, which includes no fewer than fifty-two books and an even larger number of articles and book chapters. His *magnum opus* was the four-volume *History of the Foundation and the Rise of the Collegium Trilingue, 1517-1550* (1951-1955), which is still considered to be the most important study of this humanistic institution. De Vocht received several distinctions celebrating his achievements as a scholar and a priest, including his elevation to several Belgian national orders of honorary knighthood (thus becoming a Knight and Commander in the Order of Leopold as well as an Officer and, eventually, Grand Officer in the Order of the Crown); an honorary doctorate from the University of Tartu in Estonia; and an appointment as Chaplain of His Holiness Pius XII.

**Further Reading**


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**Demmy Verbeke**

**Pioneers of Neo-Latin Studies—Jozef Ijsewijn**

Jozef A. M. K. Ijsewijn (Zwijndrecht, 1932-Leuven, 1998) first came into contact with Neo-Latin literature as a student of Henry De Vocht at the University of Leuven, where he studied classical philology from 1951 until 1955. He obtained his PhD in classical philology in 1959 with a dissertation entitled *De sacerdotibus sacerdotiisque Alexandri Magni et Lagidarum eponymis*, which was to be his last contribution to the field of papyrology and the Ptolemaic history of Egypt. In 1963, he became a lecturer in Leuven, which eventually led to his appointment as professor of Latin literature at the same university in 1967. Ijsewijn had a particular interest in the ‘living Latin’ movement, and he established friendly contacts with several leading contemporary Latin poets such as Josef Eberle (1901-1986), Harry C. Schnur (1907-1979), and Johann Alexander Gaertner (1912-1996). His Latin skills also led to his appointment as the official Latin *scriptor* of the University of Leuven, writing Latin letters, diplomas for honorary degrees and inscriptions for university buildings. In 1966, he founded the *Seminarium Philologiae Humanisticae*, intended as a research group for the study of literary works and documents written in Latin worldwide from the fourteenth century to the present. In 1971, the first *International Congress for Neo-Latin Studies* was held in Leuven at Ijsewijn’s initiative, leading to the foundation of the *International Association for Neo-Latin Studies* in Amsterdam in 1973, of which he became the first president (1973-1976). Ijsewijn was also the author of the *Companion to Neo-Latin Studies* (first edited in 1977), the
widely acclaimed and indispensable introduction to Neo-Latin literature. A second, entirely rewritten, edition of the Companion was published in 1990 (vol. 1) and 1998 (vol. 2, in collaboration with Dirk Sacré). IJsewijn received many accolades during his career: he was first member, and later president, of the Belgian Academy, received the prestigious Francqui Prize in 1980, became a Corresponding Fellow of the British Academy and several other national academies, and received an honorary doctorate from the University of Valencia in 1992. He was also the recipient of a Festschrift on the occasion of his sixty-fifth birthday, and the dedicatee of a collection of essays on Neo-Latin literature written by a host of friends, students and colleagues after his demise. An annual Jozef IJsewijn Lecture at the University of Leuven (since 2006) and the IANLS’s Jozef IJsewijn Prize for best first book on a Neo-Latin topic (first awarded in 2012 for the triennium 2009-11) are similarly devoted to his memory.

Demmy Verbeke

Pioneers of Neo-Latin Studies—Paul Oskar Kristeller

Paul Oskar Kristeller (Berlin, 1905 – New York, 1999), one of the foremost Renaissance scholars of the twentieth century, also made groundbreaking contributions to the field of Neo-Latin studies. Kristeller studied philosophy at the Universities of Heidelberg (where he was a student of Ernst Hoffmann and Karl Jaspers), Berlin, Freiburg (where he attended lectures by Edmund Husserl), and Marburg (where he studied with Martin Heidegger). After defending his doctoral dissertation on Plotinus in 1928, Kristeller studied classical philology in Berlin, taking courses with Werner Jaeger, Eduard Norden, Ulrich von Wilamowitz-Moellendorf, and Paul Maas. In 1931, he returned to Freiburg to work on Marsilio Ficino under the direction of Martin Heidegger. In the course of this study, he discovered several unpublished texts and documents in German, Austrian, Swiss and Italian libraries and archives, which inspired him to commence the cataloguing activities which would win him great renown later in life. Being of Jewish descent, Kristeller decided to leave Germany after the rise to power of the Nazi Party and moved to Italy in 1934, where he first earned a modest living as a teacher of classical languages and German in Florence. In 1935, he eventually secured, thanks to the support of Giovanni Gentile, a lectureship in German at the Scuola Normale Superiore in Pisa. He emigrated to the USA in 1939, where, after a semester at Yale University, he joined the Philosophy Department of Columbia University. He stayed at Columbia for the rest of his life, first as a temporary associate, and later as a tenured professor (1948), full professor (1956), J. E. Woodbridge Professor of Philosophy (1968) and emeritus professor (1973). Kristeller acted as the first editor-in-chief of the Catalogus Translationum et Commentariorum, a survey and study of mediaeval and Renaissance Latin translations and commentaries of which the first volume appeared in 1960. Moreover, he was the author of Iter Italicum, a finding list of uncatalogued or incompletely catalogued texts written by Renaissance humanists surviving in Italian and other libraries, appearing in six volumes between 1963 and 1992 (supplemented by an index volume in 1996 and a cumulative index in 1997, and now also available in digital form). Kristeller’s impressive bibliography, numbering more than 730 items, including many important works such as the Supplementum Ficinianum, The Philosophy of Marsilio Ficino, Latin Manuscript Books before 1600 and Studies in Renaissance Thought and Letters, clearly illustrates his impact on the study of the Renaissance in the twentieth century and beyond. The enormous respect of the scholarly community for Kristeller’s achievements is furthermore illustrated in the no less than seven Festschriften published in his honor. Kristeller also served as the president of the Renaissance Society of America and the Medieval Academy