

PREFACE

Eight months at most did it take Grotius to compose his *De imperio summarum potestatum circa sacra*. The preparation of its first critical edition has taken me more than the same number of years. Obviously I am unable to keep pace with the great man, in this as in all other respects, but there is one way to outrun him, and that is to publish this book now instead of putting it away forever, as Grotius did.

De imperio summarum potestatum circa sacra is one of Grotius' largest works, the mature fruit of his political thought on church and state, written for an international public of scholars and equipped with thousands of quotations. Although it was not published during Grotius' lifetime, the text was copied time and again. Seven manuscripts have survived, a surprising number for a seventeenth-century work; the first two editions, published within a few years after Grotius' death, further complicate matters for an editor, and the recently discovered first draft of *De imperio* had to be assimilated as well. In short, if progress has been slow and the result is 'a big book, a big evil', the editor pleads extenuating circumstances.

After all this time, it is a pleasure to express my gratitude to many people who have helped me in preparing this edition. For the most part the work was done at the Constantijn Huygens Institute for text editions and intellectual history in The Hague. Thanks are due to its director, Professor H. T. M. van Vliet, and to Dr A. Kets-Vree, Professor M. G. M. van der Poel and Dr M. Gumbert-Hepp who supervised my progress at different stages.

Professors J. A. H. Bots (Nijmegen), G. H. M. Posthumus Meyjes (Leiden) and J. E. Spruit (Utrecht) made up the subcommittee for the supervision of this edition and have read the whole work. I have not only benefitted from their mild and constructive criticism, but also from their loyal support.

This edition is volume III of Grotius' *Opera theologica*. Among my fellow-Grotians of the time, Dr Edwin Rabbie, the editor of volumes I and II, deserves pride of place; without his editions, his expertise and his personal support my work would have been infinitely more difficult. My other immediate colleagues, Dr Henk Nellen and Dr Corrie Ridderikhoff, have constantly encouraged and supported me, always ready to read, discuss, and criticize and to share their vast knowledge of Grotius. Professor Robert Feenstra (Leiden) honoured and stimulated me by his perpetual interest. Dr Hans Trapman, Dr Anneke Fleurkens and Dr Tineke ter Meer, all former colleagues and experts on sixteenth- and seventeenth-century literature, have read parts of my text or discussed problems with me. For some months I was assisted in collating, checking references and other important tasks by three successive students

from Leiden University. I wish to thank Mr Jean-Pierre Bardoul, Ms Liesbeth Hekking and especially Ms Maud Senden for their help.

Ms Sophie van Romburgh generously granted me permission to quote some letters of Franciscus Junius which are to form part of her forthcoming edition. I retain good memories of our discussions of their meaning and their protagonists' respective characters. Professor Colette Nativel (Paris) contributed by identifying the scribe of one of the manuscripts as G. J. Vossius. Dr Resianne Smidt van Gelder-Fontaine (Amsterdam Free University) submitted the Hebrew in the text to a final, thorough scrutiny. Dr Piet Verkruisje (Amsterdam University) shared some of his vast typographical knowledge with me. Dr Margreet Ahsmann kindly provided me with a copy of Willem de Groot's rare *Theses de maiestate*. Mr H. J. Ph. G. Kaajan (Algemeen Rijksarchief, The Hague) put his personal expertise in the Van Oldenbarnevelt Archive at my disposal.

Ms Annette Ripson-Koeleman and Ms Els van Hilten-den Daas expertly and indeed cheerfully executed word-processing of large parts of the manuscript. Dr Lucy Schlüter compiled part of the indexes in the same style.

Dead languages apart, this book is written in English. Whatever in it is intelligible to the English-speaking world is due to Ms Lindy Melman, who corrected my English. Her painstaking efforts and infinite patience in trying to understand both what I claimed Grotius to say and what I wished to state myself, her firm correction of errors and clever suggestion of alternatives, could not be bettered. Whenever she met with my innate stubbornness, I alone am to blame.

The following libraries and archives supplied me with photocopies, microfilms, sometimes even rare books, and answers to questions, or granted me the pleasure of working there: the Bibliothèque nationale, Paris; the Bibliothèque Mazarine, Paris (M. Gasnault); the Bodleian Library, Oxford; Lambeth Palace Library, London; Dr William's Library, London (Mr Colin Clarke); the North Yorkshire County Library, Harrogate (Ms Daphne I. Brown); Durham University Library; Det Kongelige Bibliothek, København; Kunglige Biblioteket, Stockholm; Staatsbibliothek Berlin; Provinciale Bibliotheek van Zeeland, Middelburg; Rijksarchief in de provincie Zeeland, Middelburg (Mr Albert Meijer and my old friend Mr Roelof Koops); Universiteitsbibliotheek Utrecht; Museum Meermann-Westreenianum, The Hague; Vredespaleis (Peace Palace), The Hague; Gemeentebibliotheek Rotterdam (with special thanks to Dr Han van der Roer); Universiteitsbibliotheek Amsterdam (Dr Jos Biemans); Universiteitsbibliotheek Leiden; Koninklijke Bibliotheek, The Hague.

The staff of the last-mentioned three libraries, especially of the departments of manuscripts and old and rare books, but also of the lending departments in The Hague and Leiden, indefatigably parried my demands and questions throughout the years. The Royal Library in The Hague, home of the Constantijn Huygens Institute, bore the brunt of it, but Leiden University Library had to

bear with me longer. I find it difficult to understand how the staff of these libraries can remain so professional and friendly; the only thing I can do is to express my most sincere gratitude.

When I published another book, some fifteen years ago, Leiden *mores* forbade me to thank my university teachers for everything I learnt from them about Latin, Classical Antiquity and the world. On this occasion I gladly remedy that forced omission. I will be forgiven for singling out the unforgettable J. H. Waszink. Professor Piet Schrijvers was my thesis supervisor, and more. I am also deeply indebted to my teachers of classics at secondary school. Unfortunately it is too late for some of them to hear me, but Ms Loes Krop-Hack, Mr Sam van Oorde and Mr Lode Saldiën have given me more than I have long been willing to acknowledge.

It is an honour to be published by Brill Academic Publishers and a pleasure to work with its expert staff. I am grateful to the late Professor Heiko A. Oberman for his permission to include this book in his prestigious series *Studies in the History of Christian Thought*. It is a sad thought that he will not see it.

This book is dedicated to Dr Jan Pieter Guépin, a humanist in every sense of the word. His vast erudition and his liberal friendship over a long span of years mean more to me than this dedication can express.

Scornful as I would have been of it, I will miss my mother's pride more than anything else.

H.-J.v.D.

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