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978-1-108-05455-3 - The Life and Letters of Ogier Ghiselin de Busbecq: Seigneur of Bousbecque, Knight, Imperial Ambassador: Volume 1

Edited by Charles Thornton Foster and F.H. Blackburne Daniell

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The Life and Letters of Ogier Ghiselin de Busbecq

Ogier Ghiselin de Busbecq (1522–92) was a Flemish herbalist, diplomat and writer. In 1554, Ferdinand I, soon to be Holy Roman Emperor, dispatched him to Suleiman the Magnificent's court as an ambassador to the Ottoman empire, where Busbecq spent years negotiating a border dispute between his employer and the sultan. While there, he also discovered important manuscripts and sent the first tulip bulbs to Europe. He returned to Vienna in 1562, where he acted as counsellor to Ferdinand, after whose death he continued to serve the Habsburgs. This two-volume work, first published in 1881, contains Busbecq's letters, edited and translated into English from Latin by two Cambridge scholars. Volume 1 contains a lengthy biography of Busbecq, written by the editors, and his famous *Turkish Letters*, which are a unique source of information on Ottoman court life in the sixteenth century.

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Frontmatter

[More information](#)

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*Seigneur of Bousbecque,
Knight, Imperial Ambassador*

VOLUME 1

EDITED AND TRANSLATED BY
CHARLES THORNTON FOSTER
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Frontmatter

[More information](#)

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Frontmatter

[More information](#)

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Frontmatter

[More information](#)

AVGERIVS GISLENVS BVSBEQVIVS.

*Tē voce, Augeri, mulcentem Cæsaris aures
 Laudauit plausis Austrius Ister aquis.
 Tē Ducis Ismarij flectentem pectora verbis
 Thrax rapido obstupuit Bosphorus è pelago.
 Tē gessisse domum pro nata Cæsaris, ingens
 Sequana conspexit, Parisijq; lares*

The Typographic Etching Co. Photo Sc

I. Leunicius .

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Frontmatter

[More information](#)

THE
LIFE AND LETTERS
OF
OGIER GHISELIN DE BUSBECQ

SEIGNEUR OF BOUSBECQUE
KNIGHT, IMPERIAL AMBASSADOR

BY
CHARLES THORNTON FORSTER, M.A.

Late Fellow of Jesus College, Cambridge : Vicar of Hinxton

AND

F. H. BLACKBURNE DANIELL, M.A.

Late Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge : Barrister-at-Law

Πολλῶν ἀνθρώπων ἴδεν ἔσπεα καὶ νόον ἔγνω

IN TWO VOLUMES

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Frontmatter

[More information](#)

TO

MONSIEUR JEAN DALLE

MAIRE OF BOUSBECQUE

AS A SLIGHT ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF HIS KINDNESS

AND THE VALUABLE ASSISTANCE WE HAVE

DERIVED FROM HIS RESEARCHES

THESE VOLUMES ARE RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED

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Frontmatter

[More information](#)

PREFACE.



WE ask to be allowed to introduce the Reader to a kind and genial cicerone, who can take him back, three centuries deep, into the Past, and show him the Turk as he was when he dictated to Europe instead of Europe dictating to him ; or conjure once more into life Catherine de Medici, Navarre, Alençon, Guise, Marguerite the fair and frail, and that young Queen, whom he loved so well and served so faithfully.

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Frontmatter

[More information](#)

CONTENTS

OF

THE FIRST VOLUME.

	PAGE
LIFE OF BUSBECQ	I
TURKISH LETTER I.	75
" " II.	174
" " III.	192
" " IV.	315

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Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Errata.

The references in footnotes on pp. 105–250, to other passages in this volume after p. 72, should be advanced by 2 pages, e.g. *for* 163, *read* 165.

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