

**Erasmus of Rotterdam (1466-1536)** – a Dutch humanist, philosopher and theologian

was born in Rotterdam as an illegitimate son of a physician's daughter and a man who later became a monk. After having spent six years studying at a monastery school near Gouda and experiencing the ways of the monks he became their persistent enemy. (see: *The Praise of Folly*) During his life he lived in England, France or Switzerland. In some of his work he loudly and courageously speaks of the abuses of the church and is often believed to have prepared people for later reforms of Martin Luther. He was later criticized from both Protestants and defenders of the old order. He is famous for his *Praise of Folly* (1509) and annotated Greek New Testament (1519).