

use to declaim probably on any Questions propounded after the example of Aphthonius, Quintilian, or Seneca." Application is made to the orations of Tully. Norwich, 1566, gives no idea of order, but prescribes "Tullium ad Herenium, Quintilianum, Aphthonii Progynasmata" under orators, and "Erasmus de Copia Verborum et rerum" under grammarians. No text is prescribed for epistles. Durham in 1593 prescribes first epistles under the direction of Erasmus *De Scribendis* or Vives, next the theme "according to the precepts of Aphthonius," finally "the bookes of Cicero ad Heremium [*sic*], wherein the schoolemaister shall teach the schollers to frame and make an oration according to the precepts of Rhetorick," and to contend upon a theme. At Blackburn 1597 classes of material are prescribed without order, including Cicero's "Retoricke and Oracions, for Epistells Macropidius, for Themes Aphthonius."

These illustrations give a common pattern. The epistle came first, with Erasmus, *De Conscribendis* as the favorite text, but with Vives and Macropedius receiving mention. With the *De Conscribendis* of Erasmus, his *Copia* is also yoked. In the second half of the century, *Copia* is grouped with letter writing at Bury St. Edmund's, 1550, East Retford, 1552, Tideswell, 1560, Guisborough, 1561, Rivington, 1570-76, Harrow, 1590. At Witton, 1558, and Norwich, 1566, *Copia* is mentioned but not oriented. Thus *Copia* seems almost universally connected with letter writing. But *Copia* itself required a previous knowledge of the tropes and schemes. It was for this reason that "mosellanys figures or Copia rerum et verborum of Erasmus" were coupled together at Eton 1528-30, and a similar order is indicated in other schools. The order would thus be a text upon tropes and schemes, followed by *Copia*, accompanied by a text on letter writing. At Eton in 1560 the boys in the fifth form paid especial attention to varying, and used Susenbrotus¹ and Cicero's epistles as texts, showing the three processes joined as usual. So Macropedius supplied all three of these requisites in his text on epistles. It follows that where Macropedius was used *Copia* as well as *De Conscribendis* of Erasmus was not. The same would probably be true of Mosellanus or Susenbrotus on the tropes and schemes. But the usual battery of texts in the second half of the sixteenth century was Susenbrotus for tropes and schemes, with *Copia* for copy, and *De Conscribendis* for epistles. We shall find that this is the order called for by *Copia* and

¹ Nashe mentions Susenbrotus as a grammar school text (McKerrow, *Nashe*, Vol. III, p. 64). See also Lodge, *Deafe Man's Dialogue* (Hunterian Club edition, p. 90).