

distributed in the Oxford libraries alone remain to tell of this abortive renaissance.

William de Selling, Linacre's teacher, had already been in Italy and had studied Greek and had brought back manuscripts to Canterbury, of the monastery of which he became Prior. It is stated that the first real facilities to learn in England were there to be found, and he translated from the Greek a work of St John Chrysostom. It is not improbable that Linacre went to Oxford knowing Greek, and already athirst for the new learning. In 1488 Selling was sent by Henry VII on an embassy to the Pope, and we can imagine how eagerly the young Oxford scholar grasped the opportunity to visit Italy with his teacher. According to Leland, Linacre was to have taken part in the embassy to Rome, but at Bologna, meeting his old teacher Poliziano and naturally thinking the advantages too great to be neglected,