MYLIUS ON ELLEBOOGIUS:
A FATAL MISINTERPRETATION

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INTRODUCTION

There are outstanding theologians whose influence is great during their lifetime and there are theologians whose influence is great only after their death. Cornelis Hendrikus Elleboogius (ca. 1603–1701) belongs to the second category.1 Whereas during the first half of the seventeenth century Elleboogius was a man of low repute in international Calvinism, it was not until the first decade of the second millenium that he was “rediscovered” as an important source for describing and analyzing the intellectual and religious climate of the late seventeenth century in the Dutch Republic and abroad. The starting-point for the “rediscovery” of Elleboogius in historiography is located in the Netherlands and the United States of America. Without exaggeration it can be claimed that it was the international research project of R.A. Mylius and W.J. van Asselt that put Elleboogius on the map again.2 In this context special mention should be made of the groundbreaking article of R.A. Mylius, that was based on a profound and impressive analysis of Elleboogius’ main systematic works (counting more than 10,000 pages), and some archival research in Aberdeen and Utrecht which was published in 2010.3 At the same time, van Asselt published a clear overview of Elleboogius’ theology, exegesis, ethics, and polemics,

Figure 4. Cornelis Hendrikus Elleboogius (1603-1701).