

**From:** "William R. Bowen" <william.bowen@UTORONTO.CA>  
**Subject:** **FICINO at 10 (G. Warkentin)**  
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**Reply-To:** "FICINO: FICINO Discussion - Renaissance and Reformation Studies"  
<FICINO@LISTSERV.UTORONTO.CA>

From: Germaine Warkentin <g.warkentin@utoronto.ca>

In February 1995 I was just finishing a busy 3 1/2 years in the co-editor's seat at FICINO. I still have among my "saved messages" the posting I sent to the list on that anniversary, which began: "It gives us great pleasure to tell you that FICINO, founded in September 1990 and thus not quite five years old, as of 2.30 pm EDT on Thursday, February 2, 1995, had 504 members!" And after a word or two more, I continued: "FICINIANS sometimes send us encouraging private messages saying how much they value the collegiality of their fellow-members. Let us take this opportunity to say, as co-editors, how much we value it too."

One of the results was the unleashing of a small torrent of such private messages, telling us just how much FICINO mattered in the then-nascent virtual community of Renaissance, Reformation, and Early Modern scholars. "Thanks for a grand listserv. It's a treasure." -- "FICINO has been one of the most helpful and enjoyable experiences I've had as an academic; I look forward each day to reading it. Thanks for having the idea and for carrying it through so well." -- "It's especially helpful to those of us in [far away places] to be able to be part of this dialogue." -- "a marvelous place for discussion and the exchange of ideas and information!" -- "I have made many excellent contacts on FICINO, expanded my research horizons, and added not a few good friends."

FICINO has more members now, though it's not an enormous list -- just a body of friends who talk to each other constantly, pick each other's brains, exchange the secret handshake at conferences (just kidding!) and circulate some of the most carefully-considered and learned messages on the net. I'm proud to have been involved with FICINO from its inception and I send a special message of greeting to all those who have likewise been Ficinisti/ae since that first adventurous day of postings in 1990. Warmest good wishes also to more recent members of FICINO, whose contributions have vitally enriched our many forays on-line.

As always, cheers, from Germaine.