ROBERT GARNIER

and the Themes of Political Tragedy
in the Sixteenth Century
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Frontispiece: the portrait of Robert Garnier, engraved by an unknown artist, appeared as the frontispiece to the 1585 edition of his works and is reproduced by permission of the Trustees of the British Museum.
TO MY PARENTS
PREFACE

In the vigorous renewal of interest in French sixteenth-century literature which has taken place in recent years, surprisingly little has yet been written about the tragedy of the period, except by those whose main concern is with the theatre of a later century, and who are willing to examine sixteenth-century tragedies for their value as documents in the history of the genre.

This study represents an attempt to arrive at a better understanding of Garnier as a writer wholly of the sixteenth century, interesting not merely when compared to later tragedians, but for his own responses to the world in which he lived.

While preparing the doctoral thesis on which this work is based, I was supported by a State Studentship from the Ministry of Education, and also held an Old Girtonians’ Scholarship awarded by the Council of Girton College, for both of which I am grateful.

I should also like to express my debt of gratitude to my two supervisors, the late Mr Donald Beves, who allowed me to use his remarkable library of sixteenth-century political works, and Dr Odette de Mourgues, who has given me constant encouragement and helpful criticism at all stages. I enjoyed useful and stimulating discussions also with Professor V.-L. Saulnier and Professor Georges Blin in Paris, with Professor Alan M. Boase in Glasgow, and with Dr Richard M. Griffiths in Cambridge.

Lastly, I thank my husband, Werner Robert, for his understanding and enlightened encouragement.

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G.J.

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ABBREVIATIONS

The editions of Garnier’s plays used in this work are:

1 For Porcie, Cornélie, Marc-Antoine and Hippolyte:
   Œuvres complètes (théâtre et poésies) de Robert Garnier, avec
   (As this contains no line numbers, references to these four
   plays are given only by act and page number.)

2 For La Troade and Antigone:
   Œuvres complètes de Robert Garnier: La Troade, Antigone,

3 For Les Juifves, Bradamante and the poems:
   Œuvres complètes de Robert Garnier: Les Juifves, Bradamante,
   Poésies diverses, texte établi et présenté par Raymond
   These are referred to in notes as ‘Pinvert’, ‘Lebègue i’ and
   ‘Lebègue ii’ respectively.

Other abbreviations used in notes and in the bibliography are:

B.H.R. Bibliothèque d’Humanisme et Renaissance.
M.L.N. Modern Language Notes.
M.L.R. Modern Language Review.
R.S.H. Revue des sciences humaines.