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Elizabeth Armstrong

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*Ronsard
and the Age of Gold*

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RONSARD
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ELIZABETH ARMSTRONG



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To

my parents

JOHN OCTAVIUS TYLER

and

ANNETTE TYLER

in grateful memory

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* * * * *

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Preface



The research on which this book is based was begun with the help of a Grant from the Vaughan Cornish Bequest in 1959, a Grant from the Leverhulme Trust in 1960, and a term's leave of absence granted in 1960 by my College.

I am grateful to Professor Jean Seznec for advice and encouragement at the outset; to Professor Isidore Silver for generously placing at my disposal his own notes on the occurrences of the Age of Gold theme in Ronsard's poetry; to Dr W. G. Moore for discussing with me the paper which formed the starting-point of chapters 1 and 5; to Miss Rosemary Syfret for reading chapters 1 and 2 in their earliest form; and to Dr Christina Roaf for answering numerous questions. Many friends, colleagues and pupils interested in the sixteenth century have contributed something to the result, in so far as it is sound.

I should like to thank also the authorities and staff of the libraries where I have worked, especially the Bodleian, the Ashmolean and the Taylorian, in Oxford; the British Museum and the Warburg Institute, in London; and the Bibliothèque Nationale, in Paris.

ELIZABETH ARMSTRONG

Somerville College

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8 May 1967

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Abbreviations

LIBRARIES

BM = British Museum, London.

BN = Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris.

Bodl. = Bodleian Library, Oxford.

PERIODICALS

BHR = Bibliothèque d'Humanisme et Renaissance.

HR = Humanisme et Renaissance.

JWCI = Journal of the Warburg and Courtauld Institutes.

PMLA = Publications of the Modern Language Association of America.

RHLF = Revue d'Histoire Littéraire de la France.

RSS = Revue du Seizième siècle.

COLLECTIONS

SATF = Société des Anciens Textes Français.

STFM = Société des Textes Français Modernes.

TLF = Textes Littéraires Français.

EDITION OF RONSARD

Lau. = Pierre de Ronsard, *Oeuvres complètes*, édition critique avec introduction et commentaire par Paul Laumonier (deuxième édition), STFM, 1924–67, vols. I–XVIII, révisée et complétée par I. Silver et R. Lebègue.

All references are to the Laumonier (STFM) edition, which follows the text of the First Edition of each work.

NOTE

In quoting sixteenth-century texts, I have expanded contractions, adopted the modern usage as regards the use of ‘i’ and ‘j’, ‘u’ and ‘v’, etc. and occasionally modernised the punctuation where this seemed necessary to clarify the sense.