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*The Cambridge History of
Literary Criticism*

VOLUME 3

The Renaissance

This volume is the first to explore as part of an unbroken continuum the critical legacy both of the humanist rediscovery of ancient learning and of its neoclassical reformulation. Focused on what is arguably the most complex phase in the transmission of the Western literary-critical heritage, the book encompasses those issues that helped shape the way European writers thought about literature from the late Middle Ages to the late seventeenth century. These issues touched almost every facet of Western intellectual endeavour, as well as the historical, cultural, social, scientific, and technological contexts in which that activity evolved. From the interpretative reassessment of the major ancient poetic texts, this volume addresses the emergence of the literary critic in Europe by exploring poetics, prose fiction, contexts of criticism, neoclassicism, and national developments. Sixty-one chapters by internationally respected scholars are supported by an introduction, detailed bibliographies for further investigation and a full index.

GLYN P. NORTON is Professor of French Literature and the Willcox B. and Harriet M. Adsit Professor of International Studies at Williams College, Williamstown, Massachusetts. He has published widely on French Renaissance literature and criticism, and on Franco-Italian literary relations in the Renaissance. He is author of *Montaigne and the introspective mind* (1975), *The ideology and language of translation in Renaissance France and their humanist antecedents* (1984), and numerous articles in such journals as *Publications of the modern language association of America*, *Romanic review*, *The Journal of medieval and Renaissance studies*, *Comparative literature studies*, *Modern language quarterly*, and *Italica*.

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The Cambridge History of Literary Criticism

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The Cambridge History of Literary Criticism will provide a comprehensive historical account of Western literary criticism from classical antiquity to the present day, dealing with both literary theory and critical practice. The *History* is intended as an authoritative work of reference and exposition, but more than a mere chronicle of facts. While remaining broadly non-partisan it addresses, where appropriate, controversial issues of current critical debate without evasion or false pretences of neutrality. Each volume is a self-contained unit designed to be used independently as well as in conjunction with the others in the series. Substantial bibliographic material in each volume provides the foundation for further study of the subjects in question.

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Michael J. B. Allen is Professor of English and Italian at the University of California, Los Angeles. He is the author of *Marsilio Ficino: the 'Philebus' commentary* (1975), *Marsilio Ficino and the Phaedran charioteer* (1981), *The Platonism of Ficino: a study of his 'Phaedrus' commentary, its sources and genesis* (1984), *Icastes: Marsilio Ficino's interpretation of Plato's 'Sophist'* (1989), *Nuptial arithmetic: Marsilio Ficino's commentary on the fatal number in book VIII of Plato's 'Republic'* (1994), *Plato's third eye: studies in Marsilio Ficino's Metaphysics and its sources* (1995), and *Synoptic art: Marsilio Ficino on the history of Platonic interpretation* (forthcoming). He is also co-author of *Sources and analogues of Old English poetry*, with Daniel G. Calder (1976) and co-editor of *First images of America*, with Fredi Chiappelli and Robert L. Benson (1976), *Shakespeare's plays in quarto: a facsimile edition of copies primarily from the Henry E. Huntington Library*, with Kenneth Muir (1981), and *Sir Philip Sidney's achievements*, with Dominic Baker-Smith and Arthur F. Kinney (1990).

Ann Blair is Assistant Professor of History and of History and Literature at Harvard University. She specializes in the history of Renaissance science and is the author of *The theater of nature: Jean Bodin and Renaissance science* (1997). She is also the editor of *The transmission of culture in early modern Europe*, with Anthony Grafton (1990).

Christopher Braider is Associate Professor of French and Italian at the University of Colorado, Boulder. He is the author of *Refiguring the real: picture and modernity in word and image, 1400-1770* (1993). His most recent published article is "‘Cet hymen différé’: the figuration of authority in Corneille's *Le Cid*" (1996). He has also published articles on interart problems in such journals as *Poetics Today* and the *Yearbook of Comparative and General Literature*.

Marina S. Brownlee is Class of 1963 College of Women Professor of Romance Languages at the University of Pennsylvania. Her principal publications include *The poetics of literary theory: Lope de Vega's 'Novelas a*

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Marcia Leonarda and their Cervantine context (1981), *The status of the reading subject in the 'Libro de buen amor'* (1985), and *The severed word: Ovid's 'Heroides' and the 'novela sentimental'* (1990). She is also the co-editor of *Romance: generic transformation from Chrétien de Troyes to Cervantes*, with Kevin Brownlee (1985), *The new medievalism*, with Kevin Brownlee and Stephen G. Nichols (1991), and *Cultural authority in Golden Age Spain*, with Hans Ulrich Gumbrecht (1995).

Colin Burrow is a Fellow and University Lecturer in English at Gonville and Caius College Cambridge. He has published widely on the relations between Classical and Renaissance literature. He is the author of *Epic romance: Homer to Milton* (1993) and *Edmund Spenser* (1996). He is presently preparing an edition of Shakespeare's poems and sonnets for the Oxford Shakespeare.

Terence Cave is Professor of French Literature at the University of Oxford and Fellow of St John's College Oxford. His work includes *Devotional poetry in France c. 1570–1613* (1969), *The cornucopian text: problems of writing in the French Renaissance* (1979) (French translation, 1997), *Recognitions: a study in poetics* (1988). He is also the translator and editor of the Comtesse de Lafayette's *The Princesse de Clèves* (1992) and editor of *Ronsard the poet* (1973) and of George Eliot's *Daniel Deronda* (1995) and *Silas Marner* (1996).

Marga Cottino-Jones is Professor of Italian at the University of California, Los Angeles. Her publications include *An anatomy of Boccaccio's style* (1968), *Metodi di critica letteraria americana* (1973), *Order from chaos: social and aesthetic harmonies in Boccaccio's 'Decameron'* (1982), *Introduzione a Pietro Aretino* (1993), and *Il dir novellando: modello e deviazioni* (1994). She has also co-edited *Boccaccio: secoli di vita; atti del Congresso internazionale Boccaccio 1975*, with Edward F. Tuttle (1978) and *The architecture of vision: writings and interviews on Cinema / Michelangelo Antonioni*, with Carlo di Carlo and Giorgio Tinazzi (1996). She is the author of numerous articles on the literature and criticism of the Italian Renaissance and is at work on a study of Italian Renaissance artistic and literary views of women.

Nicholas Cronk is Fellow and Tutor in French, St Edmund Hall, and Faculty Lecturer in Eighteenth-Century French Literature in the University of Oxford. His publications include an edition of Voltaire's *Letters concerning the English Nation* (1994), and articles on Molière, Voltaire, and Diderot. He has also published various articles on seventeenth-century French poetic theory, including 'The singular voice: monologism and

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French classical discourse', *Continuum* (1989). His study *The classical Sublime* is forthcoming.

Hugh M. Davidson is Commonwealth Professor of French Literature, Emeritus, at the University of Virginia. He is the author of *Audience, words, and art: studies in seventeenth-century French rhetoric* (1965), *A concordance to the 'Pensées' of Pascal*, with P. H. Dubé (1975), *The origins of certainty: means and meanings in Pascal's 'Pensées'* (1979), *A concordance to Pascal's 'Les Provinciales'*, with P. H. Dubé (1980), *Blaise Pascal* (1983), and *Pascal and the arts of mind* (1983). He has authored many articles on seventeenth-century French literature, especially the topic of rhetoric.

Joan DeJean is Trustee Professor of French at the University of Pennsylvania. Her work includes *Scarron's 'Roman comique': a comedy of the novel, a novel of comedy* (1977), *Libertine strategies: freedom and the novel in seventeenth-century France* (1981), *Literary fortifications: Rousseau, Laclos, Sade* (1984), *Tender geographies: women and the origins of the novel in France* (1991), *Fictions of Sappho, 1546–1937* (1989), and *Ancients against moderns: culture wars and the making of a 'fin de siècle'* (1997).

Martin Elsky is Professor of English at the CUNY Graduate School and at Brooklyn College. He is also coordinator of the Renaissance Studies Program at the CUNY Graduate School. He is the author of *Authorizing words: speech, writing, and print in the English Renaissance* (1989), and has written articles on Donne, Herbert, Jonson, Bacon, and Milton. He is currently working on a monograph about Ben Jonson's country house poems in relation to family and local history during the dynastic consolidation of the English countryside. He is also working on the ecclesiological sources of Erich Auerbach's literary history of Europe.

Floyd Gray is Professor of French at the University of Michigan. He has published extensively on Rabelais and Montaigne and is the author of *Le style de Montaigne* (1958), *Rabelais et l'écriture* (1974), *La poétique de Du Bellay* (1978), *La balance de Montaigne: exagium / essai* (1982), *La Bruyère amateur de caractères* (1986), *Montaigne bilingue: le latin des 'Essais'* (1991), and *Rabelais et le comique du discontenu* (1994). He is also the editor of *Montaigne, textes d'Albert Thibaudet, établis par F. Gray* (1963) and *Anthologie de la poésie française du XVI^e siècle* (1966).

Roland Greene is Professor of Comparative Literature and English at the University of Oregon. He is the author of *Post-Petrarchism: origins and innovations of the Western lyric sequence* (1991), *Unrequited conquests:*

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love and empire in the colonial Americas (1999), and co-editor (with Elizabeth Fowler) of *The project of prose in early modern Europe and the new world* (1997).

Robert Griffin is Emeritus Professor of French and Comparative Literature at the University of California, Riverside. His publications include *Coronation of the poet: Joachim du Bellay's debt to the trivium* (1969), *Clément Marot and the inflections of poetic voice* (1974), *Ludovico Ariosto* (1974), *Rape of the lock: the mythology of Gustave Flaubert* (1984), *Gustave Flaubert: early writings* (1991), *Apocalypse of / de Chiokoyhikoy*, with Donald A. Grinde, Jr. (1997). He is also the author of over seventy essays on authors ranging from Homer to Joyce.

Elizabeth Guild is Newton Trust Lecturer in French at the University of Cambridge. Her recent essays include ‘“Le Moyen de faire de cela un grand homme”: the Abbé de Choisy and the unauthorized body of representation’ (1994), ‘“Et les interpréter là où elles n’exhibent que leur mutisme”, in *(Ré)interprétations sur le seizième siècle*, ed. J. O’Brien (1995), ‘Adultery on trial: Martin Guerre and his wife, from judge’s tale to the screen’, in *Scarlet letters: fictions of adultery from antiquity to the 1990s*, ed. N. White and N. Segal (1997), and ‘Montaigne’s commerce with women: “jusques où va la possibilité?”’, in *The texture of Renaissance knowledge*, ed. P. Berry and M. Tudeau Clayton (forthcoming).

Fernand Hallyn is Professor of French Literature at the University of Ghent, Belgium. His principal publications are *Formes métaphoriques dans la poésie lyrique de l’âge baroque en France* (1975), *La structure poétique du monde: Copernic, Kepler* (1975), English translation (1990), *Paradigmes dans les études littéraires* (1979), *Onze études sur la mise en abyme* (1980), and *Le sens des formes: études sur la Renaissance* (1994). He is also the editor of *Méthodes des textes: introduction aux études littéraires* (1987) and *Les ‘Olympiques’ de Descartes: études et textes réunis par Fernand Hallyn* (1995). His edition of *Metaphors in science / métaphores scientifiques* is forthcoming.

Timothy Hampton is Associate Professor of French, Comparative Literature, and Italian Studies, and Chair of French at the University of California, Berkeley. His publications include *Writing from history: the rhetoric of exemplarity in Renaissance literature* (1990) and various essays on literature and politics in the European Renaissance. He was the editor for *Yale French Studies* of *Baroque topographies: literature, history, philosophy* (1991) and is currently at work on a study of literature and nationhood in the French Renaissance.

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Theo Hermans is Professor of Dutch and Comparative Literature at University College London. He is the author of *The structure of modernist poetry* (1982), *Door eenen engen hals: Nederlandse beschouwingen over vertalen, 1550–1670* (1996), and *Translation in systems* (1998). He is also the editor, co-editor, or translator of *The manipulation of literature: studies in literary translation* (1985), *Second hand: papers on the theory and historical study of literary translation* (1985), *Studies over Nederlandse vertalingen: een bibliografische lijst* (1991), *The Flemish movement: a documentary history, 1780–1990*, editor with Louis Vos and Lode Wils (1992), *From revolt to riches: culture and history of the Low Countries 1500–1700: international and interdisciplinary perspectives*, editor with Reinier Salverda (1993).

George Hoffmann is Associate Professor of French at Boston University. He is the author of *Montaigne's career*, forthcoming with Clarendon Press. His principal essays include ‘“Neither one nor the other”: how scholastic logic can help explain Panurge's marriage question’, *Etudes rabelaisiennes* (1990), ‘The Montaigne monopoly: revising the *Essais* under the French *privilege* system’, *Publications of the Modern Language Association of America* (1993), ‘Monsters and modal logic among the French naturalists of the Renaissance’, *South Central Review* (1993).

George K. Hunter is Emily Sanborn Professor of English, Emeritus, at Yale University, Honorary Professor at the University of Warwick, and Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. He has written extensively on Elizabethan drama and is the author of *Shakespeare, the later comedies* (1962), *John Lyly: the humanist as courtier* (1962), *Lyly and Peele* (1968), *Dramatic identities and cultural traditions: studies in Shakespeare and his contemporaries* (1978), and *English drama 1586–1642: the age of Shakespeare* (volume VI in *The Oxford history of English literature*) (1997). His editions include Shakespeare's *All's well that ends well* (1959) and *Macbeth* (1967), Marston's *Antonio and Mellida* (1965), *Antonio's revenge* (1966), and *The malcontent* (1975), John Lyly's *Campaspe* and *Sappho and Phao* (1992), F. P. Wilson's *The English drama 1485–1585* (1969), *John Webster* (1969) (with S. K. Hunter), and *A case-book on Shakespeare's 'Henry IV'* (1970).

Daniel Javitch is Professor of Comparative Literature at New York University. He is the author of *Poetry and courtliness in Renaissance England* (1978), *Cantus interruptus in the 'Orlando furioso'* (1980), and *Proclaiming a classic: the canonization of 'Orlando furioso'* (1991) (Italian translation, 1998). He is also the co-editor of *Comparative literary history as discourse: in honor of Anna Balakian* (1992), with Mario J. Valdes and A. Owen Aldridge.

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Michel Jeanneret is Professor of French Literature at the Université de Genève. He has also served as Visiting Professor at Harvard University, Princeton University, the University of California, Irvine, and the University of Washington. His principal publications include *Poésie et tradition biblique au xvi^e siècle: recherches stylistiques sur les paraphrases des psaumes de Marot à Malherbe* (1969), *La lettre perdue: écriture et folie dans l'œuvre de Nerval* (1978), *Des mets et des mots: banquets et propos de table à la Renaissance* (1987), English translation (1991), *Le défi des signes: Rabelais et la crise de l'interprétation à la Renaissance* (1994), *Perpetuum mobile: métamorphoses des corps et des œuvres, de Vinci à Montaigne* (1997), English translation (forthcoming). He is also the author of numerous essays on Rabelais, Montaigne, sixteenth-century poetry, Renaissance hermeneutics, La Fontaine, Nerval, and the Geneva School of Criticism.

William J. Kennedy is Professor of Comparative Literature at Cornell University. His publications include *Rhetorical norms in Renaissance literature* (1978), *Jacopo Sannazaro and the uses of pastoral* (1983), and *Authorizing Petrarch* (1994). He is also co-editor of *Writing in the disciplines* (1987, 1991, 1995) and the author of numerous articles on Italian, French, and English literature from Dante to Milton and on literary theory. His book on *The site of Petrarchism* is forthcoming.

Jill Kraye is Senior Lecturer in the History of Philosophy at the Warburg Institute. She is the associate editor of *The Cambridge history of Renaissance philosophy* (1988) and has recently edited and contributed to *The Cambridge companion to Renaissance humanism* (1996) and two volumes of *Cambridge translations of Renaissance philosophical texts* (1997). She was also the joint editor of *Pseudo-Aristotle in the Middle Ages* (1986) and *The uses of Greek and Latin* (1988). She has published a number of articles on the influence of classical philosophy in the early modern period.

Ullrich Langer is Professor of French at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. His books include *Rhétorique et intersubjectivité: 'Les Tragiques' d'Agrippa d'Aubigné* (1983), *Invention, death, and self-definitions in the poetry of Pierre de Ronsard* (1986), *Divine and poetic freedom in the Renaissance: nominalist theology and literature in France and Italy* (1990), and *Perfect friendship: studies in literature and moral philosophy from Boccaccio to Corneille* (1994). He is also co-editor of *What is literature? France 1100–1600*, with F. Cornilliat and D. Kelly (1993) and *Anteros*, with J. Miernowski (1994).

John Logan is Literature Bibliographer at Princeton University. He is a specialist on Longinus in the Renaissance and seventeenth century. His

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essays include 'The poet's central numbers' (1971), 'Longinus', in *Ancient writers: Greece and Rome* (1982), 'Montaigne et Longin: une nouvelle hypothèse' (1983), and 'La Fontaine, Plato, and "La cigale et la fourmy"' (1986). He is currently working on a comprehensive study of Longinus in the Renaissance and seventeenth century.

Jonathan Mallinson is Lecturer in French at the University of Oxford, and Fellow of Trinity College Oxford. He is the author of *The comedies of Corneille: experiments in the comic* (1984) and of numerous articles on French theatre and prose fiction of the seventeenth century. He is also the editor of Molière's *L'Avare* (1988) and *Le Misanthrope* (1996).

Lawrence Manley is Professor of English at Yale University. His principal publications include *Convention, 1500–1750* (1980) and *Literature and culture in early modern London* (1995). He is also the editor of *London in the age of Shakespeare: an anthology* (1986).

David Marsh is Professor of Italian at Rutgers University. He is the author of *The Quattrocento dialogue: classical tradition and humanist innovation* (1990), and of *Lucian and the Latins: humor and humanism in the early Renaissance* (1998); and is the translator of Leon Battista Alberti, *Dinner pieces* (1987) and of Giambattista Vico, *The new science* (1998).

John Monfasani is Professor of History at The University at Albany, State University of New York. His principal publications include *George of Trebizond: a biography and a study of his rhetoric and logic* (1976), *Collectanea Trapezuntiana. texts, documents, and bibliographies of George of Trebizond* (1984), *Fernando of Cordova: a bibliographical and intellectual profile* (1992), *Language and learning in Renaissance Italy: selected essays* (1994), and *Byzantine scholars in Renaissance Italy. Cardinal Bessarion and other emigrés: selected essays* (1995).

Michael Moriarty is Professor of French Literature and Thought at Queen Mary and Westfield College London. His publications include *Taste and ideology in seventeenth-century France* (1988), *Roland Barthes* (1991), and *Semiotics of world literature* (1996).

Ann Moss is Professor of French at Durham University. Her principal publications include *Ovid in Renaissance France: a survey of the Latin editions of Ovid and commentaries printed in France before 1600* (1982), *Poetry and fable: studies in mythological narrative in sixteenth-century France* (1984), and *Printed commonplace-books and the structuring of Renaissance thought* (1996).

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Glyn P. Norton is Willcox B. and Harriet M. Adsit Professor of International Studies and Professor of French Literature at Williams College, Williamstown, Massachusetts. His publications include *Montaigne and the introspective mind* (1975) and *The ideology and language of translation in Renaissance France and their humanist antecedents* (1984). He has contributed numerous essays on French Renaissance literature, Franco-Italian literary relations in the Renaissance, on Dante, Boccaccio, and Rousseau to journals such as *Publications of the Modern Language Association of America*, *Romanic Review*, *Modern Language Quarterly*, *Comparative Literature Studies*, *Journal of Medieval and Renaissance Studies*, and *Italica*. He is currently completing a book on *Eloquence beside itself: the theory and art of improvisation in the French Renaissance and neo-classical text*.

Marjorie O'Rourke Boyle is a cultural historian living in Toronto, Canada and a widely known specialist in the rhetoric of religion. She is the author of *Erasmus on language and method in theology* (1977), *Christening pagan mysteries: Erasmus in pursuit of wisdom* (1981), *Rhetoric and reform: Erasmus' civil dispute with Luther* (1983), *Petrarch's genius: penitimento and prophecy* (1991), and *Divine domesticity: Augustine of Thagaste to Teresa of Avila* (1997). Her most recent literary criticism is *Loyola's acts: the rhetoric of the self* (1997).

James A. Parente, Jr. is Professor of German, Scandinavian, and Dutch at the University of Minnesota. He is the author of *Religious drama and the humanist tradition: Christian theater in Germany and the Netherlands, 1500–1680* (1987). He is also co-editor of *Literary culture in the Holy Roman Empire, 1555–1720*, with Richard Erich Schade and George C. Schoolfield (1991) and editor of *Socio-historical approaches to early modern German literature* (1993). He has published several essays on early modern German literature, and especially on neo-Latin writers, in such journals as *The German Quarterly*, *Daphnis*, *Humanistica Lovaniensia*, *Sixteenth Century Journal*, and *Central European History*. His current research focuses on early modern sexuality; German, Dutch, and Scandinavian humanism; and Latin drama in early modern Europe.

Richard Parish is Professor of French at the University of Oxford and Fellow of St Catherine's College Oxford. He is the author of *Pascal's 'Lettres provinciales': a study in polemic* (1989), *Racine: the limits of tragedy* (1993), and a forthcoming study of Scarron's *Le Roman comique*. He is also the editor of Molière's *Le Tartuffe* (1994) and of Racine's *Bérénice* (1994) and *Phèdre* (1996). He is currently at work on a general book on French seventeenth-century Catholic writing.

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Anne Lake Prescott is Professor of English at Barnard College, Columbia University. She is the author of *French poets and the English Renaissance* (1978) and *Imagining Rabelais in the English Renaissance* (1998). She is co-editor of the Norton Critical Edition of Edmund Spenser and has published widely on Ben Jonson, Marguerite de Navarre, Sir Philip Sidney, and David (the king and poet).

Catharine Randall is Associate Professor of French at Fordham University. Her publications include *Subverting the system: D'Aubigné and Calvinism* (1990), *(Em)bodying the word: textual resurrections in the martyrological narratives of Foxe, Crespin, de Bèze, and d'Aubigné* (1992), and *Simon Bouquet: imitations et traductions de cent dixhuict emblemes d'Alciat (Bibliothèque Nationale de France, ms. Fr. 19.143)*, with Daniel Russell (1996). She is also the author of the forthcoming *Creating from constraint: Calvinist aesthetics in early modern Europe*.

Timothy J. Reiss is Professor of Comparative Literature at New York University. His books include *Towards dramatic illusion* (1971), *Tragedy and truth* (1980), *The discourse of modernism* (1982, 1985), *The uncertainty of analysis* (1988), *The meaning of literature* (1992), and *Knowledge, discovery and imagination in early modern Europe* (1997). *The meaning of literature* was awarded the 1992 Forkosch Prize in intellectual history. Books forthcoming are *Patterns of personhood in ancient and medieval Europe*, *Mirages of the self*, and *Against autonomy*.

François Rigolot is Meredith Howland Pyne Professor of French Literature and Chair of Renaissance Studies at Princeton University. His principal publications include *Les langages de Rabelais* (1972, 1997), *Poétique et onomastique* (1977), *Le texte de la Renaissance* (1982), *Les Métamorphoses de Montaigne* (1988), *Louise Labé Lyonnaise ou la Renaissance au féminin* (1997). *Le texte de la Renaissance* was awarded the Gilbert Chinard Literary Prize in 1982. He is also the editor of Louise Labé's complete works (1986) and Montaigne's *Journal de voyage* (1992) as well as the author of many articles on French Renaissance literature.

Diana Robin is Professor of Classics and Director of Comparative Literature and Cultural Studies at the University of New Mexico. She is author of *Unknown Greek poems of Francesco Filelfo* (1984) and *Filelfo in Milan: writings, 1451-1477* (1991). She has also translated and edited Laura Cereta (1469-99) in *Collected letters of a Renaissance feminist* (1997), and is co-editor of *Redirecting the gaze: women and third-world cinema* (1998). She is currently at work on a book on women writers and print culture in sixteenth-century Venice.

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Daniel Russell is Professor of French at the University of Pittsburgh. His publications include *The emblem and device in France* (1985) and *Emblematic structures in Renaissance French culture* (1995). He has written numerous essays on the art and theory of the emblem, Rabelais, Montaigne, and Marguerite de Navarre and is the co-editor of *Emblematica*. He is presently at work on a book on the reception-orientated history of book illustration in early modern France.

Paul Salzman is Senior Lecturer in the School of English, La Trobe University, Melbourne, Australia. He is the author of *English prose fiction, 1558–1700: a critical history* (1985) and the editor of two volumes of early prose fiction for Oxford World Classics, as well as a selection of Aphra Behn's poetry and prose. He is presently completing a book about the writing of 1621.

Michael Schoenfeldt is Associate Professor of English at the University of Michigan. He is the author of *Prayer and power: George Herbert and Renaissance courtship* (1991). He is currently completing a book for Cambridge University Press entitled *Bodies and selves in early modern England*.

Joshua Scodel is Associate Professor of English and Comparative Literature at the University of Chicago. His publications include *The English poetic epitaph: commemoration and conflict from Jonson to Wordsworth* (1991) as well as essays on Francis Bacon, John Donne, John Milton, and Cavalier love poetry in such journals as *Criticism*, *Comparative Literature*, *English Literary History*, *Studies in Philology*, and *Modern Philology*. He is Associate Editor of *Modern Philology* and is currently at work on a study of moderation and excess in early modern English literature.

Debora Shuger is Professor of English at the University of California, Los Angeles. Her publications include *Sacred rhetoric: the Christian grand style in the English Renaissance* (1988), *Habits of thought: religion, politics, and the dominant culture* (1990), *The Renaissance Bible: scholarship, subjectivity, and sacrifice* (1994). She is also co-editor of *Religion and culture in Renaissance England* (1997), with Clair M'Eachern.

Peter Skrine is Professor of German at the University of Bristol. He is the author of *The Baroque: literature and culture in seventeenth-century Europe* (1978) and of *A companion to German literature*, with Eda Sagarra (1997). He has also authored a number of essays on the Baroque literary period, including 'Deutsches Barock und englische Sprachkultur' (1981), 'James VI & I and German literature' (1989), 'James I and Martin

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Wesley Trimpi is Professor of English at Stanford University. He is widely known for his work on English Renaissance poetics and is the author of *Ben Jonson's poems: a study of the plain style* (1962), *Muses of one mind: the literary analysis of experience and its continuity* (1983). His essays include 'The practice of historical interpretation and Nashe's "Brightnesse falls from the Ayre"', *Journal of English and Germanic Philology* (1967), 'The meaning of Horace's *ut pictura poesis*', *The Journal of the Warburg and Courtauld Institutes* (1973), 'Horace's "*ut pictura poesis*": the argument for stylistic decorum', *Traditio* (1978), and 'Reason and the classical premises of literary decorum', *The Independent Journal of Philosophy* (1988).

John O. Ward is a Senior Lecturer in History at the University of Sydney, where he has taught all aspects of medieval history since 1967. His books include *The Middle Ages* (1977), *The Vézelay chronicle*, with John Scott (1992), *The sorcery trial of Alice Kyteler: a contemporary account* (1324), with Sharon Davidson (1993), and *Ciceronian rhetoric in treatise, scholion, and commentary* (1994). He is the author of numerous studies in the history of rhetoric and Latin, specializing in the medieval and Renaissance periods. Among his essays: 'The commentator's rhetoric: from antiquity to the Renaissance: glosses and commentaries on Cicero's *Rhetorica*', in *Medieval eloquence: studies in the theory and practice of medieval rhetoric*, ed. J. J. Murphy (1978), 'Renaissance commentators on Ciceronian rhetoric', in *Renaissance eloquence: studies in the theory and practice of Renaissance rhetoric*, ed. J. J. Murphy (1983), and 'Quintilian and the rhetorical revolution of the Middle Ages', *Rhetorica* (1995). He is currently at work on several other projects involving Cicero's *De inventione* and the pseudo-Ciceronian, *Ad Herennium*.

Richard Waswo is Professor of English at the Université de Genève. His books include *The fatal mirror: themes and techniques in the poetry of Fulke Greville* (1972), *Language and meaning in the Renaissance* (1987), and *The founding legend of western civilization: from Virgil to Vietnam* (1997).

Valerie Worth-Stylianou is a Senior Lecturer in French at King's College London. One of her main areas of research is the relationship between translation and other forms of writing in the Renaissance. Her major publications include *Practising translation in Renaissance France: the example of Etienne Dolet* (1988), and editions of Claude de Taillemont,

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