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978-0-521-35624-4 - The Rhetoric of Sexuality and the Literature of the French Renaissance

Lawrence D. Kritzman

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This book investigates the relationship between psychoanalytic theory and the literature of the French Renaissance by exploring the issues of gender, the body, and the dynamics of repression in key literary figures of the period: Pernette du Guillet, Scève, Rabelais, Marot, Marguerite de Navarre, Ronsard, and Montaigne. In detailed readings of individual texts, Lawrence Kritzman examines how sexuality functions as a rhetorical trope through which desire is represented. The strategy of reading underlying his study focuses on the issue of object relations as the generative force behind the fiction-making process.

Professor Kritzman's book concentrates on three major objectives: the representation of gender identity and sexual difference in French Renaissance texts; the question of how the body is portrayed in the *blasons*, love poetry, and prose of the period; and the ways in which figural language depicts the libidinal, political, and social tensions at work in texts. It is the first wide-ranging theoretical study which provides reading models to investigate the taboo subject of sexuality underlying literary production in the French Renaissance.

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“La Femme entre les deux âges,” an anonymous sixteenth-century painting of the School of Fontainebleau. Reproduced by permission of the Musée des Beaux-Arts de Rennes.

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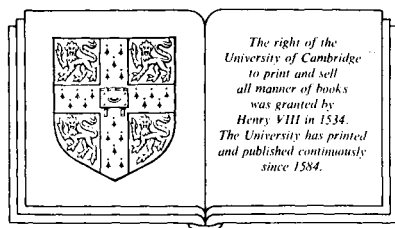
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**THE RHETORIC OF
SEXUALITY AND
THE LITERATURE OF
THE FRENCH
RENAISSANCE**

LAWRENCE D. KRITZMAN

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ABBREVIATIONS

Ch.	Chanson
D.	Dizain
Epig.	Epigram

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