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EDITED
WITH AN INTRODUCTION AND
NOTES BY

I. D. McFARLANE

*Professor of French Language and
Literature in the University of
St Andrews*



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CONTENTS

<i>Frontispiece</i>	<i>page</i> ii
<i>Preface</i>	vii
<i>Note on the Reproduction of the Emblems</i>	x
<i>List of Abbreviations</i>	xi
INTRODUCTION	I
1 Scève before <i>Délie</i>	5
2 The Emblems	16
3 The Literary and Cultural Background	23
4 Versification	43
5 The Language of <i>Délie</i>	46
6 From Grammar to Rhetoric	55
7 The Present Edition	93
<i>Bibliography</i>	105
TEXT	117
NOTES	367
APPENDIXES	
A Speroni and the <i>Délie</i>	482
B Distribution of Emblems in 1544 Edition	491
C Rhetorical Figures in the <i>Délie</i>	493
D <i>L'Ordre des Figures & Emblemes</i>	495
<i>Table et Indice</i>	497

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PREFACE

This edition of the *Délie* owes its origin to my discovery, in the course of teaching, that Scève was a poet who appealed to succeeding generations of students, and also to my awareness that so far no edition of the text has been prepared specifically for English-speaking students. Moreover, Scève's sequence seems to me, for reasons which I have given in my introduction, a work which should be easily available to the Honours student. This edition is therefore not intended to fulfil the functions which we should expect from an edition of the *Œuvres Complètes* such as has been announced by Professor V.-L. Saulnier,¹ nor does it seek to compete with the very erudite and elaborate commentaries on Scève's works upon which Professor E. Giudici is at present engaged.² What I have sought to do here is to provide a text which is reasonably accurate, and, by means of the introduction and the notes, to enable the student to come to grips with Scève's poetry. Though I hope I have paid adequate attention to such matters as sources and background, I have been more concerned to make the reader aware of what one might call the mechanism of the individual poem, so that sources and contemporary habits of rhetoric are considered in the first place as elements of the poetic effect.

All who study the *Délie* must base their approach on the ground-work accomplished by Parturier and Saulnier. Parturier's edition, now in its third printing, still retains its great value, particularly for its attention to sources and to the fact that it incorporates the emblems in the text; but the glossary needs substantial revision, many dizains require elucidation of a nature which is not catered for by a glossary, however satisfactory, and such matters as the role of the emblems

¹ Announced in his *Maurice Scève* (Paris, 1948–9), II, p. 305.

² E. Giudici's first volume on the minor works came out in 1958 (see Bibliography). He has also announced a book on Maurice Scève and his times, and further volumes on the other works are expected to follow. Special mention should also be made of H. Weber's work on Scève: less concerned with background research, he made valuable contributions by his close scrutiny of the text.

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do not receive the treatment which nowadays one feels they deserve. Saulnier's doctoral thesis on Maurice Scève is invaluable for its discussion of the background material, for its attempt to deal with the problem of the emblems, for its sane approach to the question of sources, and also for the way in which it has attacked the myth of Scève's 'obscurity'. It would be idle to pretend that the *Délie* is always 'easy'; many dizains are thorny, and one often finds oneself disagreeing in matters of interpretation, not only with other commentators, but with oneself, for a dizain which looked clear enough on one reading may appear in a very different light subsequently—Dizain 378 is a classic example of this. Nevertheless, Saulnier has shown that the area of 'difficulty' is not nearly as great as some have suggested: some problems were not of Scève's making, but of the printers'; and an understanding of the idiom in which the poet worked removes a very great number of hurdles, and that is why I have devoted a good deal of space to problems of language and rhetoric. If an edition of the *Délie* is to be of some use to the student, it must provide, not only sufficient 'external' knowledge for the understanding of the context, but also extensive elucidation and commentary so that one can get 'inside' the poem. There will, inevitably, be grounds for disagreement with this or that interpretation; but surely it is better to offer an explanation which, even if found wrong, may start a train of thought or a new approach, than to seek safety in the penumbra of non-committal. I have therefore commented on more than a few dizains, either in the introduction or at the appropriate place in the text. Since in addition, many of the notes concern the sixteenth-century meanings of words, I have not provided a glossary at the end of the book. I have indeed compiled a complete word-list of the sequence, but to include this would have increased the size and the price of the volume disproportionately, without, I think, contributing significantly to the understanding of the text.

During my study of the *Délie* I have contracted many debts to friends and colleagues. Dr O. de Mourgues, Dr A. Fairlie and Dr Rickard have kindly helped me in various matters of detail; but I am under particular obligations to Dr Dorothy Coleman and Professor A. J. Steele. Dr Coleman has allowed me to make ex-

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tensive use of her doctoral thesis on *The Emblemes and Images in Maurice Scève's 'Délie'*, of which some portions have appeared, or are about to appear, in print; begun some years ago under my supervision, her dissertation contains a great deal of material which has been of special value in the preparation of this edition. I am also indebted to Dr Coleman for various comments she has made over the years on sections of my typescript. Professor Steele very kindly undertook to go through my typescript with a tooth-comb and is therefore responsible for many improvements of detail. If I have not on every occasion accepted his interpretation nor he mine, this is hardly surprising, for Scève will no doubt continue to tease commentators for many years to come; but I am convinced that this edition is the better for the interest he has taken in it.

I also wish to place on record my gratitude to various bodies whose help has made it possible for me to complete this work. Some years ago, the College Council of Gonville and Caius College and the Trustees of the Ernest Cassells Fund made grants-in-aid which allowed me to spend time in France, part of which was devoted to the gathering of material for this edition. I am also very grateful to the Carnegie Trust for the Universities of Scotland whose generosity has made it possible for the emblems to be reproduced in the text. Since Dr Coleman's researches, it is clear that one cannot seriously undertake an edition of the *Délie* without incorporating the emblems; but without the help of the Trust, it might not have been possible to translate dream into reality. Thanks are also due to the Editorial Board of *French Studies* for allowing me to make use of material published by me in that periodical.

Finally, I should like to thank the Syndics and the staff of the Cambridge University Press for undertaking to publish this edition; not only has the presentation of the text benefited greatly from their professional skill, but it has been a great pleasure to see the book through the press with such courteous and patient colleagues.

ST ANDREWS

I. D. MCF.

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NOTE ON THE REPRODUCTION OF
THE EMBLEMS

For technical reasons, the emblems had to be reproduced from copy D instead of A; this copy differs from A in some respects, e.g. the spelling *Priuleige* on the title-page, the omission of ME from the motto of Emblem xix, the position of the picture in Emblem xxvi.

The emblem titles are, for the sake of clarity, added from the *Ordre des Figures et Emblemes*.

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS¹

BHR	<i>Bibliothèque d'Humanisme et Renaissance</i> (Geneva, Droz).
BM	British Museum.
BN	Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris.
Brunot, II	F. Brunot, <i>Histoire de la langue française des origines à 1900</i> , vol. II, <i>Le Seizième siècle</i> .
Coleman	D. G. Coleman, <i>The Emblems and Images in Maurice Scève's 'Délie'</i> , unpublished dissertation, Glasgow University, 1961.
Cotgrave	R. Cotgrave, <i>A Dictionary of the French and English Tongues</i> , 1611.
Dauzat	A. Dauzat, <i>Dictionnaire étymologique de la langue française</i> .
<i>Deplourable fin</i>	<i>La Deplourable fin de Flamete</i> , translated by Scève, 1535.
FS	<i>French Studies</i> .
Godefroy	Godefroy, <i>Dictionnaire de l'ancienne langue française . . .</i> , 1881–92, 7 vols. and <i>Complément</i> , 1895–1902, 3 vols.
Huguet	E. Huguet, <i>Dictionnaire de la langue française du seizième siècle</i> , 1925– (still in course of publication).
Parturier	Parturier's edition of the <i>Délie</i> (STFM).
Parturier (RHLF)	E. Parturier, 'Quelques corrections au texte de la <i>Délie</i> de Maurice Scève', <i>RHLF</i> , xxiv (1917), pp. 483–6. ²
Petrarch, <i>Rime</i>	The edition by G. Carducci and S. Ferrari, Florence, 1899. In that edition, the poems are numbered in roman numerals; for convenience here, we refer to those poems in arabic numerals.
Réau	L. Réau, <i>Iconographie de l'Art Chrétien</i> , 3 vols.
RHLF	<i>Revue d'Histoire littéraire de la France</i> (Paris, Colin).
Saulnier (BHR)	V.-L. Saulnier, 'Des corrections aux textes de Maurice Scève', <i>BHR</i> , viii (1946), pp. 266–76. ²
Saulnier (<i>Gamillscheg</i>)	V.-L. Saulnier, 'Quelques mots de la langue de Maurice Scève', in <i>Festgabe Ernst Gamillscheg . . .</i> , 1952, pp. 76–86.

¹ Some of the works and studies referred to here are described in greater detail in the Bibliography.

² For convenience, different symbols are used for these two articles in the list of emendations accepted for this edition, pp. 99–102.

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[More information](#)

- Saulnier (*MP*) V.-L. Saulnier, 'Maurice Scève et la Musique', *Musique et Poésie au XVIe siècle*, C.N.R.S., 1954.
- Saulnier (*Pernette*) V.-L. Saulnier, 'Étude sur Pernette du Guillet et ses Rymes', *BHR*, IV (1944), pp. 1–119.
- Saulnier (*Scève*) V.-L. Saulnier, *Maurice Scève*, Paris, Klincksieck, 1948–9, 2 vols.
- Schmidt A.-M. Schmidt, *Les Poètes du XVIe siècle*, Paris, Bibliothèque de la Pléiade, Gallimard, 1953.
- Tervarent G. de Tervarent, *Attributs et symboles dans l'art profane 1450–1600. Dictionnaire d'un langage perdu*. Geneva, Droz, *THR*, xxix, 1958.
- THR* *Travaux d'Humanisme et Renaissance*, Geneva, Droz.
- Typotius J. Typotius, *Symbola varia diuersorum principum...*, 1679.
- Wartburg O. Bloch and W. von Wartburg, *Dictionnaire étymologique de la langue française*, 3rd ed., revised by W. von Wartburg, 1960.
- Weber (*Création*) H. Weber, *La Création poétique au XVIe siècle*, Paris, Nizet, 1956, 2 vols.
- Weber (*Langage*) *Le Langage poétique de Maurice Scève dans la 'Délie'*, Florence, 1948.