EDITORIAL

The Reader, the Subject and the Self in Early Modern Europe

Selected papers from the Pacific Northwest Renaissance Conference, March 1993,
University of British Columbia. Edited by Mark Vessey and Nancy Frelick

This issue of *Renaissance and Reformation* presents a series of papers from the Pacific Northwest Renaissance Conference held at the University of British Columbia, 26-27 March 1993, the theme of which was "The reader, The Subject and the Self in Early Modern Europe." More than 40 papers were read at the conference, including keynote addresses by Brian Stock on "Reading, Writing and the Self: Petrarch and his Forerunners," by Eva Kushner on "The Emergence of the Paradoxical Self" in Montaigne and several Protestant writers, and by David Harris Sacks on "Articulations of the Self in Late Elizabethan England: The 'Over-Mighty Subject,' the 'Sturdy Rogue' and the 'Middling Sort.'" True to the spirit of the conference as a whole, each of the five papers printed here contributes to a discussion of the multiple relations between practices of the text (oral, written, typographic) and discourses of the self, in which those relations are conceived both as phenomena of early modern European writing and as products of latter-day readerly constructions.

Four of the papers are concerned in different ways with narrative strategies of self-presentation and their interjacent texts. The first two find a common focus in the Shakespearean drama, or at its generic edge. Paul Budra connects the storytelling of *Richard II* with the popular historical culture of Elizabethan England and shows how the play's King "authors" himself within the familiar, encompassing teleology of the *de casibus* tradition of narrative tragedy. In a complementary study, James Black reads Hamlet's rehearsal of a speech on Troy's fall through its interlocking contexts in Virgilian epic and Renaissance treatises on warfare, thereby underlining the play's portrayal of an Elizabethan aristocratic self under siege. The next two papers explore narratives of travel and strange encounter within and beyond the European experience. Virginia Green finds direction in one of Montaigne's most impressively digressive essays through close study of the author's ideas of travel and writing as self-emptying yet self-fulfilling activities, while in a richly documented essay William Hamlin plots similarities between narratives of marvellous encounter in Spenserean and Shakespearean romance and those of certain "autoethnographic" texts from the New World. The final paper deals directly with the reader's role in the fabrication of past writerly selves. Considering the contribution made to Donne's lyrical persona by the titles of his poems, many of which cannot be taken as authorial, Janis Lull argues for an "interactionist" editorial procedure which would declare our part in the making and remaking of Renaissance authors.

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*Numéro spécial sur le lecteur, le sujet et le moi dans l'Europe de
l'Ancien Régime*

Nous sommes heureux de vous présenter un numéro particulièrement bien organisé par Mark Vessey et Nancy Frelick sur le thème du congrès de 1993 de la Pacific Northwest Renaissance Conference. Il était important pour *Renaissance et Réforme* de concrétiser enfin, après bien des années, une relation fidèlement maintenue de part et d'autre avec la PNRC. Cet organisme, qui regroupe des chercheurs universitaires dans les provinces de l'Ouest du Canada et dans le Nord-Ouest américain, offre non seulement son appui officiel à la revue, mais fournit aussi un important centre d'activités pour l'étude de la Renaissance dans l'ouest du continent nord-américain. Les textes que nous trouvons ici rassemblés ont été l'objet de lectures et d'évaluation critique; ils ont été retenus pour leur qualité et leur pertinence. Nous en profitons pour remercier à notre tour Mark Vessey et Nancy Frelick d'avoir coordonné la publication de ce numéro spécial.

LA RÉDACTION