

Acknowledgments

Behind every book is a history. This book began in Paris in 1991, in Roger Chartier's old office at the Maison des Sciences de l'Homme on the boulevard Raspail. Roger first suggested that I look at Amelot de La Houssaye's translation of *L'Homme de cour*. I looked into its pages, followed its references, and began a long voyage of scholarship. Roger has worked on this project with me ever since, and my debt to him is grand. Indeed, this book is in many ways his. He and Christian Jouhaud sent me to work at the Bibliothèque Nationale, where Christian suggested that I do a "material bibliography" of the works of Amelot, thus providing the project an analytical framework. Christian has given much inspiration, tough criticism, and useful advice, as has his seminar at the Groupe de Recherches Interdisciplinaire sur l'Histoire du Littéraire at the Centre de Recherches Historiques, *haut lieu d'érudition*. Daniel Roche has been a constant friend and teacher. His seminar at the rue d'Ulm was the basis of my graduate education. Many thanks are due to Robert Descimon, who first took me to the Archives Nationales on the hunt for Amelot and has ever since been a source of guidance. Annie Parent-Charron took the time to read my work, give me valuable advice, and publish my first article in the venerable *Bulletin du Bibliophile*. For this, I will always be grateful. Many thanks also go to François Moureau, great erudite and patron; Pierre-François Burger, my first real reader; André Gunthert, my original friend and teacher in Paris; Diogo Ramado Curto, my teacher, friend, guide, and patron in the early days between Paris and Lisbon; and Marc Fumaroli and his seminar at the Collège de France.

The second phase of this research took place at Cambridge University. Under the guidance of Peter Burke, my work became a study of political criticism. He turned me toward the critical traditions of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries and made me understand how early modern culture worked on a pan-European scale. Peter's erudition, humanity, and intellectual agility were mirrored in the rich collections of the Cambridge University Library. To have access to them both at once was a great privilege. Quentin Skinner took the time to read and guide this work throughout my time at Cambridge.

I am grateful for his support and honored that he trusted me enough to lend me his books. Thanks also go to James Raven, who brought me to Magdalene College; to Elizabeth Leedham-Green and Cecil Courtney for generous friendship; to Filippo de Vivo, a valued reader and friend; and to Stuart Gillespie in Edinburgh and to his journal, *Translation and Literature*.

I first met Anthony Grafton in the Bibliothèque Nationale. Due to his friendship and mentoring I moved to Princeton where I continued working on this project while teaching as a lecturer. Much of the form and content of this book come from long conversations with him—part Talmudic master, part Erasmus, part Lipsius—and reflects his influence as a reader and teacher. His seminar on humanist rhetoric and those who took part in it inspired and gave shape to this book. I would neither have written this book, nor had the possibility to pursue my academic career without his support. I hope my footnotes are an ample reflection of my admiration and gratitude. Between precepts at a lunch at Palmer House, Ted Rabb explained how to turn my dissertation into a book. This book thus bears his strong mark. He has worked tirelessly ever since, reading versions of the manuscript and giving valuable, frank advice and much support. I am grateful for long talks with Peter Gordon that did much to help formulate the framework of the first chapter. I thank Robert Darnton for his advice, comradeship, and confidence; thanks also go to the Princeton History Department and especially to Judy Hansen.

Many thanks go to Donald Kelley and the *Journal of the History of Ideas*; to François Rigolot and the Princeton Renaissance Seminar; to Michael Warner's Center for the Critical Analysis of Contemporary Culture seminar at Rutgers; to Lloyd and Dorothy Moote's Princeton/Rutgers seminar on early modern history; to Peter Stallybrass for his support and many wonderful dinners and to his seminar on material texts at the University of Pennsylvania; to the Washington Area Group for Print Culture Studies; to Orest Ranum; to Rudy Bell; and to the Department of History at Rutgers University, Camden, a model of collegiality and nurturing. I am particularly grateful to my chair, Andrew Lees, who provided active support for publication.

Those who read final drafts of this book will see their influence in its pages. Thanks to my anonymous readers at the University of Michigan Press for their generous and erudite comments. John Salmon was the first to look at a complete manuscript. Peter Miller did much to guide the revision and reconsideration of the book. I am grateful for his advice and patience in responding to my many questions. Geoff Baldwin made many useful commentaries. Tamara Griggs took the time to read and critique the manuscript, showing the value of friendship mixed with deep learning. Of particular value were Robert Darnton's corrections and critiques. His work has been an inspiration since my undergraduate days and, therefore, his comments had both scholarly and personal relevance. J. G. A. Pocock also took the time to read a

final draft, and with clear reference to Amelot de La Houssaye, filled the margins of his copy with dozens of manuscript notes: corrections, additions, and most of all, a Tacitean erudite commentary. Needless to say, I would have liked to have published my book with his annotations in the margins, but publishing practices have changed since the seventeenth century, and thus the Pocock hand-annotated edition will remain a private tool of historical analysis and personal development.

None of this project could have been done without the libraries and librarians who provided their support and learning. At the old Bibliothèque Nationale in Paris, the reference librarians were my first research instructors, and librarians in the Réserve des livres rares and the Salle des Manuscrits, such as Isabelle de Conihout, acted daily as teachers, helping me track down and, in many cases, interpret the books and documents I used for this project. For years I researched this book at the old site at the rue de Richelieu—it is fundamentally a product of that place, and I shall always miss working under its beautiful arches and ceilings. I owe debts to the Bibliothèque de l’Arsenal, the Bibliothèque Mazarine, the Archives Nationales, and the Bibliothèque de l’Institut. The University Library at Cambridge is one of the grandest collections in the world, and working there with my cart of sixteenth- and seventeenth-century books from the Acton and Peterborough collections was an utter pleasure. The Firestone Library at Princeton provided not only the wealth of its collections but also the wonderful experience of doing deep research in the stacks late into the night. Floors B and C have become a spiritual second home. Thanks also to the Rutgers University Library; to Susan Halpert at Harvard’s Houghton Library; and to John Pollock of the Rare Books Department at the University of Pennsylvania’s Van Pelt Library, who helped me research the final chapter of this book and provided most of its images. I am grateful for the financial support of Magdalene College, the Cambridge Overseas Research Fund, the Prince’s Trust, the Bibliographical Society, the Royal Historical Society, the Rutgers Research Council, and my department.

I enthusiastically thank Chris Collins, the editor of this book, his staff, and the University of Michigan Press. Editors are, in many ways, the authors of the books they publish. Chris helped this one see the light of day. He and the press have been exceedingly generous and patient, and most of all, they have had unshakable confidence in this project. They are the model of what an academic press should be.

Richard Serjeantson has taught me much as we traveled across Europe and North America, from great university to great university, from ancient libraries to antique book dealers, from the wine cellars of Trinity College to the three-star Michelin restaurants of the Old World, and beyond. He is a true comrade in erudition, oenology, and life. This book owes much to him. My old friend at Magdalene College, Roger O’Keefe, showed me the value of

a good Australian Jesuit education, read numerous versions of this project, corrected spelling in four languages, and inspired me to keep going with his own particular eloquence. Colin Hamilton has been reading versions of this book since I started it in Paris. He has gone through it all in what has always been a brotherhood of books. I am grateful for his friendship, learning, and constancy. I will never forget my debts to my undergraduate mentor, Alan Spitzer, as well as to Becky Rogers, David Hamilton, Steve Ungar, Olivier Dehors, and Emmanuel Barrault. I am grateful to my parents—my mother for supporting me, introducing me to reading, European culture, and helping me get a French education; my father for his moral as well as financial backing, going so far as to fly to Paris to bring me a computer when I needed one. My father put up great sums to allow me to follow my pursuits in Paris, Lisbon, Cambridge, Princeton, and Philadelphia. He never wavered in his belief that this book was important, and he always said, “Publish.” Finally, Ellen Wayland-Smith has read more versions of this book more times than anyone else and has provided advice, support, and the inspiration of an unwavering love of letters.

As an epilogue to this short history of a book, I must thank Patrick Fray and the Restaurant des Zygomates. They housed me, fed me, gave me much fine Burgundy, and taught me how to cook. While I learned the canon of literature at the Bibliothèque Nationale by day, the Zygomates taught me the canon of French wine and food by night. All graduate education should follow this model. *L’histoire est une certaine cuisine.*