

The Androgyne in Early Modern France

The Androgyne in Early Modern France

Contextualizing the Power of Gender

Marian Rothstein

palgrave
macmillan



THE ANDROGYNE IN EARLY MODERN FRANCE

Copyright © Marian Rothstein, 2015.

Softcover reprint of the hardcover 1st edition 2015 978-1-137-54136-9

All rights reserved.

First published in 2015 by PALGRAVE MACMILLAN® in the United States—a division of St. Martin's Press LLC, 175 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10010.

Where this book is distributed in the UK, Europe and the rest of the world, this is by Palgrave Macmillan, a division of Macmillan Publishers Limited, registered in England, company number 785998, of Houndmills, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG21 6XS.

Palgrave Macmillan is the global academic imprint of the above companies and has companies and representatives throughout the world.

Palgrave® and Macmillan® are registered trademarks in the United States, the United Kingdom, Europe and other countries.

ISBN 978-1-349-57395-0

ISBN 978-1-137-54137-6 (eBook)

DOI 10.1057/9781137541376

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Rothstein, Marian, 1944–

The androgyne in early modern France : contextualizing the power of gender / Marian Rothstein.

pages cm

Includes bibliographical references and index.

1. French literature—16th century—History and criticism. 2. French literature—17th century—History and criticism. 3. Androgyny (Psychology) in literature. 4. Androgyny (Psychology)—History. 5. France—Civilization—1328-1600. 6. France—Civilization—17th century. 7. Renaissance—France. I. Title.

PQ239.R239 2015

840.9'3521—dc23

2015011387

A catalogue record of the book is available from the British Library.

Design by Amnet.

First edition: September 2015

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

Contents

Acknowledgments	vii
Introduction	1
1 The Sources of the Androgyne	5
2 On Functional Gender	27
3 Picturing the Androgyne	43
4 Literary Manifestations of the Androgyne	53
5 On Famous Women and the Androgyne	95
6 The Political Androgyne	109
Part I: Anne de Bretagne (1477–1514) and Her Four Marriages	112
Part II: Marguerite de Navarre (1492–1549), the King's Lieutenant	119
Part III: Catherine de Médicis (1519–1589), Queen Mother and Widowed Queen	133
Part IV: Jeanne d'Albret (1528–1572), Prince of Navarre	150
By Way of Conclusion	161
Notes	167
Bibliography	229
Index	251

Acknowledgments

Since work on this project started at the end of the last century, the list of people and institutions to whom I owe thanks has grown long. The book as it stands has profited from the learning and wisdom of many named and unnamed here. My thanks first to all the many colleagues who have given me encouragement and shared insights, advice, and references, including those in the audiences of the dozen or so papers I have given on topics related to the androgyne. Cynthia J. Brown generously read and commented on the section on Anne de Bretagne. Orsolya Kiss and Kathleen P. Long both helped me formulate my ideas more clearly at a critical juncture. George Hoffmann, in an amazing collegial gesture, offered to read the whole manuscript, helping me keep some of my blunders private and reconsider some points that required clarification. Finally, Gary Ferguson, as the reader for the press, raised useful questions from which this book in its present form profits as it attempts to address them. I have learned from all these people, although they are in no way responsible for the book's views, which may sometimes diverge from their own. Stephen Murphy, Judy Kem, James Dahlinger, Cathy Yandell, David LaGuardia, and Allyson Poska all shared useful information, as did many others to all of whom I am grateful. Joseph McAlhany provided support and encouragement with Latin, Greek, and Hebrew. I am grateful as well to the staff of the library at Carthage College—Chris Grugel, Edward Halverson, Richard Hren, and Carol Sabbar, among others—who made my work over many years possible by processing countless interlibrary loan requests and by providing databases and their own technological expertise to help me navigate them. Carthage College granted me a sabbatical semester to work on this project. The Herzog August Bibliothek in Wolfenbüttel, Germany, twice opened its hospitable doors to me—once in 2000 and again in 2012. During both of my residences—once as guest and once as fellow—their rich collections and knowledgeable staff facilitated my research, and I am most grateful to them. Other work was done at the Newberry Library, the Bibliothèque nationale de France, the Bibliothèque mazarine, the Bibliothèque

de l'arsenal the Bibliothèque municipale de Grenoble, the New York Public Library, Columbia University libraries, and the New York University Library.

Much of chapter 4 appeared as “The Mutations of the Androgyne: Its Functions in Early Modern France” in volume 34, issue 2 of the *Sixteenth Century Journal* in 2003. The revised, updated version here appears by permission of the *Sixteenth Century Journal*. A section of that chapter is also reflected in a more extensive examination of Rabelais’s use of androgyne ideas in “Androgyne, Agape, and the Abbey of Thélème,” which appeared in volume 26, issue 1 of *French Forum* in 2001 and is used here by permission of the University of Nebraska Press. Parts of chapter 6, originally presented as conference papers, were later printed in conference proceedings. Those include “Catherine de Médicis: la reine-veuve et le cœur du roi,” published in *Imaginaires 16: Actes du Colloque: Corps héroïque, corps de chair*, “L’Androgyne politique au seizième siècle,” published in *L’Hermaphrodite de la Renaissance aux Lumières*, and “Topographie de la France, de la Bretagne: la carrière politique par le mariage d’Anne de Bretagne, orpheline, reine, duchesse souveraine,” published in *Illustrations inconsicents: écritures de la Renaissance. Mélanges en l’honneur de Tom Conley*. Translations into English and adaptations of the first paper appear here with permission from the Presses de l’Université de Reims, and those from the second and third appear with permission from Classiques Garnier.

There are three illustrations in chapter 3—figures 1 and 2 appear with permissions respectively and graciously granted by the University of Glasgow Library, Art Resource (for the British National Gallery); figure 3 reproduces a photo taken in Nantes cathedral by the author.