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Review of *Renaissance Studies: Articles 1966–1994*, by Malcolm Smith.

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Renaissance Studies: Articles 1966–1994. Malcolm Smith. Ed. Ruth Calder. Geneva: Librairie Droz, 1999. xviii + 374 pp. Fr.S 92. ISBN 2-600002-81-2.

Malcolm Smith's untimely death in 1994 left a serious void in French Renaissance scholarship. This loss to the profession has in part been compensated by a remarkable volume that assembles nearly thirty articles written by Professor Smith over a twenty-eight-year period. The volume also includes an extensive bibliography that lists Professor Smith's books and critical editions. Professor Smith's essays, published in journals such as *Bibliothèque d'Humanisme et Renaissance*, *Revue de Littérature Comparée*, and *The Sixteenth Century Journal*, reveal a scholar whose meticulousness and originality remain exemplary for those devoted to research in the humanities. What is particularly striking about early articles such as "Ronsard and Queen Elizabeth I" (1966), and later pieces such as "Paul de Foix and Freedom of Conscience" (1993), is Professor Smith's ability to situate literary and historical texts in their political and religious contexts while maintaining a New Critical attention to detail as well as a New Historical focus on texts as social documents. The consistency of Professor Smith's approach is reinforced by a clear and sophisticated writing style that follows the Aristotelian method of outline, exposition, and summary. While it may seem rather curious to highlight a scheme so fundamental to academic work, its mention is important because this type of format is often overlooked today. The order and precision with which Professor Smith's arguments unfold is a most refreshing reminder of the advantages classical training brings to literary criticism.

Indeed, Professor Smith's erudition is beyond reproach. His extensive knowledge of Greek, Latin, Italian, and German complement archival work which is noteworthy for its depth and scope. Professor Smith's passion for working with manuscripts is manifest in his interest for undiscovered or long-forgotten texts, as evidenced in articles entitled "A 'Lost' Protestant Pamphlet against Ronsard," "Lost Works by Ronsard," and "Lost Writings by Montaigne." The

fascination with primary sources leads to a series of articles on first editions of Ronsard and Du Bellay's poetry, and to Professor Smith's own critical editions of works by these authors and Etienne de La Boëtie. From a scholarly perspective, one of the most impressive results of Professor Smith's involvement with "lost" works and original editions is his skill in unearthing stimulating material on the margins of particular texts or of an author's oeuvre. By exploring what could be considered the periphery of a work—such as the bibliographies of Ronsard's first editions—and applying canonical approaches to his research, Professor Smith arrives at a unique balance of creativity and orthodoxy in his intellectual pursuits.

If one article seems to typify Professor Smith's work, it is that entitled "Opium of the People: Numa Pompilius in the French Renaissance." At the outset, he claims that the essay, "on the political benefits which princes could derive from religion," is the one "Montaigne did not get round to writing." His role is thus to pick up where Montaigne left off after writing *De la gloire*, by filling in details of concepts that Montaigne only alluded to in his essay. The article continues the work in Professor Smith's corpus on freedom of expression, and, in a quite systematic way, analyzes the notion of the "divine king" as it originated in biblical texts and in the pagan example of Numa Pompilius. He then examines this motif in Ronsard, La Boëtie, and Montaigne, all the while enriching his deep interpretations with long discussion footnotes containing multiple cross-references to literary, emblematic, and historical sources. The result is an expansive approach that convincingly views the French Renaissance in its social, artistic, and cultural totality. Professor Smith's syncretic method is indeed reminiscent of that of his colleagues M. A. Screech and Michael Heath, who contribute, respectively, a foreword and a survey to the volume. Their remarks lend a warm, personal dimension to the work of this fine colleague whose efforts will continue to be missed.

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