Order in Disorder

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

My fascination with Montaigne was ignited many years ago by Professor Jean Paris in an inspiring seminar he taught at Johns Hopkins University. With his generous encouragement I began what became a lifelong journey to the center of the Essays. He enabled early publication of some initial findings in 1973 in the Parisian journal Change and persuaded the organizers of a Renaissance Symposium held at SUNY-Albany in October 1975 to invite me to speak in his place. I continued to develop my readings of the Essays’ symmetries at conferences held by the Modern Language Association, the Sixteenth-Century Society, the Groupe de Recherche sur le Recueil, the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, and the University of Cincinnati. Earlier versions of my argument appeared in two volumes edited by Daniel Martin, The Order of Montaigne’s “Essays” (Hestia Press, 1989) and Montaigne and the Gods (Hestia Press, 1993); in Essays in European Literature for Walter Strauss, edited by Alice N. Benston and Marshall C. Olds (Studies in Twentieth-Century Literature, 1990); in Le Recueil littéraire: Pratiques et théorie d’une forme, edited by Irène Langlet (Presses Universitaires de Rennes, 2003); and in Freedom Over Servitude: Montaigne, La Boëtie, and “On Voluntary Servitude,” edited by David Lewis Schaefer (Greenwood Press, 1998).

I am grateful to the students of my graduate seminars at Miami University for allowing me to test out and clarify these readings of the Essays. I am indebted to the manuscript’s readers at The Ohio State University Press for
helping me to improve it and avoid a number of errors, though of course they are not responsible for those it may still contain. Heartfelt thanks are due to the Press’s Eugene O’Connor for his eagle eye and most especially to Senior Editor Sandy Crooms for her unflagging and resourceful support.

Most of all, thanks go to Elizabeth, who for years has patiently listened as I enthused over the *Essays* and told me what worked and what didn’t.

My translation of La Boéte’s 29 sonnets, the original middle of Book One of the *Essays*, together with some additional discussion of the connections between chapters 5 and 8 in Book Three, may be found in an online appendix at the following url: https://ohiostatepress.org/Books/Book%20Pages/Runyon%20Order.html