



## A History of Modern French Literature

From the Sixteenth Century to the Twentieth Century

EDITED BY CHRISTOPHER PRENDERGAST

This book provides an engaging, accessible, and exciting new history of French literature from the Renaissance through the twentieth century, from Rabelais and Marguerite de Navarre to Samuel Beckett and Assia Djebar. Christopher Prendergast, one of today's most distinguished authorities on French literature, has gathered a transatlantic group of more than thirty leading scholars who provide original essays on carefully selected writers, works, and topics that open a window onto key chapters of French literary history. The book begins in the sixteenth century with the formation of a modern national literary consciousness, and ends in the late twentieth century with the idea of the "national" coming increasingly into question as inherited meanings of "French" and "Frenchness" expand beyond the geographical limits of mainland France.

*An accessible and authoritative new history of French literature, written by a highly distinguished transatlantic group of scholars*

"This is a tremendous achievement, bringing into a single volume much of the best writing and thinking on French literature that is currently available anywhere. It is highly readable, full of energetically pursued arguments, and it will last for a long time, precisely because its notions of history are so flexible and imaginative. The book proves that the history of literature can only benefit from disciplined speculation about the possibilities of the past."

—Michael Wood, professor emeritus,  
Princeton University

- ◆ Provides an exciting new account of French literary history from the Renaissance to the end of the twentieth century
- ◆ Features more than thirty original essays on key writers, works, and topics, written by a distinguished transatlantic group of scholars
- ◆ Includes an introduction and index

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