

# Pierre de Ronsard's *The Franciad*

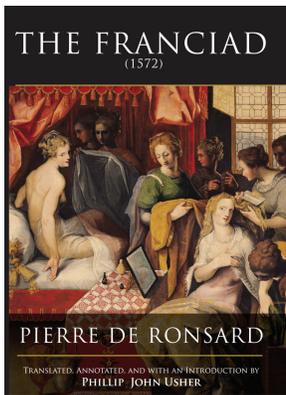
Translation, Annotation, and Critical Bibliography by  
Phillip John Usher

"Phillip John Usher's vibrant and highly readable translation, along with its wideranging notes and introduction, make the case that the poem as it stands merits a wider audience. . . . A work of scholarship and a labor of love, this volume will deepen the appreciation of new and old readers alike. . . ."

—Kathleen Wine, *Renaissance Quarterly*

"*The Franciad* has suffered from a bad reputation more recently, but in fact 15 editions of it appeared within the first 60 years, showing the high esteem in which it was held by Ronsard's contemporaries. Although long and at times tedious, this work should not be overlooked. **Summing Up:** Recommended. Upper-division undergraduates through faculty."

—C. E. Campbell, *Choice*



The story of the hero Francus and his journey out of the city of Troy and through storms, battles, and personal doubt to found France, Pierre de Ronsard's *Franciad* is the closest the French Renaissance came to producing an epic comparable to Camões's *Lusiads* or Ariosto's *Orlando Furioso*.

Ronsard's work appeared at a crucial point in French history. The first four books, after many years of elaboration, left the presses less than a month after the St. Bartholomew's Day

Massacre; not long after, the French king Charles IX died, leaving Ronsard without a patron. Partially because of such circumstances, Ronsard never finished his epic. Still, *The Franciad's* notoriety before, during, and after its twenty-year gestation helped ensure that it has remained a fundamental emblem of the French Renaissance, both its failures and its heroic triumphs.

Never before translated into English, Ronsard's epic is presented here in a faithful and highly readable verse translation of its original 1572 version, complemented by plentiful critical notes and a detailed index.

## Available

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## AMS Press, Inc.

Brooklyn Navy Yard, 63 Flushing Ave-Unit #221, Brooklyn, NY 11205-1073, USA  
Fax: +718-875-3800 • e-mail: [orders@amspressinc.com](mailto:orders@amspressinc.com) • [www.amspressinc.com](http://www.amspressinc.com)