MONTAIGNE AMONGST THE MODERNS
Receptions of the Essays

Dudley M. Marchi

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REVIEW
"... an original book that attempts and succeeds in understanding the idea of Modernity from the reworking of Montaigne's Essais. - Philippe Desan

"... a most significant contribution to Montaigne studies ... thoroughly researched, well conceived and composed ... which will reach out and be of interest to a wider audience than scholars and student of French thought and culture." - Marcel Tetel

DESCRIPTION
Montaigne is one of the most cross-cultural writers ever – both in the assimilation of writings from other cultures into his own work and in the subsequent translations, critical receptions, and creative adaptations of the Essais by other writers throughout the world for the last four hundred years. His work is generally considered as exemplary of the European Renaissance, yet also demonstrates a remarkable relevance to the literary and intellectual activity at the present time. However, whereas there has been an abundance of commentary on Montaigne during the first centuries after his death, much less attention has been paid to his impact on writers of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, particularly those outside France. This study redresses the imbalance.

By establishing a stylistic and ideological relationship between Montaigne’s work and that of such writers as Emerson, Nietzsche, Pater, Woolf, and Sollers, we not only gain a greater appreciation of the richness of the Essays, but also of some of the roots of modernist and postmodernist writing.

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Subject: General Cultural Studies
Area: France Europe

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Chapter 2. Emerson and Nietzsche: Between Tradition and Innovation
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Michel Eyquem de Montaigne was among the most powerful writers of the French Renaissance. He was extremely popular for publicizing the essay as a literary genre and was famously regarded as the “Father of Modern Skepticism.” Also, he was very popular for his smooth capability to combine serious intellectual speculation with casual anecdotes and autobiography. Montaigne large volume work “Essais” included many of the most influential essays ever written in the world and therefore, he showered a great impact on the writers worldwide. In his time, he was regarded more as a statesman than as an au Essays of Montaigne literature essays are academic essays for citation. These papers were written primarily by students and provide critical analysis of selected essays written by Michel De Montaigne. Michel de Montaigne’s Essays are hailed as profound modern, and their style original. This type of personal essay writing is still found in many places, including today’s commonplace blogs. These pieces are political, they are social, they are