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Dramatizing Dido, Circe, and Griselda

Louise-Geneviève Gillot de Saintonge



EDITED & TRANSLATED BY JANET LEVARIE SMARR

Louise Geneviève Gillot de Saintonge was a talented and prolific writer of international renown. She was the first woman to write libretti performed by the Paris opera. She wrote poetry, narrative prose, and theatre in the three genres of comedy, tragedy, and pastoral, and she wrote entertainments for the courts of King Louis XIV, the Duke of Lorraine, and King Philip V of Spain. Although most of her work was reprinted during her lifetime, very little has been written about it. This volume presents translations of her *Dido* and *Circe* libretti and her *Griselda* play, all of which rework their source material in striking ways. Introductions set forth what can be known about her life, as well as her connections with composers, patrons, and advocates for her work, and offer analysis of these dramatic texts in relation to their sources.

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ISBN 978-0-7727-2069-6

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