Acknowledgements

First and foremost, I would like to acknowledge the generosity and patience of my supervisor Dr Rebecca Langlands, whose perspicacious insight and friendship have been invaluable to me. I could not imagine a better supervisor and it is no exaggeration to say that I could not have done this without your unfaltering confidence in me and the project. Thanks also to Karen Ni-Mheallaigh and Tim Whitmarsh for their lucid criticism and their support, particularly in the early stages of the project.

I am particularly indebted to the Arts and Humanities Research Council for their generous support of this project. A number of institutions have also been extremely helpful, including the Bibliothèque Nationale de France, the Bibliothèque de Genève and the Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin, for which I am most grateful.

To all of my colleagues in the Department of Classics and Ancient History at Exeter – in particular Matthew, Martin, Daniel, Barbara, Claire, and Kerensa – thank you for each helping to make it such an affable and stimulating environment in which to work and share ideas. To my fellow postgraduates and kindred geeks, past and present – Pauline Hanesworth, Kyle Erickson, Steve Kennedy, Kiu Yue, Claude Kananak, Liz Dollins, Beth Hartley, James Smith, Matt Smith and Mark Doidge - I cannot thank you enough for the reading groups, seminars, conferences, trips to the Rusty Bike, warmth, wit and encouragement. And the biggest thanks of all to Rowan Fraser, cheerleader number one and a constant source of support, even from the other side of the world. I am a firm believer that every department everywhere needs their own Rowan.

I am also grateful to my Latin V class – reading Latin literature with you for three years was an immense pleasure and your humour and enthusiasm consistently renewed my own passion. Thanks also to Steve Llewellyn and Jean Mace, whose tangible love of the ancient world and its literature, continues to inspire me. I can only hope to convey some of that enthusiasm in my own teaching. Finally, to Mike and Mum, who are always there for me, always proud of me. I will never be able to thank you enough. This thesis is for my dad, who always encouraged me to ask questions and seek out the answers.
Abstract

In 1541, writing under the pseudonym Hélisenne de Crenne, the French noblewoman Marguerite Briet produced a translation of the first four books of Virgil’s *Aeneid* that remains largely unknown. As a female author, Hélisenne provides a sixteenth-century woman’s perspective on the *Aeneid*, an on classical literature more generally, and the uniqueness of her translation in this respect makes her work extremely significant, particularly given the relatively recent interest in women and other marginal voices within the field of classics.

This thesis contributes to an understanding of the need for a holistic approach to Classical Reception Studies, through a thorough examination of Hélisenne’s translation not only with regard to her gender but also the social, historical and literary climate in which she writes. Focussing on the *mise en livre*, as well as the text, my approach also stresses the need to reevaluate the relationship between the author and the text that we often assume in classics is more direct than is actually the case. Through such an examination of her *Eneydes*, Hélisenne emerges as a serious participant in the humanist tradition who engages with classical literature in such a way as to question masculine textual authority and the notion of an objective truth, whilst deliberately implicating herself through her translation in a web of authorities who are not to be trusted.
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<th>Work</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Aen.</strong></td>
<td>Virgil, <em>Aeneid</em>.</td>
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<td><strong>Ap. Rh.</strong></td>
<td>Apollonius of Rhodes.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Just. Epit.</strong></td>
<td>Justin <em>Epitoma historiarum Philippicarum Pompei Trogi</em>.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Liv.</strong></td>
<td>Livy, <em>Ab urbe condita</em>.</td>
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<td><strong>Lucr.</strong></td>
<td>Lucretius, <em>De rerum natura</em>.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Ov. Her</strong></td>
<td>Ovid, <em>Heroides</em>.</td>
</tr>
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<td><strong>Ov. Met</strong></td>
<td>Ovid, <em>Metamorphoses</em>.</td>
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<td><strong>Ov. Trist.</strong></td>
<td>Ovid, <em>Tristia</em>.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Plaut. Am</strong></td>
<td>Plautus, <em>Amphitruo</em>.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sat.</strong></td>
<td>Macrobius, <em>Saturnalia</em>.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sen. Ag.</strong></td>
<td>Seneca, <em>Agamemnon</em>.</td>
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<td><strong>Serv. A</strong></td>
<td>Servius, <em>Ad Aeneis</em>.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Stat. Theb</strong></td>
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