



BUST OF ROTROU BY CAFFIÉRI

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JEAN ROTROU'S

SAINT GENEST

AND

VENCESLAS

EDITED WITH INTRODUCTION AND NOTES

BY

THOMAS FREDERICK CRANE

PROFESSOR OF THE ROMANCE LANGUAGES IN CORNELL UNIVERSITY



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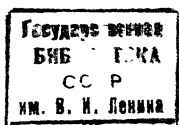
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TO
TWO GENERATIONS OF
CORNELL STUDENTS, WITH WHOM ASSO-
CIATION FOR NEARLY FORTY YEARS HAS BEEN
A JOY AND AN INSPIRATION, THIS BOOK, LIKE ALL MY
OTHER WORKS, THE OUTCOME OF STUDY WITH
THEM, IS AFFECTIONATELY DEDICATED
BY THEIR TEACHER AND
FRIEND

PREFACE

My object in preparing the present edition of two of Rotrou's plays has been to widen the range of reading in French dramatic literature of the seventeenth century, and to encourage the beginning of original work on the part of more advanced students. The study of the serious dramatic literature of the above period is, in the schools at least, confined to one or two plays of Corneille and Racine, and texts of other authors cannot be readily procured even for college and university work. Next to the great writers just mentioned comes Rotrou, and yet no edition of his plays has ever been published outside of France until the present one, and the only accessible French editions, those of Hémon and Ronchaud, are not adapted to the use of students from their lack of commentary. It is very desirable that the student of the French classical drama should know of the romantic tendencies of the age as expressed in the tragi-comedy of Rotrou,—tendencies that resulted in the Romantic drama of the last century. Besides this, Rotrou is an attractive figure, and I venture to think that the two plays here presented will be found by American students more interesting than the usual classical plays to which they are accustomed.

I have endeavored to promote independent study by providing the student with materials for such work and by suggesting topics of study. The two plays are based upon Spanish ones, and, as Spanish is now studied in many of the schools, I have given copious extracts from Rotrou's sources in the hope of awakening an interest in the Spanish drama of the seventeenth century. I have purposely refrained from treating exhaustively