

Contents

Preface	vii
Acknowledgements	xi
1 New forms of self-consciousness in Montaigne	1
1. Calling the self into question	1
2. Persistence and coherence of the self	8
2 The progress of subjectivity from Antiquity to Montaigne	25
1. The Hellenic world	25
2. The Roman world	32
3. Christian spirituality: St Augustine	38
4. The Middle Ages	40
5. From the troubadours to Petrarch	43
6. The Italian and French Renaissance	46
3 Shakespeare and the new aspects of subjectivity	59
1. The medieval heritage in England	59
2. The Shakespearean moment: the English Renaissance at the turn of the century	61
3. The self in Shakespeare's <i>Sonnets</i>	65
4. The dramatic self: from the medieval monologue to the Shakespearean soliloquy	73
5. A reassessment of the influence of Montaigne on Shakespeare	92
4 Complexity and coherence of the Shakespearean characters	102
1. Hamlet	102
2. Macbeth and Lady Macbeth	108
3. The characters in <i>King Lear</i>	110

5 Subjective time in Montaigne and Shakespeare	126
1. From Antiquity to Montaigne	126
2. Shakespearean time in the <i>Sonnets</i>	132
6 Scepticism and stable humanistic values	144
Epilogue. The wisdom of Montaigne and Shakespeare	173
Select bibliography	175
Critical studies on Montaigne	176
Critical studies on Shakespeare (including studies on Shakespeare and Montaigne)	180
General studies (literary, historical, philosophical)	185
Index	191