

Contents

List of Abbreviations ix

Prologue xi

CHAPTER I

Rire est le propre de l'homme 1

How Rabelaisian Is Rabelais? 1 Laugh, and the World Laughs with You 5

French Literary Laughter 11 *Rire est le propre de l'homme* 19

Laughing Rabelais 24

CHAPTER II

“Literary” Laughter 29

“Literary” Genres 29 Narrative Laughter 33 Laughter on Stage 53

CHAPTER III

The Comic Humanist 68

From Humanism to Trivial Pursuit 68 Humanist *facetiae* 80

Reformation Satire 88 The Library of Saint-Victor 95

CHAPTER IV

The Comic Orator 102

Rabelais and Rhetoric 102 Panurge *orator*: The Parisian Lady 110

Panurge *orator*: The Praise of Debts 114

CHAPTER V

The Comic Doctor 129

Doctor Rabelais 129 Therapeutic Laughter 141 Comic Diet 147

CHAPTER VI

The Comic Lawyer 160

Law and Medicine 160 Roman and Canon Law 164

Rabelais and Law 169 Bridoye 180

Envoi 188

Appendix I 193

Appendix II 195

Notes 198

Bibliography 202

Index 222