Classiques Garnier

Journals > Literatures > The Year of Rabelais



Cloches, torcheculs et pantoufles

Copia érasmienne et poétique du mot

Publication type: Journal article

Journal: L'Année rabelaisienne

2017, n° 1. varia

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Abstract: The importance of Rabelais's poetics of *amplificatio* is generally admitted. This article explores its limits, and the unexpected pertinence afforded by *copia*, in the sense of Erasmus's theorization of the latter. For the lexical and morphosyntactic anchoring of this *amplificatio* in certain passages of *Gargantua* attests to a systematic labor of variation of the nature and function of words that have become pivots for a conscious rhetoric of its own purposes.

Pages: 365 to 370

Journal: The Year of Rabelais

CLIL theme: 4027 -- SCIENCES HUMAINES ET SOCIALES, LETTRES -- Lettres et Sciences du langage --

Lettres -- Etudes littéraires générales et thématiques

EAN: 9782406062981

ISBN: 978-2-406-06298-1

ISSN: 2554-9111

DOI: 10.15122/isbn.978-2-406-06298-1.p.0365

Publisher: Classiques Garnier

Online publication: 01-20-2017

Periodicity: Annual

Language: French

Display online