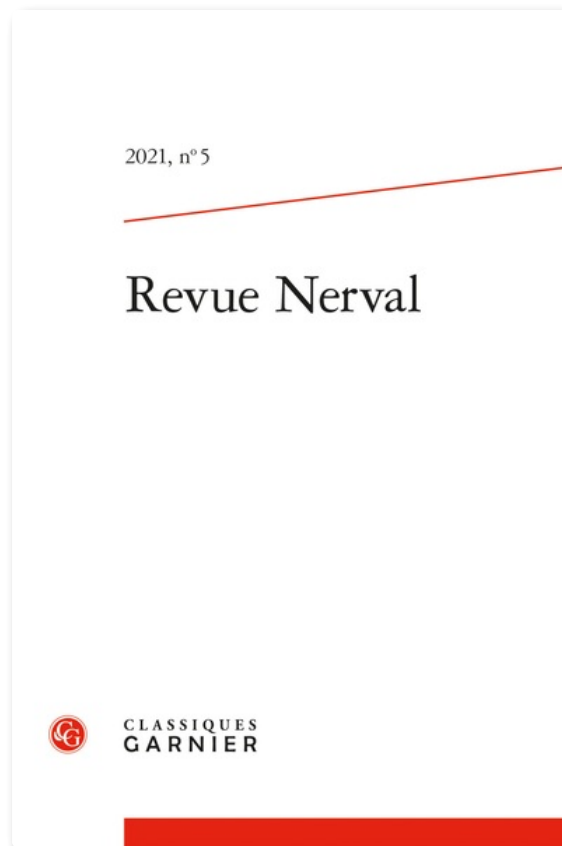




“Octavie”, or the refused ceremony

Nervalian variations on *Poliphilo's Strife of Love in a Dream* by Francesco Colonna

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Abstract: This article focuses on the influence on Nerval of Poliphilo's *Strife of Love in a Dream*, a masterpiece of Italian Renaissance literature (1499). The short story "Octavie", from *Les Filles du feu*, is construed as a variation around a central episode in Colonna's work, the ceremony in honour of Venus. By submitting the narrator to trials similar to those that Poliphilo goes through in a dream, Nerval does not however allow him to reach the same sentimental and mystical initiation.

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