



## Montaigne and Shakespeare: The Emergence of Modern Self-Consciousness (Paperback)

By Robert Ellrodt

MANCHESTER UNIVERSITY PRESS, United Kingdom, 2017. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book. This book is not merely a study of Shakespeare's debt to Montaigne. It traces the evolution of self-consciousness in literary, philosophical and religious writings from antiquity to the Renaissance and demonstrates that its early modern forms first appeared in the Essays and in Shakespearean drama. It shows, however, that, contrary to some postmodern assumptions, the early calling in question of the self did not lead to a negation of identity. Montaigne acknowledged the fairly stable nature of his personality and Shakespeare, as Dryden noted, maintained the constant conformity of each character to itself from its very first setting out in the Play quite to the End . A similar evolution is traced in the progress from an objective to a subjective apprehension of time from Greek philosophy to early modern authors. A final chapter shows that the influence of scepticism on Montaigne and Shakespeare was counterbalanced by their reliance on permanent humanistic values. -- .

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