## JOINING THE CONVERSATION

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Conversation

Dialogues by Renaissance Women

JANET LEVARIE SMARR

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Le taire me seroit louable S'il ne m'estoit tant inhumain.

—Marguerite de Navarre, Chansons Spirituelles

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Pieces of this work have appeared in somewhat different form as articles. Discussion of Moderata Fonte in relation not to Marguerite but to Edmund Tilney appears in "The Uses of Conversation: Moderata Fonte and Edmund Tilney," Comparative Literature Studies 32 (1) (1995). The section on Tullia d'Aragona, the least revised, was published as "A Dialogue of Dialogues: Tullia d'Aragona and Sperone Speroni," Modern Language Notes 113 (1) (1998). A partial version of chapter 5 is forthcoming as "A Female Tradition? Women's Dialogue Writing in Sixteenth-Century France," in Strong Voices, Weak History, edited by Pamela Benson and Victoria Kirkham (University of Michigan Press).

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