

PREFACE

THIS study was begun in October 1916 at the suggestion of Professor Gustave Lanson, who was at that time lecturing at Columbia University, and to whom it was my privilege to act as office assistant. My research has been twice interrupted: from January to March 1917, while I was in France as Secretary and Interpreter to the Rockefeller Tuberculosis Commission, and again from May 1917, when I went to France as a private soldier of the United States Army, until January 1919, at which time I returned to the United States and to civilian life.

Although I had originally intended to make a complete study of the history of the *Extraordinary Voyage* as a type of novel in French Literature, I have been obliged, by the extent of the subject, to limit my study in the present volume to the period preceding the year 1700. It is my purpose to continue in a second volume the investigation of the *Extraordinary Voyages* published since that date.

It is only fitting to say that without the suggestion of Professor Lanson the present work never would have been begun, and that, without his continued interest, it certainly never would have been completed. If in its accomplishment any credit whatever is to be accorded, this will have been due in large measure to the inspiration received from Professor Lanson. If on the other hand, errors of statement or of judgment are discovered in it, they may be set down as exclusively my own.

Two other French scholars, Visiting Lecturers at Columbia University, have been kind enough to take an interest in my investigations. To Professor Fernand Baldensperger, now of the University of Strasbourg, I am indebted for aid in the bibliography of the subject, while to Professor Anatole Le Braz, of the University of Rennes, I am grateful for much helpful criticism and suggestion during the last months of my work on this subject.

Furthermore, to Professors Raymond Weeks and A. G. H. Spiers of Columbia University and to Professor H. Carrington Lancaster of Johns Hopkins University I am under many obligations. Through their sympathy for French scholarship and French ideals, these men have supplemented the inspiration it has been my privilege to receive from the visiting lecturers above named.

For advice and assistance in preparing this study for publication, I am much indebted to Professor H. A. Todd of Columbia University.

G. A.