

Anonymous

**FROM THE PREFACE TO *OVIDE MORALISÉ* (1466)
[ED. C. DE BOER (1920), REPR. WEISBADEN, 1966]**

To the honour and praise of the Blessed Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and in obedience to the good pleasure and command of the most high and excellent prince and my dread Lord, René, by the grace of God, King of Jerusalem and Sicily, Duke of Anjou and Bar, Peer of France, Count of Provence, of Fourcalquier, and of Piedmont, I, a humble cleric, servant and subject of that most noble prince, living in his town of Angers, set to work to translate from verse into French prose the great book of Ovid named *Metamorphoses*. And, to avoid seeking vainglory, I shall not give my name. I began in the month of April after Easter 1466. Under the most noble correction and kind insight of the said lord and of others who knew better, when it pleased them, how to correct and emend, I adjusted a few things when it proved necessary, and, to the extent of my ability following the effect and the expression of the matter set down in verse, I translated them into the pithiest prose I could according to the instructions of the most noble prince and without leaving room for romancing. And I ask him most humbly of his kindness to look favourably on my humble style and unpolished work and to overlook and pardon the faults which through my ignorance might come to light. And let it not be held against me if I have neglected to name correctly people or things, for I placed full reliance on the copy that was given to me to work from; and took these names as I found them.
