Laughter at the Foot of the Cross

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Foreword by Anthony Grafton

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For Dr. Bernard Curchod of Lausanne
a good friend and the ideal reader
I saw Him—Him—and I laughed at Him
Kundry, in Wagner’s *Parsifal*
This book was written during my tenure of an Emeritus Fellowship from the Leverhulme Trust. I am most grateful to the Trustees for their generosity.

M. A. S.

Michael A. Screech is an emeritus fellow of All Souls College, Oxford. His scholarship has roots in University College London and the Warburg Institute. He is recognized as a world authority on the Renaissance, especially for his studies on Rabelais, Erasmus, and Montaigne, as well as on Clément Marot, Joachim Du Bellay, Renaissance laughter, and religious ecstasy. His translation of Montaigne was immediately welcomed for its discrete learning and elegance. His concept and practice of translation arose from his living with the Japanese language as a soldier at the end of the Second World War. The same approach marks his subsequent translation of Rabelais. In recognition of his achievements, the French Republic made him a Chevalier dans l’Ordre national du Mérite and then a Chevalier dans la Légion d’Honneur.