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The Politics of Translation: Arthur Goldring's Account of the Duke of Anjou's Entry into Antwerp, 1582

On 19 February 1582 François, Duke of Anjou, younger brother of Henri III of France and recent suitor to Elizabeth I of England, made his formal entry into Antwerp in order to be installed as Duke of Brabant. To his Dutch and English sponsors, headed by the Prince of Orange and the Earl of Leicester, both of whom accompanied him, Anjou was to be a guarantee of French support for the Dutch rebels against their former Spanish masters. The event was therefore one of the highest political significance. The participants took steps to commemorate it in a form which would be noticed by the major European courts. Predictably, they did so by publishing costly festival books recording the ceremony. The first version, in French, was written by one of Orange's preachers and secretaries, Pierre l'Oyseleur de Villiers. A second version, in Dutch, was then printed by Plantin. Quite a few copies of the French edition are known to have been presented to or bought by leading English courtiers. However, an English version was subsequently produced and it was this which formed the main subject of Dr. Goldring's paper. Goldring argued that Leicester was the obvious person behind that English edition. Its translator, Arthur Golding, best known for his translation of Ovid's *Metamorphoses*, was closely associated with the Earl. Leicester would have been keen for English readers to be aware of his own prominent role in Anjou's entry, and publication of this account might encourage continuing English support for the Dutch rebellion. Yet this work was soon overtaken by events. Anjou's period in Antwerp was a failure and Leicester would be recalled from the Low Countries in 1586. Only a single copy of Golding's English account survives. **AB**