OLD FRENCH SERIES · VOLUME 25

Guillaume de Dole

Jean Renart

Le Roman de la Rose ou de Guillaume de Dole

Guillaume de Dole

A Romance with Its Songs

---

with a word-for-word interlinear English translation

preserving the original word order



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The Old French text follows G. Servois's Le Roman de la Rose ou de Guillaume de Dole, Société des anciens textes français (Paris, 1893)

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Artwork by Esther Steves

The text keeps Servois's spelling, from the single manuscript, with his acute on a tonic final e, the grave on à and è where he prints it, and the tréma; his square brackets supply what the manuscript leaves out, and a row of asterisks marks a verse lost. The numerals stand between points as he prints them. The songs are set off and indented; the verse numbers are his, and the two he suppressed in his corrections (1511–1512) are skipped.

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The Emperor Conrad

I

The author says he has set songs into this romance of the Rose so that it may be sung as well as read. Conrad, emperor of Germany, is just, generous, and wise, and still unmarried, though his barons fear he will die without an heir. Young as he is, each summer he takes counts, countesses, and ladies out of the cities into the forests, sends the jealous and the envious off hunting, and leads the knights back to the ladies in the pavilions; a maiden fastens his clasp as he dresses.

Cil qui mist cest conte en romans,
He who put this tale into romance
ou il a fet noter biaus chans
where he has had noted fair songs
por ramenbrance des chançons,
for remembrance of-the songs
veut que ses pris et ses renons
wishes that his praise and his renown
voist en Raincïen en Champaigne,
may-go into Rheims in Champagne
et que li biaus Miles l'apregne
and that the fair Miles it-may-learn
de Nantuel, uns des preus del regne;
of Nanteuil one of-the worthy of-the realm
car aussi com l'en met la graine
for just as one puts the dye
es dras por avoir los et pris,
in-the cloths for to-have praise and prize

einsi a il chans et sons mis
so has he songs and tunes put
en cestui romans de la Rose,
in this romance of the Rose
qui est une novele chose,
which is a new thing
et s'est des autres si divers
and so-is from-the others so different
et brodez par lieus de biaus vers,
and embroidered through places with fair verses
que vilains nel porroit savoir.
that churl not-it could know
Ce sachiez de fi et de voir,
This know for certain and for truth
bien a cist les autres passez;
well has this-one the others surpassed
ja nuls n'iert de l'oïr lassez,
ever any not-will-be of the-hearing weary
car, s'en vieult, l'en i chante et lit,
for if-one wishes one there sings and reads
et s'est fez par si grant delit
and so-it-is made with so great delight
que tuit cil s'en esjoïront
that all those themselves-thereby will-rejoice
qui chanter et lire l'orront,
who sing and read it-will-hear
qu'il lor sera nouviaus toz jors.
for-it to-them will-be new all days

Il conte d'armes et d'amors
It tells of-arms and of-love
et chante d'ambedeus ensamble.
and sings of-both together
S'est avis a chascun et samble
So-it-is opinion to each and seems
que cil qui a fet le romans
that he who has made the romance
qu'il trovast toz les moz des chans,
that-he composed all the words of-the songs
si afierent a ceuls del conte.
so befit to those of-the tale
Si commence ici son conte.
So begins here his tale
En l'empire ou li Alemant
In the-empire where the Germans
ont esté maint jor et maint an,
have been many-a day and many-a year
si com li contes dit, segnor,
so as the tale says lords
ot jadis un empereor:
there-was once an emperor
Corras ot non de par son pere,
Conrad he-had name from of his father
qui devant lui fu emperere.
who before him was emperor
Mout le tindrent les genz a preu;
Very him held the folk for worthy

ne vos avroie hui conté preu
not to-you I-would-have today told a-whit
quels hons il fu, car ne porroie:
what-sort man he was for not I-could
onqes au grant siege de Troie,
ever at-the great siege of Troy
n'ot home si bien entechié;
not-there-was man so well endowed
si haï mout vilain pechié
so he-hated much churlish sin
et en esté mengier a fu.
and in summer eating by fire
Dès cele hore que il nez fu,
From that hour that he born was
n'oï nuls issir de sa bouche
not-heard anyone come-out from his mouth
grant serement ne lait reproche.
great oath nor ugly reproach
Mout se contint com sages rois:
Very himself he-bore as wise king
tot fist par decrez et par lois
all he-did by decrees and by laws
vers sa gent ce que fere dut.
toward his folk this that to-do he-ought
Onques home ne mesconnut
Ever man not he-misprized
por poverte ne por richece.
for poverty nor for riches

Bien afferoit a sa hautece
Well befitted to his highness
ce qu'il ert sages et cortois.
this that-he was wise and courteous
De deduit d'oiseax et de bois
Of delight of-birds and of wood
ne savoit nus hom avant lui.
not knew any man before him
Il valoit de tels rois .j. mui
He was-worth of such kings a bushel
com il a puis el regne eü.
as there has since in-the realm been
Par effors de lance et d'escu
By force of lance and of-shield
conqueroit toz ses anemis:
he-conquered all his enemies
ja arbalestiers n'i fust mis
ever crossbowman not-there would-be put
por sa guerre en auctorité;
for his war in authority
par averté, par mauvesté
through avarice through wickedness
les tienent ore li haut home;
them hold now the high men
por demi le tresor de Rome
for half the treasure of Rome
ne vousist il, a droit n'a tort,
not would-have-wished he with right nor-with wrong

q'uns en eüst prodome mort
that-one thereof had worthy-man dead
en son ost, nès son anemi.
in his host even his enemy
Et si portoit l'escu demi
And so he-bore the-shield halved
au gentil conte de Clermont,
with-the noble count of Clermont
au lion rampant contremont
with-the lion rampant upward
d'or et d'azur, et d'autre part.
of-gold and of-azure and on-other side
Plus estoit hardiz d'un liepart
More he-was bold than-a leopard
quant il ert armez, l'escu pris.
when he was armed the-shield taken
Et savez dont ge mout le pris?
And know-you whereof I much him prize
Sa justice et s'envoiseüre
His justice and his-merriment
par ert de si grant tempreüre
much were of so great temperance
q'en n'i trovast ja point d'outrage;
that-one not-there would-find ever a-whit of-outrage
sa hautece et son vasselage
his highness and his valor
bessoit mout selonc sa franchise;
he-lowered much according-to his nobleness

s'estoit a toute gentelise
so-he-was to all nobility
apers et duis et ademis.
open and skilled and gracious
Se frans hom se fust en lui mis
If noble man himself had in him put
de riens dont nus le querelast,
of anything whereof anyone him might-accuse
por mil mars d'or, qui li donast,
for thousand marks of-gold that-one to-him might-give
nel soufrist il a forsjugier.
not-it would-suffer he to be-misjudged
Il ne haoit pas de legier;
He not hated at-all with ease
ne n'amoit riens contre s'onor.
nor not-loved anything against his-honor
Quant il savoit viel vavassor
When he knew old vavasour
ne dame veve en poverte,
or lady widowed in poverty
a ciaus estoit sa main overte,
to those was his hand open
et donoit robes et avoir.
and he-gave robes and goods
Ne voloit autre moeble avoir,
Not he-wished other movables to-have
mès grant plenté de chevaliers.
but great plenty of knights
Joiax, dras de soie et destriers,
Jewels cloths of silk and chargers

lor donoit il a grant plenté.
then gave he in great plenty
Toz jors, et iver et esté,
All days both winter and summer
estoit sa cors granz et pleniere.
was his court great and full
De mainte diverse maniere
In many-a diverse manner
i fesoit chascuns son mestier.
there did each his craft
Il ne lessoit bon chevalier,
He not left good knight
en son païs por qu'il errast,
in his country provided that-he might-fare
qu'il ne retenist ou donast,
that-he not might-retain or give
selonc son pris, terre ou chastiax;
according-to his worth land or castles
ne portoit autres mangoniax
not he-carried other mangonels
a ses guerres n'autres perrieres.
to his wars nor-other stone-throwers
Cil portent lances et banieres
Those carry lances and banners
por lui au partir des estors;
for him at-the parting of-the tourneys
cil prenoient les hautes tors;
those took the high towers
cil ardoient les granz chastiax;
those burned the great castles

n'i portent autres mangoniax
not-there carry other mangonels
de l'ost de hors a ces dedenz;
from the-host from outside to those within
il menjassent ainçois as denz
they would-eat rather with-the teeth
les hourdeïs desor les murs:
the hoardings upon the walls
bien en ert lor sires seürs;
well thereof was their lord sure
ja n'asseïst riens ne fust prise,
ever not-be-besieged anything not was taken
puis qu'il avoit la chose emprise.
since that-he had the thing undertaken
Tel tresor doit rois amasser
Such treasure ought king to-amass
por qu'il puist confondre et quasser
for that-he may confound and smash
ses anemis, a son pié metre.
his enemies at his foot to-put
Bien s'en sot icist entremetre,
Well himself-thereof knew this-one to-busy
qu'il n'avoit encor point de feme;
for-he not-had yet a-whit of wife
mès, le voeil a ceaus de son regne,
but the will of those of his realm
en eüst il prochainement,
thereof would-have he soon

mout en parloient tuit sovent
much thereof spoke all often
li haut baron li un as autres:
the high barons the one to-the others
«Se ciz bers, qui est mieudres d'autres,
If this baron who is better than-others
muert sanz hoir, nos somes tuit mort.»
dies without heir we are all dead
Nature les prent et remort
Nature them takes and stings
qu'il a entr'ax norriz esté,
for-he has among-them nourished been
et si lor a maint jor porté
and so to-them has many-a day borne
mout grant honor et fet grant bien,
very great honor and done great good
et s'il moroit sanz hoir, por rien
and if-he died without heir for anything
ne seroient il jamès lié.
not would-be they ever glad
Por ce l'en ont mout arresnié
For this him-thereof they-have much addressed
li plus haut prince de son regne;
the most high princes of his realm
mès genvrece qui en lui regne
but youth which in him reigns
ne l'i lessoit pas acorder,
not him-there let at-all agree
ainz fet les granz trez encorder,
rather he-makes the great tents be-roped

ses aucubes, ses pavellons,
his canopies his pavilions
en esté quant il est sesons
in summer when it is season
de deduire en prez et en bois.
of disporting in meadows and in woods
Des citez s'en issent manois
From-the cities themselves-thence go-out at-once
en cez granz forez por esbatre;
into these great forests for to-disport
dedenz .iij. jornées ou .iiij.
within three days'-journeys or four
ne lessoit conte ne contesse
not he-left count nor countess
ne chastelaine ne duchesse
nor chatelaine nor duchess
ne dame qu'il n'envoiast querre
nor lady whom-he not-sent to-fetch
dedenz .vij. jornées de terre,
within seven days'-journeys of land
ne vavassor a bone vile;
nor vavasour in good town
qu'il ne donast pas une bille
that-he not would-give at-all a straw
que coustast, mès qu'a gré fust fet,
what might-cost but that-to will were done
por ce qu'il veut qu'il soit retret,
for this that-he wishes that-it be told
quant il ert morz après sa vie.
when he will-be dead after his life

De biaus gieus et sanz vilonie
With fair games and without churlishness
se joe ovoec ses compaignons.
himself plays with his companions
Il porpense les ochesons
He devises the occasions
comment chascuns fera amie.
how each will-make friend
Or sachiez qu'il n'i faudra mie
Now know that-he not-there will-fail at-all
qu'il ne l'ait, por riens qu'il puist fere,
that-he — her-may-have for anything that-he can do
li bons rois, li frans debonere.
the good king the noble gracious
Il savoit toz les tors d'amors.
He knew all the turns of-love
Au matin quant paroit li jors,
At-the morning when appeared the day
lores venoient li archier
then came the archers
de devant son tref por huchier:
from before his tent for to-call
«Or sus, segnor, s'irons en bos!»
Now up lords so-we-shall-go into wood
Lors oïssiez soner cez cors
Then you-would-have-heard sound these horns
por esvellier cez chevaliers;
for to-wake these knights

et ces viex chenuz croupoiers
and these old gray-haired laggards
fesoit chascun baillier .j. arc.
he-had each given a bow
Onques voir, puis le tens roi Marc,
Ever truly since the time (of-)king Mark
empereres ne sot vuidier
emperor not knew to-clear
si bien pavellon d'encombrier.
so well pavilion of-encumbrance
Mout estoit sages et voiseus:
Very he-was wise and cunning
as jalous et as envieus
to-the jealous and to-the envious
fesoit baillier espiez et cors,
he-had given spears and horns
si montoit ovoec jusq'au bos,
so he-rode with-them as-far-as-the wood
por ce que il ne retornassent;
for this that they not might-return
as uns, a proié qu'il alassent
to-the some he-has prayed that-they might-go
boissoner ovoec les archiers,
to-beat-the-bushes with the archers
et li autre, as liemiers,
and the others with-the leashed-hounds
poursievre, qui sont bon as cers;
pursue who are good for-the stags

tant lor baille deduiz divers
so-many to-them he-gives delights diverse
qu'il s'en tindrent bien a paié.
that-they themselves-thereby held well for paid
Et quant il furent avoié
And when they were set-on-the-way
e mis en la haute forest,
and put into the deep forest
au deduit qui mout miex li plest
to-the delight which much better him pleases
s'en retorne luès droit arriere
himself-thence returns at-once straight back
par une anciene charriere,
by an old cart-track
soi tierz de chevaliers riant.
himself third of knights laughing
Et si bon chevalier errant,
And his good knights errant
qui s'estoient debrisié d'armes,
who themselves-were broken with-arms
se dorment de desoz cez charmes
themselves sleep from under these hornbeams
en paveillons de draz de soie:
in pavilions of cloths of silk
jamès, voir, en lieu ou ge soie,
ever truly in place where I may-be
ne verrai gent a tel solaz
not I-shall-see folk at such solace
ne tante dame estroite a laz,
nor so-many ladies tight with laces

en chainses ridez lor biauz cors:
in shifts pleated their fair bodies
s'ont chevex ondoianz et sors,
so-they-have hair waving and golden
chapelez d'or a clers rubiz;
garlands of-gold with bright rubies
et cez contesses en samiz
and these countesses in samites
et en draz d'or emperials,
and in cloths of-gold imperial
em pur lor biax cors sanz mantiaus;
in bare their fair bodies without mantles
et ces puceles en bendez,
and these maidens in bands
a chapelez entrelardez
with garlands interlaced
de biax oisiaux et de floretes;
with fair birds and with flowerets
lor genz cors et lor mameletes
their gracious bodies and their little-breasts
les font proisier de ne sai quanz.
them make be-praised by not I-know how-many
De corroietes, de blans ganz,
With little-belts with white gloves
erent mout bien enharneschiées.
they-were very well equipped
Tot chantant es tentes jonchiées
All singing into-the tents strewn
vont as chevaliers quis atendent,
go to-the knights who-them await

qui les braz et les mains lor tendent;
who the arms and the hands to-them stretch
ses traient sor les covertors.
so-them draw onto the coverlets
Qui onqes fu en tels estors
Who ever was in such battles
bien puet savoir quel siecle il orent.
well can know what life they had
Mout lor est poi se cil demorent
Very to-them is little if those delay
qui estoient alé en bos.
who were gone into wood
Et l'empereres, les galos,
And the-emperor at-the gallop
ert ja reperiez a sa tente
was already returned to his tent
vers cez qui ont mout autre entente
toward these who have very other intention
que cil qu'il a el bois lessiez;
than those whom-he has in-the wood left
en .j. tref point toz eslessiez,
into a tent painted all galloping
criant: «Ça, chevalier, as dames!»
crying Here knights to-the ladies
Il ne pensent pas a lor ames;
They not think at-all of their souls
si n'i ont cloches ne moustiers
so not-there they-have bells nor minsters
(qu'il n'en est mie granz mestiers),
for-there not-thereof is at-all great need

ne chapelains fors les oiseaus.
nor chaplains except the birds
Mout orent tuit de lor aveaus.
Much had all of their desires
Dex! tant beaus chans et tant beaus diz,
God so-many fair songs and so-many fair words
sor riches coutes, sor beaus liz,
on rich quilts on fair beds
i ot dit ainçois qu'il fust prime!
there was said before that-it were prime
Et quant tens de lever aprisme,
And when time of rising approaches
lors veïssiez genz acesmer.
then you-would-have-seen folk adorn
De samiz, de dras d'outremer,
Of samites of cloths from-overseas
de baudequins d'or a oiseaus,
of brocades of-gold with birds
orent et cotes et manteaus
they-had both tunics and mantles
a penes fresches bien ovrées,
with furs fresh well worked
d'ermine et de gris chevronées
of-ermine and of gray chevroned
a sables noirs, soef flerans:
with sables black sweetly smelling
si beles genz, si acesmans
so fair folk so adorned
ne troveroit on ore mie.
not would-find one now at-all

L'empereres ne se vout mie
The-emperor not himself wished at-all
miex vestir que firent li autre:
better to-dress than did the others
de .ij. samis de l'un en l'autre
of two samites of the-one into the-other
fu la soe robe bendée;
was the his robe striped
savez qui mout l'a amendée?
know-you who much it-has improved
Une pucele li atache
A maiden to-him fastens
de ses mains une bele atache
with her hands a fair clasp
des laz de sa blanche chemise;
of-the laces of her white shift
la bele main dont el l'a mise
the fair hand wherewith she it-has put
ait or .c. foiz bone aventure!
may-have now a-hundred times good fortune
Et cil li change sa ceinture
And he to-him changes his girdle
a une corroiete blanche;
for a little-belt white
or la gart bien la preuz, la franche!
now it may-keep well the worthy the noble
Que sanz l'or valent bien les pierres,
For without the-gold are-worth well the stones
les esmeraudes verz com ierres,
the emeralds green as ivy

.xl. marz entre .ij. freres.
forty marks between two brothers
Beneoiz soit tex empereres!
Blessed be such emperor

The Feast in the Wood

II

In the morning the company washes barefoot at the springs, and returns singing songs of fair Aelis to dine, the emperor seating himself low out of courtesy. The hunters then come back bristling in ugly gray capes, bloodied to the hocks and loaded with game, and tell their tall stories. After supper the company plays at tables and dice, the fiddlers play, and the ladies and squires dance carols before the tents, singing of Robin and Mariette and of the ills of loving. The poet laments that chivalry is now disgraced.

Quant il furent levé vers tierce,
When they were risen toward terce
par le bois vont joer grant piece,
through the wood they-go to-play great while
toz deschaus, manches descousues,
all barefoot sleeves unsewn
tant qu'il sont es illes venues;
until that-they are to-the islands come
as fonteneles qui sordoient
to-the little-fountains which welled
mout près de la ou il estoient
very near to there where they were
logié el bois por le deduit.
lodged in-the wood for the delight

Ça .ij., ça .iij., ça .vij., ça .viij.,
Here two here three here seven here eight
s'assieent por laver lor mains.
themselves-sit for to-wash their hands
Li lieus n'estoit mie vilains,
The place not-was at-all churlish
ainz estoit verz com en esté,
rather it-was green as in summer
et si avoit mout grant plenté
and so there-was very great plenty
de floretes indes et blanches.
of flowerets violet and white
Ainçois qu'il cousissent lor manches,
Before that-they sewed their sleeves
levent lor oils et lor beaus vis.
they-wash their eyes and their fair faces
Les puceles, ce m'est avis,
The maidens this to-me-is opinion
lor atornent fil de filieres
for-them prepare thread from spools
qu'eles ont en lor aumosnieres;
which-they have in their purses
or ne sai ge que riens lor faille.
now not know I that anything them may-lack
As dames, en lieu de touaille,
From-the ladies in place of towel
empruntent lor blanches chemises;
they-borrow their white shifts

par ceste ochoison si ont mises
by this occasion so they-have put
lor mains a mainte blanche cuisse:
their hands on many-a white thigh
je ne di mie que cil puisse
I not say at-all that he can
estre cortois qui plus demande.
be courteous who more asks
Et li disners et la viande
And the dinner and the food
est aprestez, napes assises,
is prepared cloths laid
et les dames se resont mises
and the ladies themselves are-in-turn put
au retour, et li chevalier,
to-the return and the knights
qui ne prisent mauvès dangier
who not prize evil resistance
la coue d'une violete,
the tail of-a violet
ains chantent ceste chançonete:
rather sing this little-song

E non Deu sire, se ne l'ai
In name (of-)God lord if not it-I-have
l'amor de lui, mar l'acointai...
the-love of him in-an-ill-hour him-I-met

Ainz que ceste fust dite tote,
Before that this were said all
commence uns autres en la route:
begins an other in the company

La jus desoz la raime,
There down beneath the branches
einsi doit aler qui aime.
thus ought to-go who loves
Clere i sourt la fontaine,
Clear there wells the spring
ya!
ya
Einsi doit aler qui bele amie a...
Thus ought to-go who fair friend has

Ainz qu'ele fust bien commencie,
Before that-it were well begun
une pucele secorcie
a maiden girt-up
d'un trop biau chainze, a .j. blont chief,
in-an exceedingly fair shift with a blond head
en recommence de rechief:
thereof begins-again from new

Se mes amis m'a guerpie,
If my friend me-has abandoned
por ce ne morrai ge mie...
for this not shall-die I at-all

Ainz que ceste fust bien fenie,
Before that this were well ended
une dame sanz vilonie,
a lady without churlishness
qui ert suer au duc de Maience,
who was sister to-the duke of Mainz
haut et seri et cler commence:
high and clear and bright begins

Main se leva bele Aeliz.
Early herself raised fair Aelis
Dormez, jalous, ge vos en pri.
Sleep jealous-one I you thereof pray
Biau se para, miex se vesti,
Fair herself she-adorned better herself she-dressed
desoz le raim.
beneath the branch
Mignotement la voi venir,
Daintily her I-see come
cele que j'aim.
she whom I-love

Et li gentiz quens de Savoie
And the noble count of Savoy
chante ceste tote une voie:
sings this all one way

Main se leva bele Aeliz.
Early herself raised fair Aelis
Mignotement la voi venir.
Daintily her I-see come
Bien se para, miex se vesti
Well herself she-adorned better herself she-dressed
en mai.
in May
Dormez, jalous, et ge m'envoiserai...
Sleep jealous-one and I myself-will-make-merry

Et li quens de Lucelebourc,
And the count of Luxembourg
qui amoit iloec par amor
who loved there by love
une dame de grant solaz,
a lady of great solace
qui chantoit de mains et de braz
who sang with hands and with arms
miex que dame qui fu pieça,
better than lady who was long-ago
por l'amor de li commença:
for the-love of her began

C'est tot la gieus el glaioloi.
This-is all there down in-the gladiolus-bed
Tenez moi, dame, tenez moi.
Hold me lady hold me
Une fontaine i sordoit, ae!
A spring there welled ae
Tenez moi, dame, por les maus d'amer...
Hold me lady for the ills of-loving

Si chantant en itel meniere,
So singing in such manner
resont tuit revenu arriere
are-again all come back
trusqu'as trez ou il ot bel estre,
as-far-as-the tents where there was fair being
car cil qui de ce furent mestre
for those who of this were masters
les ont d'erbe fresche jonchiez;
them have with-grass fresh strewn
biaus les ont fez et affetiez
fair them have made and arranged
et ont osté coutes et liz;
and have removed quilts and beds
ensamble metent cez tapiz
together they-put these carpets
por estre a gregnor largeté.
for to-be at greater largeness
Varlez i ot a grant plenté:
Squires there were in great plenty

iloec lor ont l'eve donée,
there to-them have the-water given
que la viande ert aprestée,
for the food was prepared
tables mises et napes beles.
tables set and cloths fair
Li chevalier et les puceles
The knights and the maidens
et les dames sirent par tires.
and the ladies sat by rows
Ne se contint pas come sires,
Not himself he-bore at-all as lord
car ses granz senz et sa proece,
for his great sense and his prowess
sa bonté et sa grant largece
his goodness and his great largess
l'assist mout plus bas que ne die:
him-seated much more low than — I-may-say
ce li vint de grant cortoisie;
this to-him came from great courtesy
et le viel duc de Genevois
and the old duke of Geneva
fist il seoir a son haut dois,
made he sit at his high dais
a son col riches piax de martres.
on his neck rich skins of martens
Or cuit que li vesques de Chartres
Now I-think that the bishop of Chartres
s'amast miex iloec qu'en .j. sane;
himself-would-love better there than-in a synod

que chascuns i garist et sane
for each there heals and cures
ses oils d'esgarder les merveilles,
his eyes with-looking-at the marvels
tantes faces cleres, vermeilles,
so-many faces bright rosy
et cez douz viz lons et traitiz,
and these sweet faces long and well-drawn
et cez biaus sorcils porvoutiz,
and these fair brows arched
et cez blons chiez et cez biaus cors.
and these blond heads and these fair bodies
Et quant li quens de Sagremors
And when the count of Sagremors
ot chanté une chançonete,
had sung a little-song
viande orent et bone et nete,
food they-had both good and clean
vin cler et froit de la Musele,
wine clear and cold from the Moselle
et vaisselemente novele,
and plate new
pastez de chevrols et lardez,
pies of roebucks and larded
de ce i ert granz la plentez,
of this there was great the plenty
de chevriex, de cers et de dains,
of roebucks of stags and of fallow-deer

de fromages et cras et sains
of cheeses both rich and wholesome
de la riviere de Clermont;
from the river of Clermont
n'est riens qui a viande mont,
not-is anything which to food amounts
por qu'ele soit bone en esté,
provided that-it be good in summer
dont il n'i ait a grant plenté
whereof it not-there be in great plenty
et a devise et a soushet.
both at will and at wish
N'i a chevalier ne s'enhait
Not-there is knight not himself-cheers
por l'emperere qui s'envoise.
for the-emperor who himself-makes-merry
Et c'est droiz que chascuns aoise
And this-is right that each may-increase
sa joie por s'envoiseüre,
his joy for his-merriment
c'onqes si gentil creature
for-ever so noble creature
com il ert ne but ne menja;
as he was not drank nor ate
et, son voeil, ne pensast il ja
and by-his will not would-think he ever
s'a armes non et a amors,
except-of arms not and of loves

et s'ot tant autres bones mors
and so-he-had so-many other good manners
c'onqes tex bers ne fu, s'il vit.
that-ever such baron not was if-he lives
Mout li sist et plot ce qu'il vit
Much him suited and pleased this that-he saw
de sa terre et de son roiaume
of his land and of his kingdom
tante pucele et tante dame
so-many maidens and so-many ladies
et tant bel chevalier de pris.
and so-many fair knights of worth
Li serjant, qui furent apris
The servants who were taught
d'oster les nappes, quant il virent
of-removing the cloths when they saw
que nus ne menja, si en firent
that anyone not ate so thereof did
ce qu'il durent mout belement;
this that-they ought very handsomely
li vallet saillent erroment
the squires leap at-once
por l'eve as bacins, si la donent.
for the-water to-the basins so it give
Sachiez que maint s'i abandonent
Know that many-a-one himself-thereto gives-over
por tenir au bon roi ses manches,
for to-hold for-the good king his sleeves

et cez dames a cez mains blanches
and these ladies with these hands white
dont mout lor plesoit la veüe;
whereof much to-them pleased the sight
quant la premiere ot l'eve eüe
when the first had the-water had
et cil et celes qui en voudrent,
and those and those who thereof wished
et les beles dames envoudrent
and the fair ladies wrapped
lor mantiax entor lor biax cors,
their mantles around their fair bodies
et la feste commença lors
and the feast began then
des estrumenz et de deduit.
of-the instruments and of delight
Mout tarja poi après, ce cuit,
Very delayed little after this I-think
quant li veneor, li archier
when the huntsmen the archers
qui alerent hui main chacier,
who went today morning to-hunt
et li chevalier por esbatre,
and the knights for to-disport
ou par .iij. chemins ou par .iiij.,
either by three roads or by four
repairent fesant lor menées,
return making their horn-calls
grant plenté de bestes troussées,
great plenty of beasts packed

chevriex, biches, et cers de cresse;
roebucks hinds and stags of fat
quant la noise des cors apresse,
when the noise of-the horns draws-near
et cil qui portent les forchiez
and those who carry the forked-poles
ou il ont mises lor daintiez,
where they have put their dainties
et cil as cors de cerf ramuz.
and those with-the horns of stag branched
Lors n'i remest granz ne menuz
Then not-there remained great nor small
es pavellons qui ne s'en isse
in-the pavilions who not himself-thence goes-out
encontre ciaus qui mainte bische
to-meet those who many-a hind
orent le jor tolu la vie.
had the day taken the life
Tuit dient qu'il ont grant envie
All say that-they have great envy
de ce qu'il n'i furent alé.
of this that-they not-there were gone
Cil veneor mal atirié,
Those huntsmen ill arrayed
cil qui avoient buisiné,
those who had trumpeted
s'en revindrent mout hericié,
themselves-thence came-back very bristling

es ledes chapes de grisan
in-the ugly capes of gray-cloth
qui ne furent noeves oan,
which not were new this-year
et heuses viez, rouges et dures,
and boots old red and hard
et roncins durs sanz ambleüres,
and nags hard without amblings
et sont en sanc jusq'as jarrez;
and are in blood up-to-the hocks
et ont derrier euls lor brachez
and have behind them their hounds
et les lïens desor les braz;
and the leashes upon the arms
il ne porterent roiz ne laz,
they not carried nets nor snares
ainçois pristrent a forçoier
rather they-took to force
.iii. cers, sanz ce que li archier
three stags without this that the archers
ocirent ciax q'as mains lor vint,
killed those which-to-the hands to-them came
qu'il en ocistrent plus de .xx.,
that-they thereof killed more than twenty
biches, chevriex, lievres, goupiex,
hinds roebucks hares foxes
qui ont par devers les cortiex
who have by toward the gardens
dan Gonstanz tolu maint chapon.
lord Constant taken many-a capon

Li keu firent la venoison
The cooks had the venison
destrousser, si la portent cuire;
unpacked so it carry to-cook
n'i a nul qui de faim ne muire
not-there is any who of hunger not dies
de ceuls qui ont en bos esté:
of those who have in wood been
por ce ont li seneschal hasté
for this have the seneschals hastened
a la cuisine lor viande.
in the kitchen their food
Que que l'empereres demande
While that the-emperor asks
a ses veneors des noveles,
of his huntsmen of-the news
cez dames et cez damoiseles
these ladies and these damsels
s'en revont as tentes deduire,
themselves-thence go-back to-the tents to-disport
et cil qui ne voelent ciax nuire
and those who not wish those to-harm
qui recontoient lor mençonges:
who recounted their lies
vos deïssiez que ce fust songes
you would-have-said that this were dreams
des merveilles qu'il lor contoient.
of-the marvels that-they to-them told
Il se rit de ce qu'il mentoient,
He himself laughs at this that-they lied

mès c'est coustume de tiex genz.
but this-is custom of such folk
Après none fu beaus et genz
After nones was fair and fine
li soupers aprestez et cuiz.
the supper prepared and cooked
Et serjans voiseus et recuiz
And servants cunning and seasoned
de quanque fere a cort covint
in whatever to-do at court behooved
i ot assez, et quant ce vint
there were enough and when this came
qu'en reparla des napes metre,
that-one spoke-again of-the cloths to-lay
bien fu qui s'en sot entremetre,
well there-was who himself-thereof knew to-busy
q'assez i ot varlez et genz.
for-enough there were squires and folk
As bacins, as vassiax d'argent,
With-the basins with-the vessels of-silver
donent l'eve communement.
they-give the-water in-common
On les rassist si fetement
One them seated-again so exactly
com il orent sis au disner.
as they had sat at-the dinner
Cil qui vindrent del bois vener
Those who came from-the wood to-hunt
se sont d'une part tuit assis:
themselves are on-one side all seated

qu'il ne sont mie si forsis
for-they not are at-all so deprived
de viande com sont li autre;
of food as are the others
tant en ont pris et d'un et d'autre
so-much thereof they-have taken both of-one and of-other
qu'il n'en est mesure ne conte.
that-there not-thereof is measure nor count
Li veneor n'orent pas honte
The huntsmen not-had at-all shame
s'il orent boef au premier mès
if-they had beef at-the first course
as bons aus destrempé d'aigrès,
with-the good garlics steeped in-verjuice
et puis oisons et mortereux.
and then goslings and mortrews
Il i ot tels des amoreus
It there were such of-the lovers
qui en menjassent bien, ce cuit,
who thereof would-eat well this I-think
mès il souperent par deduit
but they supped by delight
lor daintiez et lor venoison,
their dainties and their venison
dont il i ot si grant foison,
whereof it there was so great abundance
nuls, tant fust povres, n'i failli.
any so-much were poor not-there failed
Mès savez dont sont mal bailli?
But know-you whereof are-they ill treated

Que il ne sevent q'est mesese:
That they not know what-is discomfort
einsi les paist cils rois a ese.
thus them feeds this king at ease
Quant il orent mengié assez
When they had eaten enough
et beü trestot a lor sez
and drunk all-wholly to their fill
[n]on pas rouge vin a tostées,
not at-all red wine with toasts
quant les napes furent ostées,
when the cloths were removed
il se sont tuit levé des tables;
they themselves are all risen from-the tables
puis sont alé joer as tables,
then they-are gone to-play at-the tables
et .iij. chevaliers d'autre part
and three knights on-other side
rejoent as dez, au hasart,
play-in-turn at-the dice at-the hazard
denier a autre tresqu'a .vj.;
penny to other up-to six
et li autre resont assis
and the others are-in-turn seated
cil as eschez, cil a la mine.
those at-the chess those at the mine
Vïeleors a dras d'ermine
Fiddlers with cloths of-ermine
vïelent par cez pavellons.
fiddle through these pavilions

Les dames et les compegnons
The ladies and the companions
l'empereor s'en issent hors,
(of-)the-emperor themselves-thence go out
main a main em pur lor biau cors.
hand in hand in bare their fair bodies
Devant le tref, en .j. pré vert,
Before the tent in a meadow green
les puceles et li vallet
the maidens and the squires
ront la carole commenciée.
have-in-turn the carol begun
Une dame s'est avanciée,
A lady herself-is advanced
vestue d'une cote en graine;
dressed in-a tunic in scarlet
si chante ceste premeraine:
so sings this first

C'est tot la gieus enmi les prez.
This-is all there down amid the meadows
Vos ne sentez mie les maus d'amer.
You not feel at-all the ills of-loving
Dames i vont por caroler.
Ladies there go for to-carol

Remirez voz bras,
Look-at your arms
vos ne sentez mie les maus d'amer,
you not feel at-all the ills of-loving
si com ge faz...
so as I do

Un vallez au prevost d'Espire
A squire to-the provost of-Speyer
redit ceste, qui n'est pas pire:
says-in-turn this which not-is at-all worse

C'est la jus desoz l'olive,
This-is there down beneath the-olive
Robins enmaine s'amie:
Robin leads-away his-friend
la fontaine i sort serie,
the spring there wells clear
desouz l'olivete
beneath the-little-olive
e non Deu, Robins enmaine
in name (of-)God Robin leads-away
bele Mariete...
fair Mariette

Ceste n'ot pas duré .iij. tours
This not-had at-all lasted three turns
quant li filz au conte d'Aubours,
when the son to-the count of-Aubours
qui mout amoit chevalerie,
who much loved chivalry
recommence a voiz serie:
begins-again with voice clear

Main se levoit Aaliz.
Early herself raised Aelis
J'ai non Enmelot.
I-have name Emmelot
Biau se para et vesti
Fair herself she-adorned and dressed
soz la roche Guion.
under the rock (of-)Guyon
Cui lairai ge mes amors,
To-whom shall-leave I my loves
amie, s'a vos non?...
friend except-to you not

Et la duchesse d'Osteriche,
And the duchess of-Austria
qui si estoit de beauté riche
who so was in beauty rich
q'en ne parloit se de li non,
that-one not spoke except of her not
recommence ceste chançon:
begins-again this song

Main se leva la bien fete Aeliz.
Early herself raised the well made Aelis
Par ci passe li bruns, li biaus Robins.
By here passes the brown the fair Robin
Biau se para e plus biau se vesti.
Fair herself she-adorned and more fair herself dressed
Marchiez la foille, et ge qieudrai la flor.
Tread the leaf and I shall-gather the flower
Par ci passe Robins li amorous,
By here passes Robin the amorous
encor en est li herbages plus douz...
still thereof is the grass more sweet

Que de Robin que d'Aaliz,
What of Robin what of-Aelis
tant ont chanté que jusq'as liz
so-much they-have sung that until-the beds
ont fetes durer les caroles.
they-have made last the carols

Se sire Oedes de Ronqueroles
If lord Eudes of Ronquerolles
trovast tel roi, ce fust barnez;
found such king this were baronage
mès li tens est si atornez
but the time is so turned
q'on ne troeve mès qui bien face:
that-one not finds more who well may-do
por ce s'enledist et efface
for this itself-disgraces and effaces
chevalerie, hui est li jors.
chivalry today is the day

Jouglet's Tale

III

After fifteen days the guests go home loaded with gifts. Conrad chooses honest vavasors as his bailiffs, lets townsmen and merchants grow rich, and keeps the roads safe. Riding back from making peace between two lords, he calls his minstrel Jouglet to tell a tale. Jouglet describes a knight of Champagne and his lady, and then reveals that such a pair truly lives: William of Dole, a poor but famous knight, and his sister Liénor, whose beauty he praises until Conrad loves her by hearsay.

Cele grant joie et ciz sejors
That great joy and this stay
dura bien .xv. jors passez.
lasted well fifteen days past
Quant cil qu'il avoit amassez
When those whom-he had gathered
voelent raler en lor païs,
wish to-go-back into their country

lors venoient, ce m'est avis,
then came this to-me-is opinion
si biau present et si biau don,
such fair presents and such fair gifts
et joiau de mainte façon
and jewels of many-a fashion
qu'il done chascun et chascune;
which-he gives each and each
il n'i avoit dame nesune
it not-there was lady any
ne pucele qui noient vaille,
nor maiden who anything may-be-worth
cui il ne doinst ainz que s'en aille;
to-whom he not may-give before that herself-thence she-go
et fet chascune tant d'onor
and does to-each so-much of-honor
qu'il desert sa grace et s'amor.
that-he deserves her grace and her-love
Itels rois doit bien tenir terre
Such king ought well to-hold land
qui se fet avoir et conquerre
who himself makes have and win
l'amor et le cuer de ses genz.
the-love and the heart of his folk
Cist assembloit les parlemenz
This-one assembled the parliaments
por veoir ses barons ensamble;
for to-see his barons together
il n'estoit mie, ce me samble,
he not-was at-all this to-me seems

de cez rois ne de cez barons
of these kings nor of these barons
qui donent or a lor garçons
who give now to their boys
rentes et prevostez a ferme,
rents and provostships at farm
dont les terres et il meesme
whereby the lands and they themselves
sont destruites et il honi;
are destroyed and they shamed
s'ont tot le monde aviloni;
so-they-have all the world debased
ce met les prodomes arriere
this puts the worthy-men behind
et les mauvès en la chaiere:
and the wicked in the chair
mal fet bers qes met en baillie;
ill does baron who-them puts in office
que ja por nule segnorie
for ever for any lordship
nuls vilains n'iert se vilains non.
any churl not-will-be except churl not
Cist empereres, cist prodom
This emperor this worthy-man
lor fu toz tens adès eschis;
to-them was all time ever averse
de vavassors fesoit baillis
of vavasours he-made bailiffs
qui aiment Deu et criement honte,
who love God and fear shame

qui s'onor et quanq'a lui monte
who his-honor and whatever-to him pertains
li gardoient come lor iex.
for-him guarded as their eyes
L'empereres voloit mout miex
The-emperor wished much better
que li vilain et li bourjois
that the villeins and the burghers
gaaignassent de lor avoirs
might-gain of their goods
qu'il lor tolist por tresor fere;
than-he from-them might-take for treasure to-make
car, quant il en avoit afere,
for when he thereof had need
il savoit bien que tot ert soen,
he knew well that all was his
et ce li venoit de grant sen,
and this to-him came from great sense
q'a son besoig estoit tot prest
for-at his need was all ready
et le chatel et le conquest;
both the capital and the gain
il n'en erent se garde non,
they not-thereof were except keepers not
et s'erent riche et de grant non
and so-they-were rich and of great name
et marcheant de grant avoir;
and merchants of great wealth

il ne trovoient bel avoir
they not found fair goods
a nule foire ou il alassent
at any fair where they went
ne biau cheval qu'il n'achatassent
nor fair horse that-they not-would-buy
por presenter l'empereor:
for to-present (to-)the-emperor
mout li fesoient plus d'onor
much to-him did more of-honor
cil present que s'il les taillast.
those presents than if-he them taxed
Ja nuls marcheanz qui alast,
Ever any merchant who went
ne siens ne autres, par sa terre,
either his or others through his land
por nul besoig, por nule guerre,
for any need for any war
ne soufrist qu'il fust destorbez;
not he-would-suffer that-he were troubled
tant larrons avoit essorbez,
so-many thieves he-had blinded
tant robeors fet essillier,
so-many robbers had exiled
si seür com par .j. moustier
as safe as through a minster
aloit chascuns parmi son regne.
went each through his realm

Bien vit li haus princes et regne
Well lives the high prince and reigns
qui si sagement tint sa terre.
who so wisely held his land
Or avint que li quens de Guerre
Now it-happened that the count of Guerre
avoit guerre au duc de Baiviere;
had war with-the duke of Bavaria
por nul avoir ne por proiere
for any wealth or for prayer
ne voloit li dus doner trive:
not wished the duke to-give truce
l'emperere ala en la vile
the-emperor went into the town
le conte, si les apesa,
(of-)the count so them appeased
et fist tant que li dus besa
and did so-much that the duke kissed
le conte, mès ce fu a paine.
the count but this was with pain
Mout fet bien prodom qui se paine
Very does well worthy-man who himself labors
de pès querre en mainte maniere.
of peace seeking in many-a manner
En ce qu'il revenoit arriere
In this that-he came back
a .j. sien chastel sor le Rin,
to a his castle on the Rhine
s'iert .j. jor levez par matin,
so-he-was one day risen by morning

et li jors eschaufa vers tierce,
and the day warmed toward terce
et il ot chevauchié grant piece:
and he had ridden great while
ce sachiez qu'il li anuia.
this know that-it him wearied
Un sien vieleor qu'il a,
A his fiddler whom-he has
qu'on apele a la cort Juglet,
whom-one calls at the court Jouglet
fist apeler par un vallet.
he-had called by a squire
Il ert sages et de grant pris
He was wise and of great worth
et s'avoit oï et apris
and so-had heard and learned
mainte chançon et maint biau conte;
many-a song and many-a fair tale
li vallez ert filz a un conte.
the squire was son to a count
Si l'apela tant que cil vient.
So him-called so-long that he comes
Fet l'empereres: «Se te vient
Says the-emperor If to-thee comes
d'orgoeil ou de melancolie,
from-pride or from melancholy
que tu hez tant ma compegnie.
that thou hatest so-much my company
Dehez ait sanz moi qui t'aprist!»
Curse may-have except me who thee-taught

En riant par le frain le prist,
In laughing by the bridle him he-took
s'issent fors del chemin amdui.
themselves-go out from-the road both
Fet li empereres: «J'ai hui
Says the emperor I-have today
certes eü mout grant someil;
certainly had very great sleepiness
aucun conte dont ge m'esveil
some tale whereby I myself-wake
me conte,» fet il, «biaus amis.»
to-me tell says he fair friend
En riant li a lores mis
In laughing to-him has then put
le braz senestre sor l'espaulle.
the arm left upon the-shoulder
Fet il: «Nel tenez mie a faule.
Says he Not-it hold at-all for fable
Une mervelle qui avint
A marvel which happened
uns bachelers, qui de la vint
a bachelor who from there came
ou ce ot esté, me conta.
where this had been to-me told
En cele Champaigne hanta
In that Champagne dwelt
uns chevaliers preus et vaillanz,
a knight worthy and valiant

et si ert biaus et avenanz
and so was fair and comely
et de mout sage contenance.
and of very wise bearing
Si amoit une dame en France
So he-loved a lady in France
en cele marche de Perthois;
in that march of Perthois
por riens q'en li meïst a chois
for anything that-one to-him might-put to choice
ne lessast il qu'il n'i alast.
not would-leave he that-he there might-go
Il n'est chevaliers, s'il l'amast,
There not-is knight if-he her-loved
qu'il ne cuidast bien estre rois.
that-he not would-think well to-be king
La biauté, le pris del Barrois,
The beauty the worth of-the Barrois
au jor que plus en pot avoir,
at-the day that most thereof could have
ce sachiez de fi et de voir,
this know for certain and for truth
si fu noienz avers cestui.»
so was nothing beside this-one
Fet li empereres: «Meshui
Says the emperor Today
n'avrai ge talent de dormir,
not-shall-have I desire of sleeping
car pleüst or au S. Espir,
for would-that-it-pleased now to-the Holy Spirit

si m'eüst cousté .v. c. mars,
even-if to-me-it-had cost five hundred marks
et que mes chastiax fust toz ars
and that my castle were all burned
anquenuit ainz que g'i entrasse,
tonight before that I-there entered
par covent que ge encontrasse
by covenant that I might-meet
un autre tel come cil fu,
an other such as he was
si fust tote la vile en fu,
even-if were all the town on fire
Diex, com fust or sires de mi!
God how would-be now lord of me
N'iert pas la dame sanz ami
Not-was at-all the lady without friend
qui si l'avoit preu et vaillant!
who so him-had worthy and valiant
Par Deu, Juglet, or di avant
By God Jouglet now tell on
se la dame fu si plesanz
if the lady was so pleasing
endroit soi com cil fu vaillanz?
in-regard-to herself as he was valiant
— Ce fust mervelle, ce m'est vis,»
This would-be marvel this to-me-is seeming
fet Juglès, «ce que ge devis;
says Jouglet this that I recount

cil fu mout preuz, mès c'est noienz
he was very worthy but this-is nothing
avers celi de cui comenz
beside her of whom I-begin
a descrivre com el ert bele:
to describe how she was fair
sa bloie crigne recercele
her blond hair curls
en ondoiant aval le vis; 695
in waving down the face
a flor de rose, a flor de lis
to flower of rose to flower of lily
samble la face de color,
seems the face of color
car la rougeur o la blanchor
for the redness with the whiteness
i fu mout soutilment assise.
there was very subtly set
De riens n'i fu pas entreprise 700
In anything not-there was at-all at-a-loss
nature qui la fist tant bele,
nature which her made so fair
qu'en tot le mont jusq'a Tudele
that-in all the world as-far-as Tudela
ne peüst l'en sa per trover.
not could one her peer find
Les oils ot beaus por esgarder,
The eyes she-had fair for looking
vairs et clers plus que n'est rubis, 705
gray and bright more than is ruby

sorcils bien fez, lons et tretiz,
brows well made long and well-drawn
non pas joignans, c'est veritez;
not at-all joining this-is truth
les denz de la bouche et le nez
the teeth of the mouth and the nose
avoit toz fez par majestire.»
she-had all made by mastery
N'aprist pas hui si a descrire
Not-learned at-all today so to describe
qui l'embeli en tel meniere.
who her-embellished in such manner
«Mout par avoit simple la chiere,
Very much she-had simple the face
blanche poitrine, blanc le col,
white breast white the neck
il n'ot si bele jusqu'a Dol;
there not-was so fair as-far-as Dol
cors ot gent, biaus braz, beles mains.
body she-had gracious fair arms fair hands
Nus ne peüst estre vilains
Anyone not could be churlish
por qu'il fust en sa compegnie,
provided that-he were in her company
tant ert plaine de cortoisie
so she-was full of courtesy
et de sens o la grant beauté.
and of sense with the great beauty
Ce sachiez vos de verité,
This know you for truth

qu'ele ert tel com ge la devis.
that-she was such as I her describe
— Or tien,» fet il, «cest mantel gris,
Now hold says he this mantle gray
certes, qu'il est bien emploiez.
certainly for-it is well employed
Je voudroie estre el cors plaiez,
I would-wish to-be in-the body wounded
mès que ge mort n'i receüsse,
provided that I death not-there might-receive
par tel covent que ge seüsse
by such covenant that I might-know
s'en France a mès tele ne tel;
if-in France there-is more such-woman or such-man
ja Diex ne me maint a l'ostel
ever God not me may-lead to the-lodging
s'il i a lieu, se gel savoie,
if-it there is place if I-it knew
que demain ne fust a la voie
that tomorrow not would-be on the way
li messages por l'aler querre;
the messenger for him-to-go to-fetch
et s'il voloit avoir ne terre
and if-he wished wealth or land
et bon segnor et bon ami,
and good lord and good friend
tost avroit recovré en mi.
soon he-would-have recovered in me
De la dame ne di ge mie:
Of the lady not say I at-all

toz i morrai sanz tele amie,
wholly there I-shall-die without such friend
q'en mon regne n'a sa pareille.»
for-in my realm not-there-is her equal
Fet Jouglès: «Vos dites mervelle,
Says Jouglet You say marvel
que n'est ne si preuz ne si bele
for not-is nor so worthy nor so fair
ne chevalier ne damoisele,
nor knight nor damsel
q'ausi bele encore ne soit
that-as fair yet not may-be
et ausi preuz, ou que ce soit.
and as worthy where ever that it-may-be
Si vos di bien que g'en sai une,
So to-you I-say well that I-thereof know one
et que ge n'ai doné nesune
and that I not-have given any
beauté celi que ceste n'ait:
beauty to-her that this-one not-may-have
ce dit bien chascuns qui la voit;
this says well each who her sees
et si sai bien com el a non,
and yet I-know well how she has name
que ses freres est de haut non
for her brother is of high name
et de mout gregnor pris encore
and of much greater worth still
que cil dont ge vos disoie ore,
than he of-whom I to-you told now

qui si estoit bien entechiez.
who so was well endowed
— Biaus amis Jouglet, or sachiez,
Fair friend Jouglet now know
se ge de ce puis certains estre,
if I of this can certain be
de bone heure vos fist Dex nestre,
in good hour you made God be-born
qu'a toz jors mès vos en ert miex;
for-at all days more to-you thereof will-be better
einsi joie ge de mes iex,
so may-enjoy I of my eyes
se ge par vos sai le manoir
if I through you know the manor
et la terre ou il puet manoir,
and the land where he can dwell
cil qui tant est et preuz et biaus.
he who so is both worthy and fair
Tient il ne cité ne chastiaus?
Holds he either city or castles
De quel richece puet il estre?»
Of what wealth can he be
Fet Jouglès: «Onques ne pot pestre
Says Jouglet Ever not could feed
de sa terre .vj. escuiers,
from his land six squires
puis qu'il fu primes chevaliers;
since that-he was first knight

et s'est et a gris et a ver
and yet-be-is both in gray and in vair
toz tenz et esté et iver,
all time both summer and winter
et a soi tiers de compegnons;
and has himself third of companions
car ses granz pris et ses renons
for his great worth and his renown
et ses granz cuers et sa proece
and his great heart and his prowess
le porvoit si bien et adrece
him provides so well and directs
qu'il a terre et avoir assez.
that-he has land and wealth enough
— Mout a Dex en lui amassez
Much has God in him amassed
toz ses granz biens,» fet l'emperere.
all his great good-things says the-emperor
«Mout puet estre lie la mere
Very can be glad the mother
qui porta filz de si haut cuer.
who bore son of so high heart
Bien me devroit on geter puer,
Well me ought one to-cast away
se je ne l'ai a compegnon.
if I not him-have for companion
Or me di coment il a non.
Now me tell how he has name

— Guillame de Dole l'apelent
William of Dole him-call
tuit cil qui el païs reperent,
all those who in-the country dwell
non pas par ce qu'ele soit soe.
not at-all by this that-it be his
— Di moi dont por qoi s'en avoue?
Tell me then for what himself-thereof he-avows
— Qu'il en maint près, a un plessié;
For-he thereof dwells near at an enclosure
s'a par Dole plus essaucié
so-he-has by Dole more exalted
son sornon que par une vile.
his surname than by a town
Ce vient plus de sens que de guile.»
This comes more of sense than of guile
Fet l'empereres: «Ce fet mon.
Says the-emperor This does indeed
Et sa suer coment a a non,
And his sister how she-has as name
qui si a bel et gent le cors?
who so has fair and gracious the body
— Sire, el a [a] non Lïenors,
Lord she has as name Liénor
ce dit li nons de la pucele.»
this says the name of the maiden
Amors l'a cuit d'une estencele
Love him-has burned with-a spark
de cel biau non mout près del cuer;
of that fair name very near to-the heart

or li seront, sachiez, d'un fuer
now to-him will-be know of-one price
totes les autres por cesti.
all the others for this-one
— Beneoiz qui cest non basti,
Blessed who this name built
et li prestres qui fu parrins!
and the priest who was godfather
Il fust arcevesqes de Rains,
He would-be archbishop of Rheims
se je fusse sires de France.
if I were lord of France
— Or n'i a fors de l'aliance
Now not-there is except of the-alliance
fere erroment entre vos .ij.,»
to-make at-once between you two
fet Jouglès. — «Si te consaut Dieus,
says Jouglet So thee may-counsel God
or me rembeliz la pucele.»
now to-me embellish-again the maiden
Cil s'aperçoit mout bien que cele
He himself-perceives very well that she
li plesoit ja par oïr dire,
him pleased already by hearing say
et au samblant que il remire,
and by-the semblance that he sees
li est avis qu'il l'aime ja.
to-him is opinion that-he her-loves already

«Juglet,» fet il, «ne me di ja
Jouglet says he not to-me tell ever
ne plus ne mains que tu en sez:
neither more nor less than thou thereof knowest
en la moitié a el assez
in the half has she enough
de sa beauté por estre dame
of her beauty for to-be lady
ou d'un empire ou d'un roiaume,
either of-an empire or of-a kingdom
se m'en as la verité dite.»
if to-me-thereof thou-hast the truth told
Lors li a cil mout bien descrite
Then to-him has he very well described
la gentil pucele honorée.
the noble maiden honored
«Ha! Dex! com buer fu onques née,
Ah God how in-a-good-hour she-was ever born
et cil plus cui ele amera!
and he more whom she will-love
Sempres covient savoir qu'ira
At-once behooves to-know who-will-go
querre son frere le matin,
to-fetch her brother the morning
a cui ge me doig et destin
to whom I myself give and destine
por servir de cuer et de cors.»
for to-serve with heart and with body
En riant li dit Jouglez lors,
In laughing to-him says Jouglet then

qui ert sages et apensez:
who was wise and thoughtful
«Del cors veoir avra assez,
Of-the body seeing he-will-have enough
qu'il n'est mie si covoitous,
for-he not-is at-all so covetous
et Lïenors as blons chevouls
and Liénor with-the blond hairs
avra le cuer, se m'en creez.»
will-have the heart if me-thereof you-believe
Fet il en riant: «Gars provez,
Says he in laughing Rascal proven
com ez ore de mal apens!
how thou-art now of evil thought
Or cuides tu voir que ge pens
Now thinkest thou truly that I think
mains au frere q'a la seror.
less of-the brother than-of the sister
En mon roiaume n'en m'onor
In my kingdom nor-in my-domain
n'afferroit pas q'el fust m'amie,
not-would-befit at-all that-she were my-friend
mès por ce qu'el n'i porroit mie
but for this that-she not-there could at-all
avenir, i voel ge penser.
attain there wish I to-think
Or nos a fet soef passer
Now us he-has made sweetly pass
la jornée, soe merci.
the day his thanks

— Je lairai nostre conte ici,
I shall-leave our tale here
et vos savez bien ou ge lès;
and you know well where I leave
il est bien tens d'atendre huimès
it is well time of-awaiting now
nostre route et noz compegnons.»
our company and our companions
Fet il: «Tu diz voir, or poignons.»
Says he Thou sayest true now let-us-spur
Et si chante[nt] ceste chançon
And so they-sing this song
en l'onor mon segnor Gascon:
in the-honor (of-)my lord Gace

Quant flors et glais et verdure s'esloigne,
When flower and gladiolus and greenery itself-withdraws
que cil oisel n'osent .j. mot soner,
when those birds not-dare a word to-sound
por la froidor chascuns crient et resoigne,
for the cold each fears and dreads
trés q'au biau tens qu'il soloient chanter;
until to-the fair weather when-they were-wont to-sing
et por ce chant, que nel puis oublier,
and for this I-sing that not-it I-can forget
la bon' amor dont Dex joie me doigne,
the good love whereof God joy me may-give
car de li sont et vienent mi penser....
for from her are and come my thoughts

The Emperor's Messenger

IV

At his castle Conrad has a clerk write a sealed letter summoning William, and sends the squire Nicole with it. In the morning he sings a song of love for Liénor. Nicole reaches Dole, finds William before the meal, and delivers the letter; William's mother rejoices, and Liénor takes the gold of the seal for a brooch. William gathers two companions and his gear, and in her chamber his mother, at his request, sings an old chanson de toile as she embroiders.

Ainçois qu'il l'aient dite toute,
Before that-they it-may-have said all
estoit ja li plus de la route
was already the most of the company
el chastel, et li ostel pris.
in-the castle and the lodgings taken
L'empereres, qui ot le pris
The-emperor who had the prize
entor lui de chevalerie,
around him of chivalry
erroment o grant compegnie
at-once with great company
est entrez el chastel après
is entered into-the castle after
par une porte de ciprès;
by a gate of cypress
au palès vienent, si descendent.
to-the palace they-come so dismount
Li seneschal les i atendent,
The seneschals them there await

l'eve aprestent, napes sont mises.
the-water they-prepare cloths are laid
N'i ont pas fet granz ademises,
Not-there they-have at-all made great delays
ainz en fist on luès quanq'en dut.
rather thereof did one at-once whatever-one ought
Couchier se vet, quant il li lut
To-bed himself goes when it to-him pleased
et sa grant gent fut departie.
and his great folk was dispersed
Par Jouglet, cui il ot partie
By Jouglet with-whom he had shared
sa robe as chans, fist apeler
his robe in-the fields he-had called
.i. clerc; si li fist aporter
a clerk so to-him he-had bring
encre, parchemin, et l'afere
ink parchment and the-gear
que il convient a letres fere.
that it behooves for letters to-make
Tuit troi vont en la garderobe;
All three go into the wardrobe
Jouglez de sa cote le robe
Jouglet of his tunic him robs
dont il avoit ja le mantel,
whereof he had already the mantle

que que li clercs fist bien et bel
while that the clerk made well and fair
les letres teles a devise
the letters such at will
com l'empereres li devise,
as the-emperor to-him dictates
puis les fist en or saeler.
then them he-had in gold sealed
Après fist .j. vallet mander,
After he-had a squire summoned
qui est venuz; s'ot non Nicole:
who is come so-he-had name Nicole
«Mon segnor Guillame de Dole,»
My lord William of Dole
fet il, «me porteras cest brief.»
says he for-me thou-wilt-carry this letter
Ce ne sai ge s'il li fu grief,
This not know I if-it to-him was grievous
mès il dit: «Sire, volentiers.
but he says Lord willingly
— Sez tu,» fet il, «que dit le briés?
Knowest thou says he what says the letter
Que je li mant et si li pri,
That I to-him send-word and so him pray
luès qu'il avra cest bref oï,
as-soon-as that-he will-have this letter heard
qu'il monte et viegne a moi luès droit,
that-he mount and come to me at-once straight
par cele foi que il me doit;
by that faith that he me owes

et s'il est a tornoi n'a guerre,
and if-he is at tourney or-at war
por ton roncin mengier, au querre
for thy nag to-eat at-the seeking
ne fines si l'aies trové
not stop until him-thou-have found
et le brief de par moi mostré.
and the letter from by me shown
Or pense bien de la besoigne.»
Now think well of the business
Il a commandé qu'on li doigne
He has commanded that-one to-him may-give
.ii. marz d'esterlins por despendre,
two marks of-sterlings for to-spend
ou plus encor, s'il l'en veut prendre;
or more still if-he them-thereof wishes to-take
puis li dist qu'il se voist couchier,
then to-him said that-he himself may-go to-bed
et liet matin por chevauchier
and may-rise morning for to-ride
au roisant, si fera que sages.
at-the dew so he-will-do as wise
Cil estoit de fere messages
He was of making messages
assez plus duiz que bues d'arer.
much more trained than ox of-plowing
Au matin lieve por errer,
At-the morning he-rises for to-journey
si se vest et heuse et atorne,
so himself dresses and boots and equips

el roncin monte, si s'en torne
on-the nag mounts so himself-thence turns
et se seigne a l'issir de l'uis.
and himself crosses at the-going-out of the-door
Je ne demandai onques puis
I not asked ever since
ou il fut la premiere nuit,
where he was the first night
mès mout li greva voir, ce cuit,
but much to-him grieved truly this I-think
ce qu'il aloit seuls au plessié.
this that-he went alone to-the enclosure
L'empereres, qu'il a lessié
The-emperor whom-he has left
gisant de la ou il torna,
lying from there where he turned
au matin quant il se leva,
at-the morning when he himself raised
si fist ovrir une fenestre.
so had open a window
Li soleils, plus clers que puet estre,
The sun more bright than can be
geta ses biaus rais par son lit
cast its fair rays over his bed
(de sebelin et de samit
of sable and of samite
ot covertoir a roses d'or).
he-had coverlet with roses of-gold
Por l'amor bele Lïenor,
For the-love (of-)fair Liénor

dont il avoit el cuer le non,
whereof he had in-the heart the name
a commencié ceste chançon:
has begun this song

Li noviaus tens et mais [et violete]
The new season and May and violet
et roissignox me semont de chanter.
and nightingale me summons to singing
Et mes fins cuers me fet d'une amorete
And my true heart me makes of-a little-love
un doz present que ge n'os refuser.
a sweet present which I not-dare refuse
Or m'en doint Dex en tel honor monter,
Now me-thereof may-grant God into such honor to-rise
cele ou j'ai mis mon cuer et mon penser
she where I-have put my heart and my thought
qu'entre mes bras la tenisse nuette,
that-between my arms her I-might-hold naked
ainz q'alasse outre mer.
before that-I-went beyond sea

Einsi se conforte en chantant.
Thus himself comforts in singing
Et cil qui chevauchoit errant
And he who rode journeying
vers Dole tot le grant chemin
toward Dole all the great road
se fu tant levez por matin,
himself was so-much risen by morning
puis qu'il vit qu'il l'estut a fere,
since that-he saw that-it it-behooved to do
qu'en mains d'uit jors vint au repere
that-in less than-eight days he-came to-the dwelling
mon segnor Guillame de Dole.
(of-)my lord William of Dole
Renomée qui par tot vole
Renown which through all flies
l'a mené tot droit au plessié.
him-has led all straight to-the enclosure
Grant trot, non pas le col bessié,
Great trot not at-all the neck lowered
entre en la vile par la porte
he-enters into the town by the gate
ot tot le seel d'or qu'il porte.
with all the seal of-gold that-he carries
Il n'estoit pas toz a aprendre:
He not-was at-all wholly to teach
il ala ainz son ostel prendre
he went first his lodging to-take
qu'il entendist a autre rien;
than-he attended to other thing

et quant il fu herbergiez bien,
and when he was lodged well
et ses roncins bien aesiez,
and his nag well eased
et il des heuses deschauciez,
and he of-the boots unshod
chauciez s'est d'autre chaucemente.
shod himself-is with-other footwear
Un chapel de flors et de mente
A garland of flowers and of mint
li donna la fille son oste.
to-him gave the daughter (of-)his host
Puis prent la boiste, si en oste
Then he-takes the box so thence removes
les letres, et vet a la cort.
the letters and goes to the court
A un garçon a pié qui cort,
Of a boy on foot who runs
qui un trop beau levrier enmaine,
who an exceedingly fair greyhound leads
demande quel vie en i maine:
he-asks what life one there leads
il dit que l'en i veut mengier.
he says that one there wishes to-eat
«Je peüsse ja trop targier,»
I could already too-long tarry
fet il lors droit a soi meesmes;
says he then right to him self
mout s'apertist et mout s'acesme.
much himself-readies and much himself-adorns

Que qu'il monte en la sale amont,
While he mounts into the hall up
li sire ert luès de Rougemont
the lord was just from Rougemont
venuz, d'un grant tornoiement.
come from-a great tournament
S'avoit chevaliers et mout gent
So-there-were knights and many folk
par cele sale a grant plenté.
through that hall in great plenty
Il a un vallet acosté,
He has a squire accosted
si li a dit qu'il li moustrast
so to-him has said that-he to-him might-show
son segnor avant qu'il menjast;
his lord before that-he ate
cil li moustre mout bien au doit.
he to-him shows very well with-the finger
Li vaslez en vet la tot droit.
The squire thence goes there all straight
Por ce q'on nel tenist a fol,
For this that-one not-him might-hold for fool
osta le mantel de son col,
he-removed the mantle from his neck
qu'il n'est pas droiz qu'il i remaigne:
for-it not-is at-all right that-it there remain
«Li empereres d'Alemaigne,
The emperor of-Germany
de par cui ciz briez est venuz,
from by whom this letter is come

vos mande, sire, mil saluz,
to-you sends lord thousand greetings
come cil qui vos aime et prise.
as he who you loves and prizes
Sachiez que grant faim li est prise
Know that great hunger him is taken
de vos veoir prochainement.»
of you seeing soon
Il li respont mout sagement:
He to-him answers very wisely
«Frere,» dit il, «l'empereor
Brother says he (to-)the-emperor
doint Diex grant joie et grant honor,
may-give God great joy and great honor
autant com mes cuers en desire!
as-much as my heart thereof desires
Et por Deu, que fet il, mis sire?
And for God what does he my lord
Mout a grant tens que ge nel vi.
Very it-has great time that I not-him saw
— Gel lessai tot sain, Deu merci.
I-him left all healthy God thanks
— Certes,» fet il, «ce m'est mout bel.»
Certainly says he this to-me-is very fair
Mout resgarderent le seel
Much looked-at the seal
et li chevalier et les genz:
both the knights and the folk

mout en avoit de tex laienz
many thereof there-were of such therein
qui onques mès ne virent tel.
who ever before not saw such
Fet il: «Alez a son ostel,
Says he Go to his lodging
gardez qu'il soit bien herbergiez.»
see that-he be well lodged
Ains que li seauls soit brisiez,
Before that the seal be broken
il vet a la chambre sa mere:
he goes to the chamber (of-)his mother
«Vez, dame,» dit il, «l'emperere
See lady says he the-emperor
m'a envoié cest seel d'or;
me-has sent this seal of-gold
mès ge ne sai qu'il a encor
but I not know what-there is yet
dedenz, mès ge le savrai ja.»
within but I it shall-know soon
D'un sien coutel le revercha,
With-a his knife it he-searched
si en trest le parchemin fors.
so thence drew the parchment out
Sa suer la bele Lïenors
His sister the fair Liénor
en ot l'or por .j. soen fermail;
thereof had the-gold for a her brooch

quant ele vit le bel cheval
when she saw the fair horse
et un roi tot armé deseure:
and a king all armed upon-it
«Ha! dame, se Dex me sekeure,»
Ah lady so God me may-succor
fet ele, «or doi mout estre lie
says she now I-ought much to-be glad
quant j'ai .j. roi de ma mesnie.»
since I-have a king of my household
Mis sire Guillames s'en rit:
My lord William himself-thereat laughs
«Se Deu plet et saint Esperit,
If God pleases and Holy Spirit
c'est tote honor qui vos vendra.»
this-is all honor which to-you will-come
Fet la mere: «Ja n'i faudra,
Says the mother Ever not-there it-will-fail
li cuers le m'a toz jors bien dit.»
the heart it to-me-has all days well said
Uns siens chevaliers qui porvit
A his knight who looked-over
la letre, si li a leüe:
the letter so to-him has read
«Li empereres vos salue;
The emperor you greets
après si vos mande et [vos] prie,
after so you sends-word and you prays
luès q'avrez ceste letre oïe,
as-soon-as you-will-have this letter heard

que ja n'i querez nule essoigne,
that ever not-there you-seek any excuse
por aloigne ne por besoigne,
for delay nor for business
que vos n'ailliez a lui luès droit;
that you go to him at-once straight
qu'il n'iert mès liez jusqu'il vos voit.
for-he not-will-be more glad until-he you sees
— Filz, vos irez,» ce dit la mere;
Son you will-go this says the mother
«grant honor vos fet l'emperere,
great honor to-you does the-emperor
quant il si belement vos mande.
since he so handsomely you summons
— Dame, ainz irons a la viande,
Lady first we-shall-go to the food
et puis après si ferons el.»
and then after so we-shall-do else
L'en done l'eve por l'ostel;
One gives the-water through the-house
s'i assieent li chevalier.
so-there sit the knights
Cil qui tot set sanz ensegnier
He who all knows without teaching
quanqu'il apartint a honor
whatever-it pertained to honor
prist le vallet l'empereor,
took the squire (of-)the-emperor
qui mout estoit de bone part;
who very was of good part

si se vont seoir d'une part
so themselves go sit on-one side
de la table a .j. des corons.
of the table at one of-the ends
Char orent assez et poissons
Meat they-had enough and fish
a cel mengier a grant plenté:
at that meal in great plenty
«Biaus amis, or avez esté,»
Fair friend now you-have been
fet il, «maintes foiz miex serviz:
says he many times better served
mout mengissiez or a enviz
much you-would-eat now with reluctance
ceste viande a vavassor
this food of vavasour
en la meson l'empereor.
in the house (of-)the-emperor
— Sire,» dit-il, «ce n'est pas doute;
Lord he-says this not-is at-all doubt
mès venoison qui flere toute,
but venison which smells all
de senglers, de cers sanz seson,
of boars of stags without season
de ce avons a grant foison,
of this we-have in great abundance
et de pastez viez et moussiz:
and of pies old and moldy
quant il ne sont preuz as souriz,
when they not are good for-the mice

lors sont il bon as escuiers.
then are they good for-the squires
— Dex!» fet il a ses chevaliers,
God says he to his knights
«or cuidoie que chacissons
now I-thought that we-would-hunt
et que nos nos sejornissons
and that we ourselves would-rest
.viii. jors toz plains sanz removoir;
eight days all full without moving
or me restuet par estovoir
now me behooves-in-turn by necessity
tot maintenant aharneschier
all at-once to-equip
si com por demain chevauchier,
so as for tomorrow riding
ou avoir male volenté,
or to-have ill will
a court. — Vos dites verité,»
at court You say truth
fet li vallez, «ce n'est pas fable.
says the squire this not-is at-all fable
Mès fetes oster ceste table;
But have removed this table
si atornons si cest afere
so let-us-arrange so this affair
qu'il n'i ait ainquenuit que fere,
that-it not-there be tonight what to-do
qu'il convendra matin movoir.
for-it will-behoove morning to-move

— Frere,» fet il, «vos dites voir.»
Brother says he you say true
Lors s'est levez et tuit li autre;
Then himself-is risen and all the others
et li vallez, triez .j. triez autre,
and the squire behind one behind other
qui ot esté en autre yver,
who had been in other winter
ala veoir son roncin ver,
went to-see his nag gray
savoir s'il avoit que mengier.
to-know if-he had what to-eat
A sa mere, qui mout l'ot chier,
To his mother who much him-had dear
revet en sa chambre parler.
goes-back into her chamber to-speak
El li comence a demander
She him begins to ask
qel gent il menra ovoec lui:
what folk he will-lead with him
«Dame,» fet il, «gent sanz anui
Lady says he folk without trouble
si sont mout bon en cest voiage;
so are very good in this journey
je n'i menrai ja, que je sache,
I not-there shall-lead ever that I may-know
ovoec moi que .ij. compegnons.»
with me but two companions

Si li noma ciaus par lor nons
So to-her he-named those by their names
de cui cuidoit avoir honor
of whom he-thought to-have honor
en la meson l'empereor,
in the house (of-)the-emperor
qui erent preu et bien parlant,
who were worthy and well speaking
ne n'ierent mie si enfant
nor not-were at-all so children
que chascuns n'ait .xxx. anz passez.
that each not-may-have thirty years past
«Biax fils,» dit ele, «or en pensez,
Fair son says she now thereof think
gardez que riens ne vos souffraigne,
see that anything not to-you be-lacking
que l'en ne die en Alemaigne,
that one not may-say in Germany
quant vos serez a cort venuz,
when you will-be to court come
que vos soiez povres ne nuz.»
that you be poor nor naked
Fet sa suer bele Lïenors:
Says his sister fair Liénor
«Vez la .iij. pere por son cors
See there three pair for his body
de robe fresche a cele perche.
of robe fresh on that perch

Le cheval le conte de Perche
The horse (of-)the count of Perche
face trere lez son escu.»
he-may-have drawn beside his shield
Cil qui maint estor ot veincu
He who many-a battle had won
fist apeler ses compegnons:
had called his companions
«Moi et ma dame disions
Me and my lady were-saying
que vos vendrez o moi amdui;
that you will-come with me both
si pensez d'atorner meshui
so think of-preparing today
et vos armes et voz hernois.
both your arms and your harness
— Nos avomes biaus escuz froiz,
We have fair shields fresh
seles et lorains envoisiez.
saddles and bridle-trappings merry
Vos ne verrez si atiriez
You not will-see so arrayed
.iii. chevaliers devant .j. mois.»
three knights before a month
Li serjans, qui ne fu pas mois,
The servant who not was at-all dull
fu en la sale revenuz.
was into the hall come-back

Mis sire Guillame est issuz
My lord William is come-out
de la chambre, et si compegnon.
from the chamber and his companions
Li vallez vint en la meson;
The squire came into the house
toz seuls ala riant vers lui:
all alone went laughing toward him
«Mauvès solaz vos ai fet hui,»
Bad solace to-you I-have made today
fet il, «mès ç'a esté par vos;
says he but this-has been by you
mès tant ai esploitié que nos
but so-much I-have achieved that we
mouvrons le matin au serain.
shall-move the morning at-the dew
Venez en,» fet il, «main a main;
Come thence says he hand in hand
si vos moustrerai mon tresor.»
so to-you I-shall-show my treasure
Sa mere et bele Lïenor
His mother and fair Liénor
le maine en la chambre veoir.
him he-leads into the chamber to-see
Or sachiez de fi et de voir
Now know for certain and for truth
que il en a mout fet por lui,
that he thereof has much done for him

que jamès n'entrera puis hui
for ever not-be-will-enter from today
en chambre a dame n'a pucele
into chamber of lady nor-of maiden
ou il voie nule si bele.
where he may-see any so fair
Il la salue, et ele lui;
He her greets and she him
puis si s'assieent ambedui;
then so themselves-sit both
et cele s'assist delez euls,
and she herself-sat beside them
qui mout avoit blons les cheveuls
who very had blond the hairs
et s'ert mout simple et petit cointe.
and so-was very simple and little adorned
Desor une grant coute pointe
Upon a great quilt stitched
ouvroit sa mere en une estole:
worked her mother on a stole
«Vez,» fet il, «biaus amis Nicole,
See says he fair friend Nicole
quel ovriere il a en ma dame;
what workwoman there is in my lady
c'est une mervellouse fame
this-is a marvelous woman
et set assez de cest mestier;
and knows much of this craft
fanons, garnemenz de moustier,
maniples vestments of minster

chasubles et aubes parées
chasubles and albs adorned
ont amdeus maintes foiz ouvrées.
have both many times worked
— Frere, c'est aumosne et deduis,
Brother this-is alms and delight
ses met as povres moustiers vuis
so-them she-puts in-the poor minsters empty
de garnemenz et de richece.
of vestments and of riches
Que Dex me doint joie et leece
That God me may-give joy and gladness
et de moi et de mes enfanz!
both of me and of my children
Ce li sui ge toz jors proianz.»
This him am I all days praying
Fet cil: «Ci a bone oroison.
Says he Here there-is good prayer
— Dame,» fet il, «une chançon
Lady says he a song
car nos dites, si ferez bien.»
now to-us say so you-will-do well
Ele chantoit sor tote rien,
She sang above every thing
et si le fesoit volentiers.
and so it did willingly

«Biaus filz, ce fu ça en arriers
Fair son this was here in times-past
que les dames et les roïnes
that the ladies and the queens
soloient fere lor cortines
were-wont to-make their hangings
et chanter les chançons d'istoire.
and to-sing the songs of-story
— Ha! ma [trés] douce dame, voire,
Ah my very sweet lady truly
dites nos en, se vos volez,
tell us thereof if you wish
par cele foi que me devez.
by that faith that me you-owe
— Biau filz, mout m'avez conjurée,
Fair son much me-you-have conjured
ja ceste foiz n'ier parjurée,
ever this time not-I-shall-be perjured
tant com ge le puisse amender.»
as-long as I it can amend
Lors commenca seri et cler:
Then she-began clear and bright

Fille et la mere se sieent a l'orfrois,
Daughter and the mother themselves sit at the-orphrey
a un fil d'or i font orieuls croiz.
with a thread of-gold there they-make golden crosses
Parla la mere, qui le cuer ot cortois.
Spoke the mother who the heart had courteous
Tant bon'amor fist [bele] Aude en Doon!
So good-love made fair Aude in Doon

«Aprenez, fille, a coudre et a filer
Learn daughter to sew and to spin
et en l'orfrois les oriex crois lever.
and on the-orphrey the golden crosses raise
L'amor Doon vos covient oublier.»
The-love (of-)Doon you behooves to-forget
Tant bon'amor fist bele Aude en Doon!
So good-love made fair Aude in Doon

Songs in the Ladies' Chamber

V

Liénor, pressed by her brother, sings songs of Aye and of Doette, and mother and daughter give Nicole a purse and a brooch. William rides to court with his companions, singing along the way. There, as a minstrel sings of Gerbert and Fromont, Nicole tells the impatient emperor of Liénor's beauty, and Conrad sings a song of Renaut de Beaujeu. Jouglet goes to William's lodging, where William embraces him and hears how the summons came about.

Quant el ot sa chançon chantée:
When she had her song sung
«Certes mout s'est bien aquitée,»
Certainly very herself-is well acquitted
fet cil, «ma dame vostre mere.
says he my lady your mother
— Certes, Nicole, biau doz frere,
Certainly Nicole fair sweet brother
bien seroit la chose atirée
well would-be the thing arranged
se ma suer s'estoit aquitée.»
if my sister herself-were acquitted
Ele s'en sosrit belement,
She herself-thereat smiles handsomely

et si set bien certainement
and so knows well certainly
qu'el n'en puet en nule maniere
that-she not-thence can in any manner
eschaper, se por la proiere
escape if for the prayer
en veut riens fere de son frere.
she-thereof wishes anything to-do of her brother
— Ma bele fille,» fet la mere,
My fair daughter says the mother
«il vos estuet feste et honor
it you behooves feast and honor
fere au vallet l'empereor.
to-make to-the squire (of-)the-emperor
— Ma dame, bon voeil le ferons.»
My lady good will it we-shall-do
Lors commença ceste chançon:
Then she-began this song

Siet soi bele Aye as piez sa male maistre,
Sits herself fair Aye at-the feet (of-)her wicked mistress
sor ses genouls un paile d'Engleterre,
upon her knees a silk of-England
[et] a un fil i fet coustures beles.
and with a thread there makes stitchings fair
Hé! hé! amors d'autre païs,
Ah ah love of-other country
mon cuer avez et lié et souspris.
my heart you-have both bound and seized

Aval la face li courent chaudes lermes,
Down the face to-her run hot tears
q'el est batue et au main et au vespre,
for-she is beaten both at-the morning and at-the evening
por ce qu'el aime soudoier d'autre terre.
for this that-she loves soldier of-other land
Hé! [hé!] amors d'autre païs,
Ah ah love of-other country
mon cuer avez et lié et souspris.»
my heart you-have both bound and seized

Quant el ot chanté haut et bien:
When she had sung high and well
«Or ne me demandez plus rien.
Now not me ask more anything
— Non ferai ge, ma bele suer,
Not will-do I my fair sister
se la franchise de vo cuer
unless the nobility of your heart
ne vos en fet dire par grace.
not you thereof makes say by grace
Ja ne voudrez que je n'en face.
Ever not you-will-wish that I not-thereof may-do
— Par cest covent dirai encore,»
By this covenant I-shall-say yet

fet cele qui la trece ot sore
says she who the tress had golden
et blonde sor le blanc bliaut;
and blond upon the white tunic
lors commença seri et haut:
then she-began clear and high

La bele Doe siet au vent;
The fair Doette sits in-the wind
souz l'aubespin Doon atent;
under the-hawthorn Doon she-awaits
plaint et regrete tant forment
she-laments and bewails so strongly
por son ami qui si vient lent:
for her friend who so comes slow
«Diex! quel vassal a en Doon!
God what vassal there-is in Doon
Diex! quel vassal! Dex! quel baron!
God what vassal God what baron
Ja n'amerai se Doon non.
Ever not-I-shall-love except Doon not

Com ez chargiez, com ez floriz!
How thou-art laden how thou-art blossomed
A toi me mist plet mes amis;
To thee me put plea my friend
mès il ne veut a moi venir.
but he not wishes to me to-come

Dex! quel vassal a en Doon!
God what vassal there-is in Doon
Dex! quel vassal! Dex! quel baron!
God what vassal God what baron
Ja n'amerai se Doon non.»
Ever not-I-shall-love except Doon not

Quant ele ot ceste parfenie:
When she had this-one finished
«Or seroit ce sanz cortoisie,»
Now would-be this without courtesy
fet ele, «qui plus me querroit.»
says she who more me would-ask
Dit li vallez: «Vos avez droit,»
Says the squire You have right
qui estoit a l'empereor.
who was to the-emperor
«Or avez le gré et l'amor
Now you-have the thanks and the-love
et la querele et voz amis.»
and the cause and your friends
Le remanant del jor ont pris
The remainder of-the day they-have taken
en deduiant jusq'au souper.
in disporting until-the supper
Ainz que cil qui n'ot point de per
Before that he who not-had a-whit of peer
s'en alast en la sale arriere,
himself-thence might-go into the hall back

la mere prist une aumosniere,
the mother took a purse
et la suer .j. fermail trop bel,
and the sister a brooch exceedingly fair
q'el a doné au damoisel
which-she has given to-the young-man
et por son frere et por s'onor
both for her brother and for her-honor
et por l'amor l'empereor.
and for the-love (of-)the-emperor
Il lor en rent .v.c. merciz.
He to-them thereof renders five-hundred thanks
Et dit que bien li ert meriz
And says that well to-him will-be rewarded
ciz biaus presenz, s'il auqes vit.
this fair present if-he somewhat lives
Et se pense c'ainc mès ne vit
And so thinks that-ever before not saw
si bons enfanz ne tele mere:
such good children nor such mother
si le savra li emperere.
so it will-know the emperor
Il prent congié a bele chiere;
He takes leave with fair face
si s'en vont en la sale arriere,
so themselves-thence go into the hall back
ou li soupers ert atornez,
where the supper was arranged
mout biaus de viandes assez:
very fair of foods enough

flaons de let, porciax farsiz,
custards of milk piglets stuffed
dont li ostex ert bien garniz,
whereof the house was well furnished
et bons conins, poulez lardez,
and good rabbits pullets larded
de ce estoit granz la plentez,
of this was great the plenty
et poires et fromages viez.
and pears and cheeses old
«Nos n'avomes autres daintiez,
We not-have other dainties
frere,» fet il, «ce poise moi;
brother says he this grieves me
vos, genz de la meson le roi,
you folk of the house (of-)the king
ne cognoissiez cez mès de vile.»
not know these dishes of town
Font li compegnon: «Il vos guile.»
Say the companions He you beguiles
Fet li vallez: «N'en verrez el,
Says the squire Not-thereof you-will-see else
si me honist en son ostel.»
so me he-shames in his house
Einsi se joent et envoisent;
Thus themselves play and make-merry
de biauz moz le souper aoisent
with fair words the supper they-season
de chevalerie et d'amors:
of chivalry and of-love

qui est entechiez de tex mors
who is endowed with such manners
ne puet a proëce faillir.
not can at prowess fail
Li seneschal firent coellir
The seneschals had gathered
les napes quant il le covint,
the cloths when it so behooved
et vallet saillent plus de .xx.,
and squires leap more than twenty
qui a bacins, qui a touaille.
some with basins some with towel
Li escuier et la pietaille
The squires and the foot-folk
vuident la sale et les mesons.
empty the hall and the houses
Il parole a ses compegnons,
He speaks to his companions
a ciax qui doivent remanoir:
to those who ought to-remain
de deduiz, de chevax, d'avoir,
of pastimes of horses of-goods
fist a chascun sa volenté.
he-did to each his will
Si ont luès lor oirre apresté,
So they-have at-once their journey prepared
ainçois qu'il alassent couchier;
before that-they went to-bed

qu'il n'i ot fors dou chevauchier
so-that-it not-there was except of-the riding
au matin quant il se leverent.
at-the morning when they themselves raised
Or sachiez que, quant il monterent,
Now know that when they mounted
il i ot ploré maintes larmes.
it there was wept many tears
.III. somiers a robes et armes
Three pack-horses with robes and arms
orent et granz chevax de pris.
they-had and great horses of worth
Mout a belement congié pris
Very has handsomely leave taken
a sa seror et a sa mere:
of his sister and of his mother
«Adeu, biau filz. — Adeu, biau frere.
Farewell fair son Farewell fair brother
— Adeu tuit.» Quant il s'en tornerent,
Farewell all When they themselves-thence turned
or sachiez que tuit en plorerent
now know that all thereat wept
li remegnant por eles deus.
those remaining for those two
Or s'en vont, or les consaut Deus!
Now themselves-thence go now them may-counsel God
Or chevauche delez Nicole
Now rides beside Nicole
li gentils Guillames de Dole;
the noble William of Dole

s'ist de la vile entor plessiée.
he-goes-out of the town around enclosed
Ce sachiez, mout i a lessiée
This know much there he-has left
sa mere et sa seror dolente,
his mother and his sister grieving
qui plus estoit droite d'une ente
who more was straight than-a graft
et plus fresche que nule rose.
and more fresh than any rose
Que il ne dort ne ne repose
For he not sleeps nor not rests
en une vile q'une nuit
in a town except-a night
ne por solaz ne por deduit;
nor for solace nor for delight
mout li erent li lonc jor cort.
very to-him were the long days short
Cel jor qu'il dut venir a cort,
That day when-he was-to come to court
entre lui et ses compegnons,
between him and his companions
por le deduit des oisellons
for the delight of-the little-birds
que chascuns fet en son buisson,
which each makes in its bush
de joie ont comencié cest son:
of joy they-have begun this tune

Lorsque li jor sont lonc en mai,
When the days are long in May
m'est biaus doz chant d'oisel de lonc,
to-me-is fair sweet song of-bird from afar
et quant me sui partiz de la,
and when myself I-am departed from there
menbre mi d'une amor de lonc;
reminds me of-a love from afar
vois de ça embruns et enclins,
I-go from here gloomy and bowed
si que chans ne flors d'aubespins
so that song nor flower of-hawthorn
ne mi val ne qu'ivers gelas.
not me avails more than-winter frozen

Fet Nicole, ou mout a solas,
Says Nicole where much there-is solace
quant vint a la fin de son son:
when he-came to the end of his tune
«Nos serons par tens en meson;
We shall-be by time at house
il m'en convient avant aler
it me-thereof behooves before to-go
por nostre hostel fere atorner.»
for our lodging to-make prepare
Fet il: «Ci ne voi se bien non;
Says he Here not I-see except good not
menez o vos .j. compegnon,
lead with you a companion

qui revendra encontre nos.
who will-come-back toward us
— Venez ent,» fet il, «moi et vos,»
Come thence says he me and you
a un vallet qui ot troussée
to a squire who had packed
une coute pointe enversée.
a quilt stitched turned-over
Il ot de grant beauté le los.
He had of great beauty the praise
Amdui s'en vont les granz galos
Both themselves-thence go the great gallops
au chastel ou li emperere
to-the castle where the emperor
ot sejorné puis qu'il s'en ere
had stayed since that-he himself-thence was
tornez por le prodome querre.
turned for the worthy-man to-fetch
Onc puis une lieue de terre
Ever since one league of land
ne s'esloigna por chevauchier,
not himself-withdrew for to-ride
ainz se fu fez iloec saignier
rather himself was made there to-bleed
a poi de gent et sanz anui,
with little of folk and without trouble
et Jouglès toz jors ovoec lui,
and Jouglet all days with him
qui li ramentoit cele joie.
who him reminded-of that joy

Ahi! Dex! com il se desvoie
Ah God how he himself goes-astray
de ce qui plus li touche au cuer!
from this which most him touches at-the heart
Cel jor fesoit chanter la suer
That day had sing the sister
a un jougleor mout apert,
to a minstrel very skilled
qui chante cez vers de Gerbert:
who sings these verses of Gerbert

Dès que Fromonz au veneor tença,
Since that Fromont with-the huntsman quarreled
li [bons] prevoz, qui trestot escouta,
the good provost who all listened
tant atendi que la noise abessa.
so-long waited that the noise lowered
Sor l'arestuel de l'espié s'apuia;
On the-butt of the-spear himself-leaned
ou voit Fromont, pas ne le salua.
where he-sees Fromont at-all not him he-greeted
«Fromonz,» dit il, «ge sui de ciaus de la.
Fromont says he I am of those from there
Gerberz mis sire, qui a vos m'envoia,
Gerbert my lord who to you me-sent
par moi vos mande, nel vos celerai ja,
by me to-you sends-word not-it from-you I-shall-hide ever
que li envoies Foucon que ge voi la,
that to-him you-send Fouque whom I see there

et Rocelin, car amdeus pris les a;
and Rocelin for both taken them he-has
et s'il le nient, bien est qui provera
and if-they it deny well there-is who will-prove
en totes cors, la on les trouvera,
in all courts there where-one them will-find
ou en la toe, se sauf conduit i a.»
or in the thine if safe conduct there is
Foques rougi. Rocelins embruncha.
Fouque reddened Rocelin bowed-his-head
Mal soit de cel qui onques mot sona!
Ill be of that-one who ever word sounded
Li viex Fromonz forment s'en aïra:
The old Fromont greatly himself-thereat angered
«Par Deu! provos, qui ça vos envoia
By God provost who here you sent
mout belement de vos se delivra!
very handsomely of you himself rid
Se dont vos vit, jamès ne vos verra,
If then you he-saw ever not you will-see
et, s'il vos voit, ne vos reconoistra.
and if-be you sees not you will-recognize
Encor me menbre, ne l'oublierai ja,
Still me reminds not it-I-shall-forget ever
d'un guerredon que me feïstes ja:
of-a reward which to-me you-made once
li rois de France .j. cheval me dona,
the king of France a horse to-me gave
voiant voz oils; .c. livres li cousta;
seeing your eyes a-hundred pounds it cost

vos l'oceïstes, q'ainc ne se remua.
you it-killed so-that-ever not itself moved
A Geronvile, au pié dou pont de ça,
At Geronville at-the foot of-the bridge from here
uns chevaliers un tel cop m'i dona
a knight a such blow to-me-there gave
desor mon heaume que tot le m'embarra.
upon my helmet that all it for-me-be-staved-in
Prendre me fist au col de mon cheval.»
Seize me he-made at-the neck of my horse
Et dit Guirrez: «Fromonz, entendez ça,
And says Guerri Fromont listen here
ce fu mes filz qui a vos s'acointa;
this was my son who with you himself-acquainted
mort vos eüst, mès il vos espargna:
dead you he-would-have but he you spared
s'il a aaise, encor i referra.»
if-he has chance yet there will-strike-again

Que que cil chante de Fromont,
While that he sings of Fromont
ez vos le vallet contremont
behold you the squire up
le degré, qui ot l'ostel pris
the stair who had the-lodging taken
au gentil chevalier de pris
for-the noble knight of worth
ou plus bel de tot le marchié.
in-the most fair of all the market

Il li avoit bien enchargié:
He to-him had well charged
au grant pignon, plain de fenestres,
at-the great gable full of windows
le biau solier o toz les estres
the fair upper-room with all the chambers
avoit fet jonchier de verdure.
he-had made strewn with greenery
Et cil sont si grant aleüre
And those are with-such great pace
venu après qu'il i sont ja
come after that-they there are already
a l'ostel, ou mout grant rage a.
at the-lodging where very great frenzy there-is
Quequ'il descendoient tuit .iij.,
While-they dismounted all three
ez vos celui devant le roi,
behold you him before the king
qui li demande: «Qex noveles?»
who him asks What news
Fet li vallez: «Bones et beles.
Says the squire Good and fair
— Trovas tu mon segnor Guillame?
Didst-find thou my lord William
— Oïl, par covent q'el roiaume
Yes by covenant that-in-the kingdom
le roi de France n'a son per.
(of-)the king of France not-has his peer
— Hé! Dex! vendra il au souper?
Ah God will-come he to-the supper

— Par foi,» fet il, «ainc n'oï tel.
By faith says he ever not-I-heard such
Je l'ai ja mené a l'ostel
I him-have already led to the-lodging
en ce marchié chiez .j. borjois.»
in this market at-the-house-of a burgher
Lors saut sus Juglez demanois:
Then leaps up Jouglet at-once
«E non Deu,» fet il, «et ge la.
And in-name (of-)God says he and I there
— Ha! ha! Juglet, or i parra
Ha ha Jouglet now there will-appear
com vos le me saluërez:
how you him for-me will-greet
bien est a droit port arrivez;
well he-is at right port arrived
ce li dites, que ge li mant.»
this to-him say that I to-him send-word
Cil s'en torne de maintenant.
He himself-thence turns from now
L'empereres celui apele
The-emperor him calls
en sus de gent, vers la chapele:
in up of folk toward the chapel
«Nicholin, foi que doiz honor,
Nicolin faith which thou-owest honor
or, di, veïs tu sa seror?
now tell sawest thou his sister
— Tesiez,» fet il, «ne dites mès:
Be-silent says he not say more

nus homs, s'il n'estoit bien confès,
any man if-he not-were well confessed
ne doit parler de tel merveille.
not ought to-speak of such marvel
Ele fu née sanz pareille
She was born without equal
et de beauté et de simplece;
both in beauty and in simplicity
[et] de son beau chanter par est ce
and of her fair singing much is this
une trés douce melodie;
a very sweet melody
nuls ne l'oit qu'autretel n'en die.
any not her-hears that-the-same not-thereof may-say
— Et que sez tu? — Je l'ai oïe.»
And what knowest thou I her-have heard
Ne le feri pas lez l'oïe,
Not him struck at-all beside the-hearing
qui si li loe la pucele.
who so to-him praises the maiden
«Comment,» fet il, «si est si bele?
How says he so is-she so fair
— Voire,» fet il, «ce n'est pas doute,
Truly says he this not-is at-all doubt
non d'une chose, mès de toute,
not in-one thing but in all
de braz, de cors, de chief, de vis.
of arms of body of head of face
Aussi passe, ce m'est avis,
Also surpasses this to-me-is opinion

de beauté bele Lïenors
in beauty fair Liénor
totes les autres, com li ors
all the others as the gold
toz les autres metails dou monde.
all the other metals of-the world
— Ne fet pas a son biau non honte,
Not does at-all to her fair name shame
a ce que voi,» fet l'emperere.
by this that I-see says the-emperor
«Et que me diz-tu de son frere?
And what me sayest-thou of her brother
Mout le verroie volentiers.
Much him I-would-see willingly
— Ce rest .j. trop biau chevaliers
This is-in-turn an exceedingly fair knight
a .j. dur piz, a uns forz braz,
he-has a hard breast he-has some strong arms
a un chief crespe et aubornaz,
he-has a head curly and auburn
a .j. biau vis, lonc et tretiz:
he-has a fair face long and well-drawn
s'a les oils rianz et hardiz,
so-he-has the eyes laughing and bold
et par reson lées espaulles.
and by reason broad shoulders
— Tels chevaliers fet l'en en faules;
Such knights makes one in fables
s'il est tels, dont est il faez.
if-he is such then is he fairy-made

— Ce dires vos quant le verrez.
This will-say you when him you-will-see
Si tient adès trop riche hostel:
So he-holds ever exceedingly rich house
s'uns bien hauz homs le tenoit tel,
if-a well high man it held such
si i avroit il parlement;
so there would-be it talk
tant i a chevaliers et gent
so-many there are knights and folk
que l'en n'i puet son pié torner.
that one not-there can his foot turn
— Or va tost, si fai atorner
Now go quickly so have prepare
a son ostel quanqu'il voudra;
at his lodging whatever-be will-wish
n'iere a aise trusqu'il vendra.»
not-I-shall-be at ease until-he will-come
Cil s'en vet, et li rois remaint
He himself-thence goes and the king remains
mout hetiez, et par laienz maint
very cheerful and through therein abides
por feste dou bon bacheler
for feast of-the good bachelor
que Jouglez devoit amener,
whom Jouglet was-to bring
qui a l'ostel ala poroec.
who to the-lodging went for-this
Se sa suer venist or ovoec,
If his sister came now with-him

dont par fust la joie pleniere.
then much would-be the joy full
Si iert liez d'estrange maniere
So will-be glad in-strange manner
li rois qu'il ne puest estre en lieu.
the king that-he not can be in place
La chançon Renaut de Baujeu,
The song (of-)Renaut of Beaujeu
de Rencien le bon chevalier,
of Rencien the good knight
por son cors plus esleecier,
for his body more to-gladden
de joie dou bon bacheler,
with joy of-the good bachelor
commença luès droit a chanter:
he-began at-once straight to sing

Loial amor, qui en fin cuer s'est mise,
Loyal love which in true heart itself-is put
n'en doit jamès partir ne removoir;
not-thence ought ever to-part nor to-remove
que la dolor, qui destraint et justise,
for the pain which constrains and rules
semble douçor quant l'en la puet avoir;
seems sweetness when one it can have

qui en porroit morir en bon espoir,
who thereof could die in good hope
gariz seroit devant Deu au joïse:
healed would-be before God at-the judgment
por ce m'en lo quant plus me fet doloir....
for this myself-thereof I-praise when more me it-makes grieve

Or sachiez de fi et de voir
Now know for certain and for truth
qu'il prent toz les maus en bons grez.
that-he takes all the ills in good part
Et Jouglez, qui estoit alez
And Jouglet who was gone
querre le gentil chevalier
to-seek the noble knight
ainçois qu'il entrast el solier,
before that-he entered into-the upper-room
quant il ot montez les degrez
when he had mounted the stairs
del solier, si s'est escriez:
of-the upper-room so himself-is cried-out
«Dole! chevalier! A Guillame!
Dole knight Ah William
Ou est li deduiz dou roiaume,
Where is the delight of-the kingdom
li solaz et la grant proece?»
the solace and the great prowess
Il saut sus: «Ha! [ha!] Juglet! q'est ce?
He leaps up Ha ha Jouglet what-is this

Dont venez vos, biaus doz amis?»
Whence come you fair sweet friend
Ses braz li a lors au col mis,
His arms to-him he-has then at-the neck put
et si en fet joie trop grant.
and so thereof makes joy exceedingly great
Cil li dit luès de maintenant:
He to-him says at-once from now
«Que bien puissiez estre venuz,
That well you-may be come
et si vos mande .c. saluz
and so to-you sends a-hundred greetings
l'emperere nostre bon sire;
the-emperor our good lord
si vos di que mout vos desire
so to-you I-say that much you he-desires
a veoir, ce sachiez de voir.»
to see this know for truth
Ambedui se vont luès seoir
Both themselves go at-once to-sit
d'une part a une fenestre;
on-one side at a window
lors li a conté tot son estre
then to-him he-has told all his state
et la maniere de l'afere,
and the manner of the-affair
comment il fist les letres fere,
how he had the letters made

et coment li rois le manda
and how the king him summoned
par le conte qu'il li conta.
by the tale which-he to-him told
«Ne sai que vos deïsse plus,
Not I-know what to-you I-might-say more
mès vos estes tot au desus
but you are all on-the top
et trestoz mestres de la cort.»
and wholly masters of the court
Ses biaus braz, qui ne sont pas cort,
His fair arms which not are at-all short
li a luès mis de joie au col:
to-him he-has at-once put for joy at-the neck
«Beaus amis,» fet il, «que j'acol,
Fair friend says he whom I-embrace
buer vos levastes onc cel jor.
in-a-good-hour you rose ever that day
Mout avomes fet lonc sejor
Very we-have made long stay
por vos atendre en cest chastel.
for you to-await in this castle
— Vostre merci; or m'est mout bel,
Your thanks now to-me-is very fair
de ce que je sai la verté
of this that I know the truth
et por qoi li rois m'a mandé.
and for what the king me-has summoned
— Or fetes donqes bele chiere.»
Now make then fair face

Nicholes rest venuz arriere;
Nicole is-in-turn come back
si fist atorner le disner,
so had prepared the dinner
hastes et quanq'en pot trover,
roasts and whatever-one could find
bons vins et gastelez fourrez.
good wines and little-cakes filled
Quant li disners fu atornez,
When the dinner was prepared
il portent amont la viande.
they carry up the food
Mis sires Guillames commande
My lord William commands
q'on apiaut son oste et sa fame.
that-one may-call his host and his wife
Fet Juglez: «Mandez a la dame
Says Jouglet Send-word to the lady
q'el amaint ovoec li sa fille,
that-she may-bring with her her daughter
qui mout bel s'atorne et atire:
who very fair herself-prepares and arrays
en cest chastel n'a si vaillant.»
in this castle not-there-is any-so valiant
Les napes mistrent li serjant
The cloths laid the servants
sor vert herbe, sor biaus coissins;
upon green grass upon fair cushions

il levent, puis se sont assis
they wash then themselves are seated
a cel disner a chevalier,
at that dinner of knight
por atendre le grant mengier
for to-await the great meal
plus a aise jusq'a la nuit.
more at ease until-to the night
Fet Juglès: «Je criem qu'il n'anuit
Says Jouglet I fear that-it may-annoy
l'empereor ceste demeure.»
the-emperor this delay

William Comes to Court

VI

William dresses in black scarlet and ermine, his host's daughter gives garlands, and Jouglet sings as they ride through the town. Conrad welcomes William with great honor, seats him at his side, and is delighted by his courtesy. Jouglet announces a tournament at Saint-Trond, and Conrad gives William a famous helmet made at Senlis. At the lodging that night William gives his new surcoat to Boidin, a cape to his host, and his ermine robe to Jouglet, and Boidin reports his generosity to the emperor.

D'escarlate noir come meure
Of-scarlet black as mulberry
ot robe fresche a pene hermine
he-had robe fresh with fur ermine
mout soef flerant et mout fine:
very sweetly smelling and very fine

la vesti luès q'en ot mengié.
it he-put-on as-soon-as that-one had eaten
«Ha!» fet Juglès, «Dex! or voi gié
Ah says Jouglet God now see I
robe de la taille de France.»
robe of the cut of France
Tant i ot il de segnorance,
So-much there had he of lordliness
li biaus, li prous, li debonaires,
the fair the worthy the gracious
que li autre orent penes vaires
that the others had furs vair
a sables noirs soef flairanz.
with sables black sweetly smelling
Mout fu ore mains acesmanz
Very was now less adorned
Huedes de Rades de Crouci
Eudes of Rades of Coucy
d'un de cez .iij. que je di ci.
than-one of these three whom I name here
Encor ot il assez avel:
Still had he enough wish
la pucele dona chapel
the maiden gave garland
a chascun d'indes flors trop beles.
to each of-blue flowers exceedingly fair
Blans ganz et ceintures noveles
White gloves and girdles new
lor aporta li chamberlens.
to-them brought the chamberlain

Que que chascuns vestoit les soens,
While that each put-on the his
on lor amaine lor chevax,
one to-them brings their horses
grans destriers de pris, bons et biax,
great chargers of worth good and fair
d'Espaigne, a lorains de Limoges.
of-Spain with bridles of Limoges
Quequ'il avaloient des loges,
While-they descended from-the galleries
la borjoise se prist bien garde
the burgher-wife herself took well heed
que mon segnor Guillame esgarde
that my lord William looks-at
sa fille, qui si ot biau cors.
her daughter who so had fair body
Mout sambla bien haut home lors,
Very seemed well high man then
quant il fu sor le grant destrier:
when he was upon the great charger
«Jouglet,» fet il, «sail ci detriers,
Jouglet says he leap here behind
frere, si me feras solas.»
brother so me thou-wilt-do solace
Fet la pucele: «Je vos has,
Says the maiden I you hate
Juglet, qui ne chantastes puis
Jouglet who not sang since
qu[e] entrastes dedenz cest huis.»
that you-entered within this door

Mes sires Guillames s'en rit:
My lord William himself-thereat laughs
«Certes,» fet il, «mout a bien dit.»
Certainly says he very she-has well said
Si dit: «Or le me pardonez.
So he-says Now it to-me pardon
— Volentiers voir, se revenez
Willingly truly if you-come-back
anquenuit o tot la vïele.
tonight with all the fiddle
— Volentiers voir, ma damoisele,
Willingly truly my damsel
se nos devons fere caroles.»
if we ought to-make carols
Mout les tient de beles paroles,
Much them he-holds with fair words
tot de front sor le pavement.
all from front upon the pavement
Or sachiez bien certainement,
Now know well certainly
mout lor furent bel li chapel.
very to-them were fair the garlands
Lor sires ot tret en chantel
Their lord had drawn in slant
son mantel sor son braz senestre.
his mantle upon his arm left

Tuit cil de la rue et de l'estre
All those of the street and of the-houses
le resgardent a grant mervelle;
him look-at with great marvel
quant Juglet li chante en l'orelle:
when Jouglet to-him sings in the-ear

Aaliz main se leva.
Aelis early herself raised
Bon jor ait qui mon cuer a!
Good day may-have who my heart has
Biau se vesti et para
Fair herself she-dressed and adorned
desoz l'aunoi.
beneath the-alder-grove
Bon jor ait qui mon cuer a!
Good day may-have who my heart has
N'est pas o moi.
Not-is at-all with me

Einsi s'en vont tote la rue;
Thus themselves-thence go all the street
bien de tant loig com .j. hom rue,
well from as-much far as a man throws
se levoient les genz encontre:
themselves raised the folk toward-them

«Bone aventure et bon encontre
Good adventure and good meeting
vos doint hui Dex!» font li borjois.
to-you may-give today God say the burghers
«Ce ne sont pas genz a gabois,»
These not are at-all folk for jesting
font il basset li uns a l'autre.
say they softly the one to the-other
Einsi s'en vont, triez .j. triez autre, 1585
Thus themselves-thence go behind one behind other
le petit pas, sor les destriers.
the little pace upon the chargers
Assez fu qui tint les estriers,
Enough there-was who held the stirrups
ce sachiez, quant il descendirent.
this know when they dismounted
Quant li rois et ses genz le virent,
When the king and his folk him saw
li chevalier de lor fenestre: 1590
the knights from their window
«Par toz sains,» fet il, «bien puet estre
By all saints says he well can be
de celui la ce qe l'en dit.
of him there this that one says
Vos ne verrez devant l'Endit,»
You not will-see before the-Lendit
fet il au conte de Forois,
says he to-the count of Forez

«Ne ne veïstes mès des mois
Nor not you-saw more for months
chevalier miex samblast prodome.»
knight better might-seem worthy-man
A briez moz vos dirai la some:
In brief words to-you I-shall-say the sum
que puis le tens Paris de Troie
that since the time (of-)Paris of Troy
ne reçut on a si grant joie,
not received one with so great joy
a une cort d'empereor,
at a court of-emperor
chevalier a si grant honor:
knight with so great honor
bien ait dont qui le deservi!
well may-have then who it deserved
«Biaus amis, onc mès ne vos vi,»
Fair friend ever before not you I-saw
fet li empereres Corras;
says the emperor Conrad
«Mout ai desirré voz solas,
Much I-have desired your solace
et s'en ai bien grant faim eüe:
and so-thereof I-have well great hunger had
por atendre vostre venue
for to-await your coming
ai ci atendu .xv. jors.»
I-have here waited fifteen days
Grant chose est d'amer par amors,
Great thing is of-loving by love

que l'en en est plus fins cortois.
for one thereby is more true courteous
Main a main s'en vont vers le dois,
Hand in hand themselves-thence go toward the dais
et li autre après, dui et dui;
and the others after two and two
l'empereres le vout vers lui
the-emperor him wished beside him
asseoir, mès nel pot soffrir:
to-seat but not-it he-could to-suffer
q'en ne notast en son venir
that-one not might-note in his coming
en lui se cortoisie non;
in him except courtesy not
ainz s'assist et si compaignon
rather himself-sat and his companions
un poi plus bas que l'emperere.
a little more low than the-emperor
Il li a demandé s'il ere
He to-him has asked if-he was
point privez dou roi d'Engleterre;
at-all intimate of-the king of-England
mout a eü longuement guerre
very has had long war
encontre lui noz rois de France.
against him our king of France
Icele premiere acointance
That first acquaintance
li vint de grant affetement;
to-him came of great breeding

et si compegnon ensement,
and his companions likewise
qui sorent mout bien q'en dut faire,
who knew very well what-one ought to-do
se racointierent d'autre afere
themselves acquainted in-other matter
as compegnons l'empereor.
with-the companions (of-)the-emperor
Ha! se il osast por honor,
Ah if he dared for honor
com il parlast ja volontiers!
how he would-speak now willingly
Ce ne fust mie de moustiers
This not would-be at-all of minsters
couvrir, ne de chaucies faire,
to-roof nor of causeways to-make
mès de la preus, la debonaire
but of the worthy the gracious
de cui avoit le feu ou cors.
of whom he-had the fire in-the body
Atant est venuz Jouglez lors,
Thereupon is come Jouglet then
qui set mout bien com las bues marge:
who knows very well how weary ox treads
«Ne contez pas vostre lignage,
Not tell at-all your lineage
mès parlez d'armes et d'amors,
but speak of-arms and of-loves

car de lundi en .xv. jors
for from Monday in fifteen days
iert li tornois a Sainteron.
will-be the tourney at Saint-Trond
— E non Deu, Jouglet, nos iron,»
And in-name (of-)God Jouglet we shall-go
fet luès droit mis sire Guillame,
says at-once straight my lord William
«Il ne me faut q'un tot seul heaume;
It not me lacks except-a all single helmet
que j'ai trestout l'autre estovoir
for I-have wholly the-other need
qu'il covient chevalier avoir:
that-it behooves knight to-have
chauces, hauberc et hauberjon,
hose hauberk and habergeon
cheval hardi comme lion,
horse bold like lion
fort et isnel et bien corant.»
strong and swift and well running
Fet Jouglez: «Et ge vos creant
Says Jouglet And I to-you promise
que heaume troverons nos bien.
that helmet shall-find we well
— Je perdi l'autre jor le mien,
I lost the-other day the mine
quant je fui pris a Rougemont.»
when I was taken at Rougemont
Fet luès li mieudres rois de mont:
Says at-once the best king of world

«Por ce que riens ne vos soufraigne,
For this that anything not to-you be-lacking
le mellor de tote Alemaigne
the best of all Germany
vos donrai et le plus fetiz,
to-you I-shall-give and the most well-made
et si fu il fez a Senliz;
and so was it made at Senlis
si vos di q'on avroit encor,
so to-you I-say that-one would-have still
des pierres q'ens sont et de l'or
from-the stones which-in are and from the-gold
el nasel et ou cercle entor,
on-the nasal and on-the circlet around
deniers por fere une grant tor.»
pennies for to-make a great tower
Lors commanda son chamberlenc,
Then he-commanded his chamberlain
q'en claime Baudoin Flamenc,
whom-one calls Boidin Fleming
que li aport le heaume ça
that to-him he-may-bring the helmet here
qui li fu aportez pieça
which to-him was brought long-ago
ovoec le hauberc de Chambli.
with the hauberk of Chambly
Cil ne l'a pas mis en oubli,
He not it-has at-all put in forgetting
ainz l'aporte sanz delaier.
rather it-brings without delaying

Quant il l'ot mis hors dou heaumier,
When he it-had put out of-the helmet-case
si l'essua d'une touaille:
so it-wiped with-a towel
«E non Deu, cils est biaus sanz faille,»
And in-name (of-)God this-one is fair without fail
fet luès droit mis sire Guillames,
says at-once straight my lord William
«Il n'a si bel en .ij. roiaumes.
There not-is so fair in two kingdoms
Ce n'est pas dons de vavassor;
This not-is at-all gift of vavasour
non, ainz est dons d'empereor,
no rather is gift of-emperor
qui por tels joiauls doit aquerre
who by such jewels ought to-win
les haus bachelers de sa terre.»
the high bachelors of his land
Lors li baille par le nasel:
Then to-him he-hands-it by the nasal
«Tenez, encor vos donrai el.
Hold yet to-you I-shall-give else
— Sire,» fet il, «Dex le vos mire!»
Lord says he God it to-you may-reward
Chascuns qui l'esgarde s'i mire
Each who it-looks-at himself-therein mirrors
ausi com en .j. mireoir.
as as in a mirror

«Or ne puet mie remanoir
Now not can at-all remain
por heaume,» font si compegnon,
for helmet say his companions
«dou tornoi que nos n'i aillon.»
from-the tourney that we not-there may-go
Fet l'emperere: «Or i parra.
Says the-emperor Now there will-appear
Dire orrons bien qui i vendra,
To-say we-shall-hear well who there will-come
li qex en portera le pris.»
the which thence will-carry the prize
Li serjanz a le heaume pris
The servant has the helmet taken
que il avoit maint jor gardé;
which he had many-a day kept
quant il l'orent bien esgardé,
when they it-had well looked-at
il le ra mis en son heaumier.
he it has-again put in its case
Fet il: «Or le portez arrier;
Says he Now it carry back
ainquenuit si vos en vendrez
tonight so you thence will-come
ovoec moi; si l'emporterez,
with me so it-you-will-carry-away
quant je m'en irai a l'ostel.»
when I myself-thence shall-go to the-lodging
Onques ne furent gent en tel,
Ever not were folk in such

come sont cil bon chevalier
as are those good knights
mon segnor Guillame acointier,
my lord William to-acquaint
et ses compegnons ambedeus.
and his companions both
Li serjant envoient as keus
The servants send to-the cooks
savoir s'il poent nappes metre:
to-know if-they can cloths to-lay
il n'i a que de l'entremetre,
it not-there is except of the-busying
que il ont le mengier tot prest,
for they have the meal all ready
sans alonge, sans plus d'arrest;
without delay without more of-halt
et dus et contes trusq'a .vj.
and dukes and counts up-to six
Li rois leve, si s'est assis,
The king washes so himself-is seated
et par delez lui a sa coste
and by beside him at his side
a fait seoir son novel oste,
has made sit his new guest
q'entr'aus .ij. n'ot que .j. sol conte;
so-that-between-them two not-was but a single count
ne faz des autres nul aconte,
not I-make of-the others any account
por ce qu'il erent de laienz.
for this that-they were from therein

Des viandes et des presenz
Of-the foods and of-the presents
ne redoit nuls fere devise,
not ought-again any to-make account
que chascuns ot quanqu'il devise,
for each had whatever-he wishes
sans atendre, sans courroucier.
without waiting without vexing
Et il rot mout a ce mengier
And it had-again much at this meal
parlé de ce tornoiement:
spoken of this tournament
et sachiez bien certainement
and know well certainly
qu'il i ot tex qui plus en dirent,
that-it there were such who more thereof said
ce sachiez bien, que il n'en firent,
this know well than they thereof did
et c'est a prodome mout let.
and this-is to worthy-man very ugly
Mes sire Guillames les let
My lord William them lets
entr'euls parler, si ne dit mot.
among-themselves speak so not says word
L'emperere, qui mout l'amot,
The-emperor who much him-loved
le resgarde, s'aperçoit bien
him looks-at himself-perceives well
qu'il entendoit a autre rien,
that-he attended to other thing

ce li est vis, qu'il ne disoit:
this to-him is opinion that-he not spoke
si fesoit il, car il pensoit
so did he for he thought
au tornoi tot vaintre et outrer
of-the tourney all to-conquer and overcome
por son novel heaume honorer,
for his new helmet to-honor
ou il le comperra mout chier.
or he it will-pay very dear
Quant il sont levé dou mengier
When they are risen from-the meal
et l'emperere ot l'eve eüe,
and the-emperor had the-water had
et l'escuieraille menue
and the-squirery small
et li anuis ist dou palais,
and the throng goes-out of-the palace
ou l'en peüst fere .j. eslais.
where one could make a gallop
Lors vindrent li menesterel:
Then came the minstrels
li uns note, li autres el;
the one plays the others else
cil conte ci de Perceval,
this-one tells here of Perceval
cil raconte de Rainceval,
that-one recounts of Roncevaux
par les rens devant les barons.
along the ranks before the barons

Cil Guillames que nos disons
This William whom we speak-of
n'estoit mie toz a aprendre,
not-was at-all wholly to teach
ainz savoit mout bien reson rendre
rather he-knew very well reason to-render
a ceuz a qui devoit parler.
to those to whom he-ought to-speak
L'empereres, sanz apeler,
The-emperor without calling
le prent par la main, si l'enmaine,
him takes by the hand so him-leads-away
non por oïr de Charlemaine,
not for to-hear of Charlemagne
ainz s'en vont en .j. lit seoir
rather themselves-thence go on a bed to-sit
ou il gastent près tot le soir
where they waste nearly all the evening
en demander de ses noveles;
in asking of his news
celes qui plus li fussent beles
those which more to-him might-be fair
n'osa il onqes amentoivre,
not-dared he ever to-mention
por ce qu'il doute l'aperçoivre
for this that-he fears the-perceiving
de lui et de ses compegnons.
of him and of his companions

Et Jouglès lor a dit chançons
And Jouglet to-them has said songs
et fabliaus, ne sai .iij. ou iiij.
and fabliaux not I-know three or four
L'empereres, por lui esbatre,
The-emperor for himself to-disport
le reveut de tant conforter
him wishes-again from so-much to-comfort
qu'il veut ceste chançon chanter:
that-he wishes this song to-sing

Mout me demeure que n'oi chanter
Much me tarries that not-I-hear sing
la tourtre a l'entrée d'esté,
the turtledove at the-entry of-summer
ausi com je soloie;
as as I was-wont
mès une amor me desvoie
but a love me leads-astray
et tient esgaré, ou j'ai mon pensé,
and holds astray where I-have my thought
quel lieu que onqes soie.
what place that ever I-may-be

Tant ont sor la coute de soie
So-long they-have upon the quilt of silk
envoisié et fet lor deliz
made-merry and made their delights
que dient qu'iront a lor liz.
that they-say that-they-will-go to their beds
Fet li rois: «Ausi irai gié,
Says the king Also shall-go I
quant nos avromes pris congié,
when we shall-have taken leave
qu'il fet bon boivre après chançons.»
for-it does good to-drink after songs
Lors hucha l'en les eschançons.
Then called one the cupbearers
Atant ez vos un chapelain
Thereupon behold you a chaplain
qui la coupe tint en la main,
who the cup held in the hand
aussi com une pierre en l'or.
as as a stone in the-gold
Li freres bele Lïenor
The brother (of-)fair Liénor
but après le roi premerains;
drank after the king first
je ne sai qui fu deerrains,
I not know who was last
mès quant tuit ont eü le vin,
but when all have had the wine
il a fet apeler Boidin,
he has had called Boidin

qui li a son heaume porté.
who to-him has his helmet carried
Es chevax, qui sont apresté
On-the horses which are prepared
au degré, s'en vont main a main.
at-the stair themselves-thence go hand in hand
«Mors soit ne dormira demain,»
Dead he-may-be-who not will-sleep tomorrow
fet li rois, «bone matinée!»
says the king good morning
Ceste parole mout agrée
This word much pleases
a ciaus qui erent las d'errer.
to those who were weary of-journeying
Li compegnon firent porter
The companions had carried
Juglet a l'ostel la vïele
Jouglet to the-lodging the fiddle
por l'amor a la damoisele.
for the-love of the damsel
.ij. et .ij. montent es roncins
two and two mount on-the nags
mis sire Guillame et Boidins;
my lord William and Boidin
.i. autres reporta Juglet
an other carried-back Jouglet
a l'ostel, ou l'en s'entremet
to the-lodging where one himself-busies
d'alumer plenté de tortiz.
of-lighting plenty of torches

S'ont trové la bele Aaliz.
So-they-have found the fair Aelis
Il descendent, si vont amont
They dismount so go up
ou solier ou li vallet ont
into-the upper-room where the squires have
bon fruit et bons vins a plenté.
good fruit and good wines in plenty
La dame et sa fille ont esté
The lady and her daughter have been
au mengier a mout grant deduit.
at-the meal with very great delight
Mout près dusque vers mie nuit
Very nearly until toward mid night
ont entr'ex chanté et ragié.
have among-themselves sung and frolicked
Quant li chamberlenz prist congié,
When the chamberlain took leave
un sorcot qui fleroit la graine,
a surcoat which smelled-of the scarlet-dye
qui fu fez en cele semaine
which was made in that week
d'escarlate et de vairs entiers,
of-scarlet and of vairs whole
li fist li gentils chevaliers
to-him had the noble knight
aporter par .j. sien vallet,
bring by a his squire
si frès et si cler et si net.
so fresh and so bright and so clean

Cil l'a pris qui l'en mercia:
He it-has taken who him-thereof thanked
«Ha! Dex!» fet Juglès, «com ci a
Ah God says Jouglet how here there-is
biau sorcot et net por esté!»
fair surcoat and clean for summer
Une chape qui ot esté
A cape which had been
tote fresche o tot le sorcot,
all fresh with all the surcoat
qui la graine encore flerot,
which the dye still smelled-of
refet luès son oste aporter;
has-again at-once his host bring
erroment, sanz plus arrester,
at-once without more stopping
dona Juglet sa roube hermine;
gave Jouglet his robe ermine
puis qu'il a tot mis a la mine,
since that-he has all put at the dice
je ne sai qu'il en feïst el.
I not know what-he thereof might-do else
La bone dame de l'ostel
The good lady of the-lodging
dona trop bon fermail a co[s]te:
gave exceedingly good brooch at side
«Gardez le bien,» fet il, «bel oste,
Keep it well says he fair host
qu'il vaut encore .xiij. livres.
for-it is-worth still thirteen pounds

Ja nuls qui l'ait au col n'iert ivres,
Ever any who it-may-have at-the neck not-will-be drunk
s'il bevoit tot le vin d'Orliens.»
if-he drank all the wine of-Orléans
Dit li hostes: «Car fust il miens!
Says the host For-would-that were it mine
Ausi boi je trop tote jor.»
Also drink I too-much all day
La damoisele ot par amor
The damsel had by love
sa ceinture d'argent ferrée
her girdle of-silver bound
de loier, car el a chantée,
of reward for she has sung
ovoec Jouglet en la vïele,
with Jouglet on the fiddle
ceste chançonete novele:
this little-song new

C'est la jus en la praele.
This-is there down in the meadow
Or ai bone amor novele.
Now I-have good love new
Dras i gaoit Peronnele.
Cloths there washed Peronelle
Bien doi joie avoir:
Well I-ought joy to-have

or ai bone amor novele
now I-have good love new
a mon voloir....
at my will

Fet Boidins: «Bien dit Jouglès voir,
Says Boidin Well says Jouglet true
mon segnor, de vostre maniere.
my lord of your manner
— Mout nos a moustré bele chiere,» 1845
Very to-us has shown fair face
fet ses hostes, «en son venir.
says his host at his coming
Bien porra encor avenir
Well may yet happen
que bien li ert guerredonée
that well to-him will-be rewarded
ceste chape de vair fourrée
this cape of vair furred
et ciz sables noir come meure.» 1850
and this sable black as mulberry
Boidins n'i fet plus de demeure,
Boidin not-there makes more of delay
ainz s'en vet mout a son bon gré:
rather himself-thence goes very at his good pleasure
il prent un roncin au degré,
he takes a nag at-the stair
qui l'a trusq'a la cort porté;
which him-has up-to the court carried

il n'a nule part arresté,
he not-has at-any part stopped
ainz vint devant l'empereor,
rather came before the-emperor
por le prodome fere honor,
for the worthy-man to-do honor
vestu le sorcos qui fu nuès.
dressed-in the surcoat which was new
Li empereres estoit loés
The emperor was already
entrez en son lit por dormir;
entered into his bed for sleeping
erroment qu'il le vit venir:
at-once that-he him saw come
«Boidin,» fet il, «qui vos dona
Boidin says he who to-you gave
tel sorcot? — Cil,» fet il, «qui n'a
such surcoat He says he who not-has
talent de prester a usure;
desire of lending at usury
onqes si gentil creature,
ever so noble creature
ce sachiez, ne fu [ne] si large;
this know not was not-even so generous
puis que j'alai en cest voiage
since that I-went on this journey
ou ge ne voil demorer gaires,
where I not wish to-stay much

a il doné de robes vaires
has he given of robes vair
et de joiaus qui vaut .c. livres.
and of jewels which are-worth a-hundred pounds
— Einsi sera par tens delivres
Thus will-be by time rid
de son avoir, s'il ne se garde,»
of his wealth if-he not himself guards
fet l'empereres. — «N'aiez garde,
says the-emperor Not-have fear
sire, qu'il en avra assez:
lord that-he thereof will-have enough
mout est as borjois bel et sez,
very is to-the burghers fair and pleasant
quant il vient emprunter le lor,
when he comes to-borrow the theirs
qu'il lor done et fet grant honor,
for-he to-them gives and does great honor
et si sont bien a point paié.
and so are well at point paid
— Bien a le sorcot emploié»,
Well he-has the surcoat employed
fet l'empereres; «si oi bien,
says the-emperor so I-hear well
si est rois qui puet doner rien.»
so is king who can give anything

Letters to Dole and Liège

VII

Conrad sends William five hundred pounds and gifts for his companions. William writes to his mother and sister, sending money and jewels, and to his friends, summoning them to the tournament, and orders painted lances and shields from a burgher of Liège. The emperor moves to Maastricht to be near Saint-Trond, William leaves him with two hundred knights, and his companions from Dole arrive with news of the French, Flemish, and Lorrainer knights who will come to fight.

Atant vont as liz qui miex miex.
Thereupon go to-the beds who best best
Les paroles et li soumiex
The words and the sleepiness
fet endormir l'empereor.
make fall-asleep the-emperor
Au matin de bien et d'onor
At-the morning of good and of-honor
se porpensa li gentils rois;
himself bethought the noble king
.v. C. livres de couloignois
five hundred pounds of Cologne-money
li envoia tot en deniers:
to-him sent all in pennies
il set bien qu'il li ert mestiers
he knows well that-it to-him will-be need
a ce fere qu'il a empris;
for this to-do which-he has undertaken

de .ij. trop beaus destriers de pris
of two exceedingly fair chargers of worth
et de .ij. granz coupes d'argent
and of two great cups of-silver
fist a ses compaignons present
he-made to his companions present
ainçois qu'il ississent des liz.
before that-they went-out of-the beds
Il l'en rendirent les merciz, 1895
They to-him-thereof rendered the thanks
quant il alerent a la messe.
when they went to the mass
Mout vaut .j. biaus dons sanz promesse,
Much is-worth a fair gift without promise
et mout fet bien qui s'en porpense.
and much does well who himself-thereof bethinks
— Bien avez hui paié vostre ense,»
Well you-have today paid your share
fet li bons chevaliers au roi. 1900
says the good knight to-the king
«Einsi set Dex prendre conroi
Thus knows God to-take care
de ciax qui servent en ma voie.
of those who serve on my road
Vos avez mestier de monoie
You have need of money
sovent, se mes Flamenz ne ment.»
often if my Fleming not lies
Ez vos Juglet au parlement, 1905
Behold you Jouglet at-the talk

le mantel d'ermine au col.
the mantle of-ermine at-the neck
«Mout avez tost trové .j. fol,»
Very you-have soon found a fool
fet l'empereres, «biaus amis.
says the-emperor fair friend
— Cil est fors de sa robe mis,»
He is out of his robe put
fet Juglès: «einsi doit on fere;
says Jouglet thus ought one to-do
autant li vaut cele vert vaire,
as-much to-him is-worth that green vair
et ceste me ravra mestier.»
and this-one to-me will-have-again need
Mout ont par loisir ou mostier
Much they-have at leisure in-the minster
parlé de cest riche present.
spoken of this rich present
Luès q'en ot mengié, erroment
As-soon-as that-one had eaten at-once
mis sire Guillames fet fere
my lord William has made
a un clerc de letres .iij. paire.
by a clerk of letters three pair
S'en envoie unes sa mere,
So-thereof he-sends one (to-)his mother
et li mande comment il ere
and to-her sends-word how he was
toz sires de l'empereor.
wholly lord of the-emperor

Si envoia a sa seror
So he-sent to his sister
une corroie et .j. fermail.
a belt and a brooch
Si ot ovoec en .j. f[r]ambail
So there-was with-it in a purse
.ccc. livres de cel argent,
three-hundred pounds of that silver
por paier la menue gent
for to-pay the small folk
et as borjois cui il devoit.
and to-the burghers to-whom he owed
Sachiez que la mere en avoit
Know that the mother thereof had
bon mestier en maintes manieres
good need in many manners
por fere semer ses linieres;
for to-have sown her flax-fields
qu'a maintenir .j. bon hostel
for-to maintain a good household
covient assez et un et el,
behooves much both one and other
nuls nel set s'il ne l'a a fere.
any not-it knows if-he not it-has to do
Tot son covine et son afere
All his plan and his affair
fist savoir a ses compaignons;
he-made known to his companions
si lor prie et mande par nons,
so to-them prays and sends-word by names

que se Dex les deffent d'anui,
that if God them defends from-harm
qu'il soient tuit encontre lui
that-they be all toward him
a Sainteron sanz nule faille,
at Saint-Trond without any fail
et que chascuns plus bel i aille
and that each more fair there may-go
et miex acesmez qu'il porra;
and better adorned than-he can
que s'il vit tant, qu'il i vaudra
for if-he lives so-long that-he there will-wish
jouster de beles lances paintes.
to-joust with fair lances painted
Les autres letres ont ataintes;
The other letters they-have reached
ses envoie au Liege batant
so-them he-sends to-the Liège at-once
a .j. borjois qu'il aime tant,
to a burgher whom-he loves so-much
qui li sieult fere ses creances;
who for-him is-wont to-make his loans
si li mande que .vi.xx. lances
so to-him sends-word that six-score lances
li face paindre de ses armes,
for-him he-may-have painted with his arms
et .iij. escuz dont les enarmes
and three shields whereof the straps
soient de soie et d'orfrois,
may-be of silk and of-orphrey

et si prie mout le borjois
and so prays much the burgher
qu'en chascune ait .j. penoncel.
that-on each there-be a pennon
Il le fist et miex et plus bel
He it did both better and more fair
assez qu'il ne li a mandé,
much than-he — to-him has sent-word
si com il li a commandé.
so as he to-him has commanded
Qui vit cez atornemenz fere,
Who saw these trappings made
les escuz, les lances, l'afere,
the shields the lances the-gear
les covertures, les penons
the coverings the pennons
de cendauls et de ciclatons!
of sendals and of ciclatons
Fu tot bien fet ainz .xv. jors.
Was all well done before fifteen days
Et l'empereres, cui sejours
And the-emperor whom stay
anuia dès lors en avant,
wearied from then in forward
por la seson chacier avant
for the season to-hunt forward
et por la quinzaine gaster,
and for the fortnight to-waste

prist talent d'aler sejorner
took desire to-go to-stay
por le biau lieu a Tref sor Meuse.
for the fair place at Maastricht on Meuse
L'en i a tost beü sa heuse;
One there has soon drunk his boot
qu'il i a bons vins a devise,
for-it there has good wines at will
et chars tex com l'en les devise,
and meats such as one them describes
venoison, oisiax de riviere,
venison fowls of river
et poisson de mainte maniere:
and fish of many-a manner
plus bel sejor n'estuet [j]a querre,
more fair stay not-behooves ever to-seek
et si n'a q'uit lieues de terre
and so not-there-is but-eight leagues of land
d'iloec jusq'au tornoiement;
from-there up-to-the tournament
ce sachiez bien certainement.
this know well certainly
Por ce vint il sejorner lors
For this came he to-stay then
que, se Dex garist le soen cors,
for if God guards the his body
bien sachent il qu'il i vendra
well may-know they that-he there will-come
por veoir qui miex le fera.
for to-see who best it will-do

Si com il le pensa, si fist;
So as he it thought so he-did
mès je ne sai quanz jors i mist
but I not know how-many days there he-put
a venir de la jusq'a Tré.
in coming from there up-to Maastricht
Bien li ont li borjois mostré
Well to-him have the burghers shown
qu'il sont mout lié de sa venue:
that-they are very glad of his coming
mout par fu nez souz bone nue,
very much he-was born under good cloud
que nuls homs nel voit qui ne l'aint
for any man not-him sees who not him-may-love
Mis sire Guillames et maint
My lord William and many-a
de la court et conte et baron
of the court both counts and barons
si envoient a Sainteron
so send to Saint-Trond
prendre les ostex qui miex miex;
to-take the lodgings who best best
il a commandé sor lor iex
he has commanded upon their eyes
a ses vallez et a ses genz,
to his squires and to his folk
dont il avoit des plus sachanz
whereof he had of-the most knowing
que chevaliers peüst avoir,
that knight could have

qu'il ne lessent por nul avoir
that-they not leave for any wealth
qu'il n'ait le mellor dou marchié.
that-he not-may-have the best of-the market
Il lor avoit bien encharchié:
He to-them had well charged
bien l'en avint, que si ot il,
well to-him-thereof befell that so had he
q'es granges devers le cortil
for-in-the barns toward the courtyard
et es estables dou manoir
and in-the stables of-the manor
porent il, sanz faille et por voir,
could they without fail and for truth
a largece et sanz dangier,
with largess and without hindrance
estre cinquante chevalier
be fifty knights
tot a aise o tot lor harnoés:
all at ease with all their harness
il lor ert bien mestier et oès,
it to-them was well need and use
que tant en amenra lor sire,
for so-many thereof will-bring their lord
se Dex de corrouz le tresvire.
if God from wrath him turns-aside
Qu'il se sejorne a grant honor
For-he himself stays with great honor
a Tref ovoec l'empereor,
at Maastricht with the-emperor

en biau palès sor la riviere.
in fair palace upon the river
Par biaus dons et par bele chiere,
By fair gifts and by fair face
li moustre bien qu'il nel het mie.
to-him he-shows well that-he not-him hates at-all
Il li remenbre de s'amie.
It to-him reminds of his-friend
Quequ'il sont andui a .j. estre,
While-they are both at a window-place
apuié a une fenestre,
leaning at a window
Juglet vit devant lui ester;
Jouglet he-saw before him stand
si li fet la chançon chanter:
so to-him makes the song sing

Contrel tens que voi frimer
Against-the season when I-see frost
les arbres et blanchoier,
the trees and whiten
m'est pris talenz de chanter;
to-me-is taken desire of singing
si n'en eüsse mestier;
yet not-thereof I-might-have need

q'amors me fet comparer
for-love me makes pay-for
ce q'onqes ne soi trichier;
this that-ever not I-knew to-cheat
n'onqes ne poi endurer
nor-ever not I-could endure
a avoir faus cuer legier.
to have false heart fickle

Por ce ai failli a amie....
For this I-have failed of friend

Li bons Guillames ne let mie
The good William not leaves at-all
s'envoiseüre por la soie;
his-merriment for the his
il fist d'un drap d'or et de soie
he had from-a cloth of-gold and of silk
au soir covrir son beau porpoint.
at-the evening covered his fair doublet
L'empereor, qui nel het point,
From-the-emperor who not-him hates at-all
celle quanqu'il puet son covine;
he-hides whatever-he can his plan
ja par lui, s'il ne l'adevine,
ever through him if-he not it-guesses

ne savra por rien vent ne voie
not will-know for anything wind nor way
de son atour jusqu'il le voie:
of his array until-he it may-see
il n'est pas reson qu'il s'en vant.
it not-is at-all reason that-he himself-thereof may-boast
Il prist congié .j. jor devant
He took leave one day before
que li tornoiement dut estre;
that the tournament was-to be
l'emperere ama tant son estre
the-emperor loved so-much his presence
q'a grant paine li a doné.
that-with great pain to-him he-has given
Tant a fet qu'il en a mené
So-much he-has done that-he thence has led
de la cort .xxx. chevaliers,
from the court thirty knights
toz a armes et a destriers;
all with arms and with chargers
mout a de travail .j. prodom.
much has of toil a worthy-man
Ainz qu'il venist a Sainteron,
Before that-he came to Saint-Trond
estoit ja venuz ses harnoés:
was already come his harness
l'en li moustre ses escuz loés,
one to-him shows his shields then
covertures, lances, penons:
coverings lances pennons

«De Deu,» fet il, «et de ses nons
Of God says he and of his names
soit beneoiz qui vos fist fere!»
be blessed who you had made
Li gentils borjois debonere
The noble burgher gracious
ert dou Liege venuz ovoec.
was from-the Liège come with-him
Voiant toz ciaus qui sont iloec,
Seeing all those who are there
li dit que quanqu'il a est soen:
to-him he-says that whatever-he has is his
mout vient a home de grant sen
much comes to man of great sense
qui fet cortoisie au besoig.
who does courtesy at-the need
Chevalier de près et de loig
Knights from near and from far
emplent ces ostex par le borc.
fill these lodgings through the town
Li siens estoit enmi .j. forc,
The his was amid a fork
mout bien seanz entre .ij. rues,
very well situated between two streets
si que cil ont doubles veües
so that those have double views
qui sont ou solier as fenestres.
who are in-the upper-room at-the windows
El pignon paroit li forz estre,
On-the gable appeared the strong house

qui estoit enmi le marchié.
which was amid the market
Maint vilain i ot mesmarchié,
Many-a churl there had bargained-ill
qui musoient a Constantin.
who gaped at Constantine
Un diemanche par matin
A Sunday by morning
vindrent si compegnon de Dole.
came his companions from Dole
Il les bese toz et acole,
He them kisses all and embraces
et demande de lor noveles,
and asks of their news
et il dient: «Bones et beles.
and they say Good and fair
Tuit sont hetié en vo païs.
All are cheerful in your country
— Que dient? que vos est avis?»....
What say-they what to-you is opinion
Font cil cui il le demanda,
Say those to-whom he it asked
— «Avra il auqes gent de la?
Will-have it somewhat folk from there
— Oïl, a cenz et a milliers.
Yes by hundreds and by thousands
Il ne remaint bons chevaliers
There not remains good knight
en Perche, n'en Poitou n'el Maine;
in Perche nor-in Poitou nor-in-the Maine

li quens de Champaigne i amaine
the count of Champagne there brings
trestout quanqu'il puet esmovoir.
wholly whatever-he can stir
— Vos ne savez mie de voir
You not know at-all for truth
se François et Flamenc vendront?
if French and Flemings will-come
— Nos savons bien qu'il i seront
We know well that-they there will-be
(tant avons oï des paroles),
so-much we-have heard of-the words
que li sires de Ronqeroles,
that the lord of Ronquerolles
li Barrois et cil de Couci,
the Barrois and he of Coucy
et li bons Alains de Roussi,
and the good Alan of Roucy
et cil Gauchiers de Chastillon,
and that Walter of Châtillon
et [Savaris] de Maulion:
and Savaric of Mauléon
de ceuz somes tot asseür;
of those we-are all assured
il jurent hier nuit a Namur.
they lay yesterday night at Namur
— Et vos qui fustes a Leigni,
And you who were at Lagny
dou bon Gautier de Joegni,
of-the good Walter of Joigny

qui dut estre morz por s'amie,
who was-to be dead for his-friend
oïstes vos s'il vendra mie? 2095
heard you if-he will-come at-all
— Oïl, atornez por jouster,
Yes arrayed for jousting
que Dex l'a fet resusciter.
for God him-has made revive
— Certes,» fet il, «g'en sui mout liez.»
Certainly says he I-thereof am very glad
Font il: «Ne vos en esmaiez,
Say they Not yourself thereof dismay
q'assez en i vient sanz aloigne; 2100
for-enough thereof there come without delay
et li quens Renaus de Boloigne
and the count Renaud of Boulogne
jut anuit a Monz en Hainaut.»
lay last-night at Mons in Hainaut
Il en lieve ses mains en haut,
He thereat raises his hands on high
de la grant joie que il a.
from the great joy which he has
Dient ses compaignons: «Si a 2105
Say his companions So there-is
par de ça grant plenté de genz;
by from here great plenty of folk
vos n'esloignerez voz sergenz
you not-will-withdraw your sergeants
por tornoier, demie lance.
for to-tourney half lance

Nos cuidons bien estre a fiance
We think well to-be in trust
dou bon chevalier de Saissoigne
of-the good knight of Saxony
et dou duc, se il n'a essoine;
and of-the duke if he not-has excuse
et s'arons le conte d'Auborc,
and so-we-shall-have the count of-Aubours
[le biau Galeran de Lamborc],
the fair Galeran of Limburg
et le duc son pere autresi,
and the duke his father likewise
et contes ne sai .v. ou .vi.;
and counts not I-know five or six
et li quens de Bar, cil haut ber,
and the count of Bar that high baron
qui fu filz au conte nomper
who was son to-the count peerless
de proëce et de hardement,
in prowess and in boldness
cil i vendra mout richement
he there will-come very richly
a grant plenté de Loherenz,
with great plenty of Lorrainers
qui bien sevent cerchier les renz;
who well know to-seek-out the ranks
et tuit li baron trusqu'au Rin.
and all the barons up-to-the Rhine

Vos verrez dedenz le matin
You will-see within the morning
maint haut home, maint bel ator
many-a high man many-a fair array
en cest chastel et ci entor,
in this castle and here around
et Hainuiers et Borguegnons.
both Hainaulters and Burgundians
Vez la ja par toz cez pignons
See there already through all these gables
de cest marchié les escuz pendre.»
of this market the shields hang
Il feroit meshui bon entendre
It would-do today good to-attend
a la viande dou disner
to the food of-the dinner
et lessier venir et aler,
and to-let come and go
que ce ne finera huimès.
for this not will-end today
Des armes a parler vos lès,
Of-the arms to speak you I-leave
qu'il fet mellor a la viande.
for-it does better at the food
Chascuns i a ce qu'il demande,
Each there has this which-he asks
sanz soshedier et sans orer.
without wishing and without praying

Durement bée a honorer
Hard he-strives to honor
ciaus qu'il amena de la cort,
those whom-he brought from the court
et acole cestui, et court
and embraces this-one and runs
puis a cestui, puis a cest autre:
then to this-one then to this other
se li uns valoit miex de l'autre,
if the one was-worth better than the-other
sil feroit il .c. tanz valoir;
so-him would-make he a-hundred times be-worth
mout se set bien as genz avoir
very himself knows well with-the folk to-bear
selonc ice que chascuns ere:
according-to this that each was
n'est pas deceü[s] l'emperere
not-is at-all deceived the-emperor
qui tel home honore et tient chier.
who such man honors and holds dear
Ainz qu'il levassent dou mengier,
Before that-they rose from-the meal
vindrent routes de totes pars,
came companies from all parts
qu'en ne cuidoit pas que li quars
that-one not thought at-all that the fourth
trovast en tels .iij. bors ostel:
might-find in such three towns lodging

onqes genz ne furent en tel
ever folk not were in such
come sont cil bon chevalier
as are those good knights
d'ostex atorner et cerchier,
of-lodgings to-arrange and to-seek
et metre hors, lez cez goutieres,
and to-put out beside these gutters
cez enseignes et cez banieres
these ensigns and these banners
por lor compaignons adrecier,
for their companions to-direct
qui vont par le borc estraier,
who go through the town straying
et huchent en haut li uns l'autre:
and call on high the one the-other
«Boidin! Boidin!» [ou] «Wautre! Wautre!»
Boidin Boidin or Walter Walter
Et Tïès chant[ent] com maufé.
And Germans sing like devils
Dex! tant i ot la nuit gasté
God so-much there had the night wasted
en outrage et en lecherie,
in excess and in gluttony
ainz que la granz chevalerie
before that the great chivalry
peüst demi estre ostelée!
could half be lodged

Jouglès, qui ot la matinée
Jouglet who had the morning
dormi a Tref come borjois,
slept at Maastricht like burgher
vint sor .j. palefroi norrois,
came upon a palfrey Norse
après le gentil bacheler;
after the noble bachelor
ne li covint pas demander,
not to-him behooved at-all to-ask
quant il vint ou borc, son ostel:
when he came into-the town his lodging
qu'il n'i ot si riche ne tel
for-it not-there was so rich nor such
ne de chevaliers ne de genz.
either of knights or of folk
Mout avoit de hustin laienz,
Much there-was of tumult therein
de hyraus, de menestereus;
of heralds of minstrels
ne sai se Deables ou Dieus
not I-know if Devil or God
lor avoit dit ou fet songier
to-them had told or made dream
l'ostel a cel bon chevalier
the-lodging of that good knight
qui tot despent et abandone:
who all spends and abandons
cel avoir qui vient de Deu done;
that wealth which comes from God given

ja voir ne li doit estre sez, 2180
ever truly not to-him ought to-be enough
car prodom a en poi assez.
for worthy-man has in little enough

The Eve of the Tournament

VIII

Jouglet reaches William's lodging hungry and complaining of the Germans he rode with. At vespers the knights ride out while a Norman bachelor sings of fair Aiglentine and Count Henry, but word that Saint George's feast is kept that night turns them back. The lodging then blazes with light and rings with carols and songs. In the morning William hears Mass with sixty knights and rides out in splendor, his shields carried like relics, and Conrad embraces him before the armies arm in the field.

Quant Jouglès monta le degré,
When Jouglet mounted the stair
ou il troeve ostel a son gré
where he finds lodging to his liking
et bacheler a sa devise,
and bachelor to his wish
qui ert en trop bele chemise, 2185
who was in exceedingly fair shirt
toz deffublez em pur le cors,
all uncloaked in bare the body
fors d'un sercot dont li ados
except of-a surcoat whereof the back
ert bendez d'orfrois d'Engleterre.
was banded with-orphrey of-England

L'en porroit ja assez loig querre
One could already enough far seek
ainçois qu'en trovast le pareil:
before that-one might-find the equal
la pene ert d'un cendal vermeil,
the lining was of-a sendal vermilion
s'ert trop bel au col herminée;
so-it-was exceedingly fair at-the neck ermined
de pesne de boutons dorée
of chest-piece of buttons gilded
avoit .j. trop beau chapelet.
he-had a exceedingly fair garland
«Avoi!» fet il, «Jouglet, Jouglet,
Hey says he Jouglet Jouglet
bele compegnie est la vostre!
fair company is the yours
Or deïssiez ja: Cist est nostre,
Now you-would-say already This-one is ours
se fussiez venuz ovoec moi.»
if you-had come with me
Le biau sorcot li moustre au doi,
The fair surcoat to-him he-shows with-the finger
qu'il cuide bien avoir sanz doute.
which-he thinks well to-have without doubt
«Qui vint ovoec toi? — Une route
Who came with thee A company
d'Alemanz, qui m'ont mort d'anui.
of-Germans who me-have killed with-boredom
Je muir de faim: ne menja[i] hui.
I die of hunger not I-ate today

Çaienz, qui me donra a boire?
Herein who to-me will-give to drink
— Voire, deable, Jouglet, voire,
Truly devil Jouglet truly
alez ovoec voz Alemanz.»
go with your Germans
.I. pasté de .ij. paons manz
A pie of two peacocks broad
fet li a doner en grant haste.
he-has to-him to give in great haste
Li alers des vespres le haste;
The going of-the vespers him hastens
qu'il s'en issent ja qui miex miex,
for-they themselves-thence go-out already who best best
que tels i a qui ont fet veus
for such there are who have made vows
qu'il ne voelent armes porter
that-they not wish arms to-bear
por le diemenche honorer;
for the Sunday to-honor
li bers Guillames est de ces.
the baron William is of these
«Montons, alons en,» fet Juglès,
Let-us-mount let-us-go thence says Jouglet
qui met l'arçon sor la vïele.
who puts the-bow upon the fiddle
Luez droit i mistrent tante sele
At-once straight there they-put so-many-a saddle
en destriers noirs, sors et baucens,
on chargers black sorrel and piebald

qu'en tret hors a mil et a cens
that-one draws out by thousands and by hundreds
des hostex sor le pavement.
from-the lodgings upon the pavement
Assez s'en issi belement.
Enough themselves-thence went-out handsomely
Uns bachelers de Normendie
A bachelor of Normandy
chevauchoit la grande chaucie;
rode the great causeway
commença cestui a chanter,
he-began this-one to sing
si la fist Jouglet vïeler:
so it had Jouglet fiddle

Bele Aiglentine, en roial chamberine,
Fair Aiglentine in royal little-chamber
devant sa dame cousoit une chemise.
before her lady sewed a shirt
* * *
(lacuna)
Ainc n'en sot mot quant bone amor l'atise.
Ever not-thereof knew word when good love her-kindles
Or orrez ja
Now you-will-hear already
comment la bele Aiglentine esploita.
how the fair Aiglentine fared

Devant sa dame cousoit et si tailloit;
Before her lady she-sewed and so cut
mès ne coust mie si com coudre soloit:
but not sews at-all so as to-sew she-was-wont
el s'entroublie, si se point en son doit.
she herself-forgets so herself pricks in her finger
La soe mere mout tost s'en aperçoit. 2235
The her mother very soon herself-thereof perceives
Or orrez ja
Now you-will-hear already
comment [la bele Aiglentine esploita].
how the fair Aiglentine fared

«Bele Aiglentine, deffublez vo surcot,
Fair Aiglentine take-off your surcoat
* * *
(lacuna)
Je voil veoir desoz vostre gent cors. 2240
I wish to-see beneath your gracious body
— Non ferai, dame, la froidure est la morz.»
Not I-will-do lady the cold is the death
Or orrez ja
Now you-will-hear already
[comment la bele Aiglentine esploita].
how the fair Aiglentine fared

«Bele Aiglentine, q'avez a empirier?
Fair Aiglentine what-have-you to worsen
Que si vos voi palir et engroissier.»
That so you I-see grow-pale and grow-big
* * *
(lacuna)
* * *
(lacuna)
[Or orrez ja
Now you-will-hear already
comment la bele Aiglentine esploita.]
how the fair Aiglentine fared

«Ma douce dame, ne le vos puis noier:
My sweet lady not it from-you I-can deny
je ai amé .j. cortois soudoier,
I have loved a courteous soldier
le preu Henri, qui tant fet a proisier.
the worthy Henry who so-much makes to praise
S'onqes m'amastes, aiez de moi pitié.»
If-ever me-you-loved have on me pity
Or orrez ja
Now you-will-hear already
comment [la bele Aiglentine esploita].
how the fair Aiglentine fared

«Bele Aiglentine, vos prendra il Henris?
Fair Aiglentine you will-take he Henry
— Ne sai voir, dame, car onqes ne li quis.
Not I-know truly lady for ever not him I-asked
* * *
(lacuna)
* * *
(lacuna)
[Or orrez ja
Now you-will-hear already
comment la bele Aiglentine esploita.]
how the fair Aiglentine fared

«Bele Aiglentine, or vos tornez de ci.
Fair Aiglentine now yourself turn from here
Tot ce li dites que ge li mant Henri,
All this to-him say that I to-him send-word Henry
s'il vos prendra ou vos lera ainsi.
if-he you will-take or you will-leave thus
— Volontiers, dame», la bele respondi.
Willingly lady the fair-one answered
Or orrez ja
Now you-will-hear already
[comment la bele Aiglentine esploita.]
how the fair Aiglentine fared

Bele Aiglentine s'est tornée de ci,
Fair Aiglentine herself-is turned from here
et est venue droit a l'ostel Henri.
and is come straight to the-house (of-)Henry
Li quens Henri[s] se gisoit en son lit.
The count Henry himself lay in his bed
Or orrez ja que la bele li dit.
Now you-will-hear already what the fair-one to-him says
Or orrez ja
Now you-will-hear already
[comment la bele Aiglentine esploita].
how the fair Aiglentine fared

«Sire Henri[s], velliez vos o dormez?
Lord Henry wake you or sleep
Ja vos requiert Aiglentine au vis cler
Already you asks Aiglentine with-the face bright
se la prendrez a mouillier et a per?
if her you-will-take for wife and for mate
— Oïl,» dit il, «onc joie n'oi mès tel.»
Yes says he ever joy not-I-had more such
Or orrez ja
Now you-will-hear already
[comment la bele Aiglentine esploita.]
how the fair Aiglentine fared

Oit le Henris, mout joianz en devint.
Hears it Henry very joyful thereat became
Il fet monter chevaliers trusqu'a .xx.,
He has mount knights up-to twenty
si enporta la bele en son païs
so carried-off the fair-one into his country
et [l']espousa, riche contesse en fist.
and her-married rich countess of-her made
Grant joie en a
Great joy thereof has
li quens Henris, quant bele Aiglentine a.
the count Henry when fair Aiglentine he-has

O flaütes et o vieles,
With flutes and with fiddles
por veoir les joustes noveles,
for to-see the jousts new
que des senez n'est or pas contes,
for of-the wise not-is now at-all account
ovoec princes et ovoec contes
with princes and with counts
de maintes diverses manieres;
of many diverse manner
si mist devant lui ses banieres,
so he-put before him his banners
o bien .lx. compaignons
with well sixty companions
de grans pris et de grant renons,
of great worth and of great renown

veoir s'il a nului as chans.
to-see if-there is anyone in-the fields
N'onqes Viviens d'Aleschans
Nor-ever Vivien of-Aliscans
ne fist .j. jor tant de sa main,
not did one day so-much with his hand
com il bée a fere demain,
as he aspires to do tomorrow
et Dex l'en prest bone vertu!
and God him-thereto may-lend good strength
Li biax sercos qu'il a vestu,
The fair surcoat which-he has put-on
ses clers vis, sa clere feture
his bright face his bright form
li fist orer bone aventure
him made wish good adventure
a maintes hautes damoiseles.
to many high damsels
Il oïrent autres noveles,
They heard other news
luès qu'il orent passé la porte,
as-soon-as that-they had passed the gate
q'uns bons chevaliers lor aporte,
which-a good knight to-them brings
toz mestres dou duc de Louvain,
all master of-the duke of Louvain
qui venoit tost corant sor frain:
who came quickly running on rein
«Que nuls n'ist hors as chans de la!
That any not-goes out to-the fields from there

— Dites nos,» font il, «qu'il i a,
Tell us say they what there is
biau sire, qu'il ne vos anuit.
fair lord so-that-it not you may-annoy
— Il est feste ou chastel anuit,»
It is feast in-the castle tonight
fet cil, «dou bon martir saint Jorge.»
says he of-the good martyr Saint George
En .j. grant champ semé tot d'orge
In a great field sown all with-barley
se sont luès tret a parlement:
themselves are at-once drawn to parley
«Il n'i a que dou belement
It not-there is but of-the gently
aler arriere,» font li conte.
going back say the counts
Et cil a cui le plus en monte
And he to whom the most it concerns
atant se sont mis ou retor;
thereupon themselves are put on-the return
li hauberc ne li bel ator
the hauberks nor the fair arrays
ne sont camoissié ne maumis.
not are bruised nor damaged
Le remegnant dou jor ont mis
The remainder of-the day they-have put
a tornoier par lor hostex;
in tourneying through their lodgings

et les viandes i sont tex
and the foods there are such
com tens le requiert et sesons,
as time it requires and season
et d'oiseaus et de venoisons;
both of-birds and of venisons
et li vin sont et aspre et cler.
and the wines are both sharp and clear
Quant vint qu'il covint alumer,
When it-came that-it behooved to-light-up
lors sambla qu'e[n] la vile arsist
then it-seemed that-in the town burned
li ostex ou Guillames sist,
the lodging where William sat
com cil qui fu fez a devise;
as that-one which was made at will
que la clarté qui i fu mise
for the brightness which there was put
s'en ist hors par tantes fenestres
itself-thence goes out through so-many windows
que li granz marchiez et li estres
that the great market and the houses
en estoit toz enluminez;
thereby were all illumined
es rues devant, es costez,
in-the streets in-front on-the sides
fesoit si cler com endroit tierce.
it-made as bright as at terce

On ne verra mès voir a piece
One not will-see more truly for a-while
un tel hostel a bacheler.
a such lodging of bachelor
Vïeles i sonent si cler,
Fiddles there sound so clear
et fleütes et estrument,
and flutes and instruments
c'on n'i peüst, mien escient,
that-one not-there could to-my knowledge
oïr Damedeu s'il tonast.
hear Lord-God if-he thundered
Qui que venist ne qui alast
Who that came nor who went
par les ostex, sachiez de voir,
through the lodgings know for truth
cil ne se voloit removoir,
he not himself wished to-remove
ainz veut que chascuns viegne au soen:
rather wishes that each come to-the his
ce li venoit moult de grant sen,
this to-him came very from great sense
qu'il veut q'en voie le barnage
for-he wishes that-one may-see the baronage
en son hostel et la grant rage
in his lodging and the great frenzy
et la grant joie q'en i maine.
and the great joy that-one there leads

Tuit li duc et tuit li demaine
All the dukes and all the lords
qui sont as ostex ou marchié
who are in-the lodgings in-the market
si ont et beü et ragié
so have both drunk and frolicked
c'onqes d'armes n'i ot paroles,
that-ever of-arms not-there was words
ainz i sont si granz les karoles
rather there are so great the carols
c'on les oit de par tot le borc.
that-one them hears from through all the town
Li biax Galerans de Lamborc,
The fair Galeran of Limburg
qui ne s'envoisa mès pieça,
who not himself-disported more for-a-while
ceste chançon i comenca:
this song there began

La jus desouz l'olive,
There down beneath the-olive
ne vos repentez mie,
not yourselves repent at-all
fontaine i sourt serie.
spring there wells serene
Puceles, carolez,
Maidens dance-the-carol

ne vos repentez mie
not yourselves repent at-all
de loiaument aimer.
of loyally loving

Ceste n'a pas .iij. tors duré
This-one not-has at-all three turns lasted
quant li fils le conte de Tré,
when the son (of-)the count of Maastricht
qui mout s'en sot bien entremetre,
who much himself-thereof knew well to-busy
commença ceste chançonete:
began this little-song

Mauberjon s'est main levée,
Mauberjon herself-is early risen
diorée,
gilded
buer i vig.
in-a-good-hour there I-came
A la fontaine est alée.
To the spring she-is gone
Or en ai dol.
Now thereof I-have grief
Diex! Diex! or demeure
God God now tarries
Mauberjons a l'eve trop...
Mauberjon at the-water too-much

Un vallez le conte de Los,
A squire (of-)the count of Looz
qui de chanter avoit le los,
who of singing had the praise
chanta après celui de Tré:
sang after him of Maastricht

Renaus et s'amie chevauche par un pré.
Renaud and his-friend rides through a meadow
Tote nuit chevauche jusq'au jor cler.
All night he-rides until-the day bright
Ja n'avrai mès joie de vos amer.
Ever not-I-shall-have more joy from you loving

Einsi s'envoisent cil genvre home.
Thus themselves-disport those young men
N'i ot si large, c'est la some,
Not-there was-one so generous this-is the sum
cui ceste feste mout ne siece.
whom this feast much not may-suit
Li quens de Bar i fu grant piece.
The count of Bar there was great while
.I. menesterel de l'empere
A minstrel of the-emperor
li dit la chançon de son frere:
to-him says the song of his brother

De Renaut de Mousson,
Of Renaud of Mousson
et de son frere Hugon,
and of his brother Hugh
et de ses compaignons,
and of his companions
qui donent les grans dons,
who give the great gifts
veult fere une chançon
wishes to-make a song
Jordains li viex bordons,
Jordan the old drone
ou tens de moustoisons....
in-the time of vintages

Mout i ot parlé de Jordain.
Much there was spoken of Jordan
«Faudra mès ce jusqu'a demain?»
Will-fail ever this until tomorrow
Fet .j. Tyois. — «Ce que sera,»
Says a German This which will-be
font il; «qui premiers s'en ira
say they who first himself-thence will-go
soit li plus cortois de la route.»
may-be the most courteous of the company
A cest mot se departi toute
At this word itself parted all
cele grant feste et cele noise.
that great feast and that noise

Jamès, en lieu ou nus d'aus voise,
Ever in place where any of-them may-go
n'orra parler q'en une nuit
not-will-hear speak that-in a night
ait en .j. ostel tel deduit.
there-be in a lodging such delight
Puis recovint parler des liz;
Then it-behooved-again to-speak of-the beds
mout en i ot de bien garniz
many thereof there were of well furnished
de biaus dras et de covertors;
with fair cloths and with coverlets
cil qui en sorent toz les tors
those who thereof knew all the turns
les font sanz noise et sanz dangier;
them make without noise and without hindrance
puis si vont lor segnors couchier.
then so go their lords to-bed
Quant la nuis fu auques alée,
When the night was somewhat gone
au matin fu la matinée
at-the morning was the morning
com en esté clere et serie,
as in summer bright and serene
et quant la grant chevalerie
and when the great chivalry
fu levée par le chastel,
was risen through the castle

cez lances, ou li penoncel
these lances where the pennons
sont atachié par majestire,
are attached by mastery
et ces escuz fist metre en tire
and these shields he-had put in row
hors des fenestres sor la rue,
out of-the windows over the street
si que la vile et la veüe
so that the town and the view
en amenda bien les .iij. pars.
thereby improved well the three parts
Il ne monta mie soi quars
He not mounted at-all himself fourth
quant il dut aler au moustier,
when he was-to go to-the minster
car bien .lx. chevalier,
for well sixty knights
acesmez de riches conrois,
adorned with rich equipages
sont ovoec sor biax palefrois,
are with-him upon fair palfreys
.ij. et .ij. avant et en coste.
two and two in-front and at side
Uns vallès qui fu fils son oste,
A squire who was son (of-)his host
qui li baille qanqu'il demande,
who to-him hands whatever-he asks
vet après por doner offrande,
goes after for to-give offering

et quant il ont oï la messe,
and when they have heard the mass
q'uns chapelains d'une abeesse
which-a chaplain of-an abbess
lor a mout bel chantée et dite
to-them has very fair sung and said
en l'onor de saint Esperite,
in the-honor of Holy Spirit
lors s'en revindrent as ostex.
then themselves-thence came-back to-the lodgings
As eschançons font et as keus
To-the cupbearers they-make and to-the cooks
luès demander sanz delaier
at-once ask without delaying
vins et viande a tournoier.
wines and food for tourneying
Mout i ot poi mengié et sis,
Very there was little eaten and sat
quant cez batailles .v. et .vj.
when these battalions five and six
s'en issent ja a granz tropiax;
themselves-thence go-out already in great troops
car li hustins et li cembiax
for the tumult and the skirmish
ert commenciez, grant piece avoit,
was begun great while it-had
quant mis sires Guillames voit
when my lord William sees
ses compegnons et sa mesnie,
his companions and his household

qui tienent bien une traitie
who hold well a stretch
dou marchié et dou pavement,
of-the market and of-the pavement
car, por ses lances solement
for for his lances only
porter, sont il .vij.xx. vallet;
to-carry are there seven-score squires
n'i a celui n'ait chapelet.
not-there is one not-may-have garland
Assez i ot des autres genz;
Enough there were of-the other folk
menesterex et estrumenz
minstrels and instruments
et flaütes i font grant noise.
and flutes there make great noise
«Dex li croisse a foi et aoise
God to-him may-increase in faith and augment
s'onor!» fet chascuns et chascune.
his-honor says each and each
Cil qui lor baillent une et une,
Those who to-them hand one and one
dont il i avoit ne sai quanz,
whereof it there were not I-know how-many
si donent a chascun blans ganz
so give to each white gloves
et corroie fresche et novele:
and belt fresh and new
ceste cortoisie fu bele,
this courtesy was fair

et s'en parlerent mainte gent.
and so-thereof spoke many-a folk
Il s'atirierent belement,
They themselves-arrayed handsomely
.ij. et .ij., tuit li .j. lez l'autre,
two and two all the one beside the-other
la lance painte sor le fautre.
the lance painted upon the rest
Et ses banieres sont derriere,
And his banners are behind
et .iij. destriers d'une maniere,
and three chargers of-one manner
chascuns covert de coverture,
each covered with covering
ce sachiez bien, dont la feture
this know well whereof the making
de ses armes et li orfrois
of his arms and the orphreys
cousta .c. s. de couloignois.
cost a-hundred shillings of Cologne-money
Après vindrent si bel escu:
After came his fair shields
tuit cil qui onqes ont vescu
all those who ever have lived
n'en virent nul a tel honor,
not-thereof saw any in such honor
car .iij. baron l'empereor
for three barons (of-)the-emperor
les portent par les piz en haut;
them carry by the breasts on high

si ert chascuns en .j. bliaut
so was each in a tunic
toz deffublez em pur le cors.
all uncloaked in bare the body
Se ce fust cors sains ou tresors,
If this were body holy or treasure
ses portoit l'en mout richement.
so-them carried one very richly
A tel honor, si fetement,
In such honor so made
ist li prodons de son ostel;
goes-out the worthy-man from his lodging
a tornoiement n'avoit tel
at tournament not-there-was such
palefroi com estoit li soens:
palfrey as was the his
qu'il estoit plus blans en toz sens
for-it was more white in all senses
que ne soit nule noiz negie.
than — may-be any snow snowed
La sambue estoit detrenchie
The saddle-cloth was slashed
de samit vermeil jusqu'en terre:
of samite vermilion down-to ground
plus bele riens n'estovoit querre,
more fair thing not-behooved to-seek
que li blans ert de la rougeur.
for the white was of the redness
Cil qui einsi porchace honor,
He who thus pursues honor

s'il l'a, ge ne m'en merveil point,
if-he it-has I not myself-thereat marvel at-all
il n'avoit vestu q'un porpoint
he not-had put-on but-a doublet
fors sa cote a armer, desus
except his tunic for arming above
un chapelet de flors sanz plus,
a garland of flowers without more
ce sachiez, qui mout l'amenda.
this know which much him-improved
Il monte, si se commanda
He mounts so himself commended
a Dieu, qui le destort de honte!
to God who him turns-aside from shame
A grant joie et a grant temonte
With great joy and with great clamor
s'en vet et ses genz après lui,
himself-thence goes and his folk after him
le petit passet, dui et dui,
the little pace two and two
come moine a procession.
like monks in procession
Et Jouglès chante la chançon
And Jouglet sings the song
entre lui et Aigret de Grame:
between him and Aigret of Grame

La gieus desoz la raime,
There down beneath the branch
einsi doit aler qui aime.
thus ought to-go who loves
Clere i sort la fontaine.
Clear there wells the spring
Ya!
Ya
Einsi doit aler qui bele amie a.....
Thus ought to-go who fair friend has

Ainz que ceste chançon faussist,
Before that this song failed
dui damoisel qui mout bien sist,
two young-men who very well suited
neveu au segnor de Dinant,
nephews to-the lord of Dinant
recommencent el chief devant:
begin-again in-the head before

Sor la rive de mer,
Upon the shore of sea
mignotement alez,
daintily go
un baut i ot levé.
a dance there had-one raised
Mignoz sui.
Dainty I-am
Alez mignotement dui et dui...
Go daintily two and two

Mout i avoit genz sans anui
Very-many there were folk without trouble
monté as soliers et as estres;
mounted on-the upper-rooms and on-the houses
sus les portes et as fenestres
on the gates and at-the windows
ot dames de grant segnorie;
there-were ladies of great lordship
qu'en tote la chastelerie
for-in all the castellany
n'avoit dame bele ne jone;
not-there-was lady fair nor young
neis les damoiseles de Done
not-even the damsels of Donne
i sont venues en charretes,
there are come in carts

d'autres flors que de violetes
of-other flowers than of violets
i ot chapelez plus de mil.
there were garlands more than thousand
«A! Dex!» fet l'une, «qui est cil
Ah God says the-one who is he
a la cote de mustadole?» 2530
in the tunic of mustard-cloth
— C'est li biaus Guillames de Dole,»
This-is the fair William of Dole
fet l'autre, «li bons chevaliers.
says the-other the good knight
Mout le doit amer volentiers
Much him ought to-love willingly
cele qui de lui est amée:
she who by him is loved
mout est dame boneürée 2535
very is lady fortunate
qui de si prodome a le cuer!
who of so worthy-man has the heart
— Cist a passé Graale[nt] muer,»
This-one has surpassed Graelent the-molted
font cil; et celes qui le voient
say those and those who him see
des cuers et des iex le convoient,
with-the hearts and with-the eyes him they-escort
tant com la grant rue lor dure. 2540
as-long as the great street to-them lasts
Or oez estrange aventure,
Now hear strange adventure

que Dex li croist adès honor.
for God to-him increases ever honor
Atant ez vos l'empereor
Thereupon behold you the-emperor
qui vient, ferant des esperons,
who comes striking with-the spurs
et voit la joie et oit les sons
and sees the joy and hears the sounds
des flaütes et des vïeles,
of-the flutes and of-the fiddles
et voit que dames et puceles
and sees that ladies and maidens
le resgardent de lor biaus iex:
him look-at with their fair eyes
«Mout se puet or cist amer miex,»
Much himself can now this-one love better
fet il en son cuer, «que maint autre.»
says he in his heart than many-a other
Il hurte tant, triez .j. triez autre,
He thrusts so-long behind one behind other
qu'il li gete les braz au col.
that-he to-him throws the arms at-the neck
Fet il: «Guillame, par saint Pol!
Says he William by Saint Paul
Bien vos estes vers moi celez!»
Well you are toward me hidden
Lors par fu il si honorez
Then much was he so honored
qu'il n'est rien qui li soffrainzist.
that-there not-is thing which to-him might-be-lacking

A cele grant honor s'en ist
In that great honor himself-thence goes-out
de la porte lez son segnor;
from the gate beside his lord
et quant les genz l'empereor
and when the folk (of-)the-emperor
sont issues de la champaigne
are come-out from the open-country
et li haut baron d'Alemaigne,
and the high barons of-Germany
lors veïssiez maint bel conroi
then you-would-have-seen many-a fair troop
et maint cheval de grant desroi,
and many-a horse of great fury
mainte ensegne, mainte baniere.
many-a ensign many-a banner
Assez plus d'une lieue entiere
Much more than-a league whole
en sont tuit li champ emblaé.
thereby are all the fields covered
Vers une [en]garde, en .j. biau blé
Toward a watch-post in a fair grain
qui estoit biaus et vers et druz,
which was fair and green and thick
est cil Guillames descenduz.
is that William dismounted
Si compegnon et sa mesnie,
His companions and his household
chascuns a sa lance fichie;
each has his lance planted

et si sont si bel arrengiez
and so are so fair ranged
que plus dura de .ij. archiez
that more lasted than two bowshots
li rens de lonc, mien escient.
the rank in length to-my knowledge
En .lx. lieus ou en cent,
In sixty places or in hundred
veïssiez destrousser somiers,
you-would-have-seen unpack pack-horses
et fraimbaus noviaus et entiers
and purses new and whole
par terre sor chapes escourre,
on ground upon capes shake-out
et haubers hors glacier et courre,
and hauberks out slide and run
et fetices chauces mout blanches.
and well-made hose very white
Li un aportent fil a manches;
The ones bring thread for sleeves
cist i ratachent espaullieres.
these there tie-again shoulder-pieces
Et lor segnor endementieres
And their lords meanwhile
si s'entrevont entr'acointant;
so themselves-go each-other-acquainting
vos i oïssiez dire tant:
you there would-have-heard say so-much
wilecome! et Godehere!
welcome and God-sir

Et en .c. lieus crier q'afere
And in a-hundred places cry what-there-is-to-do
cengle, sorcengle, laz a heaume.
girth surcingle lace for helmet
A armer mon segnor Guillame,
In arming my lord William
ce sachiez, ot grant majestire:
this know there-was great mastery
si fu biaus, n'i ot que redire.
so he-was fair not-there was what to-say-again

The Tournament at Saint-Trond

IX

The emperor and the count of Looz watch the French ride up, and William rides out with sixty companions and a crowd of heralds. He unhorses a Fleming in the first joust and wins seven chargers in eight jousts. He overthrows Michael of Harnes and frees him, and the battle swells as the French, Lorrainers, and the count of Boulogne join. William's fight with Eudes of Ronquerolles shatters both lances. At night the emperor pays the ransoms, and William gives away all his winnings.

Quant il ot son heaume lacié,
When he had his helmet laced
il a en son mis et drecié
he has on top put and raised
.i. penon des armes le roi.
a pennon of-the arms (of-)the king
Li quens de Cleve a grant desroi,
The count of Cleves with great fury
qui se hasta d'aler premiers,
who himself hastened to-go first

s'en vet ja .cc. chevaliers
himself-thence goes already two-hundred knights
assambler toz les granz galoz.
to-join-battle all the great gallops
L'emperere et li quens d'Aloz
The-emperor and the count of-Looz
aloient cez veoir de la,
went these to-see from there
les François, qui venoient ja
the French who came already
tuit armé, serré, et rengié.
all armed close and ranged
Se ne remaint par lor pechié,
If not remains by their sin
ou se Dex de gré ne lor nuist,
or if God by will not to-them does-harm
ainçois que ce viegne a la nuit,
before that this may-come to the night
erent tuit cil d'armes lassé
will-be all those with-arms wearied
qui a bien fere ont lor pensé;
who on well doing have their thought
car li aferes s'i atorne.
for the affair itself-there turns
Cil qui n'a pas la chiere morne
He who not-has at-all the face gloomy
ne le biau vis caleboté,
nor the fair face blotched
quant si compegnon sont monté,
when his companions are mounted

et il en .j. de ses destriers,
and he on one of his chargers
covert et devant et detriers
covered both before and behind
de covertures enterines:
with coverings whole
«Or alons veoir lor covines,
Now let-us-go see their plans
et s'est bien resons que ge lès
and so-it-is well reason that I leave
de mes lances et mon harnès.»
of my lances and my harness
.XXX. en fist prendre, sanz plus, luès,
Thirty thereof he-had taken without more at-once
et met l'escu au col tot noef
and puts the-shield at-the neck all new
par la bele guige d'orfrois.
by the fair strap of-orphrey
Lors s'en est issuz demanois;
Then himself-thence is gone-out at-once
si fiert cheval des esperons;
so strikes horse with-the spurs
o tot .lx. compegnons
with all sixty companions
toz armez, les heaumes laciez,
all armed the helmets laced
les penons au vent desploiez,
the pennons to-the wind unfurled
s'en vet vers le tornoiement,
himself-thence goes toward the tournament

et hyraut après lui tex .c.,
and heralds after him such hundred
quil font a merveille esgarder;
who make at marvel to-look-at
et tuit dient: «Car lai aler,
and all say Now let go
c'est Guillames de Dole, queles!»
this-is William of Dole what
A flaütes et a freteles
With flutes and with pipes
l'ont einsi mené jusqu'au renc.
him-have thus led up-to-the rank
Il garde, si voit .j. Flamenc
He looks so sees a Fleming
qui ot por jouster l'escu pris.
who had for jousting the-shield taken
Ha! Dex! de tant baron de pris
Ah God by so-many baron of worth
fu resgardée cele jouste!
was looked-at that joust
* * *
(lacuna)
Ou chief dou renc o sa grant route.
At-the head of-the rank with his great company
Il a l'escu bouté dou coute,
He has the-shield thrust with-the elbow
et l'enarme li saut dou poig,
and the-strap to-him leaps from-the hand

et lesse corre de si loig
and lets run from so far
com il le puet as oils veoir.
as he it can with-the eyes see
Or sachiez de fi et de voir
Now know for certain and for truth
que cil le feri durement:
that he him struck hard
il ne li ront ne ne desment 2645
he not to-him breaks nor not unmails
le hauberc ne le wambison,
the hauberk nor the gambeson
ainz li met parmi le blazon,
rather to-him puts through the blazon
une toise et fer et fust;
a fathom both iron and wood
se Dex en s'aïde ne fust,
if God in his-aid not were
bien li peüst avoir fet plaie. 2650
well to-him he-could have made wound
Or sachiez bien qu'il li repaie
Now know well that-he to-him repays
.i. cop qui n'est pas d'aprentiz:
a blow which not-is at-all of-apprentice
il le fiert haut enmi le pis
he him strikes high amid the breast
de la fort lance qui est painte;
with the strong lance which is painted

si le bouta a cele empainte
so him thrust with that shove
qu'il le porta jus dou destrier.
that-he him carried down from-the charger
Fet Juglès: «Dole! chevalier!
Says Jouglet Dole knight
C'est Guillames, aporte bos!»
This-is William bring wood
Et si compagnon corent lors
And his companions run then
tuit ensamble com estornel;
all together like starlings
par force mout fort et isnel
by force very strong and swift
l'ont outré et fet fiancier,
him-have overcome and made pledge
et lor sire a pris le destrier,
and their lord has taken the charger
celui dou Liege le borjois;
that-one from-the Liège the burgher
cil de Valecort et d'Artois
those of Walincourt and of-Artois
deschargent trestuit sor cez hoès.
unload all upon these hosts
Et cil Guillames remuet loés
And that William moves-again then
a ciauz trestoz a encontrer,
toward those all to meet
et fist le cheval tost aler;
and had the horse quickly go

mès ainz qu'il en ait .j. feru,
but before that-he thereof may-have one struck
q'en sa testiere q'en l'escu,
both-on his headstall both-on the-shield
l'en fierent ne sai .vij. ou .viij.
him-thereon strike not I-know seven or eight
Il ne failli mie, ce cuit,
He not failed at-all this I-think
ainz a son cop bien emploié,
rather has his blow well employed
et fiert en haut a demi pié
and strikes on high at half foot
sor le nasel tot le premier,
upon the nasal all the first
q'a terre le fet trebuschier;
so-that-to ground him he-makes tumble
tant come lance li dura,
as-long as lance to-him lasted
tant granz cops il i endura,
so great blows he there endured
ainçois qu'il se parlessast prendre.
before that-he himself let-pass be-taken
Il ne le bée mie a rendre,
He not him aspires at-all to give-back
ainçois [l']envoie a Sainteron
rather him-sends to Saint-Trond
chiez son oste tenir prison,
at-the-house-of his host to-hold prison
et Jouglez en ot le destrier.
and Jouglet thereof had the charger

Mout par sont dur a acointier
Very much they-are hard to befriend
li compegnon celui Guillame.
the companions (of-)that-one William
Tant i ot escu et tant heaume
So-many there were shield and so-many helmet
embarré, copé et fendu,
staved cut and split
que par force i ont retenu
that by force there they-have retained
des Artisiens .v. a cel poindre.
of-the Artesians five at that charge
Nus nes puet percier ne desjoindre,
Any not-them can pierce nor disjoin
si se tienent serré et clos
so themselves hold close and shut
cil chevalier devers Alos,
those knights toward Looz
cil Walencort et cil Bailluès.
those Walincourt and those Bailleul
Cil Guillames avoit fet luès
That William had made then
.viii. joustes trestotes entires,
eight jousts wholly whole
si que l'empereres ses sires
so that the-emperor his lord
les avoit totes .viij. veües;
them had all eight seen

et s'en i ot teuls .vij. eües
and so-thereof there had such seven had
ou il gaaigna .vij. destriers.
where he won seven chargers
Il se tenoit mout volentiers
He himself held very willingly
tot adès ou cler par dehors;
all ever in-the clear by outside
mout queroit paraument son los;
much be-sought equally his praise
si paroit bien a son escu:
so appeared well by his shield
si l'a si traué et fendu
so it-has so pierced and split
qu'il n'en avoit, ovoec la guige,
that-he not-thereof had with the strap
plaine paume d'entier, ce quit ge.
full palm of-whole this think I
Queq'en li rebailloit .j. autre,
While-one to-him handed-again an other
il voit venir, lance sor fautre,
he sees come lance upon rest
celui le bon Michiel de Harnes,
that-one (of-)the good Michael of Harnes
et tint l'escu par les enarmes,
and held the-shield by the straps
qu'il n'entent s'a la jouste non.
for-he not-attends except-to the joust not
Il embrace luès le blason,
He embraces at-once the blazon

et si ra pris lance novele,
and so has-again taken lance new
et vet plus tost q'une arondele,
and goes more quickly than-a swallow
l'escu devant mis en chantel.
the-shield in-front put in slant
Cil Michiex revenoit mout bel
That Michael came-back very fair
sor .j. mout biau destrier tot ver,
upon a very fair charger all gray
qui n'avoit point de poil d'yver;
which not-had a-whit of hair of-winter
mout le portoit grant aleüre.
much him carried great pace
Cil Michiex le fiert a droiture
That Michael him strikes with directness
haut en l'escu, parmi la pene,
high on the-shield through the lining
près dou col a demie espane,
near of-the neck at half span
en mout mal lieu soz la forcele.
in very bad place under the breastbone
Espoir tost en vuidast la sele,
Perhaps soon thereof he-would-have-emptied the saddle
quant la lance froissa en .ij.;
when the lance shattered in two
cil Guillames l'en [re]fiert deus
that William him-thereof strikes-again two
d'une grosse lance poignal,
with-a big lance of-the-fist

qui ert plus roide d'un tinal,
which was more stiff than-a beam
parmi l'escu, sor la poitrine:
through the-shield upon the breast
a lui hurte[nt] de tel ravine
against him crash with such violence
li chevaliers et li chevax
the knight and the horse
que les cengles et li poitrax
that the girths and the breast-strap
rompent com une viez lasniere,
break like an old thong
si qu'il l'emporta par derriere,
so that-he him-carried-away by behind
tot droit en estant sor sa sele.
all straight in standing upon his saddle
Mout est ceste aventure bele,
Very is this adventure fair
q'en li torna a mout grant force.
for-it to-him turned with very great force
De guenchir erraument s'efforce,
Of turning at-once he-strives
tant qu'il tint par le frain Vairon;
so-long that-he held by the bridle Vairon
sel dona lors a .j. prison
so-it gave then to a prisoner
de la meson l'empereor.
of the house (of-)the-emperor

«Mout set bien amis et honor
Very knows well friends and honor
purchacier,» fet li emperere
to-win says the emperor
a un baron qui lez lui ere;
to a baron who beside him was
«Certes Rollanz nel valut onques:
Certainly Roland not-him was-worth ever
c'est li rubiz, li escharboncles
this-is the ruby the carbuncle
de toz ciauz que orendroit voie.
of all those whom now I-may-see
Vez com tuit li vuident la voie,
See how all to-him empty the way
que nus ne puet avant lui vivre.»
for any not can before him live
Il rendi tot cuite et delivre
He rendered all quit and free
celui Michiel, quant il l'ot pris,
that Michael when he him-had taken
por croistre s'onor et son pris:
for to-increase his-honor and his worth
tot sot quanque prodom dut fere.
all he-knew whatever worthy-man ought to-do
Champenois, de si grant afere
Champenois of so great importance
com il sont et de si grant pris,
as they are and of so great worth
et François, toz les escuz pris,
and French all the shields taken

se fierent loés droit en l'estor;
themselves struck then straight into the-fray
Alemanz de trop riche ator,
Germans of exceedingly rich array
et les genz le duc de Saissoigne,
and the folk (of-)the duke of Saxony
sanz delai et sanz nule aloigne,
without delay and without any putting-off
se refierent de l'autre part.
themselves strike-again from the-other part
Hé! Diex! tant granz cops i depart
Ah God so-many great blows there deals
cil Guillames entre .ij. routes,
that William between two companies
la ou cez batailles trestotes
there where these battalions all
vindrent ensamble au poigneïz!
came together at-the charge
Mout fut granz li abateïz
Very was great the overthrowing
as durs encontres que il firent;
in-the hard encounters which they made
a prendre ceuz qui i chaïrent
in taking those who there fell
si ot mainte dure mellée.
so there-was many-a hard melee
Loherenc, tote une valée,
Lorrainers all a valley
vindrent criant: Au bar! au bar!
came crying To-the Bar to-the Bar

Ja, par saint Nicholas dou Bar,
Ever by Saint Nicholas of-the Bar
qui ce ne vit mès ne verra.
who this not saw more not will-see
Li quens de Boloigne, qui ra
The count of Boulogne who has-again
chevaliers de trop grant atour,
knights of exceedingly great array
o .vij.xx. en vint en l'estor,
with seven-score thence came into the-fray
qui tuit crient: As frains! as frains!
who all cry To-the bridles to-the bridles
Or sachiez que li deerrains
Now know that the last
s'amast mout devant as premiers.
himself-would-have-loved much in-front with-the first
Cil Guillames se tint detriers,
That William himself held behind
qui bien conoist iteuls paroles;
who well knows such words
il voit celui de Ronqueroles,
he sees him of Ronquerolles
Oedin, qui venoit toz premiers.
Eudes who came all first
Hé! Dex! com est durs ciz mestiers,
Ah God how is hard this craft
et sont sage cil qui l'esloignent!
and are wise those who it-keep-far
Cil dui bon chevalier resoignent,
Those two good knights dread

de si loig com il s'entrevoient,
from as far as they each-other-see
que les lances froissent et ploient
that the lances shatter and bend
dont il se sont entreferru,
whereof they themselves are struck-each-other
si que chascuns en son escu
so that each in his shield
emporte .j. tronçon d'une toise.
carries-away a stump of-a fathom
Trop feïst la nuit que cortoise,
Too-much would-do the night than courteous
s'el venist qes desassamblast.
if-she came who-them might-separate
Qui i fust, mout bien li samblast
Who there were very well to-him it-would-seem
que ce fust gieus de charpentiers.
that this were game of carpenters
Il ne se lessent pas entiers
They not themselves leave at-all whole
les escuz ne les gamboisons:
the shields nor the gambesons
par espaulles et par girons
by shoulders and by skirts
les ont derompuz et trenchiez.
them have broken and cut
Cil cheval, lor frains par les piez,
Those horses their bridles by the feet
s'en vont par les chans estraier.
themselves-thence go through the fields straying

Tant peüst iloec gaaignier
So-much could there gain
qui s'en seüst apenser, Diex!
who himself-thereof might-know bethink God
L'en ne vit, puis les Macabiex,
One not saw since the Maccabees
genz si granz cops doner sor heaume;
folk so great blows give upon helmet
car de l'empire et dou roiaume
for of the-empire and of-the kingdom
i ert venuz toz li orguieuls.
there was come all the pride
Après none li biaus soleuls
After nones the fair sun
tret a vespres, si bessa luès;
draws to vespers so lowered then
lors veïssiez a ces hireus
then you-would-have-seen to these heralds
de totes parz mener prisons.
from all parts lead prisoners
Mout ont gaaignié a fuisons
Much they-have gained in abundances
d'une part, et d'autre perdu.
on-one part and on-other lost
Si se sont le jor combatu
So themselves are the day fought
li François a ceuls d'Avalterre,
the French with those of-Avalterre

q'onc ne porent li .j. conquerre
that-ever not could the ones conquer
sor les autres de terre .j. dor.
upon the others of land a finger
Mout i honorerent cel jor
Much there honored that day
Alemant lor empereor;
Germans their emperor
François i ront mout fet d'onor
French there have-again much done of-honor
a la segnorie de France.
to the lordship of France
Sanz maugré, sans male voellance
Without ill-will without bad wishing
se departirent par la nuit,
themselves parted by the night
si com l'en fet de tel deduit,
so as one does of such sport
li un lié, li autre dolent.
the ones glad the others grieving
Bien set comment est a tel gent
Well knows how it-is to such folk
cil qui a de tel mal geü.
he who has of such ill lain
L'empereres, qui ot veü
The-emperor who had seen
le tornoiement dusqu'as vespres,
the tournament until-the vespers
par le conseil de ses granz mestres,
by the counsel of his great masters

s'en parti por .j. son afere.
himself-thence parted for a his affair
Ses hauz cuers li fist la nuit fere
His high heart him made the night do
une honor et une vaillance
an honor and a valor
dont ses pris monta mout en France:
whereby his worth rose much in France
qu'il envoia ses seneschaus
for-he sent his seneschals
d'une part et d'autre as chevax
on-one side and on-other with-the horses
qui portent argent et avoir,
which carry silver and wealth
por fere les gages ravoir
for to-make the pledges have-back
a trestoz ceuls qui[l] voudrent prendre.
to all those who-it wished to-take
N'est or rois qui osast emprendre,
Not-is now king who would-dare undertake-it
qui [miex] ne vouzist estre ars,
who better not would-wish to-be burned
que bien cousta .x. mile mars,
for well it-cost ten thousand marks
et encor en parole on.
and yet thereof speaks one
Quar cil haut conte, cil baron
For those high counts those barons
s'en ralerent a lor hosteuls,
themselves-thence went-back to their lodgings

si batu et si dolereus,
so beaten and so grieving
et prison privé et estrange,
and prisoner private and foreign
qui la nuit se frotent au lange,
who the night themselves rub with-the wool
chascuns un gamboison vestu,
each a gambeson worn
qu'il orent tot a net perdu
for-they had all at clean lost
et lor chevax et lor harnuès.
both their horses and their harness
Cil qui ot les .iij. escuz nuès
He who had the three shields new
de Dole, q'en claime Guillame,
of Dole whom-one calls William
mout lor a chier vendu son heaume;
very to-them has dear sold his helmet
mès il l'a mout chier comparé,
but he it-has very dear paid-for
ce qu'il l'avoit si honoré,
this that-he it-had so honored
qu'il en ot bien esté batuz.
for-he thereby had well been beaten
Quant il fu arriere venuz,
When he was back come
a l'ostel camoissiez et mas,
to the-lodging bruised and weary
l'en le resgarde de .c. pars;
one him looks-at from a-hundred parts

q'a Sainteron n'ot remés' ame,
for-at Saint-Trond not-had remained soul
borjois ne pucele ne dame,
burgher nor maiden nor lady
qui ne fust venuz a la porte
who not were come to the gate
por veoir que chascuns aporte.
for to-see what each brings
Cil ne raporta se bien non,
He not brought-back except good not
qu'il n'ot q'un povre gamboison;
for-he not-had but-a poor gambeson
il estoit toz desarmez luès,
he was all disarmed then
qu'il ot tot doné as hireus,
for-he had all given to-the heralds
et ses armes et ses chevaus.
both his arms and his horses
Alixandres ne Percevaus
Alexander nor Perceval
n'orent tant d'onor en .j. jor:
not-had so-much of-honor in one day
«Vez la celui au grant ator,
See there him with-the great array
qui ci passa gehui matin,»
who here passed this-day morning
fet l'une; «or vient sor .j. roncin;
says the-one now he-comes upon a nag
s'a mout camoissié son biau vis.»
so-he-has much bruised his fair face

Fet l'autre: «Il m'est bien avis
Says the-other It to-me-is well opinion
que c'est il, vez la sa baniere.»
that this-is he see there his banner
Solement por sa simple chiere
Only for his simple face
l'ont ne sai quantes aamé.
him-have not I-know how-many loved
Mout l'ont belement salué
Very him-have handsomely greeted
tuit cil et celes qui l'esgardent.
all those and those who him-look-at
Il samble que cil hostel ardent
It seems that those lodgings burn
des tortiz q'en i a espris.
from-the torches which-one there has lit
Cil conte, cil baron de pris
Those counts those barons of worth
descendirent par cez osteuls
dismounted through these lodgings
et lor compegnon ovoec euls,
and their companions with them
o tot grant plenté de prisons,
with all great plenty of prisoners
qui n'ont plus que les gamboisons
who not-have more than the gambesons
de harnois ovoec les chemises.
of harness with the shirts

Il troverent les napes mises
They found the cloths laid
et les bons vins et la viande
and the good wines and the food
tele com chascuns la demande,
such as each it asks
ceuz qui a fere l'ont empris.
those who to do it-have undertaken
Eve chaude i fu de grant pris
Water hot there was of great worth
por laver les camois des cols,
for to-wash the bruises of-the necks
ou il ont eü de grant couls,
where they have had of great blows
et por laver les biaus visages.
and for to-wash the fair faces
Cil Guillames, li preuz, li sages,
That William the worthy the wise
après le laver s'est assis;
after the washing himself-is seated
et si compegnon autresi,
and his companions likewise
qui font bele chiere, et si hoste,
who make fair face and his hosts
qui voient seoir a sa coste
who see sit at his side
a cel souper .xv. prisons,
at that supper fifteen prisoners
dont il avront les raençons,
whereof they will-have the ransoms

s'il ne sont rendu par proiere.
if-they not are rendered by prayer
Mout fu de mains joie maniere
Very was of less joy manner
cele nuit que cele devant;
that night than that before
tote nuit i sont sorvenant
all night there are arriving
chevalier, baron d'autre terre,
knights barons of-other land
qui lor compegnons vienent querre
who their companions come to-seek
por raiempre ou por ostagier.
for to-ransom or for to-give-hostages
Sachiez, li prodoms a plus chier,
Know the worthy-man has more dear
de ceuz qu'il a a sa main pris,
of those whom-he has with his hand taken
que s'onor i soit et son pris,
that his-honor there be and his worth
ce sachiez, qu'il les raensist;
this know that-he them ransomed
onques prodom riens ne l'en quist
ever worthy-man anything not him-thereof asked
de ses prisons qu'il n'en feïst:
of his prisoners that-he not-thereof would-do
au gré de tot le mont en fist.
to-the liking of all the world thereof he-did

The Emperor's Proposal

x

The emperor's generosity saves many from ruin, and William returns to court poorer and much honored. Riding toward Cologne, Conrad takes William aside, learns his sister's name, and announces that he means to marry her. William protests that the barons would never accept the match, but Conrad will bind them by a gift at the parliament of Mainz before he names his bride. William offers his joined hands in homage, and at Cologne letters summoning the barons go out sealed in gold.

De Sainteron la matinée,
From Saint-Trond the morning
mout fust la chose mal alée,
very would-be the thing ill gone
ne fust li sens l'empereor;
not were the sense (of-)the-emperor
que tex s'en parti a honor
for such himself-thence parted with honor
qui s'en alast mout povrement
who himself-thence would-have-gone very poorly
lendemain dou tournoiement;
the-next-day of-the tournament
s'eüst Damedeu renoié,
if-he-had Lord-God denied
que borjois i sont mal paié,
for burghers there are ill paid
et lor osteus raiens et pris;
and their lodgings ransomed and taken

a grant paine quierent lor pris
with great pain seek their price
prodome de païs en autre:
worthy-men from country into other
et que volez? ne puet estre autre.
and what will-you not can be other
Cis plez a duré longuement.
This plea has lasted long
A celui grant tornoiement
At that great tournament
essauça mout son bon renon
exalted much his good renown
l'empereres, li bons prodom;
the-emperor the good worthy-man
combien qu'il i ait d'avoir mis,
however-much that-he there may-have of-wealth put
mout en a conquis hauz amis,
much thereby he-has won high friends
et de son regne et de l'autrui.
both of his realm and of others
Ne vos avroie conté hui
Not to-you I-would-have told today
coment chascuns ot esploitié.
how each had fared
Par biaus dons, en bone amistié,
By fair gifts in good friendship
se desparti de ses borjois
himself parted from his burghers
cil Guillames, li trés cortois,
that William the very courteous

qu'il nel seüst autrement fere.
for-he not-it knew otherwise to-do
Si renvoia a son repere
So he-sent-back to his dwelling
et ses genz et ses compegnons,
both his folk and his companions
riches de gaains et de dons;
rich with gains and with gifts
puis est a cort arrier venuz,
then he-is to court back come
a mains d'avoir, et bien batuz,
with less of-wealth and well beaten
qu'il n'en parti le jor devant.
than-he not-thence parted the day before
Ne cuidiez pas que il s'en vant
Not think at-all that he himself-thereof may-boast
de l'onor qu'il a puis eüe.
of the-honor which-he has since had
Grant joie ont fet de sa venue
Great joy they-have made of his coming
totes les genz l'empereor.
all the folk (of-)the-emperor
Il li refet si grant honor
He to-him does-in-turn so great honor
que ne li puet pas estre sez
that not to-him can at-all be enough
chose qu'il li face d'assez,
thing that-he to-him may-do of-enough
tant l'aime il et tant le tient chier.
so-much him-loves he and so-much him holds dear

Au matin sont por chevauchier
At-the morning they-are for riding
monté, si s'en vont vers Couloigne.
mounted so themselves-thence go toward Cologne
Ne veut mès fere plus d'aloigne
Not he-wishes more to-make more of-delay
qu'il ne li die sa pensée;
that-he — to-him may-tell his thought
que tant estoit la chose alée
for so-far was the thing gone
qu'il set bien qu'il est trop prodom;
that-he knows well that-he is exceedingly worthy
si set par ceuls de sa meson
so he-knows by those of his house
qu'il est trop haus hom de lignage;
that-he is exceedingly high man of lineage
s'il n'avoit fors son vasselage,
if-he not-had except his valor
s'ert il bien dignes d'un roiaume:
so-would-be he well worthy of-a kingdom
«Ça, venez, mon segnor Guillame,»
Here come my lord William
fet il, «je voeil a vos parler.»
says he I wish with you to-speak
Il lessent la grant route aler;
They let the great company go
si se sont hors dou chemin tret;
so themselves are out of-the road drawn

par mout biauz moz li a retret
by very fair words to-him he-has related
de paroles .j. biau sarmon.
of words a fair sermon
Fet il: «Ja m'a dit .j. haus hom
Says he Already me-has told a high man
que vos avez une seror
that you have a sister
qui bien est d'une grant honor
who well is of-a great honor
digne, se Dex li amenoit.
worthy if God to-her brought-it
— Sire,» fet il luès, «s'el l'avoit,
Lord says he at-once if-she it-had
nuls n'en seroit plus liez de moi.
any not-thereof would-be more glad than me
— Fet li rois: «Par l'ame de moi,
Says the king By the-soul of me
l'en m'a dit que el est mout bele,
one to-me-has said that she is very fair
et si est encore pucele.
and so is still maiden
— Sire, certes,» fet il, «c'est mon.
Lord certainly says he this-is indeed
— Dites moi coment el a non.»
Tell me how she has name
Ha! Dex! porq'a il or ce dit?
Ah God why-has he now this said
Ja l'a il si ou cuer escrit,
Already it-has he so in-the heart written

le non qui n'en puet issir fors!
the name which not-thence can go out
Si a non bele Lïenors.
So she-has as-name fair Liénor
«Certes,» fet l'empereres frans,
Certainly says the-emperor noble
«l'amor en est lors plus plesans
the-love thereby is then more pleasing
quant il en oit autrui parler.»
when he thereof hears another speak
Et por ce ne l'osa nomer,
And for this not her-he-dared name
por doutance de l'aperçoivre.
for fear of the-perceiving
«Il n'a si bele jusqu'au Toivre,»
There not-is-one so fair as-far-as-the Tiber
fet il, «si a non Lïenors.
says he so she-has name Liénor
— Certes,» fet l'empereres lors,
Certainly says the-emperor then
«je n'oï mès tel non pieça.»
I not-heard more such name for-a-while
Fet mis sire Guillames: «Ha!
Says my lord William Ah
En mon païs en a assez!»
In my country thereof there-are enough
Fet l'empereres: «Mis pensez
Says the-emperor My thought
si est a ce mis, tierz jor a,
so is to this put third day it-has

qu'en m'a dit que vostre suer a
for-one to-me-has said that your sister has
plus sens que nule damoisele
more sense than any damsel
et plus beauté, et s'est pucele,
and more beauty and so-she-is maiden
qui mout embelist plus l'afere.
which much embellishes more the-affair
Or sachiez que g'en voudrai fere,
Now know that I-of-her shall-wish to-make
se Deu plest, m'amie et ma feme,
if God pleases my-friend and my wife
et qu'ele iert et roïne et dame
and that-she will-be both queen and lady
de totes celes de l'empire.
of all those of the-empire
— N'est gaires ma suer por ce pire,»
Not-is much my sister for this worse
fet cil, «se vos l'avez gabée;
says he if you her-have mocked
mès se Dex li a destinée
but if God for-her has destined
ou autre honor ou autre bien,
either other honor or other good
ja n'i perdra par beauté rien
ever not-thereby she-will-lose by beauty anything
ne par hautece de lignage.
nor by highness of lineage

Dex porverra son mariage
God will-provide her marriage
a son plesir, ge n'i pens rien.
at his pleasure I not-thereon think anything
Mès une chose sachez bien,
But one thing know well
se g'iere tex que mes dangiers
if I-were such that my displeasure
vos peüst de riens estre griés,
you could in anything be grievous
bien sachiez qu'il me greveroit,
well know that-it me would-grieve
que vos avez dit orendroit
that you have said just-now
une chose dont mout [me] poise,
a thing whereof much me weighs
que, por tant d'or com ele poise,
for for as-much gold as she weighs
ne porroit il, ce sachiez, estre.
not could it this know be
— Por qoi? — Que li prince et li mestre
For what For the princes and the masters
et la hautece de l'empire,
and the highness of the-empire
s'il l'oënt consoner ne dire,
if-they it-hear sound or say
il le tendroient a enfance.
they it would-hold for childishness

De la fille le roi de France
Of the daughter (of-)the king of France
fetes querre le mariage
have sought the marriage
par conseil de vostre barnage;
by counsel of your baronage
si lessiez ore l'orfenine.
so leave now the-orphan
Je l'aim plus que tele roïne
I her-love more than such queen
a par le mont, n'en doutez mie,
there-is through the world not-thereof doubt at-all
c'est m'esperance, c'est ma vie,
this-is my-hope this-is my life
c'est mes joiaus, c'est ma santez.
this-is my jewel this-is my health
De la menor de ses biautez
With the least of her beauties
seroit une autre feme liée;
would-be an other woman glad
quant ele par est desliée,
when she much is unbound
tot par a ele lors passé.»
all much has she then surpassed
Tot a le roi fet trespensé
All he-has the king made thoughtful
de ce qu'il en dit tant de bien.
by this that-he of-her says so-much of good
«Or sachiez,» fist il, «une rien:
Now know says he one thing

que ne puet estre que ne l'aie,
that not can be that not-her I-may-have
se cil qui tot a en manaie
if he who all has in keeping
me garde de mesaventure;
me keeps from misadventure
si vos dirai en quel mesure,
so to-you I-shall-say in what measure
por vos geter de souspeçon, 3050
for you to-cast from suspicion
que li haut prince et li baron
that the high princes and the barons
del roiaume et de l'empire
of-the kingdom and of the-empire
m'ont proié .c. foiz et fet dire,
me-have prayed a-hundred times and had said
por Deu, que ge me mariasse;
for God that I myself might-marry
que se ge moroie ou alasse 3055
for if I died or went
outre mer en pelerinage,
over sea on pilgrimage
qu'il eüssent de mon lignage
that-they might-have of my lineage
un roi qui regnast après moi;
a king who might-reign after me
que s'il avoient autre roi
for if-they had other king
qui ne fust de lor norreture, 3060
who not were of their rearing

il lor seroit par aventure
he to-them would-be by chance
plus cruaus que ge n'ai esté.
more cruel than I have been
Or si ferai lor volenté.
Now so I-shall-do their will
Por acomplir ceste besoigne,
For to-accomplish this business
luès que nos verrons a Couloigne,
as-soon-as that we shall-see at Cologne
si ferai a mes chevaliers
so I-shall-have by my knights
fere luès droit chartres et briés
made at-once straight charters and letters
a toz les barons d'Alemaigne,
to all the barons of-Germany
que hauz ne bas nus n'i remaigne,
that high nor low any not-there remain
qu'au premier jor que mais comence
that-at-the first day that May begins
qu'il soient trestruit a Maience,
that-they be all at Mainz
encontre moi, a parlement;
toward me at parliament
si lor proierai belement
so them I-shall-pray handsomely
qu'il me doignent entr'aus .j. don
that-they me may-give among-them a gift
par amors et par guerredon:
by love and by reward

ge sai bien qu'il le me donront;
I know well that-they it to-me will-give
et si tost com il le m'avront
and so soon as they it to-me-will-have
creanté debonerement,
promised graciously
je ferai par lor sairement
I shall-have by their oath
erroment le don confermer,
at-once the gift confirmed
qu'il n'en porront arrier aler;
so-that-they not-thence can back go
puis lor dirai tot mon corage,
then to-them I-shall-tell all my heart
que je voeil fere mariage
that I wish to-make marriage
de moi et de vostre seror,
of me and of your sister
que nule n'est si de l'onor
for any not-is so of the-honor
digne por estre empereriz.
worthy for to-be empress
— Sire,» fet il, «.v.c. merciz.
Lord says he five-hundred thanks
Or voi ge bien que c'est a certes.»
Now see I well that this-is in earnest
Joinctes ses mains li a offertes;
Joined his hands to-him he-has offered
si dit qu'il est a toz jors soenz;
so says that-he is for all days his

qu'il a et de cuer et de sens
for-he has both with heart and with sense
la parole bien devisée.
the word well set-out
Puis ont la fin de lor jornée
Then they-have the end of their day
usée en deduit et en joie.
spent in delight and in joy
Onques n'i entrerent en voie,
Ever not-there entered on road
ainz s'en vont amdui chans travers.
rather themselves-thence go both fields across
Fet li rois: «Savez-vos cest vers?
Says the king Know-you this verse

Mout est fouls, que que nus die,
Very is mad what that anyone may-say
qui cuide que aillors bé;
who thinks that elsewhere I-aspire
car miex aim son escondire
for better I-love her refusal
qu'autres m'eüst cuer doné.
than-others to-me-might-have heart given

Et maintes gens serf [en gré]
And many folk I-serve with good-grace
por les felons [toz] plains de tricherie.
for the felons all full of treachery
Por ce faz lor volonté
For this I-do their will
que ge cuit chascuns la voie.
for I think each it may-see

Mout lor greva puis poi la voie,
Much to-them grieved then little the way
jusqu'a l'entrée de Cologne.
up-to the-entry of Cologne
Uns quens et li dus de Borgoigne
A count and the duke of Burgundy
s'en vont delez l'empereor
themselves-thence go beside the-emperor
par la cité tot por s'onor.
through the city all for his-honor
Maint prince i ot et maint haut per.
Many-a prince there was and many-a high peer
L'en fist luès fere après souper
One had at-once made after supper
et les letres et les escriz,
both the letters and the writs
et sealer en or massiz,
and sealed in gold massy

q'en envoie par les contrées
which-one sends through the countries
par garçons qui les ont portées,
by boys who them have carried
qui sont plus isnel que cheval.
who are more swift than horse

The Seneschal at Dole

XI

The emperor's seneschal, more spiteful than Kay, returns to court, sees how Conrad loves William, and from what he overhears guesses that the love is for his sister. Jealous, he rides secretly to Dole, bringing greetings from William. William's mother receives him kindly but tells him that no man may see Liénor while her brother is away. With a ring he wins the mother's trust, and she tells him of the rose on Liénor's thigh. He leaves pleased with his treachery.

Li rois ot .j. sien seneschal,
The king had a his seneschal
qui tenoit la terre vers Ais;
who held the land toward Aachen
il n'avoit esté a cort mès
he not-had been at court more
puis que cil Guillames i vint.
since that that William there came
A Couloigne est a plus de .xx.
To Cologne is with more than twenty
chevaliers venuz, toz de pris.
knights come all of worth

L'empereres l'a mout repris
The-emperor him-has much reproved
de ce qu'il a fet tel demeure:
for this that-he has made such delay
«Seneschal,» fet il, «a tel heure
Seneschal says he at such hour
einsi vienent a cort li autre;
thus come to court the others
en France ot .j. Brocart Viautre,
in France there-was a Brocart Viautre
au tens le bon roi Loeïs,
in-the time (of-)the good king Louis
qui plus ama, ce m'est avis,
who more loved this to-me-is opinion
venir a cort que vos ne fetes.»
to-come to court than you not do
Mout i a paroles retretes
Very-many there are words related
l'emperere entre gieus et ris.
the-emperor between jests and laughs
Cil avoit bien ses moz apris,
He had well his words learned
qui ne s'en fet se rire non.
who not himself-thereof makes except laugh not
Qu'il estoit toz de sa meson
For-he was all of his house
commanderres après le roi;
commander after the king

nus n'enprenoit vers lui conroi
any not-took toward him care
ne de grant fet ne de besoigne.
either of great deed or of business
L'empereres fu a Coloigne,
The-emperor was at Cologne
et iloec près a ses chastiaus,
and there near at his castles
.xv. jors; et li seneschaus,
fifteen days and the seneschal
toz jors ovoec et sire et mestre,
all days with-him both lord and master
mout resgarda la vie et l'estre
much looked-at the life and the-being
dou prodome et de son segnor,
of-the worthy-man and of his lord
qui li porte si grant honor,
who to-him bears so great honor
qu'il ne poent s'ensamble non
that-they not can except-together not
en champ n'en bois ne en meson:
in field nor-in wood nor in house
toz jors sont ensamble, lor voel.
all days are together their wish

Cil qui portoit .j. escucel
He who bore a little-shield
des armes Keu le seneschal
of-the arms (of-)Kay the seneschal
en son escu bouclé d'archal
on his shield bossed with-brass
en ot erroment grant envie.
thereof had at-once great envy
Il fu toz les jors de sa vie
He was all the days of his life
assez plus fel que ne fu Keus.
much more felon than — was Kay
Il estoit adés ovoec eus
He was ever with them
por engignier et por deçoivre,
for to-trick and for to-deceive
savoir s'il peüst aperçoivre
to-know if-he could perceive
por qu'il i a si grant amor.
for why-he there has so great love
Tant les a escouté le jor
So-long them he-has listened-to the day
que cil parla de sa seror,
that he spoke of his sister
et qu'il oï l'empereor
and that-he heard the-emperor
qui li ora bone aventure,
who to-him wished good adventure

et si li chanja la ceinture
and so to-him changed the girdle
a une qui soe ot esté.
for one which his-own had been
Quequ'il sont amdui acosté
While-that-they are both leaning
as fenestres vers un vergier,
at-the windows toward an orchard
ou il oient, après mengier,
where they hear after eating
des oisillons les chans divers,
of-the little-birds the songs diverse
l'emperere en fit luès cez vers:
the-emperor thereof made at-once these verses

Quant de la foelle espoissent li vergier,
When with the foliage thicken the orchards
que l'erbe est vert et la rose espanie,
when the-grass is green and the rose blown
et au matin oi le chant commencier
and at-the morning I-hear the song begin
dou roissignol qui par le bois s'escrie,
of-the nightingale who through the wood himself-cries
lors ne me sai vers amors consellier,
then not myself I-know toward love to-counsel

car onques n'oi d'autre richece envie
for ever not-I-had for-other riches envy
fors que d'amors,
except of love
ne riens [fors li] ne m'en puet fere aïe.
nor anything except her not me-thereof can make help

Ja fine amors ne sera sanz torment:
Ever true love not will-be without torment
que losengier en ont corroux et ire;
for flatterers thereof have wrath and anger
ne ge ne puis servir a son talent,
nor I not can serve at her pleasure
qu'ele me voelle a son servise eslire.
so-that-she me may-wish for her service to-choose
Je soufferrai les faus diz de la gent
I shall-suffer the false sayings of the folk
qui n'ont pooir sanz plus, fors de mesdire
who not-have power without more except of speaking-ill
de bone amor,
of good love
ne riens fors li ne me puet geter d'ire.
nor anything except her not me can cast from-anger

Cez .ij. vers li fist pechiez dire,
These two verses him made sin say
qu'il en orent puis grant anui:
for-they thereof had then great grief

li maus en revint sor celui
the ill thereof came-back upon him
qui l'ot porchacié et porquis.
who it-had pursued and sought
Fet il: «De ce sui ge toz fis
Says he Of this am I wholly sure
que n'est pas por chevalerie
that-it not-is at-all for chivalry
qu'il li porte tel drüerie;
that-he to-him bears such love
ce n'est se por sa seror non.»
this not-is except for his sister not
A lui, que tenoit au felon?
To him what held to-the felon
Ja n'i perdist il nule rien.
Ever not-there would-lose he any thing
Il desvast s'il veïst nul bien
He would-go-mad if-he saw any good
avoir autrui, s'il n'i partist.
have another if-he not-therein shared
Par envie s'en departit
By envy himself-thence departed
d'ovoec euls, si vet a l'ostel.
from-with them so goes to the-lodging
Onqes lerres ne fu en tel
Ever thief not was in such
de porpenser que il fera,
of plotting what he will-do
ne com il les departira,
nor how he them will-part

ou par engin ou par boisdie.
either by guile or by trickery
Il porpensa une folie:
He devised a folly
onques nuls hom ne pensa tel
ever any man not thought such
por fere traïson mortel.
for to-do treason mortal
S'atorne d'aler au plessié;
Himself-arranges of-going to-the enclosure
de sa gent plus d'une moitié
of his folk more than-a half
a il ovoec le roi lessie.
has he with the king left
Einsi se paine par boisdie,
Thus himself labors by trickery
et si i met tot son afere.
and so there puts all his affair
Il fist dire il vet por fere
He had said he goes for to-do
en son païs une besoigne,
in his country a business
mès il revendra sanz aloigne;
but he will-come-back without delay
et, por Deu, qu'il n'en poist le roi,
and for God that-it not-thereof may-grieve the king
et qu'il feïst prendre conroi
and that-he would-have taken care
de ses plais, tant qu'il revenist.
of his pleas so-long that-he came-back

Soi tierz de compegnons s'en ist
Himself third of companions himself-thence goes-out
dou chastel mout priveement,
from-the castle very privately
embesoigniez d'un grant noient.
busied with-a great nothing
Ce fet Deables quil charroie.
This does Devil who-him drives
Il vet pensant tote la voie
He goes thinking all the way
qu'il parlera a la pucele:
that-he will-speak to the maiden
si dira a la damoisele
so will-say to the damsel
.v. .c. saluz de par son frere,
five hundred greetings from by her brother
et que ses sires l'emperere
and that his lord the-emperor
le rouva parler a sa mere
him asked to-speak to her mother
por savoir comment il li ere
for to-know how it to-her was
et s'ele voloit nule rien;
and if-she wished any thing
qu'il voloit autretant son bien
for-he wished as-much her good
come son filz en .j. endroit.
as her son in one place

Por teuls moz aprendra luès droit
By such words he-will-learn at-once straight
tot lor covine et tot lor estre,
all their plan and all their state
ou il puet auques certains estre;
where he can somewhat certain be
il cuide avoir bien esploitié.
he thinks to-have well fared
De .x. jors tote la moitié
Of ten days all the half
i mistrent jusqu'au fort manoir
there they-put up-to-the strong manor
ou cele sejornoit por voir
where she stayed for truth
qui vaint les autres de beauté,
who surpasses the others in beauty
ausi come li jor d'esté
as as the days of-summer
font cez d'iver plain de froidure.
make those of-winter full of cold
Chevauchié ont grant aleüre
Ridden they-have great pace
tant qu'il vindrent près dou plessié.
so-long that-they came near of-the enclosure
Il envoie, tot eslessié
He sends all at-full-speed
sor .j. roncin rade et movant,
upon a nag swift and lively

un de ses escuiers avant
one of his squires ahead
dire a la dame qu'il venoit.
to-tell to the lady that-he came
Li vallez vint au plessié droit,
The squire came to-the enclosure straight
sor le roncin, les granz galos,
upon the nag the great gallops
qui n'estoit dolousez ne clos.
who not-was gelded nor lame
La dame estoit devant la sale,
The lady was before the hall
qui n'ama onques chainse sale;
who not-loved ever shift dirty
si apeloit ses paonez.
so called her peacocks
En la court descent li vallez:
In the court dismounts the squire
si let son roncin estraier;
so lets his nag stray
il vet vers li sanz deslaier,
he goes toward her without delaying
come cil qui est preuz et sages:
as he who is worthy and wise
«Dame,» fet il, «ge sui messages
Lady says he I am messenger
au seneschal l'empereor,
of-the seneschal (of-)the-emperor
qui, por vostre filz fere honor,
who for your son to-do honor

vos vient orendroit veoir ci.
you comes now to-see here
— Frere, la soe grant merci,»
Brother the his great thanks
fet la dame, «de ce sui lie.
says the lady of this I-am glad
Or tost,» fet ele a sa mesnie,
Now quick says she to her household
«atornez par la sus cez liz.»
prepare by there up these beds
Lors veïssiez geter tapiz
Then you-would-have-seen throw tapestries
sor ces liz, et granz coutes pointes,
upon these beds and great quilts stitched
a escuciax beles et cointes,
with little-shields fair and elegant
de qoi il i ot grant plenté.
of which it there had great plenty
La dame a a son col geté
The lady has at her neck thrown
.i. grant mantel gris a porfil,
a great mantle gray with border
dont l'atache n'est pas de fil,
whereof the-clasp not-is at-all of thread
mès l'escarlate en est en paine.
but the-scarlet thereof is in lining
Et cil cui ses Deables maine
And he whom his Devil leads
descent soi tierz enmi la court.
dismounts himself third amid the court

Li plus de la mesnie i cort
The most of the household there runs
erroment por les chevax prendre.
at-once for the horses to-take
La dame ou il n'ot que reprendre
The lady in-whom there not-was what to-reprove
vet encontre tot le biau pas;
goes toward-him all the fair pace
el le salue en elle pas,
she him greets in that step
et dit que bien soit il venuz.
and says that well may-be he come
«Dame, je vos aport saluz
Lady I to-you bring greetings
de par mon segnor tot avant,
from by my lord all first
et puis après dou miex vaillant
and then after from-the best worthy
chevalier c'onques portast mere.
knight that-ever bore mother
— Sire, beneois soit l'emperere,
Lord blessed be the-emperor
et vos, et tot quanqu'a lui monte,
and you and all whatever-to him pertains
et Damedex le gart de honte,
and Lord-God him guard from shame
com le mellor prince de terre!»
as the best prince of earth
Et envoie chevaliers querre,
And she-sends knights to-seek

qui de li partirent adès
who from her parted just-now
por aler joer as eschès
for to-go play at-the chess
en la vile, chiez .j. provoire.
in the town at-the-house-of a priest
El ne li offre pas a boire, 3295
She not to-him offers at-all to drink
qu'el entent qu'il soit herbergiez.
for-she understands that-he be lodged
En bel ostel qui ert jonchiez
In fair lodging which was strewn
le mena par la main seoir,
him she-led by the hand to-sit
devant .j. lit, sor .j. seoir
before a bed upon a seat
q'en i a fet de coffiniaus. 3300
which-one there has made of little-coffers
«Fetes herbergier cez chevaus.
Have lodged these horses
— Dame,» fet il, «ce ne puest estre;
Lady says he this not can be
que tuit li bailli et li mestre
for all the bailiffs and the masters
de la terre de Besençon
of the land of Besançon
seront por une grant tençon 3305
will-be for a great dispute
le matin devant moi a plet;
the morning before me at plea

mès g'i eüsse honte et let
but I-there would-have shame and ugliness
et si en fusse a cort blasmez,
and so thereof would-be at court blamed
se ge fusse par ci passez
if I had by here passed
et si ne tornasse çaienz;
and so not had-turned herein
vostre fils en fust mout dolenz,
your son thereof would-be very grieved
qui est li mieudre hom qui puist estre.
who is the best man who may be
Il est toz sires et toz mestre
He is wholly lord and wholly master
de mon segnor, tant a vescu.
of my lord so-much he-has lived
Moi et lui, portons .j. escu,
Me and him carry one shield
et si somes compegnon d'armes.»
and so we-are companions of-arms
Ele plore de joie o lermes,
She weeps for joy with tears
et dit que ç'a ele mout chier.
and says that this-has she very dear
«Sire, car vos plese a mengier.
Lord for to-you it-may-please to eat
— Certes, dame, je ne porroie;
Certainly lady I not could

mès, s'il vos plesoit, ge verroie
but if-it to-you pleased I would-see
vostre fille, ma damoiselle.
your daughter my damsel
— Ce cuit ge bien. — Et ou est ele?
This think I well And where is she
— En sa chambre o sa pucele.
In her chamber with her maid
— Et, por Deu, dont ne vendra ele? 3325
And for God then not will-come she
— Nenil, c'e[n] sui ge mout dolente.
No for-thereof am I very grieving
Ne cuidiez pas que ge vos mente,
Not think at-all that I to-you lie
certes, sire, ainz vos di voir,
certainly lord rather to-you I-say true
que nuls hom ne la puet veoir,
that any man not her can see
puis que ses freres n'est çaienz. 3330
since that her brother not-is herein
— Dame, de ce sui je dolenz,
Lady of this am I grieving
mès il le m'estuet a soufrir.
but it it me-behooves to suffer
Por vostre amor, que ge desir
For your love which I desire
a avoir tant com ge vivrai,
to have as-long as I shall-live

dame douce, si vos lerai
lady sweet so to-you I-shall-leave
cest mien anel par drüerie.»
this my ring by love-token
La dame nel refusa mie,
The lady not-it refused at-all
qu'il l'en tenist a mainz cortoise.
for-he her-thereof would-hold for less courteous
S'el le meïst en une poise,
If-she it put in a scale
si pesast li ors .v. besanz;
so would-weigh the gold five bezants
et la pierre en ert mout vaillanz,
and the stone thereof was very valuable
que c'estoit uns balais rubiz.
for this-was a balas ruby
«Sire,» fet ele, «granz merciz,
Lord says she great thanks
ce sachiez que ge l'ai mout chier.»
this know that I it-have very dear
Ainz qu'en montast por chevauchier,
Before that-one mounted for riding
lez son cheval qu'en tint au soeil,
beside his horse which-one held at-the threshold
li ot ele dit a conseil
to-him had she said in counsel
tot son estre et son covine:
all her state and her plan
uns beaus dons a mout grant mecine,
a fair gift has very great medicine

qu'il fet maint mal plet dire et fere.
for-it makes many-a ill plea say and do
Si li a conté tot l'afaire
So to-him she-has told all the-affair
de la rose desor la cuisse:
of the rose upon the thigh
jamès nuls hom qui parler puisse
ever any man who speak can
ne verra si fete merveille
not will-see so made marvel
come de la rose vermelle
as of the rose vermilion
desor la cuisse blanche et tendre;
upon the thigh white and tender
il n'est mervelle ne soit mendre
it not-is marvel not may-be less
a oïr, ce [n']est nule doute;
to hear this not-is any doubt
la grant beauté li descrit tote
the great beauty to-him she-describes all
et la maniere de son grant.
and the manner of her stature
Mout en est li lerres en grant
Much thereof is the thief in eagerness
de tot enquerre et encerchier.
of all inquiring and searching-out
Quant il n'i ot mais q'empeschier
When it not-there was more than-hindrance
q'en peüst par reson savoir,
that-one could by reason know

por oïr dire sanz veoir,
by hearing say without seeing
lors dit a la dame: «Il est tart.»
then he-says to the lady It is late
La dame lesse, si s'en part,
The lady he-leaves so himself-thence parts
et dit qu'il ert a toz jors soens.
and says that-he will-be for all days hers
Chetive vielle hors dou sens
Wretched old-woman out of-the sense
si mar vit cel jor et cele heure!
so in-an-ill-hour she-saw that day and that hour
Ou palefroi noir come meure
On-the palfrey black as mulberry
monta, quant il ot pris congié:
he-mounted when he had taken leave
«Dame,» fet il, «or m'en vois gié,
Lady says he now myself-thence go I
com cil qui ert a toz jors vostre.
as he who will-be for all days yours
— Biau sire, a S. Pierre l'apostre
Fair lord to Saint Peter the-apostle
voisiez vos et vo compegnon!»
may-go you and your companion
Aussi s'en vet com a besoig
So himself-thence goes as at need
li traitres lerres murtriers.
the traitor thief murderer

Ci après vient granz encombriers
Here after comes great trouble
a son hoès et a hoès autrui.
to his use and to use of-others

The Seneschal's Lie

XII

While the seneschal is away the emperor amuses himself with minstrels and dances and longs for Mainz. When the seneschal returns, Conrad tells him of his plan to marry. The seneschal objects that the barons would never accept Liénor, and when Conrad charges him with envy, he claims to have taken her maidenhead, naming the rose on her thigh as proof. Conrad, crushed, tells him to keep the matter from William and resolves to leave for Mainz in the morning.

Or feroit bon savoir meshui
Now would-do good to-know today
comment li bons rois se contint.
how the good king himself conducted
Que que ciz lerre ala et vint,
While that this thief went and came
il sejorna a ses chastiaus,
he stayed at his castles
a desduit de chiens et d'oisiaus,
in pastime of dogs and of-birds
et a plenté de chevaliers;
and in plenty of knights
et si ooit mout volentiers,
and so heard very willingly
a son couchier, menestereuls.
at his bedtime minstrels

Un petitet, un mervelleus
A little-one a marvelous-one
en avoient si chamberlenc,
thereof had his chamberlains
et s'ert plus tendres d'un herenc;
and so-was more tender than-a herring
si l'apeloit on Cupelin.
so him-called one Cupelin
Il li notoit chascun matin:
He to-him played each morning

Quant je li donai le blanc peliçon,
When I to-her gave the white pelisse
ele amast mout miex le biau Tierrion,
she would-have-loved much better the fair Terrion
hé! hé! ge disoie bien
ah ah I said well
que la pastorele ne m'en feroit rien.
that the shepherdess not me-thereof would-do anything

Mout ama li rois le garçon.
Much loved the king the boy
De Braie Selve vers Oignon
From Braie Selve toward Oignon
i vint Hues a cele cort.
there came Hugh to that court

L'empereres le tint mout cort
The-emperor him held very short
que li apreïst une dance
that to-him he-might-teach a dance
que firent puceles de France
which made maidens of France
a l'ormel devant Tremeilli,
at the-elm before Tremilly
ou l'en a maint bon plet basti.
where one has many-a good plea built
Cest vers de bele Marguerite,
This verse of fair Margaret
qui si bel se paie et aquite
who so fair herself pays and acquits
de la chançonete novele,
of the little-song new
li fet chanter en la vïele:
to-him he-makes sing on the fiddle

Cele d'Oisseri
She of-Oissery
ne met en oubli
not puts in forgetting
que n'aille au cembel.
that-she not-may-go to-the dance

Tant a bien en li
So-much there-is good in her
que mout embeli
that much embellished
li gieu soz l'ormel.
the games under the-elm
En son chief ot chapel
On her head she-had garland
de roses frès novel.
of roses fresh new
Face ot fresche colorie,
Face she-had fresh colored
vairs oils, cler vis, simple et bel.
gray eyes bright face simple and fair
Por les autres faire envie,
For the others to-make envy
i porta maint bel joel.
there she-wore many-a fair jewel

Fet chascuns: «Ceste i vet mout bien.
Says each This-one there goes very well
— Celes ne l'en doivent de rien,»
Those not to-her-thereof owe in anything
fet li rois, «se le[s] volez dire.»
says the king if them you-wish to-say
Einsi se contient li bons sire,
Thus himself conducts the good lord
tant que li seneschaus revint.
so-long that the seneschal came-back

Cele nuit devant que ç'avint
That night before that this-happened
que cil lerres fu reperiez,
that that thief was returned
onques n'avoit esté plus liez
ever not-had been more glad
li bons rois ne plus enchantez.
the good king nor more enchanted
Puis que cil Guillames fu nez,
Since that that William was born
n'ot si bon siecle a nul sejor.
not-he-had so good time in any stay
A grant joie atendoit le jor
With great joy he-awaited the day
et l'assemblée de Maience;
and the-assembly of Mainz
tote sa pensée ere en ce,
all his thought was in this
por son grant bien qu'il i espoire.
for his great good which-he there hopes
Je cuit qu'il li covendra boivre
I think that-it him will-behoove to-drink
ainçois d'un mout amer bevrage;
first of-a very bitter drink
qu'il n'a mie de son lignage
for-he not-has at-all of his lineage
noient ne sa grant segnorie;
nothing nor his great lordship

ja sa bone chevalerie
ever his good chivalry
ne li avra mestier de rien.
not to-him will-have need of anything
Ha! Dex! com ciz plez avient bien,
Ah God how this plea befalls well
quant uns hom atent une honor,
when a man awaits an honor
qu'il en a tant paine et dolor,
that-he thereof has so-much pain and grief
q'a paines i puet il monter!
that-with pains there can he rise
Ha! Dex! que cuida conquester
Ah God what thought to-win
cil qui cest mal li a bracié?
he who this ill for-him has brewed
Onc puis le tenz Robert Macié,
Ever since the time (of-)Robert Macié
tele traïson ne fu fete.
such treason not was done
Que que l'empereres s'enhete,
While that the-emperor makes-merry
et li seneschauls fu venus
and the seneschal was come
a la court, ou il fu veüs
to the court where he was seen
mout volentiers de ses amis,
very willingly by his friends

li rois l'a en paroles mis
the king him-has into words put
ainçois qu'il le puist saluer:
before that-he him may greet
«C'est dou venir et de l'aler,
This-is of-the coming and of the-going
seneschal,» fet il, «ce me samble.»
seneschal says he this to-me seems
Quant il furent amdui ensamble,
When they were both together
si li fet lors .j. parlement
so to-him makes then a parley
de paroles ou il li ment:
of words where he to-him lies
por passer les chievres, les chous,
for to-get-past the goats the cabbages
sachiez qu'il n'estoit mie fous;
know that-he not-was at-all mad
puis li sot bien trere par l'oel
then for-him knew well to-draw through the-eye
la plume. — «Seneschaus, ge voel
the feather Seneschal I wish
a vos parler mout a loisir.
with you to-speak very at leisure
— Sire,» fet il, «a vo plesir,
Lord says he at your pleasure
je sui toz près. — Or i parra;
I am wholly ready Now there will-appear

orendroit ja plus n'i avra
now ever more not-there will-be
delaiement ne mès aloigne.»
delay nor more putting-off
Des autres chevaliers s'esloigne;
From-the other knights himself-withdraws
si vont amdui a une loge.
so go both to a gallery
«Seneschaus,» fet li rois, «ja lo ge
Seneschal says the king now advise I
que nos nos traions vers Maience:
that we ourselves draw toward Mainz
la kalende de mai commence;
the calends of May begins
qu'il m'i estuet estre sanz doute;
for-it me-there behooves to-be without doubt
que la hautece i sera tote
for the highness there will-be all
de mon empire en mai entrant.
of my empire in May entering
Vos m'alieez antan moustrant,
You to-me-went last-year showing
et vos et mi autre baron
both you and my other barons
me disieez tuit a bandon,
to-me said all at liberty
por Deu, que ge me mariasse:
for God that I myself might-marry
g'i ai pensé une grant masse;
I-thereon have thought a great mass

si ai veü en mon afere
so I-have seen in my affair
que c'est resons et biens a fere,
that this-is reason and good to do
car ge suis mès bien de l'aage.
for I am now well of the-age
Se j'ai eü le cuer volage,
If I-have had the heart fickle
ç'a esté enfance et jonece;
this-has been childhood and youth
ou a folie ou a parece
either to folly or to idleness
le tendroit on desoremès.
it would-hold one henceforth
Une foiz est bien que ge lès
One time is well that I leave
mon voloir por fere le lor.
my will for to-do the theirs
— Sire, vos dites vostre honor.
Lord you say your honor
Et, sachiez, ce vos fet Dex dire.
And know this to-you makes God say
Se li baron de vostre empire
If the barons of your empire
le savoient ore de voir,
it knew now for truth
que vos vouzissiez feme avoir,
that you would-wish wife to-have
il n'est riens si les feïst liez.
there not-is anything so them would-make glad

Est si vostre cuer apoiez
Is so your heart leaning
a une feme plus qu'a autre?
to one woman more than-to other
— Autant com pierre de la Bautre
As-much as stone of the Bautre
vaut miex que li quarriax de Rains,
is-worth better than the ashlar of Rheims
autant valent les autres mains
so-much are-worth the others less
de celi que j'aim, sanz doutance.
than her whom I-love without doubt
— Dont est ele dame de France,
Then is she lady of France
ou fille le roi, ou sa suer?
either daughter (of-)the king or his sister
(Ahi! com le gete ore puer
Ah how him casts now away
de ce qu'il cuide bien savoir!)
of this that-he thinks well to-know
prendrez vos i terre ou avoir,
will-take you there land or wealth
ou amis, ice i prent on?»
or friends this there takes one
— Bien prent terre et avoir li hom
Well takes land and wealth the man
qui la prent bone et sage et bele
who her takes good and wise and fair
et de bon lignage et pucele.
and of good lineage and maiden

— De tex n'en est il ore gaires,»
Of such not-thereof is there now much
fet li crueuls, li deputaires.
says the cruel-one the wicked-one
Dit li rois: «Ce puet mout bien estre.
Says the king This can very well be
Mès quant [Dex] a fet celi nestre,
But since God has made her be-born
et il li a toz ses biaus dons
and he to-her has all his fair gifts
doné de grace, porqoi donc
given of grace why then
n'est ele aussi digne d'un regne
not-is she as worthy of-a realm
com[e] la fille au roi qui regne
as the daughter of-the king who reigns
ou en Escoce ou en Islande?»
either in Scotland or in Iceland
Li seneschaus luès li demande
The seneschal at-once to-him asks
(s'il le porroit nul home dire,
if-he it could any man tell
car quant il avra son empire
for when he will-have his empire
assamblé, si le savra l'on)
assembled so it will-know one
qui est ele et com el a non.
who is she and how she has name
— «Par foi,» fet il, «ce sera mon.
By faith says he this will-be indeed

C'est la suer a mon compegnon,
This-is the sister to my companion
de Dole le bon chevalier.
of Dole the good knight
Qui le veïst a cheval hier,
Who him might-have-seen on horse yesterday
il deïst bien: «Cist est vassaus!
he would-say well This-one is vassal
— Chevalier,» fet li seneschaus,
Knight says the seneschal
«est il trop bons, ci n'a que dire:
is he exceedingly good here not-there-is what to-say
a tout le mellor de l'empire
with all the best of the-empire
le poez mout bien aatir.
him you-can very well match
Ne d'acesmer ne de vestir
Neither in-adorning nor in dressing
ne se prent nule a sa seror;
not herself takes any to his sister
et se biautez puet a honor
and if beauty can to honor
aidier nule feme a avoir,
help any woman to have
or sachiez de fi et de voir
now know for certain and for truth
que ceste avroit tot de gaaig.
that this-one would-have all of gain

Mès il i a autre mehaig
But it there has other hindrance
par qoi la chose ne puet estre:
by which the thing not can be
car se li prince et li mestre
for if the princes and the masters
de vostre regne le savoient,
of your realm it knew
por nule grant chose qu'il voient,
for any great thing which-they may-see
ne seroient il a ce mis
not would-be they to this put
que vos, qui estes ses amis,
that you who are her friend
l'eüssiez a feme n'a per.
her-might-have for wife nor-for mate
— Porqoi? L'en la tient a nonper
Why One her holds for peerless
de biauté, de cors et de vis.»
of beauty of body and of face
Fet li seneschaus: «C'est avis
Says the seneschal This-is opinion
a ciaus qui sont ovoecques li.»
to those who are with her
— Fet li rois: «Por l'ame de mi,
Says the king By the-soul of me
si ne poez nul bien voloir.
so not you-can any good wish
Quel essoine i puet or avoir?
What hindrance there can now have

El est assez et preus et sage
She is enough both worthy and wise
et s'a assez anz et aage,
and so-has enough years and age
Lïenor la bele orfenine.»
Liénor the fair orphan
Quanque cist chante, ciz define
Whatever this-one sings that-one ends
qui en mal a s'entention.
who in ill has his-intention
«Je n'i sai barat n'ochoison
I not-there know trick nor-occasion
porqoi g'i mete ja respit;
why I-there may-put ever respite
ge ne l'ai pas por ce en despit,
I not her-have at-all for this in contempt
s'el n'est suer au roi d'Engleterre;
if-she not-is sister to-the king of-England
j'avrai assez avoir et terre,
I-shall-have enough wealth and land
tant com j'avrai el cors la vie.
as-long as I-shall-have in-the body the life
Seneschaus, ce vos vient d'envie,
Seneschal this to-you comes from-envy
ou ce vos fet maleürtez,
or this you makes misfortune
que vos toz jors vos ahurtez
that you all days yourself set
dou tot a la poior partie.
of-the all to the worse part

Se l'avieez de moi partie,
If her-you-had from me parted
vos avrieez fet grant pechié.»
you would-have done great sin
Tant l'a par parole encerchié
So-much him-he-has by word searched-out
qu'il li a dit par son outrage
that-he to-him has said by his outrage
qu'il a eü son pucelage;
that-he has had her maidenhead
et por ce que croire l'en puisse,
and for this that believe one may
de la rose desor la cuisse
of the rose upon the thigh
li a dit mout veraie ensaigne.
to-him he-has said very true token
Li rois s'esbahist et se saigne,
The king himself-amazes and himself crosses
et dit dolanz a chief de piece:
and says grieving at-the end of-a while
«Onques mès rois ne perdi fierce,
Ever before king not lost queen
ainçois que ses gieus fust assis;
before that his game were set
or souffrerons la chose einsi,
now we-shall-suffer the thing thus
quant Dex ne veut q'autre puisse estre.
since God not wishes that-other may be
Gardez que son frere, son mestre,
See that her brother his master

n'en sache ja ne vent ne voie.
not-thereof may-know ever neither wind nor way
Je voudrai aler tote voie
I shall-wish to-go all way
vers Maience demain matin.»
toward Mainz tomorrow morning

William's Grief

XIII

Riding to Mainz, Conrad laments and sings a song of Gace Brulé. When William laughs over Liénor's prophecy of the brooch and seal, Conrad tells him that the match is impossible because his sister has lost her maidenhead, and names the rose. William falls into a frenzy of grief, believing her guilty, and his nephew rides home to Dole in fury. Conrad, still in love, mourns her in songs of his own and Renaut de Sablé's, cursing the seneschal.

Sachiez qu'il se mist au chemin
Know that-he himself put on-the road
erroment que l'aube creva,
at-once that the-dawn broke
et que durement li greva
and that hard to-him grieved
ciz jors a fere grant jornée.
this day to make great journey
«Dex!» fet il, «com fu ore née
God says he how was now born
de fort eür la damoisele!
of hard fortune the damsel

Celui qui m'a dit la novele
Him who me-has told the news
de sa perte et de son domage
of her loss and of her harm
harrai ge mès tot mon aage.
shall-hate I more all my age
Il n'a pas .ij. mois et demi
It not-is at-all two months and half
que ne cuidai qu'il fust einsi,
that not I-thought that-it were thus
que de tot ce ne m'iert il rien.»
for of all this not to-me-was it anything
«Mout par het cil fel autrui bien
Very much hates that felon others good
qui li toli son pucelage.
who from-her took her maidenhead
Maintes genz i avront domage
Many folk there will-have harm
prochainement, sanz nule doute.»
soon without any doubt
Le chemin let et la grant route;
The road he-leaves and the great company
si s'en vet chans travers toz seuls,
so himself-thence goes fields across all alone
mout dolenz et mout angoisseus,
very grieving and very anguished
tenant sa main a son arçon.
holding his hand at his saddlebow

Des bons vers mon segnor Gasson
Of-the good verses (of-)my lord Gace
li sovient, qui li font grant bien:
to-him reminds which to-him do great good
que prodom ne gaaigne rien
that worthy-man not gains anything
en fere doel, qui riens ne vaut.
in making grief which anything not is-worth
Un petit le commence en haut:
A little it he-begins on high

Je di que c'est granz folie
I say that this-is great folly
d'encerchier ne d'esprover
of-searching-out nor of-testing
ne sa moullier ne s'amie,
either his wife or his-friend
tant com l'en la veut amer;
as-long as one her wishes to-love
ainz s'en doit on bien garder
rather himself-thence ought one well to-guard
d'encerchier par jalousie
from-searching-out by jealousy
ce qu'en n'i voudroit trover.
this which-one not-there would-wish to-find

Sanz deduit et sans sejorner,
Without delight and without staying
erra tant qu'il vint a Maience.
he-journeyed so-long that-he came to Mainz
Grant honor et grant reverence
Great honor and great reverence
li porterent li citoien.
to-him bore the citizens
N'i covint pas saint Julien
Not-there behooved at-all Saint Julian
as roiaus por avoir hostel;
to-the royals for to-have lodging
que chascuns l'ot si bon et tel
for each it-had so good and such
com il li plot a sa devise.
as it to-him pleased at his will
L'emperere a mout en gré prise
The-emperor has much in gratitude taken
l'onor que ses genz li ont fete;
the-honor which his folk to-him have done
mès tote la cort se deshete
but all the court itself disheartens
de ce qu'il ert si deshetiez.
by this that-he was so disheartened
Ha! Dex! cele grant amistiez
Ah God that great friendship
qu'il avoit au bon chevalier,
which-he had for-the good knight
n'ot encore que tie[r]z jor hier,
not-was yet but third day yesterday

qu'il l'a fete si endurcir!
that-he it-has made so harden
S'il s'osast de tant enhardir,
If-he himself-dared of so-much embolden
il li demandast l'ochoison;
he to-him would-ask the-occasion
qu'en lui a tant senz et reson
for-in him there-is so-much sense and reason
qu'il i cuidoit mout el q'amor.
that-he there thought much else than-love
L'empereres estoit .j. jor
The-emperor was one day
en son palès a poi de gent;
in his palace with little of folk
il apela le biau, le gent
he called the fair the gracious
mon segnor Guillame de Dole,
my lord William of Dole
cui nature polist et dole
whom nature polishes and planes
de biauté, de sens et de pris:
in beauty in sense and in worth
«Venez en,» dit il, «biaus amis,
Come thence says he fair friend
en ce vergier o moi deduire.»
into this orchard with me to-disport
Main a main, cui qu'il doie nuire,
Hand in hand whom-ever that-it may harm
i vont, voiant le seneschal.
there they-go seeing the seneschal

Il tasta a son affichal,
He touched at his brooch
si se commença a sousrire.
so himself began to smile
Fet li empereres ses sire:
Says the emperor his lord
«Par la foi que vos me devez,
By the faith which you me owe
or me dites dont vos riez.
now me tell whereof you laugh
— Je me ri d'une profetie
I myself laugh of-a prophecy
qui ert mout par tens averie;
which will-be very by time fulfilled
et ce n'est mie granz merveille,
and this not-is at-all great marvel
que nule riens que Dex ne voelle
for any thing that God not may-wish
ne doit avenir par reson.
not ought to-happen by reason
L'autrier avint par mon renon
The-other-day it-happened by my renown
me mandastes par vo seel,
me you-sent-for by your seal
ou il avoit paint a cisel
where there had painted with chisel
.i. beau roi desor .j. cheval;
a fair king upon a horse
ma suer m'en dona cest fermal,
my sister me-thereof gave this brooch

et ge li donai cest seel;
and I to-her gave this seal
si me dit en riant trop bel:
so to-me says in laughing exceedingly fair
biau doz frere, or sui ge mout lie
fair sweet brother now am I very glad
quant j'ai .j. roi de ma mesnie.»
since I-have a king of my household
— Fet l'empereres: «Mout dit bien,
Says the-emperor Very she-says well
et, sachiez, ja n'en doutez rien,
and know ever not-thereof doubt anything
près s'est alé qu'el ne dit voir;
near itself-is gone that-she not says true
je la cuidai a feme avoir,
I her thought for wife to-have
mès or voi que pas ne puet estre.
but now I-see that at-all not can be
— Vos me fesieez herbe pestre
You me made grass to-graze
en fere acroire tel folie,
in making believe such folly
et, sachiez, c'est grant vilonie
and know this-is great villainy
de gaber une gentil feme.
to mock a noble woman
La hautece de cest roiaume
The highness of this kingdom
ne s'i acordast a nul fuer.
not itself-thereto would-agree at any price

Dex ne l'a pas getée puer,
God not her-has at-all cast away
ainz a tot son bon porveü;
rather he-has all her good provided
encor a ele assez eü
still has she enough had
trusque ci et bien et honor.»
up-to here both good and honor
Mout a grevé l'empereor
Much it-has grieved the-emperor
de ce qu'il le voit si dolent.
by this that-he him sees so grieving
«La chose vet tot autrement,»
The thing goes all otherwise
fet il, «voir, que vos ne cuidiez;
says he truly than you — think
ses pris est mout desavanciez
her worth is much set-back
de mainte gent qui sont alé
by many-a folk who are gone
entor li, tant qu'el a folé.
around her so-long that-she has done-folly
— Coment! dervée et marvoiée!
How mad and frenzied
Ele n'a pas esté liée
She not-has at-all been bound
ne bertaudée ne tondue;
nor shorn nor tonsured

de tant l'avoit Dex bien veüe
by so-much her-had God well seen
qu'el a la crigne blonde et bele.
that-she has the hair blond and fair
— J'en sai bien certaine novele
I-thereof know well certain news
par tel home qui bien la set;
by such man who well her knows
ne sai s'il l'aime ou s'il la het,
not I-know if-he her-loves or if-he her hates
mès mout prise la damoisele,
but much he-prizes the damsel
fors de tant qu'el n'est pas pucele.
except of so-much that-she not-is at-all maiden
— Vos li metez sore la rage!
You on-her put upon the madness
Si me vendez vo mariage,
So to-me you-sell your marriage
qui me honissiez a veüe,
who me shame at sight
et de chose qui n'est seüe
and of thing which not-is known
alevez blasme ma seror!
you-raise blame (on-)my sister
Se Dex li eüst ceste honor
If God for-her had this honor
ne destinée ne pramise,
either destined or promised
ele n'est de riens si malmise,
she not-is in anything so damaged

empirée ne vïolée,
worsened nor violated
la mere Deu en soit loée,
the mother (of-)God thereof be praised
qu'el i eüst ja point de perte!»
that-she there might-have ever a-whit of loss
— Savez qui fet la chose aperte? 3715
Know-you what makes the thing plain
Qu'el a sor la cuisse la rose;
That-she has upon the thigh the rose
n'onques nule si bele chose
nor-ever any so fair thing
ne fu en rosier n'en escu.»
not was on rosebush nor-on shield
A cest mot l'a li rois veincu;
At this word him-has the king overcome
si se gete li rois de blasme. 3720
so himself casts the king from blame
Mout près s'en va qu'il ne se pasme
Very near himself-thence goes that-he not himself swoons
par la destrece de cest mot:
by the distress of this word
il cuidoit nus n'en seüst mot,
he thought any not-thereof knew word
fors sa mere et il solement.
except his mother and he only

Il tret sor son chief erroment
He draws over his head at-once
son mantel, qui estoit toz frès;
his mantle which was all fresh
si vet a son hostel manès.
so goes to his lodging forthwith
L'empereres, mout angoisseus,
The-emperor very anguished
s'en revint el palès toz seuls;
himself-thence came-back into-the palace all alone
qu'il ne se set en quel maniere,
for-he not himself knows in what manner
par biau parler ne par proiere,
by fair speaking or by prayer
il s'en peüst bel deporter.
he himself-thence could fairly distract
Il li covient a deporter,
It him behooves to give-up
qu'il n'i a point de recovrier.
for-it not-there is a-whit of remedy
S'il se peüst d'Amors vengier,
If-he himself could on-Love avenge
il ne s'en preïst s'a li non
he not himself-thence would-take except-on her not
qui la damoisele au biau non
who the damsel with-the fair name
li fist amer por oïr dire.
him made love by hearing say
Sospirant, plorant et plains d'ire,
Sighing weeping and full of-anger

com de traïtor et felon,
as of traitor and felon
se plaint es vers de sa chançon:
himself complains in-the verses of his song

Por quel forfet ne por quel ochoison
For what misdeed or for what occasion
m'avez, Amors, si de vos esloignié
me-have-you Love so from you removed
que de vos n'ai secors ne garison,
that from you not-have-I help nor healing
ne ge ne truis qui de moi ait pitié?
nor I not find who on me may-have pity
Malement ai mon service emploié,
Badly I-have my service employed
c'onqes de vos ne me vint se max non.
for-ever from you not to-me came except ill not
Mès or m'en plaig gié,
But now myself-thereof complain I
et di que mort m'avez sans achoison.
and say that killed me-you-have without occasion

Or sachiez bien que cil haus hom,
Now know well that that high man
cil empereres, cil haus sire,
that emperor that high lord

pensis et dolanz, s'en consire
pensive and grieving himself-thence gives-up
de l'amor a la damoisele;
of the-love of the damsel
qu'encor l'en tient soz la mamele
for-still him-thereof holds under the breast
li maus, que nel let rehetier,
the ill which not-him lets be-glad-again
et le doel dou bon chevalier,
and the grief of-the good knight
qui se debat et fiert ses mains:
who himself beats and strikes his hands
«Ha! la mort que ne me prist ains,»
Ah the death why not me took before
fet il, «que ce fust avenu!»
says he that this were happened
Si compegnon sont tuit venu
His companions are all come
entor lui, et sa granz mesnie
around him and his great household
qui mout estoit desconseillie,
who very was without-counsel
que chascuns ne set que il face.
for each not knows what he may-do
Il descire sa bele face,
He tears his fair face
et se claime dolerous las.
and himself calls grieving wretched

Voirement de si haut si bas
Truly from so high so low
desoremès le puis bien dire,
henceforth it I-can well say
n'[en] est si durs, s'il l'oïst dire,
not-thereof is-one so hard if-he it-heard say
cui il n'en pr[es]ist granz pitiez,
whom he not-thereof might-take great pity
li plus biaus, li miex affetiez; 3770
the most fair the best bred
que nus nel voit qui trop nel plaigne.
for any not-him sees who much not-him may-pity
«Ahi!» font ses genz d'Alemaigne,
Ah say his folk of-Germany
de qui ot fet la dessamblée.
of whom he-had made the departure
«Dex! il se muert, vez com il bée
God he himself dies see how he gapes
la bouche come marvoiez!» 3775
the mouth like frenzied
.I. sien niés, qui est reperiez
A his nephew who is returned
des chans de jouer a cheval,
from-the fields from playing on horse
quequ'il vint la grant rue a val,
while-that-he came the great street to down
il oit en son ostel la noise;
he hears in his lodging the noise
ne cuidez pas que il s'aoise: 3780
not think at-all that he himself-calms

erroment qu'il i est venuz,
at-once that-he there is come
si tost com il est descenduz,
so soon as he is dismounted
il vient devant lui maintenant.
he comes before him at-once
En autre guise q'en riant,
In other guise than-in laughing
li demande de son convine:
to-him asks of his state
«Ja nuls, voir, s'il ne l'adevine,
Ever any truly if-he not it-guesses
n'en savra par moi nule rien.»
not-thereof will-know through me any thing
Li vallez s'aperçoit luès bien
The squire himself-perceives at-once well
que c'iert ou d'ami ou d'amie,
that this-was either of-friend or of-lady-friend
que si prodons ne feïst mie
for so worthy-man not would-make at-all
ne por perte ne por avoir
neither for loss nor for wealth
tel doel: «Oncles, dites me voir,
such grief Uncle tell me true
a vos mandé nule novele
has to-you sent any news
ma dame ne ma damoizele?
my lady or my damsel
A il nul mort de noz amis?
Has there any dead of our friends

— Niés,» fet il, «en tel doel m'a mis
Nephew says he into such grief me-has put
la vieus, la jaianz, [la] jaieus.
the vile the giantess the jay
— Por les .v. plaies Deu, la quieus?
By the five wounds (of-)God the which
— Lïenors, la vils bordeliere,
Liénor the vile brothel-woman
qui s'est trete d'onor arriere, 3800
who herself-is drawn from-honor back
et a rebours ciaus en avant,
and at backward those in forward
qui a moi erent attendant.»
who toward me were awaiting
Fet il luès: «Dites moi comment.»
Says he at-once Tell me how
Il li a conté l'estement
He to-him has told the-state
comment el les avoit honiz: 3805
how she them had shamed
ele dut estre empereriz
she was-to be empress
le premier jor de mai entrant;
the first day of May entering
tot l'afere li va moustrant,
all the-affair to-him he-goes showing
coment ses sires l'emperere,
how his lord the-emperor

por la beauté qui en li ere
for the beauty which in her was
la devoit avoir a moullier.
her was-to have for wife
Sa dolor li fesoit moullier
His grief to-him made wet
des lermes dou cuer son visage:
with-the tears of-the heart his face
«Si a perdu son pucelage,
So she-has lost her maidenhead
dont ciz granz doels ou cuer me maint;
whereby this great grief in-the heart me abides
ciz mariages ne remaint
this marriage not remains
solement que por ceste chose.
only except for this thing
— Coment le sot il? — Par la rose
How it knew he By the rose
qu'il me dit qu'ele a sor la cuisse.
which-he to-me said that-she has upon the thigh
Si ne sai comment ge m'en puisse,»
So not I-know how I myself-thereof may
fet il, «vengier s'en plorant non.
says he avenge except-by weeping not
— Oncles, ci a grant ochoison
Uncle here there-is great occasion
par qoi l'en la doit bien destruire;
by which one her ought well to-destroy
s'el ne se haste qu'ele muire,
if-she not herself hastens that-she may-die

je l'ocirai a mes .ij. mains.
I her-shall-kill with my two hands
Femes getent adès dou mains
Women cast ever of-the less
por fere honte a lor amis.
for to-do shame to their friends
Puis que Deables s'i est mis,
Since that Devil himself-therein is put
ne li chaut de chose que face,
not to-her matters of thing that she-may-do
n'il n'est chose qu'ele tant hace
nor-there not-is thing that-she so-much may-hate
com honor contre son voloir.
as honor against her will
Vos i poez grant honte avoir,
You thereby can great shame have
quant vos l'avez si en gros pris.
when you it-have so in gross taken
Si prodom et de si haut pris
So worthy-man and of so high worth
com vos estes, n'en deüst onques
as you are not-thereof ought ever
fere samblant, biaus gentils oncles.
to-make semblance fair noble uncle
Ne fetes d'un domage .ij.:
Not make of-one harm two
que diroit on, biau sire Diex!
what would-say one fair lord God
Se vos morieez por itel oevre?
If you died for such work

Or fet ele bien qui se proeve
Now does she well who herself proves
come vils et comme raïs:
as vile and as shaven
ses sornons par est bien sienis,
her surname much is well signified
que g'en ai grant honte dou dire.
for I-thereof have great shame of-the saying
Je m'en vois por vos geter d'ire
I myself-thence go for you to-cast from-anger
et por amender ceste honte.»
and for to-amend this shame
Il vint au roncin et tost monte,
He came to-the nag and quickly mounts
sanz plus reprendre la parole.
without more resuming the word
Tot le chemin s'en vet vers Dole,
All the road himself-thence goes toward Dole
iriez de l'oncle q'a lessié,
angry with the-uncle whom-he-has left
dont il fera mout au plessié
whereof he will-make much at-the enclosure
grant doel quant i iert venuz;
great grief when there he-will-be come
que plorant est de l'uis issuz,
for weeping he-is from the-door gone-out
n'onques ne commanda a Deu
nor-ever not commended to God
li niés l'oncle, n'il le neveu.
the nephew the-uncle nor-he the nephew

Cil s'en vet, li oncles remaint.
He himself-thence goes the uncle remains
L'empereres et autre maint
The-emperor and other many
l'aloit visiter mout sovent.
him-went to-visit very often
Si joel et si bel present,
His jewels and his fair presents
sachiez bien, n'ierent pas oiseus:
know well not-were at-all idle
chascun jor une foiz ou .ij.
each day one time or two
envoioit savoir qu'il fesoit;
he-sent to-know what-he did
sachiez, mout li embelissoit
know much him pleased
quant l'en l'en dit bone novele.
when one to-him-thereof says good news
Un jor li sovint de la bele
One day to-him reminded of the fair-one
qui porte le sornon de Dole;
who bears the surname of Dole
que il looit tant par parole,
for he praised so-much by word
onqes ne la virent si oeil.
ever not her saw his eyes
Des bons vers celui de Sabloeil
Of-the good verses of-him of Sablé
mon segnor Renaut li sovint;
my lord Renaut to-him reminded

de grant cortoisie li vint
from great courtesy to-him came
qu'il les commença a chanter,
that-he them began to sing
por sa dolor reconforter:
for his grief to-comfort

Ja de chanter en ma vie
Ever of singing in my life
ne quier mès avoir corage;
not I-seek more to-have heart
ainz voeil miex q'amors m'ocie,
rather I-wish better that-love me-may-kill
por fere son grant domage;
for to-do her great harm
car jamès si finement
for ever so truly
n'iert amée ne servie:
not-she-will-be loved nor served
por c'en chasti tote gent,
for this I-warn all folk
qu'el m'a mort et li traïe.
that-she me-has killed and her betrayed

Las! j'ai dit par ma folie,
Alas I-have said by my folly
ce sai de voir, grant outrage;
this I-know for truth great outrage
mès a mon cuer prist envie
but at my heart took desire
d'estre legier et volage.
to-be light and fickle
A! dame, si m'en repent!
Ah lady so myself-thereof repent
Mès cil a tart merci crie
But he too late mercy cries
qui atent tant que il pent:
who waits so-long that he hangs
por ce ai la mort deservie.
for this I-have the death deserved

Encor l'en ert li feus el cors:
Still to-him-thereof was the fire in-the body
«Ha!» fet il, «bele Lïenors!
Ah says he fair Liénor
Com m'a traï li seneschaus!
How me-has betrayed the seneschal
Touz li pechiez et toz li maus
All the sin and all the ill
est de vos et de vostre frere!»
is from you and from your brother

Or sachiez que li emperere
Now know that the emperor
la desirast mout a avoir;
her would-desire much to have
mès or ne l'ose mès voloir,
but now not her-dares more to-wish
qu'il set bien que ne porroit estre.
for-he knows well that not could be

Liénor at Dole

XIV

The nephew bursts into the house with drawn sword, crying that he will kill Liénor, and is held back. He tells the women that the emperor has dropped the match because she is said not to be a maiden, and the mother realizes that the seneschal, whom she told of the rose, has betrayed them. Liénor resolves to clear herself at court and sets out with two knights and her trousseau. At Mainz, Conrad hears a squire sing the Vidame of Chartres' song and takes it for his own.

A! Dex! tant val et tant haut tertre
Ah God so-many valley and so-many high hill
cil passa qui va au plessié!
he passed who goes to-the enclosure
Tant a son roncin angoissié
So-much he-has his nag distressed
et erré par nuit et par jor
and journeyed by night and by day
qu'il est la venuz sanz sejor,
that-he is there come without stay
et est en la cort descenduz.
and is in the court dismounted

Uns vallez i est lors couruz,
A squire there is then run
qui mout est liez de sa venue.
who very is glad of his coming
Il a trete l'espée nue,
He has drawn the-sword naked
et s'en vet grant pas vers la sale.
and himself-thence goes great pace toward the hall
Dex doint q'aucuns encontre saille,
God grant that-someone toward-him may-leap
qu'il ne face comme desvez!
that-he not may-do as madman
Il s'est sor le sueil escriez:
He himself-is on the threshold cried-out
«Ou est la jaians, la mautriz,
Where is the giantess the harlot
qui fust dame et empereriz
who would-be lady and empress
se sa ribaudie ne fust?»
if her ribaldry not were
Il s'est abuissiez a .j. fust,
He himself-is stumbled on a beam
si qu'il chaï o tot s'espée.
so that-he fell with all his-sword
Un serjans, qui ot espeée
A sergeant who had skewered
une jante entre .ij. mallars,
a felloe between two mallets
qui n'iert ne foibles ne coars,
who not-was nor weak nor coward

li vient erroment, si l'embrace;
to-him comes at-once so him-embraces
or n'a il pooir que il face
now not-has he power that he may-do
trop grant mal se n'est de parole;
too great ill if not-is of word
.i. autres li saut, si l'acole;
an other to-him leaps so him-embraces
si le tienent amdui mout cort.
so him hold both very short
S'antain erroument i acort,
His-aunt at-once there runs
mout esbahie et esmarrie,
very amazed and dismayed
disant: «Dame sainte Marie,
saying Lady holy Mary
vostre biaus filz soit hui o nos!
your fair son be today with us
— Vielle, male honte aiez vos!
Old-woman ill shame may-have you
Vos deüssiez estre lardée,»
You ought to-be larded
fet il, «si mal l'avez gardée!
says he so ill her-you-have guarded
— Biaus niés,» fet ele, «por Deu, qui?
Fair nephew says she for God who
— Celi voir que j'ocirrai hui
Her truly whom I-shall-kill today
a mes .ij. mains, se ge la truis.»
with my two hands if I her find

Il s'adrece a force vers l'uis
He himself-directs by force toward the-door
de la chambre por enz entrer.
of the chamber for in to-enter
Sa cousine l'oï crier;
His cousin him-heard cry
ele oevre l'uis et si saut fors:
she opens the-door and so leaps out
«Ahi! desloiaus Lïenors,»
Ah disloyal Liénor
fet il luès droit, «je vos queroie.
says he at-once straight I you was-seeking
— Car le lïons d'une corroie;
Now him let-us-bind with-a strap
sachiez que il est forsenez,»
know that he is mad
dit li vallez. — «Vos i mentez.
says the squire You therein lie
Je sai mout bien que ge me di.
I know very well what I myself say
Il n'avra que .vij. jors mardi
It not-will-have but seven days Tuesday
que ge me parti de Maience,
that I myself parted from Mainz
ou ge lessai mon oncle en ce,
where I left my uncle in this
ou il est morz ou il se muert.
either he is dead or he himself dies

A foi, la male morz acuert
In faith the evil death runs-upon
la desloial qui l'a honni,
the disloyal-one who him-has shamed
abessié et avileni!
lowered and debased
Qu'ele a perdu cele hautece.
For-she has lost that highness
C'est cele la, a cele trece
This-is she there with that tress
que je voudroie avoir tondue
which I would-wish to-have shorn
a ceste espée tote nue.
with this sword all naked
— Dites, biaus niés, en quel maniere,
Tell fair nephew in what manner
comment ma bele fille chiere,
how my fair daughter dear
ou en fist ele la deserte.
or in-what did she the desert
— Trop i a fete lede perte,
Too-much there she-has made ugly loss
car la grant vaillance son frere
for the great valor (of-)her brother
avoit tant fet vers l'emperere,
had so-much done toward the-emperor

et li renons de sa biauté
and the renown of her beauty
l'avoit mis en tel volenté
him-had put in such will
qu'il la devoit prendre a moullier;
that-he her was-to take for wife
mès ce l'en a fet esloignier
but this him-thereof has made withdraw
qu'il a dit qu'el n'est pas pucele.» 3965
that-he has said that-she not-is at-all maiden
Quant la mere l'oï et cele,
When the mother it-heard and she
qui sevent bien que c'est noianz,
who know well that this-is nothing
des biaus oils et des cuers dolanz
from-the fair eyes and from-the hearts grieving
en ont ploré a chaudes larmes:
thereof have wept with hot tears
«Niés,» fet ele, «de males armes 3970
Nephew says she with evil arms
puisse estre mes cors despeciez,
may be my body cut-to-pieces
et li siens devant moi noiez,
and the hers before me drowned
s'onques oï[s]tes tel noient.
if-ever you-heard such nothing
— Ja mar en ferez sairement:
Ever in-an-ill-hour thereof you-will-make oath
trop par est seüe la chose, 3975
too much is known the thing

as entresaignes de la rose
by-the tokens of the rose
qu'el a devers la destre hanche,
which-she has toward the right hip
desor la cuisse grasse et blanche,
upon the thigh plump and white
que male flambe puisse ardoir!
which evil flame may burn
— Je,» fet la mere, «en doi avoir
I says the mother thereof ought to-have
tot[e] la honte et tot le blasme.»
all the shame and all the blame
Ele clot les oils, si se pasme
She closes the eyes so herself swoons
por la destrece de son fil
for the distress of her son
que il lessa en tel peril
whom he left in such peril
et entre la mort et la vie.
and between the death and the life
Com Deables a grant envie,
As Devil has great envy
quant il voit nului fere bien!
when he sees anyone do well
Li vallez voit qu'il ne puet rien
The squire sees that-he not can anything
gaaigner en fere mellée:
gain in making melee
si ra mis el fuerre s'espée;
so has-again put in-the sheath his-sword

qu'il a grant pitié de s'aiole,
for-he has great pity of his-grandmother
qui sa mere bese et acole,
whom her mother kisses and embraces
quequ'ele gist en pasmoisons:
while-she lies in swoons
«Diex! selonc ce que nos avons,»
God according-to this that we have
fet ele, «fet et bien et mal,
says she done both good and ill
entre nos et le seneschal,
between us and the seneschal
donez a chascun sa deserte.
give to each his desert
Ja li avoit ma mere fete
Already to-him had my mother made
si bone chiere et tel samblant!
so good cheer and such semblance
Qui se gardast ça en avant
Who himself would-guard here in forward
que maus nos en deüst venir?»
that ill to-us thereby ought to-come
La mere geta un sospir,
The mother cast a sigh
s'ouvri les oils toz plains de lermes:
so-opened the eyes all full of tears
«Lasse!» fet ele, «or est li termes
Weary says she now is the term
que je m'en vois dolente a fin:
that I myself-thence go grieving to end

li seneschaus m'a mort enfin,
the seneschal me-has killed in-the-end
cui je dis ma confession.
to-whom I told my confession
Je n'i entendi se bien non,
I not-there understood except good not
quant je li contai de la chose;
when I to-him told of the thing
si a mis vilaine parclose,
so he-has put vile conclusion
en ce qu'il me dit l'autre jor
in this that-he to-me said the-other day
qu'il m'amoit de si grant amor,
that-he me-loved with so great love
quant il me dona son anel.
when he to-me gave his ring
Trop le m'a vendu son joel,
Too-much it to-me-he-has sold his jewel
se ge pert Guillame mon fil!
if I lose William my son
— Bele mere, ainz la fin d'avril,
Fair mother before the end of-April
qui ja est mout près de l'issue,
which already is very near of the-issue
avrai ge tote aconseüe
shall-have I all overtaken
sa vilonie et sa mençonge;
his villainy and his lie

tot li ferai tenir a songe
all for-him I-shall-have held as dream
quanqu'il a fet le roi cuidier.
whatever-he has made the king believe
N'a garde cui Dex veut aidier.
Not-has fear whom God wishes to-help
Ne ge ne dout riens se lui non
Nor I not fear anything except him not
que j'aie fete mesprison,
that I-may-have done misdeed
ou j'aie perdu en avant.»
or I-may-have lost in forward
Quequ'ele fet si biau semblant,
While-she makes so fair semblance
s'est ele ou cuer mout desconfite;
so-is she in-the heart very discomfited
mout prie le saint Esperite
much she-prays the Holy Spirit
qu'il consaut et li et sa mere
that-he may-counsel both her and her mother
et sa grant mesnie, qui ere
and her great household who was
mout dolante de son domage.
very grieving of her harm
S'ele pert le grant segnorage
If-she loses the great lordship
si come d'estre empereriz,
so as of-being empress

bien les a toz morz et traïz
well them has all killed and betrayed
par son engin li seneschaus.
by his guile the seneschal
«Dame, fetes querre chevaus:
Lady have sought horses
s'irai a cort veoir mon frere;
so-I-shall-go to court to-see my brother
onques si prodom com il ere
ever so worthy-man as he was
ne morut por si fet domage.
not died for so made harm
Li siecles l'a pieça d'usage,
The world it-has long-since by-usage
q'en dit ainz le mal que le bien.
that-one says sooner the ill than the good
Or sachiez de fi une rien:
Now know for certain one thing
ge m'en revendrai tote lie,
I myself-thence shall-come-back all glad
que cil qui reput sa mesnie
for he who fed his household
de .v. pains et de .ij. poissons,
with five loaves and with two fish
au grant droit que nos i avons,
by-the great right which we there have
nos i sauvera noz honors.»
for-us there will-save our honors
Lors fist querre .ij. vavassors,
Then she-had sought two vavasours

.ii. prodomes q'ele enmenra.
two worthy-men whom-she will-lead
Par son grant sens ravigora
By her great sense she-revived
sa mere et toz ceuz de l'ostel.
her mother and all those of the-house
Ses niés, qui ot esté en tel
Her nephew who had been in such
et si durs a adomeschier,
and so hard to tame
prist le jor a aharneschier
took the day to equip
son oirre, et se mist en grant paine.
his journey and himself put in great pain
De la soe robe demaine
Of the her robe own
furent tuit plain dui mout bel coffre:
were all full two very fair coffers
onqes nule damoisele orfe
ever any damsel orphan
tant n'en ot ne tant bel joel;
so-much not-thereof had nor so fair jewel
qu'el avoit ja tot son trossel
for-she had already all her trousseau
atorné por son mariage.
prepared for her marriage
Onqes n'en fu nule si sage,
Ever not-thereof was any so wise
si li parra et apparut.
so to-her it-will-appear and appeared

Au matinet quant ele mut,
At-the early-morning when she moved
i ot mout besié et ploré:
there was much kissed and wept
«Bele fille, a saint Honoré
Fair daughter to Saint Honoré
commant ton cors, quel part qu'il aille.
I-commend thy body which way that-it may-go
— Bele mere, Dex vos i vaille,
Fair mother God you there may-avail
ou ge ai tote ma fiance!»
in-whom I have all my trust
Nus ne fust a la dessevrance,
Any not was at the parting
quant la pucele dut monter,
when the maiden was-to mount
s'il deüst lermes emprunter,
if-he had-to tears borrow
qu'il ne convenist que plorast.
that-it not behooved that he-might-weep
Ainçois qu'ele s'en paralast,
Before that-she herself-thence went-away
par fu trop la dolor commune.
much was too-much the grief common
En plorant chascun et chascune
In weeping each and each
commande par son non a Deu.
she-commends by his name to God

La mere en a mout son nevou
The mother thereof has much her nephew
prié, si com ele miex puet.
prayed so as she best can
D'unes chaudes lermes li pleut
With-some hot tears to-her rains
l'eve qui li descent des iex.
the-water which to-her descends from-the eyes
A! Diex! com venist ore miex
Ah God how would-come now better
que li seneschax fust a nestre!
that the seneschal were to be-born
Mout dolant s'en partent de l'estre
Very grieving themselves-thence part from the-house
li dui chevalier qui l'enmainent.
the two knights who her-lead-away
La mere en ont cil qui remaignent
The mother thereof have those who remain
par les braz menée en .j. lit.
by the arms led to a bed
Sa joie cuide et son delit
Her joy she-thinks and her delight
avoir perdue a toz jors mès:
to-have lost for all days more
«Or n'en iert mie aportez mès,
Now not-thence will-be at-all brought more
que la damoizele l'emporte,»
for the damsel it-carries-away

font les genz qui jusqu'a la porte
say the folk who up-to the gate
la convoierent dou plessié.
her escorted of-the enclosure
Onques mès n'ot tel doel lessié
Ever before not-had such grief left
en vile com ele i lessa.
in town as she there left
A Deu, qui mout bien en pensa,
To God who very well thereon thought
la commanderent, e ele euls.
her they-commended and she them
Or s'en vet, or la consaut Diex!
Now herself-thence goes now her may-counsel God
Si fera il, gel sai de voir.
So will-do he I-it know for truth
Or referoit mout bon savoir
Now would-do-again very good to-know
comment ses freres se contint.
how her brother himself conducted
De nule chose ne li tint,
In any thing not to-him held
ne de nul solas que il oie.
nor in any solace which he may-hear
Chascun jor i vet ou envoie
Each day there goes or sends
l'empereres por conforter;
the-emperor for to-comfort
de tot le fet amonester,
of all the deed to-admonish

qu'il pense qui bien li puist fere.
that-he may-think who well to-him may do
Li bons rois et li debonere
The good king and the gracious
.i. soir i vint après souper;
one evening there came after supper
onques n'ot compegnon ne per
ever not-had companion nor peer
q'un sol chevalier et Juglet;
but-a single knight and Jouglet
s'oïrent chanter .j. vallet
so-they-heard sing a squire
la bone chançon le vidame
the good song (of-)the vidame
de Chartres; onques mès nule ame,
of Chartres ever before any soul
ce li sambla en chevauchant,
this to-him seemed in riding
miex ne dist cest vers ne cest chant:
better not said this verse nor this song

Quant la sesons del douz tenz s'asseüre,
When the season of-the sweet weather itself-assures
que biaus estez se raferme et esclaire,
when fair summer itself strengthens-again and brightens
et tote riens a sa droite nature
and every thing to its right nature
vient et retrait, se n'est trop de mal' aire,
comes and withdraws if not-is too of ill temper

chanter m'estuet, car plus ne m'en puis taire,
to-sing me-behooves for more not myself-thence can be-silent
por conforter ma cruel aventure,
for to-comfort my cruel adventure
qui m'est tornée a grant mesaventure....
which to-me-is turned to great misadventure

A ma dolor n'a mestier coverture;
To my grief not-has need covering
si sui sospris que ne m'en puis retrere.
so I-am seized that not myself-thence I-can withdraw
Mar acointai sa trés douce feture
In-an-ill-hour I-acquainted-myself-with her very sweet form
por tel dolor ne por tel mal atrere,
for such grief or for such ill to-draw
qui ce me fet que nus ne puet deffere,
who this to-me does which any not can undo
fors ses fins cuers, dont vers moi est si dure
except her true heart whereby toward me she-is so hard
q'a la mort sui se longuement m'i dure.
that-at the death I-am if long to-me-there it-lasts

Fet li rois: «Juglet, a droiture
Says the king Jouglet with directness
fu ciz vers fez por moi sanz doute.»
was this verse made for me without doubt

May at Mainz

xv

At Mainz the barons gather for the parliament, and on the first of May the citizens bring in the May with songs and hang the streets with silks. Liénor arrives early and sends her nephew to find lodging far from her brother, his uncle. A burgher-woman back from mass takes them in and tells her that the emperor means to choose a wife. Liénor weeps, then sends a knight's squire to the seneschal with a brooch, a girdle, and a purse holding a ring, as if from the chatelaine of Dijon.

Jor avant autre, passa toute
Day before other passed all
cele quinzaine deerraine
that fortnight last
d'avril, que li baron dou regne
of-April when the barons of-the realm
durent estre a Maience tuit.
were-to be at Mainz all
S'i furent il a grant deduit;
So-there were they in great delight
bien i parut a la mervelle,
well there appeared to the marvel
de maintenant a la sorvelle,
from now to the eve
de l'envoiseüre qu'il firent.
of the-merriment which-they made
Tuit li citoien s'en issirent
All the citizens themselves-thence went-out
mie nuit por aler au bos.
mid night for to-go to-the wood

La cité en avoit le los
The city thereof had the praise
d'estre toz jors mout deduianz.
of-being all days very delightful
Au matin, quant li jors fu granz,
At-the morning when the day was great
et il aporterent lor mai,
and they brought their May
tuit chargié de flors et de glai
all laden with flowers and with gladiolus
et de rainsiaus verz et foilluz:
and with branches green and leafy
onc si biaus mais ne fu veüz
ever so fair May not was seen
de gieus, de flors et de verdure;
of games of flowers and of greenery
parmi la cité a droiture
through the city with directness
le vont a grant joie portant,
it go with great joy carrying
et dui damoisel vont chantant:
and two young-men go singing

Tout la gieus sor rive mer,
Quite there down upon shore (of-)sea
compaignon, or dou chanter.
companions now of-the singing
Dames i o[n]t bauz levez:
Ladies there have dances raised

mout en ai le cuer gai.
very thereof I-have the heart gay
Compaignon, or dou chanter
Companions now of-the singing
en l'onor de mai.
in the-honor of May

Quant il l'orent bien porchanté,
When they it-had well sung-through
es soliers amont l'ont porté,
into-the upper-rooms up it-they-have carried
et mis hors parmi les fenestres,
and put out through the windows
dont ont embeliz toz les estres;
whereby they-have embellished all the houses
et getent partot herbe et flor
and throw everywhere grass and flower
sor le pavement, por l'onor
upon the pavement for the-honor
dou haut jor et dou haut concire.
of-the high day and of-the high council
Qui la fu, il pot mout bien dire
Who there was he could very well say
c'onques, en lieu ou il alast,
that-ever in place where he went
ne vist tant de richece a gast
not saw so-much of riches to waste
aler, com il a la alé:
go as he has there gone

les rues de lonc et de lé
the streets in length and in breadth
sont portendues de cortines;
are hung with curtains
de cendaus, de penes hermines,
of sendals of furs ermine
de baudequins, de ciglatons,
of baldachins of ciclatons
ont toz les pignons des mesons
they-have all the gables of-the houses
fet par richece encortiner;
had by riches curtained
l'en n'i pooit nul lieu trover
one not-there could any place find
nule part se richece non.
in-any part except riches not
Et la damoisele au biau non,
And the damsel with-the fair name
qui vient dou plessié mout dolente,
who comes from-the enclosure very grieving
a mout en autre lieu s'entente
has very in other place her-intention
que cil n'ont qui font cele joie.
than those not-have who make that joy
Tant a erré, qu'a la monjoie
So-much she-has journeyed that-to the billtop
vint de Maience mout matin.
she-came of Mainz very early
Cel jor, en romanz sanz latin,
That day in romance without Latin

parla a ses .ij. chevaliers:
she-spoke to her two knights
«Je vousisse mout volentiers,
I would-wish very willingly
se vos le vousissiez amdui,
if you it would-wish both
que mes niés s'en alast meshui,»
that my nephew himself-thence might-go today
fet ele, «avant por l'ostel prendre,
says she ahead for the-lodging to-take
et si li voel de ci aprendre
and so to-him I-wish from here to-teach
que de la ou mes freres maint
that from there where my brother dwells
et ses oncles, qu'il m'en esloint
and his uncle that-he me-thence may-keep-far
plus qu'il porra en sus d'iloec.
more than-he can away off from-there
— Dame,» font il, «dont voist ovoec
Lady say they then may-go with-him
uns de cez autres escuiers,
one of these other squires
por revenir, qu'il est mestiers,
for to-come-back for-it is need
encontre nos, li qex que soit.»
toward us the which that may-be
Li niés atant s'en partissoit
The nephew thereupon himself-thence parted
de s'antain mout tost, et .j. autre,
from his-aunt very quickly and an other

en la cité qui n'estoit autre
into the city which not-was other
que la plus riche et la plus bele.
than the most rich and the most fair
Por prendre l'ostel la pucele.
For to-take the-lodging (of-)the maiden
S'en vont par les rues d'encoste.
Themselves-thence go through the streets aside
Damedex lor dona .j. hoste
Lord-God to-them gave a host
la plus vaillant que jamès voient:
the most worthy that ever they-may-see
de .ij. borjoises qui venoient
of two burgher-women who came
d'oïr la messe matinel,
from-hearing the mass of-morning
l'une l'enmaine a son hostel,
the-one him-leads-away to her house
qui plus ert sage que vilaine.
who more was wise than churlish
En une rue auqes foraine
In a street somewhat outlying
ert sa mesons mout aaisiée;
was her house very comfortable
la chambre bele et envoisiée
the chamber fair and pleasant
lor moustra, et puis les estables;
to-them she-showed and then the stables
mout ert li ostex delitables,
very was the house delightful

qu'il i avoit jardins et puis:
for-it there had gardens and wells
«Segnor,» fet ele, «je ne puis
Lords says she I not can
moustrer hostel autre qu'il est.
show house other than-it is
— Dame, quanque mestiers i est
Lady whatever need there is
i a; que bon jor vos doint Dex!» 4220
there is so-that good day to-you may-give God
Luès droit est montez li uns d'euls
At-once straight is mounted the one of-them
por aler encontre lor genz.
for to-go toward their folk
Li ostex est et biaus et genz
The house is both fair and gracious
a mout poi d'embelissement.
with very little of-embellishment
Li vallez, einsi fetement 4225
The squire thus made
com il issoit hors de la porte,
as he went out of the gate
encontre ceuz qui il reporte
toward those to-whom he brings-back
bones nouveles de l'ostel:
good news of the-house
qu'il lor ont pris si bon et tel
that-they for-them have taken so good and such
a devise com il rouverent. 4230
at wish as they asked

Li dui chevalier i menerent
The two knights there led
la gentil pucele honerée,
the noble maiden honored
embrunche et enchaperonée.
head-bowed and hooded
Il la descendent en la court:
They her help-dismount in the court
la borjoise as degrez li court
the burgher-woman to-the stairs to-her runs
encontre sa bone venue;
toward her good coming
par la main, qu'el ot blanche et nue,
by the hand which-she had white and bare
la maine en sa chambre tot droit.
her leads into her chamber all straight
El li a demandé luès droit
She to-her has asked at-once straight
porqoi cele grant aünée
why that great gathering
estoit en la vile assamblée
was in the town assembled
le premier jor de mai entrant.
the first day of May entering
La borjoise li vet moustrant
The burgher-woman to-her goes showing
ce qu'ele set par oïr dire,
this which-she knows by hearing say

que li empereres lor sire
that the emperor their lord
devoit parler de prendre fame;
was-to speak of taking wife
si a mandé par son roiame
so he-has summoned through his realm
et assamblé les haus barons;
and assembled the high barons
por ce qu'il est droiz et resons,
for this that-it is right and reason
si s'en conseillera a euls.
so himself-thereon will-counsel with them
Fet la bele: «Or l'en conselt Diex,
Says the fair-one Now him-thereon may-counsel God
si com il set qu'il est mestier!
so as he knows that-it is need
Mout parveïsse volentiers,
Much I-would-have-seen willingly
se ce ne fust piteuse chose:»
if this not were piteous thing
lermes plus cleres d'eve rose
tears more clear than-water (of-)rose
li couroient aval le vis,
to-her ran down the face
car c'est torz, ce li est avis.
for this-is wrong this to-her is opinion
Se Dex n'i fet miracle aperte,
If God not-there makes miracle plain

i puet a double estre la perte
there can in double be the loss
et de s'onor et de son frere.
both of her-honor and of her brother
Li cuers li dieult trop de sa mere,
The heart to-her aches too-much for her mother
par coi cez larmes issent lors.
by which these tears go-out then
Ele apela son nevou fors
She called her nephew out
et ses chevaliers a conseil:
and her knights to counsel
«Segnor», dit ele, «je vos voeil
Lords says she I you wish
demander que vos m'ensegniez
to-ask that you me-may-show
li qex est li miex affetiez
the which is the best bred
de voz vallez et li plus sages,
of your squires and the most wise
qui me puist porter mes messages
who me may carry my messages
en cele cort a .j. prodome,»
in that court to a worthy-man
li uns des chevaliers li nome
the one of-the knights to-her names
.i. soen vallet, sage et recuit.
a his squire wise and seasoned

«Or, sachiez bien», fet il, «je cuit
Now know well says he I think
qu'il fera bien vostre besoigne.»
that-he will-do well your business
El le fist luès droit, sanz aloigne,
She him had at-once straight without delay
en la chambre a lui apeler;
into the chamber to her called
s'en fist son neveu hors aler
so-thence she-had her nephew out go
et ses chevaliers et sa gent.
and her knights and her folk
Fet el au vallet bel et gent:
Says she to-the squire fair and gracious
«Vos m'en irez au seneschal;
You for-me-thence will-go to-the seneschal
si porterez cest affichal,
so will-carry this brooch
cest tiessu et ceste aumosniere;
this belt and this purse
tot est brodé d'une maniere,
all is embroidered of-one manner
et si a dedenz .j. anel
and so there-is within a ring
a une esmeraude mout bel;
with an emerald very fair
et gardez bien que nuls nel voie.
and guard well that any not-it may-see

Si li direz que li envoie
So to-him you-will-say that to-him sends
la chastelaine de Dijon:
the chatelaine of Dijon
por li i sont cil oisillon
for her there are those little-birds
ou tiessu et cil poissonet.
on-the belt and those little-fish
Biaus amis», fet el au vallet,
Fair friend says she to-the squire
«entendez bien que je vos di:
understand well what I to-you say
dites vos tornaste[s] mardi
say you turned Tuesday
de Dijon, por venir a lui.
from Dijon for to-come to him
Buer vos ajorna ciz jors hui
In-a-good-hour you dawned this day today
se vos fetes bien la besoigne;
if you do well the business
se Dex garist mon cors d'essoine,
if God guards my body from-bindrance
ja mar en douterez de rien!»
ever in-an-ill-hour thereof you-will-doubt in anything
Fet la pucele: «Je sai bien
Says the maiden I know well
qu'il l'a proiée longuement;
that-he her-has prayed long

onques nul acreantement
ever any promise
ne li vout fere de s'amor;
not to-him she-wished to-make of her-love
or se porpensa a .j. jor
now herself she-bethought on a day
qu'ele en fesoit trop que vilaine.
that-she thereby did too-much than churlish
Si li mande la chastelaine
So to-him sends-word the chatelaine
que s'il jamès veut qu'el le voie,
that if-he ever wishes that-she him may-see
que cest tiessu que li envoie
that this belt which to-him she-sends
ceigne a sa char soz sa chemise.
he-may-gird on his flesh under his shirt
Se vos veez qu'il l'i ait mise,
If you see that-he it-there may-have put
si dites que par cest anel
so say that by this ring
qu'ele trest de son doi manel,
which-she drew from her finger little
qu'ele se rent en sa merci,
that-she herself renders into his mercy
et qu'el a mout le cuer nerci
and that-she has very the heart darkened
de ce que tant l'a escondit:
by this that so-much him-she-has refused
une pucele le me dit,
a maiden it to-me said

qui en porta mout les messages.
who thereof carried much the messages
Biau[s] douz amis, or soiez sages:
Fair sweet friend now be wise
s'il vos met de plus en parole,
if-he you puts of more in word
dites q'el ne vos rouva ore
say that-she not you asked now
plus dire rien a cele voie,
more to-say anything on that way
fors tant tart li est qu'el le voie;
except so-much late to-her is that-she him may-see
s'en prendra par tens bon conroi.
so-thence she-will-take by time good care
A l'ostel ou devant le roi
At the-lodging or before the king
le troverez a parlement.»
him you-will-find at parliament
Fet il: «N'en doutez de noient,
Says he Not-thereof doubt in nothing
gel querrai tant que ge l'avrai.»
I-him shall-seek so-long that I him-shall-have
Atant s'en torne sanz delai,
Thereupon himself-thence turns without delay
et Dex le conduie et ramaint!
and God him may-guide and bring-back

The Chatelaine's Gifts

XVI

The squire gives the seneschal a girdle, a brooch, and a ring as gifts from the chatelaine of Dijon, who yields to his love. Delighted, the seneschal lets the squire gird the belt so tight next to his skin that it draws blood. The squire reports back, and Liénor, dressed magnificently, rejoices. She gives her hostess a ring and rides to the parliament through admiring crowds, where burgher-women wish the emperor would take her for his wife.

La dame en qui chambre ele maint
The lady in whose chamber she dwells
revint a ciex qu'el apela;
came-back to those whom-she called
as chevaliers dit qu'il n'i a
to-the knights she-says that-it not-there is
que de vestir les robes vaires,
except of putting-on the robes vair
qu'el lor fist achater nagaires
which-she for-them had bought lately
d'une escarlate violette;
of-a scarlet violet
blans ganz et une ceinturete,
white gloves and a little-girdle
broudée d'or a escuciaus,
embroidered with-gold with little-shields
a doné a chascun de ciaus,
she-has given to each of those
en l'onor des robes noveles,
in the-honor of-the robes new

mout envoisiées et mout beles.
very merry and very fair
La soe robe appareille
The her robe prepares
ses niez, qui est bele a mervelle,
her nephew which is fair at marvel
d'un samit inde a pene hermine:
of-a samite blue with fur ermine
onques si blanche ne si fine
ever so white nor so fine
ne fu nule ne miex ouvrée.
not was any nor better worked
Sor chemise blanche aflourée
Over shirt white flowered
ot vesti la coste, en pure ert,
she-had put-on the tunic in pure was
mès el estoit d'un cendal vert,
but it was of-a sendal green
tote forrée et cors et manches;
all lined both body and sleeves
el ot .j. poi basses les hansches
she had a little low the hips
et grailles flans et biau le pis;
and slender flanks and fair the breast
un poi fu plus haus li samis
a little was more high the samite
desus la mamelete dure:
above the little-breast firm
mout i ot bien ouvré nature,
very there had well worked nature

que que li seneschaus ait dit.
while that the seneschal may-have said
Se Deu plest et saint Esperit,
If God pleases and Holy Spirit
que toz maus l'en vendra par tens!
for all ills to-him-thereof will-come by time
Li couls fu lons et gras et blans,
The neck was long and plump and white
par reson sanz gorme et sanz fronce.
by reason without wen and without wrinkle
Onques damoisele, selonc ce
Ever damsel according-to this
qu'ele estoit triste et dolente,
that-she was sad and grieving
ne sot plus bel metre s'entente
not knew more fair to-put her-attention
en li acesmer et vestir.
in her adorning and dressing
Por sa gorge parembelir,
For her throat to-beautify
mist .j. fermail a sa chemise,
she-put a brooch on her shirt
ouvré par grande maiestrise,
worked by great mastery
riche d'or et bel de feture,
rich in-gold and fair of form
basset et plain doi d'overture,
low and full finger of-opening

et si que la poitrine blanche
and so that the breast white
assez plus que n'est noif sor branche
much more than is snow on branch
li parut, qui mout l'amenda.
to-her appeared which much her-improved
Queq'ele se ceint et lia
While-that-she herself girds and bound
de sa guimple et de sa ceinture,
with her wimple and with her girdle
dont li ors de la forreüre
whereof the gold of the lining
valoit plus de .xx.v. livres,
was-worth more than twenty-five pounds
li vallés, qui n'est fous ne ivres,
the squire who not-is mad nor drunk
ne s'est en nul lieu delaiez.
not himself-is in any place delayed
Celui ou il fu envoiez
Him to-whom he was sent
trova enmi le parlement.
he-found amid the parliament
Il l'arresna mout cointement,
He him-addressed very cleverly
si com par communes paroles;
so as by common words
mout sagement l'enmena lores
very wisely him-led then
hors dou palès lez .j. haut mur.
out of-the palace beside a high wall

Quant il vit [qu'il] fu asseür
When he saw that-he was safe
et qu'en nel vit de nule part,
and that-one not-him saw from any part
le mantel de son col depart,
the mantle from his neck he-parts
com cil qui estoit outre sages:
as he who was beyond wise
«Sire,» fet il, «ge sui messages
Lord says he I am messenger
a la plus sage et mains vilaine;
of the most wise and least churlish
sachiez que c'est la chastelaine
know that this-is the chatelaine
de Dijon, dont ge sui venuz,
of Dijon whence I am come
qui ne me sui arresteüz
who not myself am stopped
a granz jornées puis mardi.
in great days-journeys since Tuesday
Ele vos mande, et gel vos di,
She to-you sends-word and I-it to-you say
qu'ele se rent en vo merci
that-she herself renders into your mercy
par .j. sien anel que j'ai ci,
by a her ring which I-have here
et si vos envoie .j. tiessu.»
and so to-you sends a belt

Quant li jouel furent issu
When the jewels were come-out
dou drapel ou il furent mis:
from-the cloth where they were put
«Ma dame,» fet il, «biaus amis,
My lady says he fair friend
doint Dex joie et bone aventure!»
may-give God joy and good adventure
Le fermail, l'anel, la ceinture
The brooch the-ring the girdle
esgarda mout et l'aumosniere;
he-looked-at much and the-purse
mout en est d'estrange maniere
much thereof he-is in-strange manner
esbahiz, et mout s'en mervelle
amazed and much himself-thereat marvels
se c'est miracles ou mervelle,
if this-is miracle or marvel
que li est de lui souvenu;
that to-her is of him remembered
mès, comment que soit avenu,
but however that it-may-be happened
mout aime et prise les joiaus;
much he-loves and prizes the jewels
or en demaine ses aviaus
now thereof he-leads his delights
a ses oils et entor son chief.
to his eyes and around his head

Mout en sot bien venir a chief
Very thereof he-knew well to-come to head
de la mençonge dire et faindre;
of the lie in-telling and feigning
tant li a dit qu'il li fist çaindre
so-much to-him he-has said that-he him made gird
emprès sa char soz la chemise:
next his flesh under the shirt
si li a si a destroit mise
so to-him he-has so at tightness put
que la char tot entor le flanc
that the flesh all around the flank
l'en est avivée de sanc;
thereby is quickened with blood
puis veut affichier le fermail.
then he-wishes to-fasten the brooch
Cil en fist luès .j. fol baail,
He thereat made at-once a mad yawn
por ce qu'il ot talant de rire.
for this that-he had desire of laughing
Fet il: «Ele me rouva dire,
Says he She me asked to-say
qu'il remainsist en l'aumosniere,
that-it might-remain in the-purse
que nus por aucune meniere
so-that any for any manner
a vostre col ne l'enterchast,
on your neck not it-might-mark
cui li cuers d'envie en perçast.
whom the heart with-envy thereby might-pierce

— Ele dit que preuz et que sage,
She says that worthy and that wise
biaus amis,» fet il au message.
fair friend says he to-the messenger
«As tu encore point d'ostel?
Hast thou yet any lodging
Tu vois bien, nos somes en tel
Thou seest well we are in such
que je ne puis a toi entendre.
that I not can to thee attend
Si puissé ge Deu l'ame rendre,
So may I to-God the-soul render
j'aim les joiaus plus de .c. livres!
I-love the jewels more than a-hundred pounds
Anquenuit quant g'iere delivres,
Tonight when I-shall-be free
si parlerons de mon afere;
so we-shall-speak of my affair
mès or va; si fai robe vaire,
but now go so make robe vair
bon mantel et cote et sorcot:
good mantle and tunic and surcoat
bien iert qui paiera l'escot,
well will-be who will-pay the-reckoning
s'il i avoit .c. sols ou plus.
if-it there had a-hundred shillings or more
Ne sai que ge te die plus,
Not I-know what I to-thee may-say more

mès or va, si pense de toi,
but now go so think of thyself
et ge irai devant le roi.»
and I shall-go before the king
La departie fu tost fete;
The parting was soon made
li escuiers mout s'en rehete
the squire much himself-thereat rejoices
de ce qu'il est si amusez:
by this that-he is so fooled
n'a pas ses moz en vain usez;
not-has at-all his words in vain used
ainz s'en reva mout tost arriere;
rather himself-thence goes-again very quickly back
sa dame trueve en tel meniere
his lady he-finds in such manner
qu'il n'en est or nule si bele.
that-there not-thereof is now any so fair
«Or ça, mes amis, quel novele
Now here my friend what news
me direz vos de cele court?
to-me will-say you of that court
— Maint Tyois i a lonc et cort,
Many-a German there is long and short
et de barons presse trop grant.»
and of barons press exceedingly great
Ahi! com el est plus en grant
Ah how she is more in eagerness
de savoir qu'il a raporté!
to know what-he has brought-back

A conseil li a cil conté
In counsel to-her has he told
comment il avoit esploitié.
how he had fared
Il a miex fete la moitié
He has better done the half
la besoigne q'el ne rova;
the business than-she not asked
ses doz cuers toz li sousleva
her sweet heart all to-her rose
erroment ou ventre de joie:
at-once in-the belly with joy
«Ja Dex ne doigne que je joie
Ever God not may-grant that I may-enjoy
ne de moi ne d'ami que j'aie,
either of me or of-friend that I-may-have
se je recoif mie en manaie
if I receive at-all in keeping
ceste bonté ne cest servise!
this kindness nor this service
Que fet m'avez a ma devise
For done me-you-have at my wish
tel chose dont ge mout vos pris.»
such thing whereby I much you prize
A ceuz qui furent bien apris
To those who were well taught
d'estre a cort ovoec les barons,
of-being at court with the barons

a dist: «Segnor, car en alons
she-has said Lords now thence let-us-go
veoir cele grant assamblée;
to-see that great assembly
se ceste nos est hui emblée,
if this-one from-us is today stolen
nos ne verrons tele des mois.»
we not will-see such for months
Li vallet ont luès demanois
The squires have at-once forthwith
les biaus palefrois amenez.
the fair palfreys brought
Li siens fu ferrans pomelez;
The hers was iron-gray dappled
si ot la crigne bien assise;
so had the mane well set
li lorains fu biaus a devise,
the bridle was fair at will
et la sambue jusqu'en terre
and the saddle-cloth down-to ground
d'une escarlate d'Engleterre;
of-a scarlet of-England
s'iert d'un cendal jaune forrée;
so-it-was with-a sendal yellow lined
l'escarlate ert defferetée,
the-scarlet was slashed
si qu'en vit bien parmi le jaune;
so that-one saw well through the yellow
li arçon ne furent pas d'aune,
the saddlebows not were at-all of-alder

ainz sont d'ivoire a esmax fet:
rather are of-ivory with enamels made
sor .j. harnois .j. poi plus let
upon a harness a little more ugly
puet l'en bien monter au besoig.
can one well mount at-the need
Je ne sai pas por coi j'aloig
I not know at-all for why I-lengthen
l'afere, ainz dirai plus briement
the-affair rather I-shall-say more briefly
q'ainz q'ele fust au parlement,
that-before that-she were at-the parliament
l'esgarderent plus de .c. genz;
her-looked-at more than a-hundred folk
li palefrois fu biaus et genz,
the palfrey was fair and gracious
et li harnois mout avenanz.
and the harness very becoming
Ainz qu'ele montast, la vaillanz,
Before that-she mounted the worthy-one
fist ele que fine cortoise,
did she as true courteous-one
qu'ele dona a la borjoise,
for-she gave to the burgher-woman
por s'onor et por ses hostez,
for her-honor and for her lodgings
.i. anel a .II. castonez;
a ring with two settings
s'ot en chascun une esmeraude.
so-there-was in each an emerald

Puis que Berte as granz piez ne Aude
Since that Bertha with-the great feet nor Aude
morut, qui fu suer Olivier,
died who was sister (of-)Oliver
ne fist feme tant a proisier,
not made woman so-much to praise
ne ne fu de si bon endroit.
nor not was of so good place
Li chevalier pristrent luès droit
The knights took at-once straight
d'un de lor mantiax .j. acor;
from-one of their mantles a flap
s'ont monté bele Lïenor,
so-they-have mounted fair Liénor
et puis erroment si monterent;
and then at-once so mounted
tot a cheval li atornerent
all on horse to-her arranged
sa robe, q'onc ne s'en mesla.
her robe that-ever not itself-thereof mixed
Si vos di q'ele salua
So to-you I-say that-she greeted
son oste quant el s'en issi.
her host when she herself-thence went-out
Bien puet .j. pucele einsi
Well can a maiden thus
a cort aler devant .j. roi,
to court go before a king
a tel harnois, a tel conroi,
in such harness in such array

si aperte, si ademise.
so open so seemly
Li chevalier l'ont entr'aus mise,
The knights her-have between-them put
si qu'il vont d'une part et d'autre.
so that-they go on-one side and on-other
Toutes les genz, et un et autre,
All the folk both one and other
li vont orant bone aventure.
to-her go wishing good adventure
Tant avoit desouz la ceinture
So-much she-had beneath the girdle
descovert le piz et le cors,
uncovered the breast and the body
et s'avoit andeus les acors
and so-she-had both the sides
de son mantel par devant li;
of her mantle by in-front her
et savez qui mout l'abeli?
and know-you what much her-embellished
Qu'el ot descovert son visage.
That-she had uncovered her face
S'ot mise une main a s'atache,
So-she-had put one hand at her-clasp
et si tint a l'autre sa resne.
and so held with the-other her rein
Et sachiez, cil cui ele arresne
And know those whom she addresses
dient por voir qu'el a vois d'angre.
say for truth that-she has voice of-angel

Tuit li riche borjois dou Change
All the rich burghers of-the Exchange
se sont encontre lui levé:
themselves are toward her risen
mout ont tuit en lor cuer loé
much have all in their heart praised
sa simplece et sa contenance.
her simplicity and her bearing
Font il: «Ou roiaume de France
Say they In-the kingdom of France
ne troveroit ceste sa per.»
not would-find this-one her peer
L'en porroit les borses couper
One could the purses cut
a ceuls qui vont emprès musant.
from those who go behind gaping
Li lorain son[t] bel et sonant
The bridles are fair and ringing
as chevaliers qui la menerent.
of-the knights who her led
Et cez hautes dames, qui erent
And those high ladies who were
es loges en vair et en gris,
in-the galleries in vair and in gray
amassent mout .j. de ses ris.
would-love much one of her smiles
Quequ'ele les vait saluant:
While-that-she them goes greeting
«Que vet l'empereres querant,»
What goes the-emperor seeking

font cez borjoises, «qui veut feme?
say these burgher-women who wishes wife
He! Dex! car pregne ceste dame!»
Ah God now he-may-take this lady
Por ce q'el ne crient q'el n'i faille,
For this that-she not fears that-she not-there may-fail
sachiez de voir sanz devinaille,
know for truth without guessing
en est .j. poi en esmaiance.
she-thereof is a little in dismay
Si vos di por voir c'a Maiance
So to-you I-say for truth that-to Mainz
fu aportez li premiers mais.
was brought the first May

Liénor Before the Emperor

XVII

The palace rings with minstrels' songs, which deepen Conrad's grief. Liénor enters weeping, and the crowd takes her for the May queen. She kneels before Conrad and demands justice: the seneschal, she says, raped her and stole her girdle, purse, and brooch. He denies ever seeing her, but the girdle is found tied on his body. Conrad refuses the barons' pleas, and the seneschal begs to clear himself by ordeal.

Or refet bon savoir huimès
Now does-again good to-know today
quel vie il mainent el palais.
what life they lead in-the palace
[Lors] i chante[nt] et sons et lais
Then there sing both tunes and lays

li menestrel de mainte terre,
the minstrels of many-a land
qui erent venu por aquerre.
who were come for to-gain
De Troies la bele Doete
Of Troyes the fair Doete
i chantoit ceste chançonete:
there sang this little-song

Quant revient la seson
When returns the season
que l'herbe reverdoie,
when the-grass grows-green-again
que droiz est et reson
when right is and reason
que l'en deduire doie,
that one disport ought
seuls aloie, si pensoie
alone I-went so I-thought
as noviaus sons que ge soloie.
of-the new tunes which I was-wont
Touse gaie o ses moutons
Girl gay with her sheep
trovai sanz compegnons,
I-found without companions
ou s'esbanoie a ses chançons.
where herself-disports with her songs

Gente ert sa façons;
Gracious was her fashion
chevex que venz baloie
hair which wind waves
avoit sorez et blons...
she-had golden and blond

Et uns autres de Chaalons,
And an other of Châlons
qui ot vestu uns biaus dras vers,
who had put-on some fair cloths green
rechante d'autre part cest vers:
sings-again from-other part this verse

Amours a non ciz maus qui me tormente;
Love has as-name this ill which me torments
mès n'est pas teuls com les autres gent l'ont.
but not-is at-all such as the other folk it-have
S'est bien resons que li miens cuers s'en sente,
So-it-is well reason that the my heart itself-thereof may-feel
qui set mout bien coment on l'en respont.
which knows very well how one to-it-thereof answers
Et ge dis las! mi mal quant fineront?
And I say alas my ills when they-will-end
Ne ja Jhesus finir ne mes consente,
Nor ever Jesus to-end not mine may-consent
s'après les mauls li bien gregnor n'en sont!
if-after the ills the goods greater not-thereof are

D'une chambre ou li baron sont,
From-a chamber where the barons are
oï l'empereres cest vers;
heard the-emperor this verse
com ses pensers estoit divers
as his thought was diverse
de ciaus qu'il avoit assamblez,
from those whom-he had assembled
si li est ses solaz emblez;
so to-him is his solace stolen
qu'il ne set qu'il die ne face.
that-he not knows what-he may-say nor may-do
Si li pert mout bien a sa face
So to-him appears very well in his face
qu'il n'amenda, .xv. jors a.
that-he not-improved fifteen days ago
La damoisele se segna,
The damsel herself crossed
quant el est en la cort entrée.
when she is into the court entered
Tex .ccc. l'ont au doit moustrée,
Such three-hundred her-have with-the finger shown
qui ne sevent pas son esmai,
who not know at-all her dismay
ainz dient tuit: «Vez mai, vez mai,
rather say all See May see May
que cil dui chevalier amainent!»
which those two knights bring
Tot entor li grant joie mainent.
All around her great joy they-make

Quequ'ele descent au perron,
While-that-she dismounts at-the block
il li corent a l'esperon
they to-her run at the-spur
et damoisel et escuier:
both young-men and squires
plus en i ot bien d'un millier
more thereof there were well than-a thousand
de chevaliers de hauz lignages;
of knights of high lineages
et des loges et des estages
and from-the galleries and from-the stories
avalent dou palais marbré,
descend of-the palace marbled
tuit esbahi et esmarbré.
all amazed and stunned
«Tex puceles soelent venir
Such maidens are-wont to-come
ça en arrier, por esbaudir,
here in times-past for to-gladden
a la court le bon roi Artu,»
to the court (of-)the good king Arthur
font cil qui tienent a vertu
say those who hold for power
ou a mout bel enchantement.
or for very fair enchantment
Li chevalier mout belement
The knights very handsomely
menée l'ont ou grant palès.
led her-have into-the great palace

El ne vit, ce cuit, onques mès
She not saw this I-think ever before
tant de si beles genz ensamble.
so-many of so fair folk together
Toz li monz cele part assamble,
All the world that side assembles
ou li chevalier l'ont assise.
where the knights her-have seated
Cil plès et cele grant assise
That plea and that great session
li ramentoivent son biau frere,
to-her remind her fair brother
qui, por le grant pris dont il ere
who for the great worth whereof he was
de proece et de hardement,
in prowess and in boldness
ot li sires tel parlement
had the lord such parliament
assamblé por lui fere honor,
assembled for him to-do honor
et si l'amoit de tel amor
and so her-loved with such love
qu'il la voloit prendre a moullier:
that-he her wished to-take for wife
por ce li fet les oils moullier
for this to-her makes the eyes wet
de chaudes lermes la pitiez;
with hot tears the pity
ele s'encline vers ses piez,
she herself-bows toward her feet

de foiz a autre si sospire.
from time to other so sighs
Uns granz bars, li sires d'E[s]pire,
A great baron the lord of-Speyer
et maint autre en ont pitié.
and many-a other thereof have pity
Si vos di que por s'amistié
So to-you I-say that for her-friendship
en i plorerent plus de cent.
thereat there wept more than hundred
L'eve qui des iex li descent
The-water which from-the eyes to-her descends
ne la faisoit s'embelir non.
not her made except-embellish not
Cil chanteor ne lor chançon
Those singers nor their songs
ne la poent esleecier.
not her can brighten
Si oï ele commencier
So heard she begin
iceste chançon auvrignace.
this song Auvergnat
Se ne fust cil cui Diex mal face
If not were he whom God ill may-do
qui la cuida desloiauter,
who her thought to-make-disloyal
mout seüst bien cest vers chanter:
very she-would-know well this verse to-sing

Bele m'est la voiz altane
Fair to-me-is the voice high
del roissillol el pascor,
of-the nightingale in-the Easter-time
que foelle est verz, blanche flor,
when leaf is green white flower
et l'erbe nest en la sane,
and the-grass is-born in the meadow
dont raverdissent cil vergier,
whereby grow-green-again those orchards
et j'oi m'amor tel mestier
and I-had my-love such need
que cors me garist et sane.
which body me heals and makes-whole

A poi que li rois ne forsane
In little that the king not goes-mad
en l'autre sale ou il estoit;
in the-other hall where he was
nule riens ne le confortoit
any thing not him comforted
qu'en li die, n'en fet, n'en chant.
that-one to-him may-say nor-in deed nor-in song
Il oit les barons tïeschant
He hears the barons German
qui sont devant lui a concire,
who are before him at council

ne de ce qu'il lor cuida dire
nor of this which-he to-them thought to-say
ne lor osoit soner .j. mot.
not to-them dared sound a word
Or sachiez que pas ne l'amot
Now know that at-all not him-loved
cil qui li a fet tel anui!
he who to-him has done such grief
Il s'atendoient tuit a lui
They themselves-awaited all on him
qu'il lor desist ou .j. ou el,
that-he to-them might-say either one or other
ou feïst dire a son mortel
or might-have said to his mortal
traïtor qui ce li ot fet.
traitor who this to-him had done
Quequ'il estoit en tel dehet,
While-that-he was in such distress
mout dolenz et mout desconfiz,
very grieving and very discomfited
seant soz .j. grant arc voutiz,
sitting under a great arch vaulted
ez vos le segnor de Nivele
behold you the lord of Nivelles
qui li aporte la novele:
who to-him brings the news
«Sire,» fet il, «vos ne savez?
Lord says he you not know
Puis cele heure que Dex fu nez,
Since that hour that God was born

neïs au tens le roi Artur,
not-even in-the time (of-)the king Arthur
ne sai se c'est par vostre eür,
not I-know if this-is by your fortune
n'avint ausi bele aventure,
not-happened so fair adventure
ce cuit, de nule creature
this I-think of any creature
com il a la fors avenu.
as it has there outside happened
— De qoi? — Que il i a venu?
Of what That it there has come
— Une mervelle tote droite,
A marvel all straight
la plus bele et la plus adroite,
the most fair and the most skilled
ne sai se c'est ou fée ou fame,
not I-know if this-is either fairy or woman
mès ou marchié n'a remez ame,
but in-the market not-has remained soul
ainz l'ont tuit a procession
rather her-have all in procession
amenée d'une meson
brought from-a house
dusqu'en cest grant palès la hors.»
up-to-in this great palace there outside
Quant l'empereres l'oï lors,
When the-emperor it-heard then
il ne fust si liez por mil mars:
he not would-be so glad for thousand marks

«Ne sai se c'est ou voirs ou gas,
Not I-know if this-is either truth or jest
mès il le feroit bon savoir
but it it would-do good to-know
s'il a menti ou il dit voir.»
if-he has lied or he says true
Fet li seneschaus: «Alons i.»
Says the seneschal Let-us-go there
Oez dou deable anemi,
Hear of-the devil enemy
com il vet chaçant sa grant honte!
how he goes chasing his great shame
Fet li rois ou li toz en monte:
Says the king to-whom the all thereof pertains
«Je lo bien que nos i aillon.»
I advise well that we there may-go
Il ne queroit fors ochoison
He not sought except occasion
que li parlement remainsist.
that the parliament might-remain
De la se leva ou il sist;
From there himself raised where he sat
s'en vet grant pas vers le palès,
himself-thence goes great pace toward the palace
et tuit li haut baron après.
and all the high barons after
Si dolente, si esplorée
So grieving so tear-stained
com ele ert, la preuz, la senée,
as she was the worthy the wise

que por soi que por son bon frere,
both for herself and for her good brother
erroment que li emperere
at-once that the emperor
issi dou conseil de la chambre,
went-out from-the council of the chamber
cele qui n'ert torte ne chambre,
she who not-was crooked nor lame
avisa bien li qex c'estoit.
perceived well the which this-was
Por l'usage qui tex estoit,
By the-usage which such was
ele prent dou mantel l'atache;
she takes of-the mantle the-clasp
quequ'el l'oste dou col et sache,
while-she it-removes from-the neck and draws
si l'enconbra si li mantiaus
so her-encumbered so the mantle
qu'ele hurte as premiers cretiaus
that-she strikes at-the first battlements
qu'ele avoit fet en sa touaille;
which-she had made in her veil
li hordeïz et la ventaille
the hoarding and the ventail
enporta jus o tot le heaume,
it-carried down with all the helmet
voiant les barons dou roiaume,
seeing the barons of-the kingdom

si que sa crigne blonde et sore
so that her hair blond and golden
son biau samit inde li dore
her fair samite blue to-her gilds
par espaulles et près dou col.
by shoulders and near of-the neck
Dès le tenz mon segnor Saint Pol,
Since the time (of-)my lord Saint Paul
ne fu plus bele por solas.
not was more fair for solace
Ele haoit tant son solas
She hated so-much her solace
que ne li chaloit de trecier;
that not to-her mattered of braiding
mès, por ses chevols adrecier,
but for her hairs to-arrange
ot drecié sa greve au matin
she-had parted her parting at-the morning
d'une branche de porc espin,
with-a branch of pig thorn
et si ot fet front de heaumiere;
and so had made front of helmet-maker
s'ot chapelet a la maniere
so-she-had garland in the manner
as puceles de son païs;
of-the maidens of her country
s'ot flocelez aval le vis
so-she-had locks down the face
de ses biaus chevex ondoianz;
of her fair hairs waving

li chapelez li fu aidanz,
the garland to-her was helping
qui li fu un poi loig des iex,
which to-her was a little far from-the eyes
et nature, por veoir miex,
and nature for to-see better
son biau front li ot tret arriere.
her fair brow for-her had drawn back
Si desconfite en tel maniere,
So discomfited in such manner
se let cheoir as piez le roi
herself lets fall at-the feet (of-)the king
cele qui ne savoit son roi;
she who not knew her way
si li crie: «Por Deu, merci!
so to-him cries For God mercy
— Ha! bele, levez vos de ci,»
Ah fair-one raise yourself from here
fet l'emperere, «or m'avez mort.
says the-emperor now me-you-have killed
— Non ferai voir, n'a droit n'a tort;
Not I-will-do truly neither-at right nor-at wrong
ainçois i serai trusqu'a none,
rather there I-shall-be until-to nones
se sor l'onor de la corone
unless upon the-honor of the crown
orendroit ne me creantez
just-now not to-me you-promise
que vos droiture me ferez,
that you justice to-me will-do

orendroit cau pié maintenant.
just-now on-the foot at-once
— Bele,» fet il, «ge[l] vos creant.
Fair-one says he I-it to-you promise
Ja ne voudrez que ge ne face.»
Ever not you-will-wish that I not may-do
Lors li preste sa bele brace,
Then to-her he-lends his fair arm
si l'aïde a lever sus;
so her-helps to rise up
ele se tret un poi en sus
she herself draws a little in up
de lui, si fist auqes que sage.
from him so did somewhat as wise
Devant les barons dou barnage,
Before the barons of-the baronage
se demente a Deu et complaint.
herself laments to God and complains
De pitié en ont ploré maint,
From pity thereat have wept many
de lermes qui son biau vis muelle,
from tears which her fair face wet
qu'el ot bel et simple a mervelle,
which-she had fair and simple at marvel
et le col plus blanc que n'est nois.
and the neck more white than is snow
Si vos di, s'ele fust as lois
So to-you I-say if-she were at-the laws
.v. anz toz plains sanz removoir,
five years all full without moving

ce sachiez de fi et de voir,
this know for certain and for truth
je ne sai por coi ne coment
I not know for why nor how
ele peüst plus belement
she could more handsomely
son claim dire ne son afere.
her claim say nor her affair
Fet la gentils, la debonere:
Says the noble the gracious
«Gentils emperere honorez,
Noble emperor honored
por Deu, biau sire, or m'entendez!
for God fair lord now me-hear
Si m'aït Dex, que mestiers m'est!
So me-may-help God for need to-me-is
Il fut .j. jors, qui passez est,
It was a day which past is
que cil la, vostres seneschaus
that he there your seneschal
(lors le mostre as emperiaus),
then him she-shows to-the imperials
vint en .j. lieu par aventure
came into a place by chance
ou ge fesoie ma cousture;
where I made my sewing
si me fist mout let et outrage,
so to-me did very ugly and outrage
qu'il me toli mon pucelage,
for-he from-me took my maidenhead

et après cele grant ledure,
and after that great outrage
si m'a tolue ma ceinture
so from-me-he-has taken my girdle
et m'aumosniere et mon fermal;
and my-purse and my brooch
et ce demant au seneschal,
and this I-demand from-the seneschal
et m'onor et mon pucelage
both my-honor and my maidenhead
et de mes joiaus le domage.»
and of my jewels the damage
Atant se test, si ne dit mot.
Thereupon herself she-is-silent so not says word
L'emperere, qui mout l'amot,
The-emperor who much her-loved
si resgarde le seneschal
so looks-at the seneschal
qui tot ce ne prisoit .j. ail,
who all this not prized a garlic
ainz le tient a borde et a songe,
rather it holds for jest and for dream
com ce qui tout estoit mençonge
as this which all was lie
(ce savoit ele plus que nus).
this knew she more than any
Fet l'emperere: «Il n'i a plus,
Says the-emperor It not-there has more

seneschal, or vos en alez
seneschal now yourself thence go
consellier, ou vos responez
to-counsel or you answer
orendroit ci selonc son claim.
just-now here according-to her claim
Onques mès voir n'oï reclaim
Ever before truly not-I-heard complaint
que vos feïssiez tel outrage.»
that you might-do such outrage
Fet il, oiant tot son barnage:
Says he hearing all his baronage
«Je n'en irai ja a conseil.
I not-thence shall-go ever to counsel
Jamès Dex ne me doint cest sueil
Ever God not me may-grant this threshold
passer, se onques mès la vi!
to-pass if ever before her I-saw
Et sachiez bien que ge li ni
And know well that I to-her deny
que onques n'oi son pucelage
that ever not-I-had her maidenhead
ne ses joiaus a son domage,
nor her jewels to her damage
ne ceinture ne affichaus.»
nor girdle nor brooches
— Oez que dit li seneschaus»,
Hear what says the seneschal
fet l'emperere, «il le vos nie.
says the-emperor he it to-you denies

— Certes, sire, c'est vilonie.
Certainly lord this-is villainy
Miex li venist dire tot el.
Better to-him would-come to-say all else
Ja n'istra hors de cest ostel
Ever not-he-will-go out of this house
que il ira tot autrement,
but-that it will-go all otherwise
se vostre cort ne se desment:
if your court not itself belies
bons rois, por Dieu, ne vos griet mie.
good king for God not you it-may-grieve at-all
Vos dites ci qu'il le me nie,
You say here that-he it to-me denies
qu'il onqes n'ot mon pucelage,
that-he ever not-had my maidenhead
et dit c'onques a mon domage
and says that-ever to my damage
n'ot mon joial ne ma ceinture:
not-had-he my jewel nor my girdle
savez vos de quele feture
know you of what make
cele ceinture estoit ouvrée?
that girdle was worked
El estoit de fin or broudée
It was with fine gold embroidered
a poissonez et a oisiaus;
with little-fish and with birds

et sachiez que li affichaus
and know that the brooch
valoit encore bones nois;
was-worth still good nuts
il i a un rubi balois,
it there is a ruby balas
qui vaut encore .XIII. livres.
which is-worth still thirteen pounds
N'est pas encore toz delivres
Not-is at-all yet wholly free
li seneschaus, bien le sachiez;
the seneschal well it know
mès or alez, et si sachiez
but now go and so draw
ses draz amont et sa chemise;
his clothes up and his shirt
si verrez qu'il l'a ceinte et mise
so you-will-see that-he it-has girded and put
tot nu a nu emprès sa char.
all bare to bare next his flesh
Se ce n'est veoir, fetes .j. char
If this not-is true have a cart
tornoier pardessus mon cors.
to-turn over my body
Si verrez m'aumosniere entors,
So you-will-see my-purse around
ce sachiez, au tiessu pendue.»
this know to-the belt hung

Par tens avra mestier d'aïue
By time will-have need of-help
li seneschaus, ce m'est avis;
the seneschal this to-me-is opinion
or li taint et palist li vis
now to-him pales and blanches the face
por sa parole qui empire.
for his word which worsens
«Dex!» font li baron de l'empire,
God say the barons of the-empire
«com est mal bailliz, se c'est voirs!
how he-is ill treated if this-is true
Certes, ce fu granz estrelois,
Certainly this was great misfortune
s'il en puet estre pris provez.
if-he thereof can be taken proved
— Sire, sor ce que vos m'avez
Lord upon this that you me-have
creanté a fere droiture,
promised to do justice
fetes garder a la ceinture,
have look at the girdle
si me delivrez sans aloigne.»
so me deliver without delay
Li arcevesques de Couloigne
The archbishop of Cologne
estoit la ou cils claims fu fais:
was there where this claim was made
«Pieç'a que mès nuls autez plais,
Long-since that more any such pleas

sire, n'avint en vostre cort;
lord not-happened in your court
il covient cest respit mout cort
it behooves this respite very short
por essaier s'el a voir dit.»
for to-test if-she has true said
Sanz delai et sanz contredit,
Without delay and without gainsaying
ou bien li poist ou mal li sache,
whether well to-him it-may-weigh or ill to-him it-may-know
uns chevaliers li tret et sache
a knight to-him draws and pulls
la robe amont et la chemise,
the robe up and the shirt
que chascuns vit qu'il l'avoit mise
so-that each saw that-he it-had put
et çainte estroit a sa char nue:
and girded tight on his flesh bare
si fu la chose coneüe
so was the thing known
qu'il n'i convint champ ne bataille.
that-it not-there behooved field nor battle
«Gardez le bien, qu'il ne s'en aille,»
Guard him well that-he not himself-thence may-go
fet l'empereres, «sor voz iex!»
says the-emperor upon your eyes
A .x. barons sages et viex
To ten barons wise and old
le commande, sor quanqu'il ont,
him he-commends upon whatever-they have

dou garder si chier com il ont
of-the guarding as dear as they have
et lor vies et lor avoirs.
both their lives and their goods
«G'en sui toz dolanz,» fet li rois,
I-thereof am wholly grieving says the king
«por ce que il m'a bien servi.
for this that he me-has well served
— Ha! se Deu plest,» font si ami,
Ah if God pleases say his friends
«si li parra a son besoig.»
so to-him it-will-appear at his need
N'est mie mestiers que j'aloig
Not-is at-all need that I-lengthen
cest afere de moz oiseus.
this affair with words idle
Mout en sont les genz angoisseus,
Very thereof are the folk anguished
li baron, de cele ceinture;
the barons of that girdle
font li un: «De tele feture
say the ones Of such make
en porroit l'en assez trover;
thereof could one enough find
nuls ne savroit par ce prover
any not would-know by this to-prove
que il deüst estre destruis.
that he ought to-be destroyed

Non fust il, ne fust li anuis
Not were it not were the grief
de la honte et dou pucelage,
of the shame and of-the maidenhead
que des joiaus et dou domage
for of-the jewels and of-the damage
peüst il bien venir a chief.»
could he well come to head
Tuit li baron de chief en chief
All the barons from head to head
en vont proier l'empereor.
thence go to-pray the-emperor
«Ja n'en voudrez, sauve l'onor
Ever not-thereof you-will-wish save the-honor
la pucele, que ge n'en face.
(of-)the maiden that I not-thereof may-do
— N'est pas reson q'en le deffface,»
Not-is at-all reason that-one him undo
font il, «por itel achoison.»
say they for such occasion
— Fet li rois: «Tot ce n'a foison.
Says the king All this not-has abundance
Je n'en prendroie d'or mil mars
I not-thereof would-take of-gold thousand marks
qu'il n'en fust traïnez ou ars!
that-he not-thereof were dragged or burned
Est or ma terre abandonée?
Is now my land abandoned

Ne li avoie pas donée
Not to-him I-had at-all given
por tels joiaus seneschaucie!»
for such jewels seneschalship
La damoisele l'en mercie,
The damsel him-thereof thanks
qu'ele oit bien qu'il li fera droit.
for-she hears well that-he to-her will-do right
Au seneschal revont tot droit;
To-the seneschal they-go-back all straight
si li dient qu'il se conseilt.
so to-him say that-he himself may-counsel
«Mal de la cort ou l'en ne let,»
Ill of the court where one not lets
fet il, «.j. home parjurer!
says he a man perjure
Je li feroie ja jurer,
I to-him would-have already sworn
s'il voloit, a .c. chevaliers,
if-he wished with a-hundred knights
que ciz maus et ciz encombriers
that this ill and this trouble
m'est venuz par enchantement,
to-me-is come by enchantment
car ge ne sai certainement
for I not know certainly
s'ele fu soe la ceinture.
if-it was hers the girdle
Mès por Deu et por norreture,
But for God and for rearing

por ma deserte et por m'amor,
for my desert and for my-love
me face encore tant d'onor
to-me he-may-do yet so-much of-honor
que de ce que je mis en ni
that of this which I put in denial
que onques mès jor ne la vi,
that ever before day not her I-saw
ne ne quis honte ne outrage,
nor not sought shame nor outrage
ne ne forçai son pucelage,
nor not forced her maidenhead
qu'il m'en let purgier par juïse,
that-he me-thereof may-let purge by ordeal
en guerredon de mon servise.
in reward of my service
Et se ge ce, sanz plus atendre,
And if I this without more waiting
eschieve, si me face pendre:
shirk so me he-may-have hanged
ice li mant par vos et pri.»
this to-him I-send-word through you and pray
Mout le regretent, a haut cri,
Much him lament with high cry
si compegnon et sa mesnie.
his companions and his household
«Ha! lasse gent desconseillie!»
Ah weary folk without-counsel
font il entr'ax, «que ferons nos?
say they among-themselves what shall-do we

Mout somes mort quant nuls de nos
Very we-are dead since any of us
nel puet deffendre par son cors!
not-him can defend by his body
Ses vairs, ses griz, ses granz tresors
His vairs his grays his great treasures
nos ert toz jors abandonez;
to-us were all days abandoned
les destriers qu'il nos a donez
the chargers which-he to-us has given
li ont cousté plus de .M. mars.
to-him have cost more than a-thousand marks
Or sera traïnez ou ars
Now will-be dragged or burned
cil qui ne l'a pas deservi!»
he who not it-has at-all deserved
Onc mès en .j. ostel ne vi
Ever before in a house not I-saw
por .j. home tant gent dolente;
for a man so-many folk grieving
nez la pucele s'en demente,
not-even the maiden herself-thereat laments
qu'el i cuide avoir grant pechié,
for-she there thinks to-have great sin
por ce q'el l'avoit porchacié.
for this that-she it-had brought-about

The Ordeal

XVIII

The barons plead for the seneschal's ordeal, and Conrad grants it only if Liénor consents, which she does. He sinks in the blessed water at Saint Peter's and is cleared. Liénor then reveals that she is William's sister, the maiden with the rose, and that the seneschal never saw her. Conrad embraces her with joy, the court sings, and the barons agree to make her empress. William's grief turns to joy, and he rides to court in silk while knights sing songs of Aigline, of the lark, and of love.

Li baron sont venu arriere,
The barons are come back
tot en plorant font la proiere,
all in weeping make the prayer
le seneschal a genoillons.
the seneschal on knees
Font il: Por Deu et por ses nons,
Say they For God and for his names
face por auls ce qu'il diront,
he-may-do for them this which-they will-say
parmi tot ce, qu'il garderont
through all this that-they will-guard
sa segnorie et sa droiture;
his lordship and his right
mès onques de tele aventure
but ever of such adventure
nus d'iax n'avoit oï parler.
any of-them not-had heard speak

Li oeil en pristrent a larmer
The eyes thereat took to tear
a l'empereor de pitié,
to the-emperor from pity
por ce qu'il l'avoit sanz faintié
for this that-he him-had without feigning
mout bien servi et longuement:
very well served and long
«Segnor, n'en doutez de noient,»
Lords not-thereof doubt in nothing
fet l'empereres, «mès sachiez,
says the-emperor but know
miex vousisse estre alez nuz piez
better I-would-wish to-be gone bare feet
outre mer, qu'il fust avenu.»
over sea than-it were happened
Ce por qu'il estoient venu
This for what-they were come
li distrent a cors moz briement:
to-him said in short words briefly
qu'ele par son enchantement
that-she by her enchantment
li tresgeta cele ceinture;
to-him conjured that girdle
et tant en est de tel feture
and so-many thereof are of such make
q'en en troeve par tot assez.
that-one thereof finds through all enough

«Si ne seroit pas vostre sez
So not would-be at-all your desire
que por ce le deffeïssiez;
that for this him you-might-undo
si vos prions que souffrissiez
so you we-pray that you-may-allow
dou premier ni qu'il fist orains:
of-the first denial which-he made just-now
qu'il onques, ne devant ne ains
that-he ever neither before nor since
fors cest jor, ne l'avoit veüe,
except this day not her-had seen
n'en atoucha a sa char nue,
nor-thereof touched at her flesh bare
dont ele fust pas empirie;
whereby she were at-all worsened
si seroit la chose esclairie,
so would-be the thing cleared
s'il s'en espurjoit par juïse:
if-he himself-thereof purged by ordeal
en guerredon de son servise
in reward of his service
ice vos prie et nos por lui.
this you prays and we for him
— Ge nel feroie por nului
I not-it would-do for anyone
se n'estoit por la damoisele.»
if not-were for the damsel

Tuit l'en vont lors au pié, que ele
All to-her-thence go then to-the foot so-that she
et por Deu et por auls en face
both for God and for them thereof may-do
tant qu'el ait lor cuer et lor grace;
so-much that-she may-have their heart and their grace
tuit l'en tendent les mains amont:
all to-her-thence stretch the hands up
«Ha! dame, mal fet qui confont
Ah lady ill does who confounds
ce dont il puet estre au deseure!»
this whereof he can be on-the top
Tant li prient et corent seure
So-much her they-pray and run upon
qu'el lor otroie bonement,
that-she to-them grants kindly
et prie Deu, si fetement
and prays God so made
com el n'i a deservi perte,
as she not-there has deserved loss
qu'il i face miracle aperte;
that-he there may-make miracle plain
par laienz dient tuit Amen.
through therein say all Amen
L'empereres mout durement
The-emperor very hard
s'en esjoï de cest otroi,
himself-thereat rejoiced of this grant
et tuit li compegnon le roi.
and all the companions (of-)the king

Puis n'i ot onques point d'arrest:
Then not-there was ever at-all of-halt
li juïses fu luès tot prest
the ordeal was at-once all ready
au moustier mon segnor S. Pierre,
at-the minster (of-)my lord Saint Peter
qui ert coverz de fuelle[s] d'ierre.
which was covered with leaves of-ivy
Tuit i vienent, prince et demaine,
All there come princes and lords
et li seneschauls q'en amaine;
and the seneschal whom-one brings
et la pucele vint ovoeqes,
and the maiden came with-them
par le conseil des arcevesques,
by the counsel of-the archbishops
por veoir la bone droiture.
for to-see the good justice
A grant honte, par sa ceinture,
With great shame by his girdle
fu li seneschaus esgardez.
was the seneschal looked-at
Luès droit qu'il fu laienz entrez
At-once straight that-he was therein entered
en l'eve qui estoit segniée,
into the-water which was blessed
luès droit plus tost q'une coigniée,
at-once straight more quickly than-an axe
s'en vet au fons trestoz li cors,
itself-thence goes to-the bottom wholly the body

si que la bele Lïenors
so that the fair Liénor
vit qu'il fu sauz, et tuit li autre
saw that-he was saved and all the others
qui furent d'une part et d'autre
who were on-one part and on-other
entor la cuve atropelé,
around the vat crowded
li clerc en ont mout Deu loé
the clerks thereof have much God praised
en lor chanz et en sains sonez.
in their chants and in bells rung
A grant joie fu remenez
With great joy he-was brought-back
devant l'empereor arriere,
before the-emperor back
qui s'en est d'estrange meniere
who himself-thereof is in-strange manner
esjoïz, et trestuit li autre.
rejoiced and wholly-all the others
La pucele, triez .j. triez autre,
The maiden behind one behind other
si est ou palès revenue.
so is into-the palace come-back
Mout est bien la chose avenue,
Very is well the thing happened
si com el l'avoit proposée.
so as she it-had proposed
El ne s'est nès point reposée,
She not herself-is not-even at-all rested

ainz vet devant l'empereor,
rather goes before the-emperor
qui est liez de la grant honor
who is glad of the great honor
que Dex a au seneschal fete.
which God has to-the seneschal done
A ce que chascuns se rehete,
Of this that each himself rejoices
sachiez, ne pensoit ele point,
know not thought she at-all
mès a la dolor qui la point
except of the grief which her pricks
au cuer por l'amor son biau frere.
at-the heart for the-love (of-)her fair brother
«Damoisele,» fet l'emperere,
Damsel says the-emperor
«or est li seneschaus delivres.»
now is the seneschal free
— Cil dont li clerc chantent es livres,»
He of-whom the clerks sing in-the books
fet la gentils, la debonaire,
says the noble the gracious
«Set bien tels cortoisies fere,
Knows well such courtesies to-do
et aidier ciaus qui a bien tendent.
and to-help those who to good tend
Or proiez voz genz qu'il m'entendent.
Now pray your folk that-they me-may-hear
Por Deu, sire, oiez la parclose:
For God lord hear the conclusion

je sui la pucele a la rose,
I am the maiden with the rose
la suer a mon segnor Guillame
the sister to my lord William
qui l'onor de vostre roiaume
who the-honor of your kingdom
m'avoit quise par sa proece.»
for-me-had sought by his prowess
A ce dire ot mout grant destrece,
In this saying she-had very great distress
que toz li vis li cort de larmes.
so-that all the face to-her runs with tears
«Et cil, qui soit de males armes
And he who may-be with evil arms
despeciez si que ge le voie,
cut-to-pieces so that I it may-see
si fist au plessié une voie,
so made at-the enclosure a way
par qu'il deçut ma bone mere,
by which-he deceived my good mother
qui li dit tot coment il ere
who to-him told all how it was
de la rose desor ma cuisse.
of the rose upon my thigh
Biau sire Dex, ausi en puisse
Fair lord God so thereof may
ge cest jor venir au deseure!
I this day come on-the top

Q'encor nel savoit a cele heure
For-yet not-it knew at that hour
que mon frere et ma mere et gié.
except my brother and my mother and I
N'est mervelle se ge marvié,
Not-is marvel if I go-mad
qui vos racont ici ma honte.
who to-you recount here my shame
— Biaus sire Dex!» font dont cil conte.
Fair lord God say then those counts
Tex i ot cui mout en pesa.
Such there were to-whom much thereof weighed
«Mervelle fist qui ce pensa
Marvel did who this thought
de fere teuls desloiautez.
of making such disloyalties
Si vint, li desloiaus provez,
So came the disloyal-one proven
qui onques n'ama mon lignage.
who ever not-loved my lineage
Si vos a dit par son outrage
So to-you he-has said by his outrage
que je n'estoie pas pucele:
that I not-was at-all maiden
cil qui fist mere de s'ancele
he who made mother of his-handmaid
si m'en a auques delivrée.
so me-thereof has somewhat freed
G'en serai voir tote honorée,
I-thereof shall-be truly all honored

se Deu plest, ainz que ge m'en aille,
if God pleases before that I myself-thence may-go
se vostre cort ne me fet faille;
if your court not me makes fail
car, quant il nia ma ceinture,
for when he denied my girdle
s'en li eüst lors fet droiture,
if-one to-him had then done justice
quant il en fu trovez sesiz,
when he thereof was found seized
il fust luès penduz et honiz,
he would-be at-once hanged and shamed
com cil qui toz estoit jugiez;
as he who wholly was judged
mès as barons en prist pitiez,
but to-the barons thereof took pity
qui firent tant par lor proiere
who did so-much by their prayer
que toz li plès revint arriere
that all the plea came back
a ce qu'il ot nié et dit,
to this that-he had denied and said
qu'il onques mès jor ne me vit,
that-he ever before day not me saw
ne ne me fist descovenue
nor not to-me did misconduct
par qoi honte me soit creüe.
by which shame to-me may-be believed
Si m'aït Dex, ce ne fist mon.
So me-may-help God this not he-did indeed

Ce ont bien veü li baron,
This have well seen the barons
que li juïses l'en sauva
that the ordeal him-thereof saved
et moi et lui, et qu'il ne m'a
both me and him and that-he not me-has
despucelée ne honie.
deflowered nor shamed
Se l'onor et la segnorie
If the-honor and the lordship
de cest regne m'est destinée
of this realm to-me-is destined
ceste lasse, ceste esplorée,
this weary-one this tear-stained-one
quant ele fet n'a la deserte,
since she done not-has the desert
por quel reson i avra perte?
for what reason there will-she-have loss
De ce demant a la cort droit.»
Of this I-demand to the court right
Lors dit l'empereres luès droit:
Then says the-emperor at-once straight
«Estes vos ce, mes cuers, m'amie?»
Are you this my heart my-friend
Lors dit cele: «N'en doutez mie,
Then says she Not-thereof doubt at-all
ce sui ge bele Lïenors.»
this am I fair Liénor
Il saut sus, voiant ses genz lors,
He leaps up seeing his folk then

si l'acole en sa bele brace;
so her-embraces in his fair arm
les biaus oils, le vis et la face
the fair eyes the face and the countenance
li a plus de .c. foiz besiée.
to-her he-has more than a-hundred times kissed
Fet il: «Or soiez envoisiée,
Says he Now be merry
que grant honor vos a Dex fete!»
for great honor to-you has God done
De la joie qui l'en rehete,
From the joy which her-thereby gladdens
li est ciz chans dou cuer volez:
to-her is this song from-the heart flown

Que demandez vos,
What ask you
quant vos m'avez?
since you me-have
Que demandez vos?
What ask you
Dont ne m'avez vos?
Then not me-have you
— Ge ne demant rien,
I not ask anything
se vos m'amez bien.
if you me-love well

Et li autre en ont tuit chanté:
And the others thereof have all sung

Tendez tuit voz mains a la flor d'esté,
Stretch all your hands to the flower of-summer
a la flor de liz.
to the flower of lily
Por Deu, tendez i.
For God stretch there

Ce fu Te deum laudamus.
This was Te Deum laudamus
Fet l'emperere: «Or n'i a plus,
Says the-emperor Now not-there is more
or est la chose revelée
now is the thing revealed
por qoi ceste granz assamblée
for what this great assembly
iert hui fete o vos çaienz:
will-be today made with you herein
maint jor vos ai veü dolenz
many-a day you I-have seen grieving
de ce que ge n'avoie feme;
by this that I not-had wife
vos doutïez de mon roiaume,
you feared for my kingdom

qu'il n'eschaïst a autre roi
that-it not-might-fall to other king
qui ne seüst pas si son roi
who not might-know at-all so his way
de vos honorer et servir
of you to-honor and to-serve
com faz. Bien peüst avenir;
as I-do Well could happen
non feïst il par aventure:
not would-do he by chance
ce qu'en aprent de norreture
this which-one learns by rearing
est auques legier a tenir.
is somewhat light to hold
Onques certes de vos servir
Ever certainly of you serving
n'oi tel talent come j'ai or,
not-I-had such desire as I-have now
si me gart Dex m'ame et mon cors,
so me may-guard God my-soul and my body
quant gregnor mestiers m'en sera!»
when greater need to-me-thereof will-be
Or ot dur cuer qui ne plora,
Now had hard heart who not wept
quant il ot dit ceste parole.
when he had said this word
«Renomée, qui partot vole,
Renown which everywhere flies
si m'amentut ceste pucele:
so me-reminded-of this maiden

par verité, vos di, c'est cele
by truth to-you I-say this-is she
qui j'ai destiné ceste honor,
to-whom I-have destined this honor
se vos por moi et por m'amor
if you for me and for my-love
volez soufrir qu'ele soit dame
wish to-allow that-she be lady
et roïne de mon roiaume.
and queen of my kingdom
Vos estes mi seignor, mi mestre.
You are my lords my masters
Si ne voel pas ne ne doit estre,
So not I-wish at-all nor not ought to-be
encor i soit ma volentez,
though-yet there be my will
que se vos ne la creantez,
that if you not it promise
qu'il aviegne n'a tort n'a droit.»
that-it may-happen neither-at wrong nor-at right
A cest mot les a toz luès droit
At this word them he-has all at-once straight
conquis a fere son voloir;
won to do his will
chascuns qui son gré veut avoir
each who his favor wishes to-have
se haste dou dire: «Gel voeil.»
himself hastens of-the saying I-it wish
Sanz plus parler et sanz conseil,
Without more speaking and without counsel

s'i acorda li communs toz.
itself-thereto agreed the common all
Lor bons sires, li pieus, li douz,
Their good lord the pious the sweet
lor en rent .c. mile merciz.
to-them thereof renders a-hundred thousand thanks
«E non Deu, or sera gariz,»
And in-name (of-)God now will-be healed
fet il, «li gentils chevaliers.»
says he the noble knight
Lors veïssiez corre as destriers
Then you-would-have-seen run to-the chargers
ciaus qui le vont dire son frere;
those who it go to-tell (to-)her brother
ou vergier son hoste ou il ere
in-the orchard (of-)his host where he was
le troverent tot desconfit.
him they-found all discomfited
Mout par li fist poi de delit
Very much to-him made little of delight
li rossignols qui li chantoit.
the nightingale which to-him sang
La bone novele qu'il oit
The good news which-he hears
li tolit luès tot son anui.
from-him took at-once all his grief
Font ses genz: «Il n'i a meshui,
Say his folk It not-there has today
e non Deu, fors de feste faire.»
and in-name (of-)God except of feast making

Il oste luès sa robe vaire,
He removes at-once his robe vair
sor quil avoit ploré mil larmes;
over which-he had wept thousand tears
a biaus escuciaus de ses armes
with fair little-shields of his arms
en vesti une de samis;
thereof he-dressed one of samite
s'en avoit par devers le pis
so-thence it-had by toward the breast
les ensegnes et sor les bras;
the ensigns and upon the arms
ele fu fete a grant solas;
it was made with great solace
onqes n'avoit vestue esté;
ever not-had worn been
mout fu legiere por esté,
very it-was light for summer
que la pene en estoit d'oiseaus.
for the lining thereof was of-birds
Ha! Dex! com il refu tost biaus
Ah God how he was-again soon fair
a si petit d'acesmement!
with so little of-adornment
Il monte, et chevaliers bien cent,
He mounts and knights well hundred
por s'onor, sor les biaus destriers,
for his-honor upon the fair chargers
qui vont devant lui et detriers.
who go before him and behind

N'orent pas chevauchié grant piece
Not-had at-all ridden great while
quant un niés l'euvesque dou Liege,
when a nephew (of-)the-bishop of-the Liège
qui mout se set biau deporter,
who very himself knows fairly to-disport
commença cestui a chanter:
began this-one to sing

Or vienent Pasques les beles en avril;
Now come Easter the fair in April
florissent bois, cil pré sont raverdi;
blossom woods those meadows are grown-green-again
cez douces eves retraient a lor fil;
these sweet waters draw-back to their thread
cil oisel chantent au soir et au matin:
those birds sing at-the evening and at-the morning
qui amors a nes doit metre en oubli,
who love has not-them ought to-put in forgetting
sovent i doit et aler et venir.
often there ought both to-go and to-come
* * *
(lacuna)
* * *
(lacuna)
Ja s'entr'amoient Aigline et li quens Guis.
Already each-other-loved Aigline and the count Guy
Guis aime Aigline, Aigline aime Guion.
Guy loves Aigline Aigline loves Guy

Souz un chastel q'en apele Biaucler,
Beneath a castle which-one calls Beauclair
en mout poi d'eure i ot granz bauz levez.
in very little of-hour there had great dances raised
Ces damoiseles i vont por caroler,
These damsels there go for to-carol
cil escuier i vont por bohorder,
those squires there go for to-joust
cil chevalier i vont por esgarder;
those knights there go for to-look
vont i cez dames por lor cors deporter.
go there these ladies for their bodies to-disport
La bele Aigline s'i est fete mener.
The fair Aigline herself-there is made lead
Si ot vestu un bliaut de cendel,
So she-had put-on a tunic of sendal
qui granz .ij. aunes traïnoit par les prez.
which great two ells trailed through the meadows
Guis aime Aigline, Aigline aime Guion.
Guy loves Aigline Aigline loves Guy

Ceste n'ert pas tote chantée,
This-one not-was at-all all sung
uns chevaliers de la contrée
a knight of the country
dou parage de Danmartin
of-the family of Dammartin
commença cest son poitevin:
began this tune Poitevin

Quant voi l'aloete moder
When I-see the-lark move
de goi ses ales contre el rai,
for joy its wings against the ray
que s'oblie et lesse cader
that itself-forgets and lets fall
par lo douçor q'el cor li vai,
by the sweetness which-to-the heart to-it goes
en si grant envie m'en prent
in so great envy me-thereof takes
de ce que je voi [jauzion]!
of this that I see joyful
Miravile est que n'is del sens
Marvel is that not-I-go-out from-the sense
dont des[ir]ier nom fon.
whereof desiring not-me melt

Alas! tant cuidoie savoir
Alas so-much I-thought to-know
d'amor, et point n'en sai!
of-love and at-all not-thereof I-know
Pas onc d'amar nom pou tenir.
For ever from-loving not-myself I-could hold
Celi dont ja prou nen avrai
Her from-whom ever profit not I-shall-have
tol mei lou cor et tol meismes
takes from-me the heart and takes myself
et soi meesme et tol le mont,
and herself the-same and takes the world

et portant el ne m'oste ren
and yet she not me-removes anything
fors des[ir]ier et cor volon.
except desiring and heart willing

Quant ces .ij. furent bien fenies,
When these two were well ended
des bons vers Gautier de Sagnies
of-the good verses (of-)Walter of Signy
resovint .j. bon bacheler.
remembered a good bachelor
Si les comença a chanter:
So them began to sing

Lors que florist la bruiere,
When that blossoms the heath
que voi les prez raverdoier,
when I-see the meadows grow-green-again
que chantent en lor maniere
when sing in their manner
cil oisillon el ramier,
those little-birds in-the branches
lors sospir en mon corage,
then I-sigh in my heart

quant cele me fet irier
when she me makes grieve
vers qui ma longue proiere
toward whom my long prayer
ne m'i pot avoir mestier.
not to-me-there could have use

Celui aim d'amor entiere
Him I-love with-love whole
dont j'ai le cuer d'ire plain.
whereby I-have the heart of-anger full
Las! ce m'i fet estre en paine
Alas this me-there makes be in pain
dont j'ai le cuer d'ire plain.
whereby I-have the heart of-anger full

Trop vilainement foloie,
Too churlishly does-folly
qui ce qu'il aime ne crient,
who this which-he loves not fears
et qui d'amors se cointoie,
and who of-love himself preens
sachiez qu'il n'aime nient:
know that-he not-loves at-all
amors doit estre si coie,
love ought to-be so quiet
la ou ele va et vient,
there where it goes and comes

que nuls n'en ait duel ne joie,
that any not-thereof may-have grief nor joy
se cil non qui la maintient.
except he not who it maintains

Celui aim.....
Him I-love

The Wedding

XIX

William kneels to his sister at court, and the barons urge the emperor to marry at once rather than wait for Ascension. The noble ladies of the city dress Liénor in a robe a queen of Apulia embroidered with the story of Troy, and she and Conrad are married and crowned in the minster. At the feast dukes and bishops sit beside the new empress and marvel at her beauty, while the court mocks the seneschal, who lies chained in the tower.

A la cort s'en vont a grant joie.
To the court themselves-thence go with great joy
Font les gens qui sont en la voie: 5240
Say the folk who are on the way
«Diex! c'est li freres la roïne
God this-is the brother (of-)the queen
qui ceste voie ci chemine.»
who this way here travels
Quant il vint la sus ou palès,
When he came there up in-the palace

font il: «N'i entrera huimès
say they Not-there will-enter today
plus bel ne mellor de cestui.
more fair nor better than this-one
— Com buer m'ajorna ciz jors d'ui,»
How in-a-good-hour me-dawned this day of-today
fet il, «quant ge voi ma seror
says he when I see my sister
cui mis sires fet tant d'onor,
to-whom my lord does so-much of-honor
qui l'a assise lez sa coste!»
who her-has seated beside his side
De son biau col son mantel oste,
From his fair neck his mantle he-removes
sil vet saluer a genouls:
so-her goes to-greet on knees
«Mes biaus freres, mes cuers, mes douz,»
My fair brother my heart my sweet
fet ele, «bien soiez venuz.»
says she well be come
Il puet mout bien a tels saluz
He can very well at such greetings
aucune lerme avoir plorée;
some tear have wept
mout l'a com sa dame honorée.
much her-be-has as his lady honored
Et si voel que vos sachiez bien
And so I-wish that you may-know well
c'onqes a lui de nule rien,
that-ever to her in any thing

fors de parole, n'atoucha:
except in word not-he-touched
si vos di que mout conticha
so to-you I-say that much he-made-hesitate
a ceuz qui garde s'en sont pris;
to those who heed themselves-thereof are taken
ses granz senz li a ja apris
his great sense to-him has already taught
que la hautece de l'onor
that the highness of the-honor
li deffendoit de sa seror,
to-him forbade of his sister
et la hautece et le solaz.
both the highness and the solace
Il a bouté parmi les laz
He has thrust through the laces
de son mantel son braz senestre.
of his mantle his arm left
Mout ert mès damoisiaus et mestre
Very he-was henceforth young-lord and master
et de la cort et des barons.
both of the court and of-the barons
Fet l'emperere: «Il est saisons
Says the-emperor It is season
que ge paroil de mon afere.
that I speak of my affair
Loez vos que j'atende a fere
Advise you that I-may-wait to do
mes noces a l'Ascension?
my wedding at the-Ascension

— Ja, se Deu plest,» font li baron,
Ever if God pleases say the barons
«n'i avra mès respit n'aloigne.
not-there will-be more respite nor-delay
— Sire,» fet li dus de Saissoigne,
Lord says the duke of Saxony
«mès en l'eure que Dex fu nez,
but in the-hour that God was born
fetes ce que fere devez.
do this which to-do you-ought
Se chascuns s'en vet en sa terre,
If each himself-thence goes into his land
grant anui sera dou requerre;
great grief will-be of-the asking-again
nos somes ci or assamblé.»
we are here now assembled
Fet l'arcevesques: «Ce me samble
Says the-archbishop This to-me seems
qu'il vos done mout bon conseil.»
that-he to-you gives very good counsel
— Fet l'empereres: «Et gel voeil,
Says the-emperor And I-it wish
quant chascuns de vos s'i acorde.»
since each of you himself-thereto agrees
Ahi! plus tire cus que corde:
Ah more pulls arse than rope
ja ne veut il tant nule rien.
ever not wishes he so-much any thing
«De par Deu,» fet il, «or va bien,
From by God says he now goes well

puis qu'il est a vos volentez.
since that-it is at your will
Or alez, si vos atornez, 5290
Now go so yourself prepare
sire», fet il a l'arcevesque.
lord says he to the-archbishop
Lors s'en va, et bien .x. euvesque,
Then himself-thence goes and well ten bishops
revestir a l'arceveschié.
to-vest at-the archbishop's-palace
Puis que Dex fu nez sanz pechié,
Since that God was born without sin
ne fu vile si estormie, 5295
not was town so stirred
quant la novele fu oïe
when the news was heard
de la pucele qui venoit
of the maiden who came
orainz a cort, que Dex avoit
just-now to court to-whom God had
promis cele bon' aventure.
promised that good adventure
L'en manda luès, grant aleüre, 5300
One sent-for at-once great pace
dames par tote la cité,
ladies through all the city
dont il i ot a grant plenté,
whereof it there had in great plenty
hautes femes a chevaliers,
high women of knights

qui mout i vindrent volentiers
who very there came willingly
por li acesmer et vestir.
for her to-adorn and to-dress
Puis q'Alixandres fist a Tyr
Since that-Alexander made at Tyre
le saut dont il ot tant de pris,
the leap whereby he had so-much of worth
n'ot au cuer, ç'ai ge bien apris,
not-had in-the heart this-have I well learned
tant de joie com il ot la.
so-much of joy as he had there
D'un drap que une fée ouvra
In-a cloth which a fairy worked
fu vestue l'empereriz:
was dressed the-empress
il n'iert ne tiessuz ne tresliz,
it not-was nor woven nor plaited
ainçois l'ot tot fet o agulle
rather it-had wholly made with needle
jadis une roïne en Puille,
formerly a queen in Apulia
en ses chambres por son deduit;
in her chambers for her delight
el i mist bien .vij. anz ou .viij.,
she there put well seven years or eight
ainz que l'oevre fust afinée:
before that the-work were finished

einsi com Helaine fu née
thus as Helen was born
i estoit l'istoire portrete;
there was the-story portrayed
ele meïsme i fu retrete,
she herself there was drawn
et Paris et ses frere Hectors,
and Paris and his brother Hector
et Prians li rois et Mennors,
and Priam the king and Memnon
li bons rois qui toz les biens fist,
the good king who all the good-deeds did
et si com Paris la ravist,
and so as Paris her carried-off
i sont d'or fetes les ymages;
there are of-gold made the images
et si come li granz barnages
and so as the great baronage
des Grieus la vint requerre après;
of-the Greeks her came to-seek after
si i fu aussi Achillès,
so there was also Achilles
q'ocist Hector, dont granz diels fu;
who-killed Hector whereof great grief was

et si com cil mistrent le fu
and so as those put the fire
en la cité et el donjon
in the city and in-the keep
q'en avoit repost a larron
which-one had hidden like thief
el cheval de fust et tapis;
in-the horse of wood and crouched
en ce qu'il jut sor les tapis,
in this that-he lay upon the carpets
desroubée fu la navie
plundered was the fleet
des Grieus pl..... Or n'est en vie
of-the Greeks (lacuna) Now not-is in life
hom que si biau drap seüst faire;
man who so fair cloth might-know-how to-make
la pene n'iert grise ne vaire,
the lining not-was gray nor vair
ainz ert soef fleranz et fine,
rather was sweetly smelling and fine
de noirs sebelins et d'ermine,
of black sables and of-ermine
tot ondoiant de l'un en l'autre.
all waving from the-one into the-other
Mout se pot bien consirer d'autre
Very herself could well dispense with-other
robe vestir, qui cele ot.
robe to-wear who that-one had
Nus ne la voit qui ne la lot,
Any not her sees who not her may-praise

que trop en ert l'ouvraigne chiere.
for exceedingly thereof was the-workmanship dear
Mès chascuns prise plus sa chiere
But each prizes more her face
et sa biauté que son harnuès.
and her beauty than her array
A mout grant joie l'en ont luez
With very great joy her-thence have at-once
menée au moustier li baron.
led to-the minster the barons
Tant baudequin, tant ciglaton,
So-many baldachin so-many ciclaton
tant bon diaspre, tant samit,
so-many good diaper so-many samite
onques nuls ensamble ne vit,
ever any together not saw
tant rubiz de plusors façons,
so-many rubies of several fashions
l'un a oiseax, l'autre a poissons,
the-one with birds the-other with fish
l'autre partie par quartiers.
the-other parted by quarters
Les sebelins bons et entiers
The sables good and whole
ont es mantiax jusques a cors.
they-have in-the mantles until to bodies
De l'iglise touz li tresors
Of the-church all the treasure
vint encontre a procession:
came toward-her in procession

saintuaire de grant renon
relic of great renown
i ot, ge ne sai dont il vint;
there was I not know whence it came
si ot ceptre, et quanque convint
so there-was scepter and whatever behooved
i ot, sanz longues demorer,
there was without long delaying
a l'empereor coroner.
for the-emperor to-crown
Mout ot chascuns riche corone,
Very had each rich crown
et l'arcevesqes les corone
and the-archbishop them crowns
luès droit emprès l'espousement.
at-once straight after the-wedding
Lors lor fist on segnorelment
Then for-them did one lordly
quanqu'en dut en fet et en dit,
whatever-one ought in deed and in word
en l'onor dou saint Esperit,
in the-honor of-the Holy Spirit
et chanta de la Trinité.
and sang of the Trinity
Li serjant orent si hasté,
The servants had so hastened
chascuns endroit le sien mestier,
each in-regard-to the his office
que luès droit qu'en vint dou moustier,
that at-once straight that-one came from-the minster

qu'en mit les napes sor les dois.
that-one put the cloths upon the daises
Je ne sai pas por qoi j'acrois
I not know at-all for what I-increase
la matiere de moz oisiaus;
the matter with words idle
mès après l'eve fist on ciaus
but after the-water had one those
asseoir lez l'empereriz
sit beside the-empress
que hautece i ot esliz:
whom highness there had chosen
ce furent duz et arcevesques
these were dukes and archbishops
et autre[s] baron[s] et euvesques,
and other barons and bishops
assis par cez tables dormanz.
seated through these tables standing
Mout en i a des mervellanz
Very-many thereof there are of-the marveling
ou la trés grant biautez fu prise
where the very great beauty was taken
l'empereriz: «Bien ont a prise,»
(of-)the-empress Well have at prize
font il, «tendu si biau samblant,
say they stretched so fair semblance
qui vont as genz le cuer emblant,
who go from-the folk the heart stealing
mès ce n'est pas en roberie.
but this not-is at-all in robbery

Bien doit haïr sa loberie
Well ought to-hate his trickery
li seneschaus,» font il entr'aus.
the seneschal say they among-themselves
Or deüst servir ovoec ciaus
Now he-ought to-serve with those
qui sont fievé d'anceserie,
who are enfeoffed of-ancestry
qui servent por lor segnorie,
who serve for their lordship
que lor sires porte corone.
when their lord wears crown
De tex mès com lor fiez lor done
With such dishes as their fief to-them gives
servi chascuns au dois le jor
served each at-the dais the day
por honorer l'empereor,
for to-honor the-emperor
mout acesmé et embeli.
very adorned and embellished
«A ce a li seneschaus failli,»
In this has the seneschal failed
font li autre, «par sa deserte.»
say the others by his desert
Il n'en puet mès aler sanz perte,
He not-thence can more go without loss
car il le tient pire q'escoufles.
for he him holds worse than-kites

Il fu en aniaus et en moufles
He was in rings and in muffs
de fer orainz mis en la tor:
of iron just-now put in the tower
s'il puet eschaper a cest tor,
if-he can escape at this turn
dont savra il mout de Renart.
then will-know he much of Reynard

The Wedding Feast

XX

Minstrels sing at the feast, and Conrad's wedding night with Liénor surpasses Tristan's with Iseut. Conrad refuses the barons' plea for the seneschal, so they turn to Liénor, who spares his life and sends him overseas to serve the Templars. The court disperses, William is loved and honored, Conrad welcomes their mother at Mainz, and the archbishop has the story written down. The author, who lost his surname when he entered religion, rests.

Uns chanterres de vers Tonart,
A singer from toward Tonnerre
qui estoit au segnor de Hui,
who was (of-)the lord of Huy
pensoit mout poi de son anui.
thought very little of his grief
Ausi fesoient ne sai quant,
Also did not I-know how-many
qui s'en vont par laienz chantant:
who themselves-thence go through therein singing

C'est la gieus, la gieus, q'en dit en ces prez.
This-is there down there down which-one says in these meadows
Vos ne vendrez mie, dames, caroler.
You not will-come at-all ladies to-carol
La bele Aeliz i vet por joer,
The fair Aelis there goes for to-play
souz la vert olive.
under the green olive
Vos ne vendrez mie caroler es prez,
You not will-come at-all to-carol in-the meadows
que vos n'amez mie.
for you not-love at-all
G'i doi bien aler et bien caroler,
I-there ought well to-go and well to-carol
car j'ai bele amie.
for I-have fair friend

Fet .j. quens: «Or ne voi ge mie
Says a count Now not see I at-all
qe nus doie si cesti dire,
that any ought so this-one to-say
com fet l'empereres mis sire.
as does the-emperor my lord
Voire, et cesti,» refet il l[u]ès,
Truly and this-one says-in-turn he at-once
«qui vaut .j. mauvès entremès:
which is-worth a bad interlude

C'est la gieus enmi les prez.
This-is there down amid the meadows
J'ai amors a ma volenté.
I-have love at my will
Dames i ont bauz levez.
Ladies there have dances raised
Gari m'ont mi oel.
Healed me-have my eyes
J'ai amors a ma volenté,
I-have love at my will
teles com je voel.
such as I wish

Ceste li rest bone sans doute;
This-one to-him is-again good without doubt
or la puet chanter, qu'il a toute
now it he-can sing for-he has all
honor et joie a cest mengier.
honor and joy at this meal
Ne sont pas a conter legier
Not are at-all to count easy
li mès, tant en i ot divers
the dishes so-many thereof there were diverse
de cenglers [et] d'ours et de cers,
of boars and of-bears and of stags
grues, jantes, paons rostis.
cranes wild-geese peacocks roasted
Li serjant n'ont pas cez hounis,
The servants not-have at-all those shamed

qui orent porrée au mouton,
who had leek-broth with-the mutton
qui por le mai ert en seson;
which for the May was in season
et gras buef et oisons peüz,
and fat beef and goslings fed
vins blans et vermeils ont eüz,
wines white and red they-have had
itex come chascuns amot.
such as each loved
Mout se saola bien et pot
Very himself sated well and fed
en esgarder son grant barnage
in looking-at his great baronage
l'empereres, et le visage
the-emperor and the face
de sa nouvelle couronnée.
of his new crowned-one
Buer l'ont ses genz si esgardée,
In-a-good-hour her-have his folk so looked-at
qu'il les en aime miex et prise.
for-he them thereby loves better and prizes
Ses biaus freres si a bien prise
Her fair brother so has well taken
sor lui grant part de cele joie.
upon him great part of that joy
Jamès ne quit que nus hom voie
Ever not I-think that any man may-see
plus gent chevalier qu'il ert lors,
more gracious knight than-he was then

quequ'il servi, em pur le cors,
while-that-he served in bare the body
au dois devant l'empereor.
at-the dais before the-emperor
Diex! s'or veïst a cele honor
God if-now might-see in that honor
la bone mere ses enfans,
the good mother her children
toz les jors qu'ele fust vivanz,
all the days that-she might-be living
en fust assez plus en santé.
thereby would-be much more in health
Ha! Dex! com l'en a cieus hasté
Ah God how one has those hastened
qui li vont la novele dire!
who to-her go the news to-tell
Li fil as barons de l'empire,
The sons of-the barons of the-empire
luès droit q'en a napes ostées,
at-once straight that-one has cloths removed
ont les touailles aportées
have the towels brought
et les bacins plains d'eve clere.
and the basins full of-water clear
Erroment que li emperere,
At-once that the emperor
qui si ot esté bien serviz,
who so had been well served
ot lavé, et l'empereriz,
had washed and the-empress

et l'arcevesqes tot avant,
and the-archbishop all first
lors comença de maintenant
then began from now
la grant feste tote la nuit.
the great feast all the night
En bohorder et en deduit
In jousting and in delight
mistrent le remegnant dou jor.
they-put the remainder of-the day
Tant garnement, tant riche ator
So-many garment so-many rich array
i ot doné ainz l'endemain:
there was given before the-next-day
nus ne s'en vet a vuide main
any not himself-thence goes with empty hand
qui i fust venuz por avoir.
who there were come for wealth
Li baron qui voustrent avoir
The barons who wished to-have
le bon gré de l'empereor
the good favor of the-emperor
i donerent tant por s'amor
there gave so-much for his-love
chapes, sorcos, cotes, mantiaus,
capes surcoats tunics mantles
qui eüst tant de blans burriaus,
who might-have so-many of white homespuns

s'en peüst on vestir .iij. ans
so-thereof could one clothe three years
les renduz d'Igni et d'Oscans;
the lay-brothers of-Igny and of-Ourscamp
mout i en ot doné plenté.
very there thereof was given plenty
Je ne vos ai mie conté
I not to-you have at-all told
quel siecle li rois ot la nuit:
what time the king had the night
se nus hom puet avoir deduit
if any man can have delight
a tenir s'amie embraciée,
in holding his-friend embraced
en biau lit la nuit anuitiée,
in fair bed the night fallen
donc pot on bien savoir qu'il l'eut.
then could one well know that-he it-had
Quant Tristrans ama plus Yseut,
When Tristan loved most Iseut
et il s'en pot miex aaisier
and he himself-thereof could best ease
et d'acoler et de baisier
both in-embracing and in kissing
et dou sorplus qu'il i covint,
and in-the surplus which-it there behooved
et Lanvax et autretex .xx.
and Lanval and such-others twenty
amant, com cil orent esté,
lovers as those had been

ce sachiez vos de verité,
this know you for truth
ne peüst on aparellier
not could one compare
lor siecle a cestui de legier.
their time with this-one of easy
Si i parut bien au lever;
So there appeared well at-the rising
c'onqes nus ne li vout rouver
for-ever any not to-him wished to-ask
riche don qu'il ne li donast.
rich gift that-he not to-him might-give
Ainz que li haus bers s'en alast
Before that the high baron himself-thence went
ne que la granz cors departist,
or that the great court dispersed
sachiez que il lor despartit
know that he to-them distributed
ses biaus joiax a grant plenté,
his fair jewels in great plenty
ensi com il orent esté
thus as they had been
en s'onor et en son servise.
in his-honor and in his service
Tuit ensamble li ont requise
All together to-him have asked
la merci por le seneschal.
the mercy for the seneschal

«Por tant d'or com il a d'archal
For as-much gold as there is of-brass
a Hui, ou l'en fet les chaudieres
at Huy where one makes the cauldrons
(si m'en poise por voz proieres),
so me-thereof weighs for your prayers
ne remaindroit que n'en fust fete
not would-remain that not-thereof were done
la justice.» Or s'en dehaite
the justice Now himself-thereat disheartens
li dus de Savoie et li autre;
the duke of Savoy and the others
desus le pavement de Bautre
upon the pavement of Bautre
se sont tuit couchié a ses piez:
themselves are all lain at his feet
«C'est por noient. Or vos dreciez,
This-is for nothing Now yourselves raise
qu'il a tot au siecle parti,
for-he has all to-the world shared
li desloiaus qui me menti,
the disloyal-one who to-me lied
qui vout honir la gentil fame.
who wished to-shame the noble woman
Tote la plus preus dou roiaume
All the most worthy of-the kingdom
dut avoir traï par envie;
he-was-to have betrayed by envy
certes mout doit haïr sa vie,
certainly much he-ought to-hate his life

qu'il i morra o tot sa honte.
for-he there will-die with all his shame
— Et de ce q'a ma dame monte,
And of this which-to my lady pertains
biaus sire, peseroit vos il
fair lord would-weigh to-you it
si nos li pri[i]ons? — Nenil,
if we to-her prayed No
bien en face ce qu'ele veut.»
well thereof she-may-do this which-she wishes
Il se repenti qu'il les eut
He himself repented that-he them had
au premier mot si escondiz;
at-the first word so refused
qu'il en avoit esté serviz
for-he thereby had been served
mout bien et a lor grant despenz.
very well and at their great expense
De grant sens lor vint cil porpenz,
From great sense to-them came that thought
qu'il l'en sont luès alé proier.
that-they her-thereof are at-once gone to-pray
Li uns li a sanz deslaier
The one to-her has without delaying
por aus touz dite la parole:
for them all said the word
que s'il i muert ou l'en l'affole,
that if-he there dies or one him-maims
el i avra mout poi conquis;
she there will-have very little won

et s'avra a toz jors aquis
and so-she-will-have for all days acquired
lor cuers, s'ele fet lor proiere.
their hearts if-she does their prayer
Mout estoit en bele meniere
Very she-was in fair manner
vestue, acesmée et trecie.
dressed adorned and braided
Que ne l'avoit pas si blecie
For not her-had at-all so hurt
la nuit, Deu merci, l'emperere,
the night God thanks the-emperor
que de ce dont la proiere ere
that of this whereof the prayer was
qu'ele n'en seüst bien respondre,
that-she not-thereof might-know well answer
sanz vilonie et sanz esgondre
without villainy and without hiding
.i. sol mot de ce qu'il li distrent.
a single word of this which-they to-her said
Enmi la requeste li distrent
Amid the request to-her they-said
que bien seüst ele une rien:
that well might-know she one thing
que l'empereres voloit bien
that the-emperor wished well
qu'ele feïst tot son voloir.
that-she might-do all her will
«Huimès en porrai ge avoir,»
Today thereof shall-be-able I to-have

fet ele, «male volenté,
says she ill will
se vos m'avez dit verité,
if you me-have said truth
que mis sires l'ait mis sor moi.
that my lord it-may-have put upon me
Je ne voeil pas, ne ne le doi,
I not wish at-all nor not it ought
encor atrere en Alemaigne,
yet to-draw in Germany
que Dex et la gent ne s'en plaigne,
that God and the folk not themselves-thereof may-complain
qu'il n'apartendroit pas a nos:
for-it not-would-belong at-all to us
or m'en conselliez entre vos
now me-thereof counsel among you
quele justice on en puet fere
what justice one thereof can do
sanz mort reçoivre et sanz deffere:
without death receiving and without undoing
por ce q'autres ne s'i amorde,
for this that-others not themselves-thereto may-bite
je ne voeil pas qu'il s'en estorde
I not wish at-all that-he himself-thence may-escape
sanz fere longue peneance.
without doing long penance
— Fetes li Alemaigne et France
Make him Germany and France
vuidier; si s'en voist outre mer.
empty so himself-thence he-may-go over sea

— Ge nel doi mie mout amer,
I not-him ought at-all much to-love
qu'il nel vout onques deservir.
for-he not-it wished ever to-deserve
Or s'en voist au Temple servir,
Now himself-thence he-may-go to-the Temple to-serve
se mes sires le veut einsi.
if my lord it wishes thus
— Oïl, dame, gel vos affi.
Yes lady I-it to-you pledge
— Gel lo bien, por Deu et por vos.
I-it advise well for God and for you
Dame, et de Deu et de nos
Lady both from God and from us
en aiez voz grez et merciz!
thereof have your thanks and graces
Certes or nos avez gariz
Certainly now us you-have healed
et geté de mout grant soussi.»
and cast from very great care
L'empereor le vont einsi
The-emperor it go thus
reporter com ele avoit dit.
to-report as she had said
Fet il: «De par saint Esperit,
Says he From by Holy Spirit
je n'i metrai ja contredit.
I not-there shall-put ever gainsaying

Mout a ore baé petit
Very she-has now aspired little
a l'outrage le seneschal;
to the-outrage (of-)the seneschal
ne li rent mie mal por mal,
not to-him renders at-all ill for ill
qui l'en lait a tel point venir.
who him-thereof lets at such point come
— Sire, tout ert a avenir.
Lord all was to happen
Por Deu,» font il, «lessiez ester;
For God say they let stand
l'en nel doit jamès recorder,
one not-it ought ever to-recall
q'assez en a honte et anui.
for-enough thereof he-has shame and grief
A foi, bon jor li doint Dex hui,
In faith good day to-her may-give God today
por cui nos en somes a tant!
for whom we thereof are at so-much
— Or alez,» fet li rois, «batant,
Now go says the king at-once
sel fetes geter des aniaus.
so-him have cast-out of-the rings
Or se gart bien li damoisiaus
Now himself may-guard well the young-lord
qu'il viegne croisiez a ma cort!
that-he may-come crossed to my court

C'iert en l'eure que li chiens cort
This-will-be in the-hour that the dog runs
qu'il i sera jamès amez.»
that-he there will-be ever loved
Toz croisiez i fu amenez,
All crossed there he-was brought
plorant, devant l'empereriz,
weeping before the-empress
rendre les grez et les merciz
to-render the thanks and the graces
de la bonté qu'el li ot fete.
for the kindness which-she to-him had done
Si vos di que tex s'en deshete
So to-you I-say that such himself-thereof disheartens
qui pensa poi a son movoir.
who thought little of his moving
Puis voudrent le congié avoir
Then wished the leave to-have
li baron de l'empereriz;
the barons of the-empress
a cours moz et par mout biauz diz
in short words and by very fair sayings
lor dona debonairement,
to-them she-gave graciously
et l'empereres ensement.
and the-emperor likewise
Puis departi la cours einsi,
Then dispersed the court thus
et ralerent en lor païs,
and went-back into their country

ou chascuns ot assez a fere.
where each had enough to do
Mout est li siecles de mal' aire,
Very is the world of ill temper
que tote joie fine en doel:
for all joy ends in grief
ja ne queïssent mès, lor voel,
ever not they-would-seek more their wish
departir, mès il le covint.
to-part but it it behooved
L'empereres et barons .xx.
The-emperor and barons twenty
remesent o l'empereriz.
remained with the-empress
Mout amez et mout segnoriz
Very loved and very lorded
est li bons Guillames, ses frere.
is the good William her brother
L'empereres fist de sa mere
The-emperor made of his mother
mout grant joie, quant ele vint:
very great joy when she came
l'empereres bien la maintint
the-emperor well her maintained
dedenz la cité de Maience.
within the city of Mainz
L'arcevesques par reverence
The-archbishop by reverence
en fist metre en escrit l'estoire.
thereof had put in writing the-story

Bien le devroient en memoire
Well it ought in memory
avoir et li roi et li conte,
to-have both the kings and the counts
cel prodome dont on lor conte,
that worthy-man of-whom one to-them tells
por avoir de bien fere envie,
for to-have of well doing envy
ausi com cil fist en sa vie,
as as he did in his life
por cui l'en chante et chantera,
for whom one sings and will-sing
tant com li siecles durera,
as-long as the world will-last
qui ne finera mie encore.
which not will-end at-all yet
Et cil se veut reposer ore
And he himself wishes to-rest now
qui le jor perdi son sornon
who the day lost his surname
qu'il entra en religion.
when-he entered into religion