OLD FRENCH SERIES · VOLUME 42

The Fair Unknown

Renaut de Beaujeu

Li Biaus Desconneus

The Fair Unknown

Gawain's Son and the Fearsome Kiss

---

with a word-for-word interlinear English translation

preserving the original word order

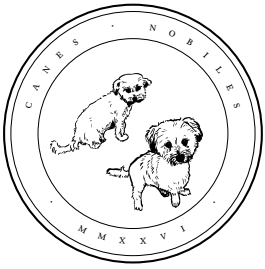


CANES NOBILES · MMXXVI

Copyright © 2026 Christopher Hench
All rights reserved

Published by Canes Nobiles
canesnobiles.com

The source text is in the public domain



Volume 42 of the Canes Nobiles Old French interlinear texts

The Old French text follows C. Hippeau's text, Le Bel Inconnu, ou Giglain fils de messire Gauvain et de la fée aux blanches mains (Paris, 1860)

Translated and composed with AI, edited by Christopher Hench
Artwork by Esther Steves

Li Biaus Desconneus survives in a single manuscript, at Chantilly, and is printed as Hippeau prints it, whose text lacks ninety-two of the manuscript's verses, fifty-two of them together after verse 3914, and has ten of his own; his guillemets open every verse of a speech, and the four lacunae he marks with a row of points stand as rows of their own. The verse number the margin carries every fifth row counts the verses as they stand, since his own figures slip at a dozen places and end twelve behind. The reading sections and their English heads are this press's; each passage his rubrics open begins on an indented verse.

CONTENTS

I · The Court at Caerleon 7
II · Hélie's Plea 16
III · The Perilous Ford 29
IV · The Two Giants 47
V · The Three Companions 72
VI · The Little Hound 94
VII · The Sparrowhawk 109
VIII · The Isle of Gold 134
IX · The Lady of the White Hands 158
X · Lampart's Custom 177
XI · The Waste City 195
XII · The Fearsome Kiss 221
XIII · The Queen of Wales 238
XIV · Love's Sickness 258
XV · The Fairy's Message 284
XVI · The Enchanted Night 306
XVII · The Lovers 336
XVIII · Blonde Esmerée at Court 349
XIX · The Castle of Maidens 371
XX · The Tournament 387
XXI · The Crowning 419

The Court at Caerleon

I

The poet begins his romance for the lady he loves. Arthur holds court at Caerleon in August, and the poet names the knights there. A young knight rides in, his azure shield bearing an ermine lion, and asks the king for the first gift he will request; Arthur grants it. Gawain gives him a mantle. Asked his name, the youth knows only that his mother called him "fair son," so Arthur names him the Fair Unknown.

Cele qui m'a en sa baillie,
She who me-has in her keeping
cui j'aim d'amors, sans tricerie,
whom I-love of-love without trickery
m'a doné sens de cançon faire:
me-has given wit of song to-make
por li veul un roumant estraire
for her I-wish a romance to-draw-out
d'un moult biel conte d'aventure;
of-a very fair tale of-adventure
por celi c'aim outre mesure,
for her whom-I-love beyond measure
vos veul l'istoire commancier;
to-you I-wish the-story to-begin
en poi d'eure puet Dius aidier.
in little of-hour can God help
Por ço, n'en prent trop grant esmai;
For this not-thereof takes too great dismay
mais mostrer veul que faire sai.
but to-show I-wish what to-do I-know

A Charlion, qui siet sor mer,
At Caerleon which sits upon sea
se faisoit li rois coroner,
himself made the king crown
à une cort qu'il ot mandée.
at a court that-he had summoned
A un aost fu l'asamblée;
At an August was the-assembly
moult fu la cors, qu'Artus tint, grans,
very was the court that-Arthur held great
et la cités bonne et vaillant.
and the city good and worthy
Quant venus fu tos li barnés,
When come was all the baronage
qui à la cort fu asamblés,
which at the court was assembled
grans fu la cors qui fu mandée,
great was the court which was summoned
quant i fu la cors asamblée.
when there was the court assembled
Là véisiés grant joie faire,
There you-would-have-seen great joy make
as jogléors vièles traire,
by-the jongleurs viols draw
harpes soner et estriver,
harps sound and vie
as cantéors cançons canter.
by-the singers songs sing

Li cantéor metent lor cures
The singers put their cares
en dire beles aventures.
in telling fair adventures
Moult ot en la cort bieles gens;
Much there-was in the court fair folk
mains chevaliers d'armes vaillans
many knights of-arms valiant
ot en la cort, je ne menc mie,
there-was in the court I not lie at-all
si com la letre dist la vie.
so as the letter said the life
Li rois Aguillars i estoit,
The king Aguillars there was
cui li rois Artus moult amoit;
whom the king Arthur much loved
ses freres Los et Uriens.
his brother Lot and Urien
Li rois Horels et Floriens,
The king Horel and Florien
Bues de Gonefort et Tristans,
Bue of Gonefort and Tristan
Gervis de Cartre et Erians;
Gervis of Cartre and Erian
Gauvains i fu, et Beduiers,
Gawain there was and Bedivere
rois Enaud et quens Riciers;
king Enaud and count Ricier
Erec i estoit, li fius Lac;
Erec there was the son (of-)Lac

com s'i fu Lasselos dou Lac;
as so-there was Lancelot of-the Lake
Gales li Cauf, et Caraés,
Gales the Bald and Caraés
et Tors, Li fius le roi Arés,
and Tor The son (of-)the king Arés
Dinaus et li cuens Oduins,
Dinaut and the count Oduin
et Carados, et Carentins,
and Caradoc and Carentin
Mordrès i fu, et Segurés,
Mordred there was and Seguré
et Baladingan li vallés;
and Baladingan the young-man
rois Amangons, et li rois Mars,
king Amangon and the king Mark
et si i fu li biaus Eoars,
and so there was the fair Eoart
cil à la cote mautaillie,
he with the coat ill-cut
Esqes d'Estrans, Aquins d'Orbie,
Esqes of-Estrans Aquin of-Orbie
Guinlains i fu, de Tintaguel,
Guinlain there was of Tintagel
qui onques n'ot ire ne duel;
who ever not-had wrath nor grief
Kais li senescals i estoit,
Kay the seneschal there was
qui por laver crier faisoit.
who for to-wash cry made

Tant en i ot, ne puis conter,
So-many thereof there were not I-can count
ne les Dames ne puis nommer.
nor the Ladies not I-can name
A la cort ont l'auge criée,
At the court they-have the-water cried
et li vallet l'ont aportée.
and the young-men it-have brought
Quant ont lavé, si sont asis
When they-have washed so they-are seated
entor la table, m'est à vis.
around the table to-me-is at opinion
Beduiers a la cope prise,
Bedivere has the cup taken
devant le roi fait son servise,
before the king does his service
et Kais le servoit dou mangier:
and Kay him served of-the food
ce aferoit à son mestier.
this belonged to his office
Par les tables fait mès porter;
Through the tables he-makes dishes carry
il vait devant por le doner.
he goes before for it to-give
Moult i avoit de biaus servans
Much there there-was of fair servants
et de bons chevaliers vaillans;
and of good knights valiant

maint i en ot de mainte guise,
many there thereof there-was of many-a fashion
si com la letre le devise.
so as the letter it relates
A tant ès-vos un mésager,
At that behold a messenger
qui vient avant sor son destrier,
who comes forward upon his charger
et ses escus d'asur estoit;
and his shield of-azure was
d'ermine un lion i avoit.
of-ermine a lion there there-was
Devant le roi en vint tot dreit;
Before the king thence he-came all straight
bien sanbla chevalier adreit.
well he-seemed knight skilled
Le roi salua maintenant,
The king he-greeted at-once
et puis les autres ensement.
and then the others likewise
Li rois li rendi ses salus,
The king him returned his greetings
qui de respondre ne fu mus:
who of answering not was mute
et si li a dit: «Descendés.»
and so him he-has said Dismount
Mais cil li dist: «Ains m'escoutés.
But he him said Rather me-hear
«Artu, venus sui à ta cort;
Arthur come I-am to thy court

«car n'i faura, comment qu'il cort,
for not-there it-will-fail however that-it go
«del primier don que je querrai:
of-the first gift that I shall-ask
«Aurai-le je, u le j'faurai?
Shall-have-it I or it I-shall-fail
«Donne-le moi et n'i penser
Give-it me and not-thereon think
«tant esprendre; ne l'dois véer.»
so-long to-take-fire not it-thou-must refuse
— «Je le vos dons, ce dist li rois;» —
I it to-you give this said the king
e il le merchie, com cortois.
and he him thanks as courteous
Vallet le corent desarmer;
Young-men him run to-disarm
bien li font ses armes garder.
well him they-make his arms keep
Gauvains li cortois li porta
Gawain the courteous him brought
un chier mantiel qu'il afubla;
a costly mantle that-he donned
vestu ot cote por armer.
clad he-had tunic for arming
Mult i avoit biel baceler.
Very there there-was fair bachelor
Ce dist li rois: «Quel chevalier!
This said the king What knight
Bien sanble qu'il se sace aidier!»
Well it-seems that-he himself may-know to-help

Tot cil qui l'voient redisoient
All those who him-see said-again
que si biel homme ne savoient.
that so fair man not they-knew
Ses mains lava, puis si s'assit.
His hands he-washed then so himself-sat
Gauvains lès lui séoir le fist.
Gawain beside him sit him made
En lui n'avoit que ensignier;
In him not-there-was what to-teach
aveucques lui le fist mangier.
with him him he-made eat
Li rois apela Beduier:
The king called Bedivere
«Alés tot à cel chevalier,
Go quite to that knight
«à celui qui me quist le don;
to him who me asked the gift
«demandés-lui comment a non.
ask-him how he-has name
— «Bien le dirai, dist Beduier.»
Well it I-shall-say said Bedivere
Il est venus au chevalier:
He is come to-the knight
— «Sire, fait-il, li rois vos mande,
Lord says-he the king you bids
«et si le vos prie et commande,
and so it you prays and commands
«que vos me dites votre non;
that you me tell your name

«vos n'i aurés jà se preu non.»
you not-therein will-have ever except profit not
Cil li respont: «Certes ne sai
He him answers Certainly not I-know
«mais que tant dire vos en sai
but that so-much to-tell you thereof I-know
«que biel fil m'apieloit ma mère;
that fair son me-called my mother
«ne je ne sai se je oi père.»
nor I not know if I had father
Beduier est au roi torné.
Bedivere is to-the king turned
Li rois li dist: «Est soi nommé?»
The king him said Is himself named
— «Nenil, sire, qu'il ne sot mie,
No lord for-he not knew at-all
«ne trove que son non li die,
nor he-finds who his name him may-tell
«fors que sa mère le nomoit
except that his mother him named
«bel fil, quant ele l'apieloit.»
fair son when she him-called
Ce dist li rois: «Non li mettrai,
This said the king Name him I-shall-put
«puis qu'il ne l'set, ne je ne l'sai,
since that-he not it-knows nor I not it-know
«por ce que nature i ot mise
for this that nature there had put
«trestoute biauté à devise,
all beauty at will

«si k'en lui se remire et luist,
so that-in him herself mirrors and shines
«et por ce qu'il ne se connuist,
and for this that-he not himself knows
«li Biaus Desconnéus ait non!
the Fair Unknown may-he-have name
«Si l'nonmeront tot mi baron.»
So him-will-name all my barons

Hélie's Plea

II

The maiden Hélie comes with a dwarf to ask Arthur for a knight to succor the daughter of King Gringras; her deliverer must do the Fearsome Kiss. No knight comes forward but the Fair Unknown, who claims his gift. Arthur thinks him too young, but keeps his word and admits him to the Round Table besides; Hélie protests that he is untried, curses the Round Table, and leaves in anger with the dwarf Tidogolain. The Unknown arms, Gawain gives him the squire Robert, and he overtakes her. She tells him to turn back, but the dwarf speaks for him.

Quant l'aventure est avenue,
When the-adventure is happened
ains que la table fust meüe,
before that the table were moved
vint à la cort une Pucèle,
came to the court a Maiden
gente de cors et de vis bièle.
noble of body and of face fair
D'un samit estoit bien vestue;
Of-a samite she-was well clad

si bièle riens ne fu veüe.
so fair thing not was seen
Face ot blance com flors d'esté,
Face she-had white as flower of-summer
come rose ot vis coloré,
as rose she-had face colored
le iouls ot vairs, bouce riant,
the eyes she-had gray mouth laughing
les mains blances, cors avenant;
the hands white body comely
bel cief avoit, si estoit blonde:
fair head she-had so she-was blonde
n'ot plus biel cief feme del monde!
not-had more fair head woman of-the world
En son cief ot un cercle d'or;
On her head she-had a circlet of-gold
ses perles valent un trésor.
its pearls are-worth a treasure
Sor un palefroi cevauçoit.
Upon a palfrey she-rode
Li rois, ce quic, plus bel n'avoit.
The king this I-think more fair not-had
Coverte fu d'un drap de soie.
Covered it-was of-a cloth of silk
De l'orile por coi vos diroie?
Of the-harness for what to-you should-I-tell
A fin or fu, à cières pières;
Of fine gold it-was with costly stones
et li frains et les estrivières.
and the bridle and the stirrup-leathers

Ensemble li, aloit uns nains,
Together-with her went a dwarf
ki n'ert pas ne fols, ne vilains,
who not-was at-all neither foolish nor churlish
ains ert cortois et bien apris.
rather he-was courteous and well taught
Gent ot le cors et biel le vis;
Noble he-had the body and fair the face
plus male tèce en lui n'avoit,
more bad flaw in him not-there-was
fors seul tant que petis estoit.
except only so-much that small he-was
Roube ot de vair et d'eskerlate;
Robe he-had of vair and of-scarlet
moult ert li vairs de grant barate;
very was the vair of great show
sa robe estoit à sa mesure;
his robe was to his measure
moult i ot bele creature.
very there was fair creature
Li nains une corgie avoit,
The dwarf a whip had
de coi le palefroi caçoit,
with which the palfrey he-drove
que cevauçoit la demoisèle.
which rode the damsel
Devant le roi vint la pucèle;
Before the king came the maiden
moult le salua simplement,
very him she-greeted simply

et ses compaignons ensement;
and his companions likewise
et li rois son salu li rent.
and the king her greeting her returns
Mult li respondi bonnement.
Very her he-answered kindly
Ce disoit la Pucèle au roi:
This said the Maiden to-the king
«Artur, fait-ele, entent à moi.
Arthur says-she attend to me
«La fille au roi Gringars te mande
The daughter of-the king Gringras thee sends
«salus, si te prie et demande
greetings so thee prays and asks
«secors, qu'ele en a grant mestier:
succor for-she thereof has great need
«Ne li estuet c'un chevalier.
Not her needs but-one knight
«Uns chevaliers la secorra,
A knight her will-succor
«por Diu, gentis rois, secor la.
for God noble king succor her
Moult a painne, moult a dolor;
Much she-has pain much she-has grief
«moult est entrée en grant tristor.
very she-is entered in great sorrow
«Envoie-li tel chevalier,
Send-her such knight
«qui bien li puisse avoir mestier,
who well to-her may have service

«trestot li millor que tu as.
all the best that thou hast
«Por Diu, te pri, ne targe pas.
For God thee I-pray not delay at-all
«Lasse! com ma Dame a dolor!
Alas how my Lady has grief
«Certes moult auroit grant honnor
Certainly much would-have great honor
«icil qui de mal l'estordroit,
he who from ill her-would-deliver
«et qui le fier baisier feroit.
and who the fearsome kiss would-do
«Mais pros que il li a mestier!
But valiant that he her has need
«Onques n'ot tel à chevalier.
Ever not-had such to knight
«Jà mauvais hom le don ne quière;
Ever bad man the gift not may-ask
«tot en giroit en vers en bière!»
all thereof would-lie on back in bier
La pucèle avoit non Hélie,
The maiden had name Hélie
qui por sa Dame quiert aïe.
who for her Lady seeks help
Li rois esgarde et atendoit
The king looks and waited
qui le don li demanderoit;
who the gift him would-ask
mais n'i trove demandéor,
but not-there he-finds asker

car n'i ot nul qui n'ot paor
for not-there was any who not-had fear
que il à li ne li commant;
that he to her — him may-command
ni a celui qui ait talent,
not-there is he who may-have desire
ne mais li biaus Desconnéus.
nor except the fair Unknown
Quant il s'en est apercéus,
When he himself-thereof is aware
isnelement en pié leva,
swiftly on foot he-rose
et devant le roi s'en ala.
and before the king himself-thence went
«Sire, fait il, mon don vos quier:
Lord says he my gift you I-ask
«Je veul aler madame aidier!
I wish to-go my-lady to-help
«Mon don veul ore demander;
My gift I-wish now to-ask
«au secors faire veul aler.»
to-the succor to-make I-wish to-go
Ce dit li rois: «el me quesis;
This says the king else of-me thou-asked
«trop estes jouenes, biaus amis,
too you-are young fair friend
«trop t'i esteveroit pener;
too-much thee-there it-would-behoove to-toil
«mieus te vient à en pais ester.»
better thee comes to in peace to-stay

Cil li respont en eslés pas:
He him answers in that-very step
«Par le covent que tu m'en as,
By the covenant that thou me-thereof hast
«te quier le don que m'as pramis!
of-thee I-ask the gift that me-thou-hast promised
«Raison feras, ce m'est à vis;
Right thou-wilt-do this to-me-is at opinion
«rois es, si ne dois pas mentir,
king thou-art so not thou-must at-all lie
«ne covent à nului faillir.»
nor covenant to anyone fail
Ce dit li rois: «Dont i alés,
This says the king Then there go
«puis qu'estes si entalentés!
since that-you-are so eager
«Je vos redoins un autre don;
I you give-again an other gift
«je vos retieng à compaignon,
I you retain as companion
«et met en la Table Réonde.»
and put in the Table Round
Ne pot muer que ne responde
Not could change that — may-answer
la pucèle, et dist: «Non sera!
the maiden and said Not it-will-be
«Jà, par mon cief, o moi n'ira!
Ever by my head with me not-he-will-go
«Jo t'avoie quis le millor,
I thee-had asked the best

«et tu m'as donné le pïor,
and thou me-hast given the worst
«que tu ne sais se vaut nient!
for thou not knowest if he-is-worth anything
«Jo n'ai aite de tel présent.
I not-have pleasure of such present
«Trop est jouenes li chevaliers;
Too is young the knight
«des millors veul, et des plus fiers.
of-the best I-want and of-the most fierce
«Que de cestui ne veul-je mie.
For of this-one not want-I at-all
«Veul qui soit de chevalerie
I-want who may-be of knighthood
«esprovés et de millor los;
proven and of better renown
«si laissiés cestui à repos.»
so leave this-one at rest
Ce dist li Rois: «Suer, bele amie,
This said the King Sister fair friend
«covent li ot, n'i faudra mie.
covenant him he-had not-therein it-will-fail at-all
«Jo li ai pramis vraiement;
I him have promised truly
«si li tendrai sans fausement.
so him I-shall-keep without falsehood
«Rois sui: si ne dei pas mentir,
King I-am so not I-must at-all lie
«ne covent à nului faillir.»
nor covenant to anyone fail

Et la pucèle en haut s'escrie:
And the maiden on high herself-cries
— «De cort m'en vois comme faillie!
From court myself-thence I-go as failed
«Dehé ait la Table Réonde,
Curse may-have the Table Round
«et cil qui sient à l'esponde,
and those who sit at the-edge
«qui le secors ne veulent faire!
who the succor not wish to-make
«Ha, de ci, Dame debonaire,
Ah from here Lady gracious
«de secors point ne vos amain:
of succor at-all not to-you I-bring
«N'est merveille se je me plain,
Not-is marvel if I myself complain
«qu'Artus ne vos secorra mie;
for-Arthur not you will-succor at-all
«ains i sui bien de tot faillie.
rather there I-am well of all failed
«Nains, r'alons ent» dit la pucèle.
Dwarf let-us-go-back thence says the maiden
De cort s'en part la damoisèle,
From court herself-thence parts the damsel
moult s'en va tost, ele et li nains,
very herself-thence goes quickly she and the dwarf
qui avoit non Tidogolains.
who had name Tidogolain

Quant de cort aler l'a veüe
When from court go her-he-has seen
n'a mie la parole mue,
not-he-has at-all the word changed
que ses armes porter commande;
for his arms to-bring he-commands
et si tost com il les demande,
and so soon as he them asks
Gauvains les li fist aporter.
Gawain them him made bring
Isnelement se fait armer;
Swiftly himself he-makes arm
ses cauces lace, l'auberc vest,
his chausses he-laces the-hauberk he-dons
et en son cief son elme trest.
and on his head his helmet draws
Puis est monté en son destrier;
Then he-is mounted on his charger
Gauvains li baille un escuier;
Gawain him gives a squire
son escu li porte et sa lance.
his shield him carries and his lance
Dius li aït par sa puissance!
God him may-aid by his power
Quant del roi a le congié pris,
When of-the king he-has the leave taken
et des autres, ce m'est à vis,
and of-the others this to-me-is at opinion
de la cort ist, moult tost s'en vait;
from the court he-goes-out very quickly himself-thence goes

del don qu'il a grant joie fait.
of-the gift that-he has great joy made
Li escuiers ot non Robers;
The squire had name Robert
moult esteit sages et apers.
very he-was wise and skillful
Poignant s'en vont par la vacèle;
Spurring themselves-thence they-go through the dale
qu'attaindre veulent la pucèle.
for-to-overtake they-wish the maiden
Li Desconnéus se hasta;
The Unknown himself hastened
tant a coru qu'atraite l'a.
so-much he-has run that-reached her-he-has
Ele retorne, si le vit:
She turns so him saw
«Ù alés-vos, ce li a dit?»
Where go-you this him she-has said
— «Je veul aveuques vos aler;
I wish with you to-go
«tant ne me deüssiés blasmer,
so-much not me you-should blame
«dès tant que séussiés por coi!
until so-much that you-knew for what
«Aiés merchi, bele, de moi!»
Have mercy fair-one of me
Et la Pucèle li respont:
And the Maiden him answers
«Par celui qui forma le mont!
By him who formed the world

«Jà par mon gré o moi n'irés;
Ever by my will with me not-you-will-go
«sor mon pois venir i poés;
against my weight come there you-can
«trop vos vois jone baceler;
too you I-see young bachelor
«por ce ne vos i veul mener,
for this not you there I-wish to-lead
«que vos ne l'porïés soufrir,
for you not it-could endure
«ne tant durs estors maintenir
nor so-many hard battles sustain
«com vos i convenroit à faire.
as you there it-would-behoove to do
«Vos n'en poriez à cief vos traire;
You not-thereof could to end yourself draw
«mais vos convient torner arière;
but you it-behooves to-turn back
«car le faites, par ma proière.»
so it do by my prayer
Et Cil maintenant li respont:
And He at-once her answers
— «Damoisèle, por rien el mont,
Damsel for anything in-the world
«je ne retorneroie mie,
I not would-turn-back at-all
«tant qu'en cel cors aie la vie.
so-long that-in this body I-may-have the life
«Dès que cest secors aie fait,
Until that this succor I-may-have made

«n'en torneroie por nul plait!»
not-thence I-would-turn for any plea
Ce dist li nains: — «Car le menés,
This said the dwarf So him lead
«damoisèle, se vos volés.
damsel if you wish
«On ne doit aucun blasmer mie,
One not must anyone blame at-all
«dusc'on sace sa coardie:
until-one may-know his cowardice
«Tel tent-on vil, que c'est folor,
Such holds-one base for it-is folly
«que Dius donne puis grant honor.
whom God gives afterward great honor
«En cestui a biel chevalier;
In this-one there-is fair knight
«se Dius li en donne aidïer,
if God him thereof gives to-help
«bien porroit estre de valor,
well he-could be of worth
«aidié par Dieu le Créator.»
helped by God the Creator
Mais la Pucèle ançois le prie
But the Maiden rather him prays
qu'il s'entorne. Cil ne l'croit mie;
that-he himself-turn-back He not her-believes at-all
ains veut adiés avant aler;
rather he-wishes always forward to-go
coardie ne velt penser.
cowardice not he-wishes to-think

The Perilous Ford

III

Bliobleheris guards the Perilous Ford and has killed many there. Hélie warns the Unknown back, but he crosses and unhorses him. Bliobleheris kills the Unknown's horse, and they fight on foot until Bliobleheris, weak from his wound, yields and pledges to go prisoner to Arthur. The dwarf rebukes Hélie, and Robert gives his lord the beaten knight's charger. Bliobleheris sends his three companions after the Unknown to avenge him.

Or cevaucent; grant oirre vont.
Now they-ride great pace they-go
Tant ont alé, qu'à un gué sont,
So-much they-have gone that-at a ford they-are
c'on claime le Gué périlleus,
that-one calls the Ford perilous
li passages est dolereus:
the passage is grievous
sor la rive virent del gué,
upon the bank they-saw of-the ford
de l'autre part, enmi le pré,
of the-other side amid the meadow
une bièle loge galesse,
a fair lodge Welsh
qui fu faite de raime fresse.
which was made of branch fresh
Un escu ot, à l'uis devant;
A shield there-was at the-door before
li cief fu d'or, li piés d'argent.
the head was of-gold the foot of-silver

En la loge ot un chevalier
In the lodge there-was a knight
qui se faisoit esbanoier.
who himself made amuse
Ensi atendoit l'aventure.
Thus he-awaited the-adventure
Maint chevalier l'ont trové dure,
Many-a knight it-have found hard
que il avoit ocis al gué;
whom he had killed at-the ford
moult étoit plains de cruauté.
very he-was full of cruelty
Bliobliéris avoit non.
Bliobleheris he-had name
Moult ot le cuer fier et félon.
Very he-had the heart fierce and felon
Millor chevalier ne vit nus.
Better knight not saw anyone
As vallès a dit: «Levés sus;
To-the young-men he-has said Rise up
«car voi venir un chevalier,
for I-see come a knight
«amenés-moi tost mon destrier
bring-me quickly my charger
«et mes armes; si m'armerai;
and my arms so I-shall-arm-myself
«au chevalier me combatrai,
with-the knight myself I-shall-fight
«qui mainne cele damoisèle:
who leads that damsel

«Jà li ferai wider la sièle.»
Ever him I-shall-make empty the saddle
Li doi vallet le vont armer
The two young-men him go to-arm
à son talent, sans plus parler,
at his desire without more speaking
cauces de fer li ont caucies,
chausses of iron him they-have shod
à cordièles li ont loiies.
with laces him they-have tied
Quand ço fu fait, si se leva
When this was done so himself he-rose
isnelement, e tost s'arma.
swiftly and quickly armed-himself
Son hauberc vest, son elme lace,
His hauberk he-dons his helmet he-laces
moult l'arment bien enmi la place.
very him-they-arm well amid the place
Sor son hauberc veit à armer
Upon his hauberk goes to arm
cote de soie d'outremer.
coat of silk of-oversea
En la place est trais ses destriers;
Into the place is drawn his charger
montés i est li chevaliers.
mounted there is the knight
Ceval ot covert de ses armes.
Horse he-had covered with his arms
L'escu a pris par les enarmes.
The-shield he-has taken by the straps

Sa lance a el fautre mise,
His lance he-has in-the rest put
devers lui a l'ève porprise;
toward him he-has the-water seized
nus ne pooit al gué passer
anyone not could at-the ford pass
qu'à lui ne covenist joster.
that-with him not it-behooved to-joust
Quant l'a perceü la pucèle
When him-has perceived the maiden
le chevalier par ire apiéle:
the knight in wrath she-calls
«Vasal, esgardés que je voi!
Vassal look what I see
«Or ne venés plus après moi;
Now not come more after me
«je voi là outre un chevalier
I see there beyond a knight
«trestot armé sor un destrier.
all armed upon a charger
«Se plus volés venir, sans faille,
If more you-wish to-come without fail
«jà vos rendra dure bataille.
ever you he-will-render hard battle
«Se tu plus viens, ço ert folie
If thou more comest this will-be folly
«jà sera ta vie fenie!
ever will-be thy life ended
«Se tu veuls en avant aler,
If thou wishest on forward to-go

«je te di bien n'en pues torner,
I thee tell well not-thence thou-canst turn
«que tu jà ne soies ocis.
that thou ever — be killed
«Je te di bien, tot à devis.»
I thee tell well all at will
Li Biels Desconnéus respont:
The Fair Unknown answers
«Damoisèle, por tot le mont,
Damsel for all the world
«je ne retorneroie mie,
I not would-turn-back at-all
«tant com j'aie ens el cors la vie,
so-long as I-may-have within in-the body the life
«et sivrai la voie furnie;
and I-shall-follow the way furnished
«car trop serroit grans couardie.
for too would-be great cowardice
«Mais passés; outre s'en irons:
But pass beyond ourselves-thence we-shall-go
«S'il veut joster nos josterons,
If-he wishes to-joust we shall-joust
«et s'il désire la bataille
and if-he desires the battle
«jà le porra avoir, sans faille!»
ever it he-will-be-able to-have without fail
Puis apièle son escuier,
Then he-calls his squire
qu'il li estraigne son destrier.
that-he him may-tighten his charger

Quant cil ot fait, son escu prent,
When he had done his shield he-takes
et après, sa lance ensement.
and after his lance likewise
L'augue passent, outre s'en vont,
The-water they-cross beyond themselves-thence they-go
mais moult tost aresté i sont.
but very quickly stopped there they-are
Et li chevaliers lor escrie:
And the knight them cries
«Vous avés fait grande folie,
You have done great folly
«chevalier, fait-il, mar passastes,
knight says-he ill you-crossed
«et la pucèle mar guiastes!
and the maiden ill you-guided
«Folie fu del gué passer;
Folly was of-the ford to-cross
«je vos l'ferai cier compérer.
I you it-I-shall-make dear pay
«Je vos desfi, et gardés-vos,
I you defy and guard-yourself
«car je vos ferrai à estros.
for I you shall-strike at once
«Par ci ne passerés-vos mie
By here not will-pass-you at-all
«que bataille n'en soit furnie.
that battle not-thereof be furnished
Li biels Desconnéus l'entent;
The fair Unknown him-hears

si lui respont, moult docement:
so him answers very gently
«Biaus sire, laissiés-nos aler:
Fair lord let-us go
«Nos n'avons eure d'arester
We not-have hour of-stopping
«trop longement en cele voie.
too long in this way
«Li Rois Artus chà nos envoie,
The King Arthur hither us sends
«por secors faire à une Dame;
for succor to-make to a Lady
«et si m'i mainne ceste dame.
and so me-there leads this lady
«Si dist que c'est sa damoiselle;
So she-said that it-is her damsel
«au roi Artur dist la novièle,
to-the king Arthur she-told the news
«pour coi je vois en cest afaire,
for which I go in this affair
«Dius le me doinst à bon cief traire!»
God it me may-grant to good end to-bring
Et Cil li dist, sans nule faille:
And He him said without any fail
«Avant n'irés-vos, sans bataille;
Forward not-will-go-you without battle
«del gué passer est tels l'usages;
of-the ford to-cross is such the-custom
«ensi l'a tenu mes lignages;
thus it-has held my lineage

«et je certes plus de VII ans
and I certainly more than seven years
«maintes gens i ai fais dolens,
many folk there I-have made grieving
«et maint bon chevalier de pris
and many-a good knight of worth
«i ai abatu et ocis.»
there I-have thrown-down and killed
Cil li respont: «C'est roberie:
He him answers It-is robbery
«Tant com porrai, garrai ma vie.
So-long as I-shall-be-able I-shall-guard my life
«Quant je n'i puis ichi trover,
When I not-there can here find
«huimais ne l'vos quier demander.»
from-now-on not it-of-you I-seek to-ask
Li uns de l'autre s'élonga,
The one from the-other himself-drew-off
au mius que il pot s'atorna.
at-the best that he could himself-made-ready
Quant il se sont bien atorné,
When they themselves are well made-ready
li uns a l'autre regardé.
the one has the-other looked-at
Les cevals poingnent moult forment.
The horses they-spur very hard
Or verrés jà le plus dolent.
Now you-will-see ever the most grievous
Bliobliéris al joster,
Bliobleheris at-the jousting

l'escu le fait del col voler,
the-shield him makes from-the neck fly
sa lance perfore et astèle,
his lance pierces and splinters
si que bien le voit la pucèle.
so that well it sees the maiden
Li Biels Desconnéus ne faut:
The Fair Unknown not fails
desous la boucle le fiert haut,
beneath the boss him strikes high
l'écu perça, l'auberc desront,
the-shield he-pierced the-hauberk he-breaks
le fer trençant li mist parfont.
the iron cutting him he-put deep
Les arçons li a fait guerpir;
The saddlebows him he-has made quit
li estrier ne l'porent tenir,
the stirrups not him-could hold
que ne l'abatit del destrier:
that not him-he-threw from-the charger
as paumes l'a fait apoier.
on-the palms him-he-has made lean
Cil se relève justement;
He himself raises straightway
de mauvaisté ne vaut noient.
of wickedness not is-worth anything
Il a mis la main à l'espée,
He has put the hand to the-sword
quant a l'alaine recovrée;
when he-has the-breath recovered

moult durement le vait férir
very hard him goes to-strike
de l'espée, par tel aïr,
with the-sword with such fury
qu'à un cop ocist le ceval.
that-at one blow he-killed the horse
Or furent à pié parigual.
Now they-were on foot equal
En lor mains tiennent les espées,
In their hands they-hold the swords
dont il se donnent grans colées,
with-which they themselves give great blows
sur les elmes, sur les escus,
upon the helmets upon the shields
moult bien se fièrent de brans nus;
very well themselves they-strike with blades naked
des elmes font le feu voler,
from-the helmets they-make the fire fly
les esticèles alumer;
the sparks kindle
moult se rendoient grant bataille.
very themselves they-gave great battle
Ançois que fust la definaille,
Before that was the ending
va Bliobliéris lassant
goes Bliobleheris tiring
par le sanc qu'il aloit perdant
by the blood that-he went losing
de la plaie qu'il avoit prise,
from the wound that-he had taken

ne puet mais faire en nule guise.
not he-can more do in any way
Li biels Desconnéus le fiert,
The fair Unknown him strikes
et soventes fois le requiert,
and many times him assails
amont sur l'elme, de l'espée,
above upon the-helmet with the-sword
li a donnée grant colée,
him he-has given great blow
qu'à genillons le fait venir,
that-on knees him he-makes come
e ne le puet longe soufrir,
and not it he-can long endure
trop fu navrés; moult li escrie:
too-much he-was wounded much him he-cries
«Que por Diu laist que ne l'ocie;
That for God he-may-leave that not him-he-kill
«et il fera tot son talent;
and he will-do all his desire
«l'auë passera, son commant.
the-water he-will-cross his command
«Se tu vels, prison manerois,
If thou wishest prison thou-wilt-remain
«et de par moi pris averois.
and of by me renown thou-wilt-have
— «Ens à la cort Artu le roi,
In at the court (of-)Arthur the king
«à lui en irés de par moi.»
to him thence you-will-go of by me

Atant li fiance prison
At-that him he-pledges prison
qu'il en ira sans okison,
that-he thence will-go without excuse
ens en la cort Artu le roi.
in in the court (of-)Arthur the king
Içо li afia par foi.
This him he-pledged by faith
Quant fu vencue la bataille,
When was won the battle
li nains en fu joians, sans faille.
the dwarf thereof was joyful without fail
Ce dist li nains à la pucèle:
This said the dwarf to the maiden
«Grant tort aviés, ma damoiselle
Great wrong you-had my damsel
«qui blamïés le chevalier.
who blamed the knight
«N'est à blamer qui'st à preisier:
Not-is to blame who-is to praise
«Bien nos a delivré le pas.
Well us he-has freed the pass
«Bele, trop l'avés tenu bas.
Fair-one too-much him-you-have held low
«Il est preudhom por tout l'onnor:
He is worthy-man for all the-honor
«Dius li maintiene sa valor,
God him may-maintain his worth
«que le nos puisse longes faire.»
that it for-us he-may long do

Moult estoit li nains debonaire.
Very was the dwarf gracious
Dist la pucèle: «Il a bien fait;
Said the maiden He has well done
«mais ce saciés bien, entresait,
but this know well certainly
«que se il veut o nous aler;
that if he wishes with us to-go
«noiens serra del retorner:
nothing will-be of-the returning
«Ocis serra; s'ert grans damages;
Killed he-will-be so-will-be great harm
«que moult est buens li siens corages.»
for very is good the his heart
Mais il, tantost comme il l'entent,
But he as-soon as he it-hears
li a respondu maintenant
her has answered at-once
qu'il n'entorneroit por nul plait
that-he not-would-turn-back for any plea
jusques il ait le cor forsfait.
until he may-have the body forfeited
Dist la pucèle: «Donc, alons.
Said the maiden Then let-us-go
«La nuit aproce, trop tardons.»
The night approaches too-much we-delay
Robers avait pris le destrier
Robert had taken the charger
qui ert à l'autre chevalier;
which was to the-other knight

à son signor tantost le maine;
to his lord at-once it he-leads
cil i monta de terre plaine.
he there mounted from ground level
Robers prist l'escu et la lance.
Robert took the-shield and the lance
Or chevaucent sans redoutance;
Now they-ride without fear
grant oirre corent; cil remaint,
great pace they-run he remains
qui de sa plaie moult se plaint;
who of his wound much himself complains
li doi vallet l'en ont mené
the two young-men him-thence have led
en sa loge, l'ont désarmé,
into his lodge him-they-have disarmed
puis l'ont coucié en un biel lit.
then him-they-have laid in a fair bed
Mais moult i ot poi de délit.
But very there was little of delight
Bliobliéris est plaiés
Bliobleberis is wounded
si dolans, et si esmaiés,
so grieving and so dismayed
li souvient de si compaignons
him remembers of his companions
dont bien vos sai dire les nons:
of-whom well to-you I-know to-tell the names
Elins li blans, sires des Aies,
Elin the white lord of-the Aies

et li bons chevaliers de Graies
and the good knight of Graies
et Willaume de Salebrant;
and William of Salebrant
cil sont moult preu et moult vaillant;
they are very valiant and very worthy
si estoient si compaignon.
so they-were his companions
Son commant fisent sans tençon.
His command they-did without dispute
Ces trois que je vos ai conté,
These three that I to-you have told
querre aventure sont alé,
to-seek adventure are gone
savoir se jà le troveraient,
to-know if ever it they-would-find
et cele nuit venir devoient.
and that night come they-were-to
Le jor vont querrant aventure.
The day they-go seeking adventure
Quant doit venir la nuit oscure,
When must come the night dark
si tornent au Gué périllous
so they-turn to-the Ford perilous
dont li passage est dolerous.
of-which the passage is grievous
Bliobliéris les atent;
Bliobleberis them awaits
moult furent fier et combatant.
very they-were fierce and fighting

Ne li covient avoir esmaie,
Not him behooves have dismay
se aventure n'es délaie,
if adventure not-them delays
que le soir ne viegnent al gué
that the evening not they-may-come to-the ford
cil chevalier que j'ai nomé.
those knights that I-have named
Li jors faut et la nuis revient,
The day fails and the night returns
la nuis oscure lor sorvient.
the night dark them comes-upon
Es-vos venant les chevaliers
Behold coming the knights
tos trois armés sor lor destriers;
all three armed upon their chargers
si vienent lor signor devant,
so they-come their lord before
que il troverent moult dolant
whom they found very grieving
et moult grevé d'estrange guise
and very afflicted in-strange manner
de la plaie qu'il avoit prise.
from the wound that-he had taken
Moult font grant dol de lor seignor
Very they-make great grief of their lord
et il lor dist: «n'aiés dolor,
and he them said not-have grief
«mais or pensez de moi vengier;
but now think of me to-avenge

«or m'a vostre secors mestier.
now me-has your succor need
«Uns chevaliers est là passés:
A knight is there passed
«Jà millor de lui ne verrés.
Ever better than him not you-will-see
«A lui jostai, il m'a conquis.
With him I-jousted he me-has conquered
«Ses prisons sui tot à devis;
His prisoner I-am all at will
«moult l'ai trové bou chevalier.
very him-I-have found good knight
«Aveuc lui mainne un escuier
With him he-leads a squire
«et une biele damoisèle.
and a fair damsel
«Un nains conduisait la pucèle.
A dwarf led the maiden
«Il m'abati moult malement,
He me-threw-down very badly
«puis s'en passa par chi devant,
then himself-thence passed by here before
«je vos dirai comment a non
I to-you shall-tell how he-has name
«cil à cui fiançai prison:
he to whom I-pledged prison
«Bel Descongneü se nomma.
Fair Unknown himself he-named

«Certes si grant cop me douna
Certainly so great blow me he-gave
«qu'a paines entendi son non.
that-with pains I-heard his name
«Alés après, mi compaignon.
Go after my companions
«Se l'ociés, vos le pendrés,
If him-you-kill you him will-hang
«s'à vos se rent, si l'amenés;
if-to you himself he-renders so him-bring
«si m'aquitera de prison.»
so me-he-will-acquit of prison
Moult avait cil le cuer félon.
Very had he the heart felon
Cil respondent: «Ne puet aler,
They answer Not it-can go
«se nos jà le poons trover,
if we ever him can find
«que il ne soit u mors, u pris;
that he — be either dead or taken
«vos l'arés à vostre devis.»
you him-will-have at your will
Atant montèrent tot armé,
At-that they-mounted all armed
del vengier moult entalenté.
of-the avenging very eager
Ce s'en vont li trois compaignon,
So themselves-thence go the three companions
qui de cuer sont fier et félon.
who of heart are fierce and felon

Moult volentiers le vengeroient,
Very willingly him they-would-avenge
se il jà faire le pooient.
if they ever do it could
Or puist Dius de celui garder!
Now may God of him guard
Car se il le puent trover,
For if they him can find
en aventure est de sa vie!
in jeopardy he-is of his life
Il cevauce, si ne l'set mie.
He rides so not it-knows at-all

The Two Giants

IV

The travelers spend the night in a meadow. Waking, the Unknown hears a woman's cries, and against Hélie's pleas he finds two giants at a fire, one forcing a maiden. He spears the first into the fire. The other strikes a tree so hard that his club flies from his hands, and the Unknown splits his head. Rebuked by the dwarf, Hélie asks the Unknown's pardon for her scorn. The maiden is Clarie, Sagremor's sister, and they all feast on the giants' store.

Le jor, ont faite grant jornée;
The day they-have made great journey
et quant ce vint à la vesprée,
and when this came to the evening
virent en la forest un pré
they-saw in the forest a meadow
dont mult flairoit l'erbe soué.
of-which much smelled the-grass sweet

La pucèle se porpensa
The maiden herself bethought
et le chevalier apiela.
and the knight called
«Sire, fait-ele, remanons;
Lord says-she let-us-remain
«en cest biel pré nos herbergons,
in this fair meadow ourselves let-us-lodge
«noiens serrait d'avant aler;
nothing would-be of-further going
«ne porïons vile trover,
not we-could town find
«ne maison, en ceste contrée,
nor house in this country
«environ nos, d'une jornée.»
around us of-a day's-journey
Et cil volentiers otria
And he willingly granted
ce que la pucèle loa.
this that the maiden counseled
El pré descendent; s'i herbergent;
In-the meadow they-dismount so-there they-lodge
or les gart Dius que il ne pergent!
now them guard God that they not lose
N'ont que mangier à cel souper;
Not-they-have what to-eat at that supper
la nuit lor covint endurer.
the night them behooved to-endure
Moult fu Robers bons escuiers;
Very was Robert good squire

il vint à son seignor primiers;
he came to his lord first
desarmé l'a isnelement,
disarmed him-he-has swiftly
puis va à son ceval corent.
then goes to his horse running
Entre Robert est le preu nain,
Between Robert is the valiant dwarf
cui je ne tien pas à vilain.
whom I not hold at-all as churl
Cis deus garderent les cevals,
These two guarded the horses
moult Robers ert preus et loials.
very Robert was valiant and loyal
Gentius fu e moult bien apris.
Noble he-was and very well taught
Vait s'ent li jors, vient li séris.
Goes itself-thence the day comes the evening
De la nuit est grant masse alée:
Of the night is great mass gone
si est jà la lune levée.
so is already the moon risen
Li Desconnéus se dormoit
The Unknown himself slept
sur l'erbe fresce, ù reposoit;
upon the-grass fresh where he-rested
dalès lui gist la damoisèle,
beside him lies the damsel
deseur son brac gist la pucèle;
upon his arm lies the maiden

li uns dalés l'autre dormoit.
the one beside the-other slept
Li lousignols sor els cantoit.
The nightingale above them sang
Quant li chevaliers s'esvilla,
When the knight himself-awoke
sur la fresce herbe s'acota;
upon the fresh grass himself-leaned
en la forest oït un brait;
in the forest he-heard a cry
lonc a vu arriès detrait.
far there-has seen back drawn-out
Moult est doce la vois qui crie;
Very is sweet the voice which cries
ce sanble mestier ait d'aïe,
this seems need she-may-have of-help
moult forment crie et pleure et brait,
very hard she-cries and weeps and wails
come la riens qui paine trait;
as the thing which pain suffers
et demenoit moult grant dolor.
and she-made very great grief
Diu reclamoit le créator.
God she-invoked the creator
Quant cil l'oï, si l'escouta,
When he her-heard so her-he-listened
la vos adiès merchi cria.
the voice always mercy cried

La pucèle qui dort s'esveille
The maiden who sleeps herself-wakes
et al desdire s'apareille.
and to-the gainsaying herself-prepares
«Ha! Pucèle, oés-vos crier?
Ah Maiden hear-you cry
«Ne sai cui plaindre et souspirer?
Not I-know who lament and sigh
«Ço est fantome, al mien espoir.»
This is phantom to-the my hope
— «Laissiés crier; ne puet caloir;
Let cry not can matter
«jo ne pris de rien son crier:
I not prize of anything her crying
«Dormés-vos, si laissiés ester!»
Sleep-you so let be
Et il respond à la pucèle:
And he answers to the maiden
— «Iceste vois Diu moult apièle;
This voice God much calls
«ce semble mestier ait d'aïe,
this seems need she-may-have of-help
«por ce reclaime Diu et prie.
for this she-invokes God and prays
«Jo vel aler por li aidier,
I wish to-go for her to-help
«se je voi qu'ele en ait mestier,
if I see that-she thereof may-have need
«haiderai li à mon pooir.
I-shall-help her to my power

«Gentius cose est, à mon espoir.»
Noble thing it-is to my hope
Cele li dist: «Vos n'irés mie!»
She him said You not-will-go at-all
Del remanoir forment le prie;
Of-the remaining hard him she-prays
et dit: «Quiers-tu donc aventures?
and says Seekest-thou then adventures
«En ton cemin en a de dures.
In thy road thereof there-are of hard
«Jà de ço ne t'estuet penser,
Ever of this not thee-behooves to-think
«ne fors de ton cemin aler;
nor out of thy road to-go
«car ains que ma dame trovés,
for before that my lady you-find
«cui je quesis, tant en arés
whom I sought so-many thereof you-will-have
«trové que vos plus ne vauriés,
found that you more not would-want
«et vos plus soufrir ne poriés.
and you more endure not could
«Moult vos converra à soufrir,
Much you it-will-behoove to endure
«se Dius de mort vos veut garir,
if God from death you wishes to-save
«plus que chevalier qui soit nés.»
more than knight who may-be born
Cil li a dit: «Or me soufrés,
He her has said Now me allow

«damoisèle, que jo y voise.
damsel that I there may-go
«Jo n'en dorroie une punoise,
I not-thereof would-give a bug
«vasal, de quant que vos fierés.
vassal of how-much that you strike
«Bien vos le di, rien n'en ferés.
Well you it I-tell anything not-thereof you-will-do
«Vos me créés ne tant ne quant;
You me believe neither so-much nor how-much
«encor vos en verrai dolant.
yet you thereof I-shall-see grieving
«Tu venis-ci, outre mon gré,
Thou camest-here beyond my will
«or ne feras ma volenté!»
now not thou-wilt-do my will
Et cil li dist: «Ne lairai mie
And he her said Not I-shall-leave at-all
«n'aille véir ce qu'est qui crie.»
I-may-go to-see this what-is who cries
Robert apiele l'escuier
Robert he-calls the-squire
qu'il li amaine son destrier.
that-he him may-bring his charger
Cil s'esvelle isnellement,
He himself-wakes swiftly
si li amaine l'auferrant.
so him brings the-war-horse
Li Desconneüs se saina,
The Unknown himself crossed

et puis en son ceval monta;
and then on his horse mounted
son escu a pris et sa lance.
his shield he-has taken and his lance
Ses corages adiès s'avance.
His heart always itself-advances
La pucèle ne remaint mie,
The maiden not remains at-all
pense que ce serroit folie,
she-thinks that this would-be folly
se seule auques là remanoit.
if alone somewhat there she-remained
Ne set ele le troveroit.
Not knows she him she-would-find
Ele monta et puis li nains,
She mounted and then the dwarf
qui ne fu ne faus ne vilains.
who not was neither false nor churlish
Or en vont tuit; Robers les guie
Now thence they-go all Robert them guides
devers le liu ù la vois crie.
toward the place where the voice cries
Par la forest vont cevauçant.
Through the forest they-go riding
Isnelement Robers devant.
Swiftly Robert before
Venu sont vers la vois qui crie;
Come they-are toward the voice which cries
tant sont près, que bien l'ont oïe.
so they-are near that well it-they-have heard

Un fu virent mervelles grant;
A fire they-saw marvelously great
si s'aresturent maintenant.
so themselves-stopped at-once
Robers lor a le feu mostré;
Robert them has the fire shown
or sèvent ce qu'est qu'ot crié.
now they-know this what-is that-had cried
Au feu avoit II grans gaians,
At-the fire there-were two great giants
lais et hisdels et mescréans,
ugly and hideous and misbelieving
li uns tenoit une pucèle.
the one held a maiden
Ja nus hom ne demant plus bièle,
Ever any man not may-ask more fair
se ele n'eüst tel paor;
if she not-had such fear
mais molt demenoit grant dolor;
but much she-made great grief
molt se complaint et plore et brait,
much herself she-complains and weeps and wails
comme la riens qui paine trait.
as the thing which pain suffers
Car uns gaians moult la pressoit
For a giant much her pressed
à force baisier le voloit.
by force to-kiss her he-wished

Mais cele ne l'pooit soufrir
But she not it-could endure
mais se voloit laissier morir:
but herself she-wished to-let die
de l'autre part le feu, séoit
on the-other side the fire sat
l'autre gaians qui rostissoit,
the-other giant who roasted
et aveuc son pointe faisoit,
and with his point made
norrir le feu qui relusoit.
feed the fire which shone
Mangier voloient erraument,
To-eat they-wished at-once
se l'autre éust fait son talent
if the-other had done his desire
de la pucèle qu'il tenoit.
of the maiden that-he held
Et quant le chevalier le voit,
And when the knight it sees
s'apiele damoisele Hélie,
so-he-calls damsel Hélie
qu'il menoit en sa compaignie.
whom-he led in his company
Se li a mostré la pucèle,
So her he-has shown the maiden
que li gaians tenoit si bièle.
whom the giant held so fair
Ce li a dit qu'il lor taura,
This her he-has said that-he them will-take-away

as grans gaians se combatra.
with-the great giants himself will-fight
Celi dist: «Tu vels donc morir?
She said Thou wishest then to-die
«Ocis seras, n'i pues faillir,
Killed thou-wilt-be not-therein canst fail
«se tu te conbas as gaians,
if thou thyself fightest with-the giants
«tant les sai fels et conbatans.
so them I-know cruel and fighting
«Il ont tot cest païs gasté,
They have all this country wasted
«por ce avons jéu el pré,
for this we-have lain in-the meadow
«qu'environs nos d'une jornée
for-around us of-a day's-journey
«n'a maison n'aient devorée.
not-there-is house not-they-have devoured
«Tot ont destruit, la gent ocise,
All they-have destroyed the folk killed
«tote ont la terre à lor devise.
all they-have the land at their will
«Ne t'i conbas pas, mès fuions;
Not thyself-there fight at-all but let-us-flee
«jà ces dyables n'atendons.»
ever these devils not-let-us-await
Mais cil ne le veut croire mie;
But he not her wishes to-believe at-all
en aventures met sa vie.
in adventures he-puts his life

Hardimens l'aloit destraignant.
Boldness him-went constraining
Il point le ceval duremant
He spurs the horse hard
as jaians vient; si lor escrie:
to-the giants he-comes so them he-cries
«A vos n'afiert pas cele mie!»
To you not-belongs at-all that darling
Il laisse corre l'auferrant
He lets run the-war-horse
et fiert celui premieremant
and strikes him first
qui esforçoit la damoiséle.
who forced the damsel
Si l'a féru lès la mamièle.
So him-has struck beside the breast
Le fer li fist el cuer serrer;
The iron him he-made in-the heart lodge
les ioils del cief li fist torbler;
the eyes of-the head him he-made cloud
mort le trebuce el feu ardant.
dead him he-topples in-the fire burning
Li autres le fiert à itant,
The other him strikes at that-moment
maçue au col, se l'vaut férir.
club at-the neck so him-wished to-strike
Cil sot desous l'escu guencir,
He knew beneath the-shield to-swerve
point le ceval, ne l'ataint mie,
he-spurs the horse not him-reaches at-all

mès fiert avec tele furie,
but strikes with such fury
que il enporte son escu;
that he carries-off his shield
et son ceval a si féru
and his horse he-has so struck
que de petit l'eüt ocis
that by little it-he-had killed
et le chevalier tot malmis
and the knight all maimed
cui Dius de honte veut garder.
whom God from shame wishes to-guard
Nule riens ne le puet grever.
Any thing not him can harm
A cele fois a Dius gari
At that time has God saved
le chevalier, par sa merchi.
the knight by his mercy
Li jaians cort à sa maçue
The giant runs to his club
de son conpaignon li aniue,
of his companion him grieves
dalès le feu ocis le voit;
beside the fire killed him he-sees
s'en vengier ne l'puet orendroit;
himself-thereof avenge not it-can now
il ne prisoit li un bouton.
he not prized him a button
De mellier avoit I baston.
Of medlar he-had a staff

Mais li chevaliers vint poingnant,
But the knight came spurring
le jaiant fiert en ataingnant
the giant he-strikes in reaching
de la lance par les costés.
with the lance through the sides
Li jaians est vers lui tornés,
The giant is toward him turned
prendre le cuide maintenant.
to-take him he-thinks at-once
Et cil s'esloigne tot errant,
And he himself-withdraws all straightway
qu'il n'a soig de sa conpaignie
for-he not-has care of his company
ne de sa luite n'aime mie.
nor of his wrestling not-he-loves at-all
Li jaians sa maçue prist,
The giant his club took
navré se sent, tost en fremist.
wounded himself he-feels quickly thereof he-shudders
Venge se au demaintenant!
Avenges himself at-the instantly
Si est venus vers lui corant,
So he-is come toward him running
si entoissé por lui férir.
so brandished for him to-strike
Cil vit le cop vers lui venir;
He saw the blow toward him come
le ceval guencist d'autre part.
the horse he-swerves to-other side

Ce ne fu pas fait de musart.
This not was at-all deed of fool
Fuirs vaut mieus que de fol atendre,
Fleeing is-worth better than of fool to-await
puis qu'il n'i a mestier desfendre.
since that-it not-there has need defending
Car li jaians a si féru,
For the giant has so struck
en un arbre, par tel vertu,
into a tree with such force
que il fist tot l'arbre croller,
that he made all the-tree shake
et les branches fist avaler.
and the branches made come-down
Des puins li vole la maçue.
From-the fists him flies the club
Ainçois que il l'ait receüe,
Before that he it-may-have recovered
aura, je cuic, perte encontrée.
he-will-have I think loss met
Car cil li cort atot l'espée,
For he him runs with the-sword
si féri moult bien le jaiant;
so struck very well the giant
un cop li donne moult pesant,
a blow him gives very heavy
sus en la teste, en la cervèle,
up on the head in the brain
de si ès dens met l'alimèle.
from so in-the teeth he-puts the-blade

Si li a tolue la vie.
So him has taken the life
A lui traist l'espée forbie.
To him he-drew the-sword burnished
Li jaians ciet sor l'erbe drue.
The giant falls upon the-grass thick
La bataille fu si vencue.
The battle was so won
De son ceval à pié descent.
From his horse on foot he-dismounts
Robers i vint isnelement,
Robert there came swiftly
ki le desarma en la place;
who him disarmed in the place
l'elme fors de cief li esrace,
the-helmet off of head him he-tears
puis li a desceinte l'espée,
then him has ungirded the-sword
quant ot la teste desarmée,
when he-had the head disarmed
l'auberc li traist, de blance maille,
the-hauberk him he-drew of white mail
quant deslacié ot la ventaille.
when unlaced he-had the ventail
Li nains fu en la forest loing;
The dwarf was in the forest far
de l'aprocier n'avait pas soing
of the-approaching not-had at-all care

dalès lui damoisèle Hélie
beside him damsel Hélie
qui tote fu espeürie
who all was frightened
de la bataille qu'ot veüe,
by the battle that-she-had seen
ele en estoit tote esperdue.
she thereof was all distraught
Ce dist li nains à la pucèle:
This said the dwarf to the maiden
«Grant tort aviés, mademoisèle,
Great wrong you-had my-damsel
«qui blamïés le chevalier.
who blamed the knight
«Il m'est vis, bien se set aidier!
It to-me-is opinion well himself he-knows to-help
«Certes je l'cuic et bien le sai,
Certainly I it-think and well it know
«as estors que ci veüs ai,
by-the battles that here seen I-have
«ausi à Bliobliéris,
also at Bliobleheris
«que cis hom est de moult grant pris.
that this man is of very great worth
«Tel cose tient-on moult viument,
Such thing holds-one very vilely
«de coi on après se repent.
of which one after himself repents

«Mais n'i puet nus metre mécine
But not-there can anyone put medicine
«que mult ne soit sa valors fine.»
that very — may-be his worth fine
— «Biaus amis, ce li dist Hélie,
Fair friend this him said Hélie
«si onques li dis vilonie,
if ever him I-said villainy
«or le irai merchi rover
now him I-shall-go mercy to-ask
«de ço que le soloie blamer.»
of this that him I-was-wont to-blame
Cele part vint la damoisèle,
That side came the damsel
del palefroi dessent à terre,
from-the palfrey she-descends to ground
puis est au chevalier meüe,
then she-is to-the knight moved
et moult doucement le salue;
and very sweetly him greets
et puis li quiert tantost merchi
and then him asks at-once mercy
de ço que si l'avoit laidi,
of this that so him-she-had insulted
qu'il li pardoinst à ceste fois;
that-he her may-pardon at this time
«à son plaissir prenge les drois.»
at his pleasure may-he-take the rights
Cil respondi à la pucèle:
He answered to the maiden

«Je l'vos pardoins, madamoisèle,
I it-you pardon my-damsel
«puisque merchi m'avés rové
since mercy me-you-have asked
«tot vos soit ore pardonné.»
all you may-be now pardoned
La damoisèle l'enclina
The damsel him-bowed
et bonnement l'en merchia.
and kindly him-thereof thanked
Merchi l'en rent, o lui séjorne;
Thanks him-thereof she-renders with him she-stays
et Robers les cevals atorne.
and Robert the horses tends
Dalès le feu hebergié sont;
Beside the fire lodged they-are
quant jors serra, si s'en iront.
when day will-be so themselves-thence they-will-go
Dont est au chevalier venue
Then is to-the knight come
la pucèle qu'il ot tolue
the maiden whom-he had taken
as deus jaians qui le tenoient,
from-the two giants who her held
qui si grant paine li faisoient.
who so great pain her made
Mout i ot gente damoisèle;
Very there was noble damsel
la color ot fresse et novièle;
the color she-had fresh and new

sa color avoit recovrée,
her color she-had recovered
de joie qu'ele ert délivrée:
from joy that-she was delivered
«Sire, tu m'as del tot garie
Lord thou me-hast of-the all saved
«et de mon cors sauvé la vie,
and of my body saved the life
«trait m'as de paine et de dolor
drawn me-thou-hast from pain and from grief
«et de prison et de tristor,
and from prison and from sorrow
«et des tormens ù ère entrée.
and from-the torments where I-was entered
«Tu m'as des jaians delivrée.
Thou me-hast from-the giants delivered
«Tos jors mais serai vostre ancèle.»
All days more I-shall-be your handmaid
As piés li chet la damoisèle
At-the feet him falls the damsel
et cil le a fait relever.
and he her has made rise
De joie commence à plorer.
For joy she-begins to weep
Dalès lui l'a sor l'erbe asise;
Beside him her-he-has upon the-grass seated

se li demanda en quel guise
so her he-asked in what manner
l'avoient cil jaiant trovée
her-had those giants found
qu'illueques l'orent aportée,
that-there her-they-had brought
et conment a non, que li die
and how she-has name that him she-may-tell
qui est, ne dont ne li coilt mie.
who she-is nor whence not him she-may-conceal at-all
Dist la pucèle: «Je l'dirai
Said the maiden I it-shall-tell
«de rien, nule rien, mentirai.
of nothing any thing I-shall-lie
«Por voir nommée sui Clarie,
For true named I-am Clarie
«ne vos en mentiroie mie.
not you thereof I-would-lie at-all
«Et Saigremors si est mes frère.
And Sagremor so is my brother
«Li jaians me prist cés mon père.
The giant me took at-the-house-of my father
«En un vergier hui mais entrai
Into an orchard today more I-entered
«et por moi déduire i alai.
and for myself to-amuse there I-went
«Li jaians ert desous l'entrée,
The giant was beneath the-entrance
«trova la porte desfremée,
he-found the gate unbarred

«iluec me prist, si m'enporta,
there me he-took so me-carried-off
«ici son conpaignon trova
here his companion he-found
«conquise m'avés en bataille,
conquered me-you-have in battle
«sire, voir vos ai dit, sans faille.»
lord true to-you I-have said without fail
Robers a trové et li nains,
Robert has found and the dwarf
desos la cave, trente pains
beneath the cave thirty loaves
et blances napes et hanas,
and white cloths and goblets
jambes salées, oissïals cras,
hams salted birds fat
tos rotis et tos atornés;
all roasted and all prepared
de bon vin ont trové asés,
of good wine they-have found plenty
andoi en sont lié et joiant.
both thereof are glad and joyful
Or ont à mangier à talent,
Now they-have to eat at desire
cil doit jaiant qui sont ocis
those two giants who are killed
qui gasté orent le païs,
who wasted had the country
tot ço i orent aporté,
all this there they-had brought

le mangier ont illuec trové,
the food they-have there found
iluecques estoit lor repaires.
there was their lair
Mais cangiés lor est lor afaires.
But changed them is their affair
Li vilains dist: «Par saint Martin!
The churl said By saint Martin
«Tels fait vigne, n'i quieut raisin.»
Such-one makes vine not-there gathers grape
Robers s'en est moult tost alés:
Robert himself-thence is very quickly gone
«A mangier ai trové asés;
To eat I-have found plenty
«tot aurés quanque vos plaira;
all you-will-have whatever you will-please
«jà blance nape n'i faudra.»
ever white cloth not-there will-fail
Cil li respont: «Di me tu voir,
He him answers Tell me thou true
«que mangier pooumes avoir?»
that food we-can have
Ce dist Robers: «Oïl, sans faille,
This said Robert Yes without fail
«car trové ai la repostaille
for found I-have the hiding-place
«des deus jaians qui sont ocis;
of-the two giants who are killed
«à manger avés à devis.»
to eat you-have at will

Et cil maintenant se leva,
And he at-once himself rose
les damoiseles i mena,
the damsels there he-led
l'une et l'autre a par la main prise.
the-one and the-other he-has by the hand taken
Robers fu moult de bel servise.
Robert was very of fair service
L'aigue donne à cascun li nains.
The-water gives to each the dwarf
Quand il orent lavé lor mains;
When they had washed their hands
les napes ont sor l'erbe mises,
the cloths they-have upon the-grass put
si ont les puceles asises,
so they-have the maidens seated
et li Disconnéus devant,
and the Unknown before
qui molt lor faisait bel sanblant.
who much them made fair countenance
Li nains les servoit et Robers,
The dwarf them served and Robert
qui moult fu sages et apers;
who very was wise and skillful
il estoit keis et senescaus,
he was cook and seneschal
et botilliers et mariscaus,
and butler and marshal
et canbrelens et escuiers;
and chamberlain and squire

il s'entremet de tos mestiers,
he himself-busies of all offices
et de cascun moult bel servoit,
and of each very fair served
et li nains moult bel li aidait.
and the dwarf very fair him helped
Moult les savaient bel servir.
Very them they-knew fair to-serve
Quant ont mangié à leur plaisir,
When they-have eaten at their pleasure
li nains vint les napes oster
the dwarf came the cloths to-remove
et celes lievent dou souper.
and they rise from-the supper
Et cil qui savoient servir
And those who knew to-serve
ont mangié à moult grant loisir;
have eaten at very great leisure
si les servent les damoiseles,
so them serve the damsels
ne tienent pas longes noveles.
not they-hold at-all long tidings
Quant ont mangié tot maintenant,
When they-have eaten all at-once
s'en vont à lor cevals corant,
themselves-thence they-go to their horses running
et bien et bel les atornèrent,
and well and fair them they-tended
et blé à plenté leur donnèrent,
and grain in plenty them they-gave

945 que li jaiant avoient quis,
which the giants had sought
qui gasté orent le païs.
who wasted had the country

The Three Companions

V

Three knights sent by Bliobleheris find the Unknown unarmed, and Hélie shames them into letting him arm. The poet laments that knights then fought one against one, while now twenty-five fall on one. The Unknown kills William of Salebrant, breaks Helin of Graies's arm, and at daybreak makes the lord of the Aies yield and pledge himself to Arthur. Clarie is sent home with him, the rest ride for the Waste City, and the poet vows faith to a lady he cannot call his love.

Li preus Robers pas ne s'oublie;
The worthy Robert at-all not himself-forgets
d'erbe n'avoit encore mie,
of-grass not-he-had yet at-all
que il donast à ses cevaus;
that he might-give to his horses
950 garda lès lui, vit une faux,
he-looked beside him he-saw a scythe
quant il estoit entré el pré,
when he was entered in-the meadow
et de faucer fu apresté.
and of mowing was ready
Si vit venir III Chevaliers
So he-saw come three Knights
armés, sor lor corans destriers,
armed upon their running chargers

rengié venoient et serré,
ranked they-came and close
de toutes armes bien armé.
of all arms well armed
Icil III furent compaignon;
Those three were companions
bien sai comment orent à non.
well I-know how they-had to name
Li uns estoit Helins de Graies,
The one was Helin of Graies
li secuns, li sires des Aies;
the second the lord of-the Aies
li tiers estoit de Salebrant
the third was of Salebrant
Willaumes, qui moult ert vaillant.
William who very was valiant
Le Beau Desconnéu sivoient;
The Fair Unknown they-followed
prendre et ocire le voloient.
to-take and to-kill him they-wished
Robers les vit vers lui venir;
Robert them saw toward him come
si s'encommença à fuïr,
so himself-began to flee
et vint tot droit à son seignor,
and came all straight to his lord
qui se gisoit sor la verdor,
who himself lay upon the greenery

très devant les II damoiseles
right before the two damsels
qui moult furent gentes et beles;
who very were noble and fair
et cil maintenant l'esvilla,
and he at-once him-woke
et à une part l'apela.
and to one side him-called
«Sire, fait il, tost vos armés,
Lord says he quickly yourself arm
«de desfendre vos aprestés,
for defending yourself prepare
«de bien faire apensés soiés,
of well doing mindful be
«ne de rien ne vos esmaiés.
nor of anything not yourself dismay
«Ci voi venir III Chevaliers,
Here I-see come three Knights
«trestos armés sor lor destriers;
all armed upon their chargers
«je pense et voir vos en cuic dire,
I think and truth to-you thereof I-think to-tell
«prendre vos vienent, u ocire.
to-take you they-come or to-kill
«Il vienent çà; or t'en apense,
They come hither now thyself-thereof bethink
«que fiere truissent ta desfense.»
that fierce they-may-find thy defense
Lor retornent les damoiseles.
Then return the damsels

Si lor conterent les noveles.
So them they-told the news
Robers li dist: «Trop demorés,
Robert him said Too-much you-delay
«por l'amor Dieu, car vos astés!
for the-love (of-)God so yourself hurry
«Li demorer forment me greve.»
The delaying greatly me grieves
Li sires maintenant se leve;
The lord at-once himself raises
jà vausist qu'il fust atornés.
already he-would-have-wished that-he were equipped
Mais ançois qu'il fust aprestés,
But before that-he were ready
vinrent poingnant li robéor
came spurring the robbers
lès le rocé de Valcolor.
beside the rock of Valcolor
Li premiers venoit à desroi;
The first came in disorder
as autres dist: «Je l'voi, je l'voi!»
to-the others he-said I him-see I him-see
Il vint à lui, si dist: «Vasal,
He came to him so said Vassal
«fait vos avés et honte et mal!
done you have both shame and ill
«Mar véistes Gué périllos;
Ill you-saw Ford perilous
«jà vos ferrai tot à estros!»
already you I-shall-strike all at once

Pris u ocis fust maintenant,
Taken or killed he-would-have-been at-once
quant Helie lor vint devant.
when Hélie them came before
Moult estoit preus la damoisele;
Very was valiant the damsel
en haut le chevalier apele:
on high the knight she-calls
«Signor, por Dieu! ce dist Helie,
Lords for God this said Hélie
«comment pensés de vilonie
how think-you of villainy
«d'asalir homme desarmé?
of-assailing man disarmed
«Moult vos serra à mal torné,
Much you it-will-be to ill turned
«se vos desarmés le tociés.
if you disarmed him touch
«Gardés, signor, ne commenciés
Take-care lords not you-begin
«cose dont vos soiés honni,
thing of-which you may-be shamed
«c'onques si lait blasme ne vi.
for-ever so ugly blame not I-saw
«Or le laissiés, signor, armer;
Now him let lords arm
«ce ne li devés vos véer.
this not him must you refuse
«Il n'a pas force vers vos trois.
He not-has at-all strength against you three

«Se Dius ne li ajut manois,
If God not him may-help at-once
«plus bel le poés armé prendre;
more fair him you-can armed take
«ne cuic qu'il se puisse desfendre.
not I-think that-he himself can defend
«Et là ù on puet sormonter,
And there where one can overcome
«doit-on bien merci esgarder!»
must-one well mercy regard
Li chevalier sont aresté.
The knights are stopped
Willaumes a premiers parlé:
William has first spoken
«Signor, fait il, ele dit voir,
Lords says he she says true
«laissiés le armer, ne peut caloir;
let him arm not can matter
«de vos ne se puet escaper.»
from you not himself can escape
Cil respondent: «Dont s'aille armer.»
They answer Then himself-may-go to-arm
Li chevaliers se traist ariere;
The knight himself drew back
del fu i fu grans la lumiere
of-the fire there was great the light
et de la lune qui luisoit;
and of the moon which shone
que de cler jor rien n'i avoit.
that of clear day anything not-there there-was

Li Biaus Desconnéus s'arma;
The Fair Unknown himself-armed
il vest l'auberc, l'elme laça,
he dons the-hauberk the-helmet laced
et Helie li çaint l'espée:
and Hélie him girds the-sword
«Gardé, fait ele, qu'oubliée
Take-care says she that-forgotten
«n'i soit jà ma Dame, au ferir;
not-there be ever my Lady at-the striking
«et prié Deu, par son plaisir,
and pray God by his pleasure
«que il vos doinst force et vigor
that he you may-give strength and vigor
«de li secorre et de s'onor.»
of her to-succor and of her-honor
Es vos son ceval c'on amaine;
Behold here his horse that-one brings
il i sailli de terre plaine.
he there leapt from ground level
La pucele l'escu li tent,
The maiden the-shield him holds-out
et il par le grince le prent.
and he by the strap it takes
Au col le mist, puis prist sa lance,
At-the neck it he-put then took his lance
Deu reclama, par sa puissance,
God he-invoked by his power

que cele nuit li doinst honor
that that night him he-may-give honor
et le desfende de dolor.
and him may-defend from grief
A genillons sont les puceles,
On knees are the maidens
moult prient Deu les damoiseles
much pray God the damsels
que lor chevalier doinst honor
that their knight he-may-give honor
et le maintiengne en cel estor.
and him may-uphold in that battle
Et cil qui point n'es redouta,
And he who at-all not-them feared
le ceval point, avant ala,
the horse spurs forward went
encontre les III chevaliers.
against the three knights
Willaumes vint à lui premiers,
William came to him first
bien atornés, près de bataille.
well equipped ready for battle
Tos seuls i vint, sans nulle faille.
All alone there came without any fail
Et à cel tens, costume estoit
And at that time custom it-was
que quant I hom se conbatoit,
that when one man himself fought

n'avait garde que de celui
not-had fear except of him
qui faisoit la bataille à lui.
who made the battle with him
Or va li tens en febloiant
Now goes the time in weakening
et cis usages decaans,
and this usage declining
que XX et V en prendent un!
that twenty and five thereof take one
Cis afaires est si commun,
This affair is so common
que tuit le tienent desormès;
that all it hold henceforth
la force fait le plus adiès,
the force does the most always
tos est mués en autre guise.
all is changed into other manner
Mais dont estoit fois et francise,
But then was faith and nobleness
pitiés, proesse et cortoisie,
pity prowess and courtesy
et largesse sans vilonnie.
and largesse without villainy
Or fait cascuns tot son pooir,
Now does each all his power
tos entendent au decevoir.
all intend to-the deceiving

Mais ce vos laisserai ester;
But this to-you I-shall-let be
que d'autre cose veul parler.
for of-other thing I-wish to-speak
Del Beau Desconnéu dirai.
Of-the Fair Unknown I-shall-tell
La bataille vos conterai,
The battle to-you I-shall-relate
de lui et des III Chevaliers.
of him and of-the three Knights
Willaumes vint à lui premiers;
William came to him first
ensi que vos contai devant,
thus as to-you I-told before
tos seuls i vint, tot vraiement;
all alone there came all truly
ainc n'i ot per, ne compaignon.
ever not-there had peer nor companion
Et sist sor I ceval gascon;
And sat upon a horse Gascon
bien fu armés à son talent.
well was armed at his desire
Lors s'entrevinrent fierement;
Then each-other-they-came fiercely
sor les escus se vont ferir,
upon the shields themselves they-go to-strike
fer font brisier et fust croissir.
iron they-make break and wood crack
Moult fut dure lor asanblée.
Very was hard their meeting

L'uns en aura la destinée.
The-one thereof will-have the destiny
Willaumes l'a premiers feru
William him-has first struck
de sor la bocle de l'escu,
from upon the boss of the-shield
le fer en fist parmi passer,
the iron thereof he-made through pass
si que l'auberc fist desserrer.
so that the-hauberk he-made loosen
L'aubers fu fors, point ne faussa,
The-hauberk was strong at-all not gave-way
la lance dus qu'ès puins froissa.
the lance until that-in-the fists shattered
Bon chevalier furent andui,
Good knights were both
le Biaus Desconnéus fiert lui;
the Fair Unknown strikes him
l'escu perce, l'auberc desront,
the-shield he-pierces the-hauberk he-breaks
dedens le cors le fer repont.
within the body the iron he-hides
Mort le trebuce del ceval.
Dead him he-topples from-the horse
Il ne li fera huimais mal!
He not him will-do from-now-on harm
Es vos poingnant celui de Graies;
Behold here spurring him of Graies
arriere remaint cil des Aies,
behind remains he of-the Aies

quant vit son compaignon morir,
when he-saw his companion die
vait le Desconnéu ferir
goes the Unknown to-strike
mult ruist cop sor son escu;
very violent blow upon his shield
trestout li a frait et fendu,
all him he-has broken and split
et l'auberc mal mis et faussé;
and the-hauberk ill set and pierced
à moult petit l'eüst navré.
by very little him-he-had wounded
Quant li fer d'autre part glaça,
When the iron to-other side glanced
ne l'navra mie, ne l'bleça,
not him-wounded at-all nor him-hurt
et cil r'a si très-bien feru
and he has-again so very-well struck
Helin de Graies, par vertu,
Helin of Graies by strength
de sa lance, ens el pis devant,
with his lance in in-the breast before
l'auberc li ront et vait faussant;
the-hauberk him he-breaks and goes piercing
vausist u non, au departir,
he-would or not at-the parting
del bon ceval le fist caïr.
from-the good horse him he-made fall
Si durement jùs le porta,
So hard down him he-bore

que le bras destre li brisa.
that the arm right him he-broke
De II en a la pais sans faille;
Of two thereof he-has the peace without fail
fors qu'à I sol n'a mais bataille.
except with one sole not-he-has more battle
Quant vit blecié celui de Graies,
When he-saw hurt him of Graies
es vos poingnant celui des Aies,
behold here spurring him of-the Aies
bon chevaliers et combatant
good knight and fighting
des armes preus et travaillant.
of arms valiant and toiling
Sor Gramadone fu armés;
Upon Gramadone he-was armed
por ses compaignons fu dervés;
for his companions he-was maddened
taint ot le vis, de mautalant.
stained he-had the face with ill-will
Parmi la lande vint poingnant.
Through the heath he-came spurring
Quant le Desconnéus le voit,
When the Unknown him sees
vers lui s'adrece et vint tot droit;
toward him himself-directs and came all straight
si laissent tost cevals aler;
so they-let quickly horses go
moult durment veulent encontrer.
very hard they-wish to-meet

Li uns a l'autre si feru,
The one has the-other so struck
c'andui se sont entrabatu.
that-both themselves are each-other-thrown-down
De la terre sont relevé;
From the ground they-are raised
li uns a l'autre regardé;
the one has the-other looked-at
les mains ont mises as espées,
the hands they-have put to-the swords
qui bonnes sont et acerées;
which good are and steeled
sor les elmes se vont ferir;
upon the helmets themselves they-go to-strike
l'aciers faisait l'elme tentir.
the-steel made the-helmet ring
Moult se boutent et moult se fierent,
Much themselves they-push and much themselves they-strike
sovent et menu se requierent,
often and thickly themselves they-assail
si s'entrefierent durement,
so each-other-they-strike hard
à genillos vienent souvent.
on knees they-come often
Lor elme sont tuit effondré,
Their helmets are all broken-in
et lor escu tot decopé.
and their shields all cut-up
Dusqu'à jor dura la bataille,
Until day lasted the battle

c'onques ne fu la definaille.
that-ever not was the ending
Li jors s'espant, l'aube leva;
The day itself-spreads the-dawn rose
li Desconnéus s'aïra.
the Unknown himself-angered
Celui des Aies va ferir:
Him of-the Aies he-goes to-strike
cil se cuida moult bien covrir;
he himself thought very well to-cover
li cevals en I crues marcha,
the horse into a hollow stepped
si qu'à la terre trebucha.
so that-to the ground it-tumbled
Li Desconnéus sor lui vait,
The Unknown upon him goes
et cil s'eslonge et son pié trait,
and he himself-withdraws and his foot draws
et il se cuide relever.
and he himself thinks to-raise
Jà ne l'en convenist pener,
Ever not him-thereof it-would-behoove to-toil
que cil le tint, qui ne l'laissa,
for he him held who not him-let
tant que prison li fiança.
until that prison him he-pledged
Si très durement le tenoit,
So very hard him he-held
que cil lever ne se pooit.
that he rise not himself could

L'elme li desront et deslace,
The-helmet him he-breaks and unlaces
après li desarme la face,
after him he-disarms the face
puis li a dit qu'il l'ocira,
then him he-has said that-he him-will-kill
u tost prison fiancera.
or quickly prison he-will-pledge
Cil des Aies voit bien, sans faille, 1165
He of-the Aies sees well without fail
qu'il est vencus de la bataille,
that-he is vanquished of the battle
et morir ne veut encor mie.
and die not he-wishes yet at-all
Moult docement merci li crie.
Very sweetly mercy him he-cries
Cil li dist: «Se veuls escaper,
He him said If thou-wishest to-escape
«fiance prison atorner 1170
pledge prison to-render
«ens en la cort Artu le roi.
in in the court (of-)Arthur the king
«Iluec en iras, de par moi.
There thence thou-wilt-go of by me
«Se tu ne l'fais, à ceste espée
If thou not it-doest with this sword
«auras jà la teste copée.»
thou-wilt-have ever the head cut-off

Cil des Aies prison fiance
He of-the Aies prison pledges
qu'il en ira, sans demorance,
that-he thence will-go without delay
droit à la cort Artu le roi
straight to the court (of-)Arthur the king
et cil en a prise la foi.
and he thereof has taken the faith
Grant joie font les damoiseles:
Great joy make the damsels
or commandent metre les seles.
now they-command to-put the saddles
La bataille est ensi finée.
The battle is thus ended
Li jors s'espant par la contrée.
The day itself-spreads through the country
Quant cil des Aies s'en ala
When he of-the Aies himself-thence went
li Desconnéus l'araina.
the Unknown him-addressed
Se li demande sa convine,
So him he-asks his condition
comment il va, par quel destine
how it goes by what destiny
li dui conpaignon qui estoient,
the two companions who were
qui asali l'ont, que queroient.
who assailed him-have what they-sought
Cil des Aies respont atant:
He of-the Aies answers at-that

«Sire, fait il, tot vraiement
Lord says he all truly
«vos en dirai la verité.
to-you thereof I-shall-tell the truth
«Jà mos ne vos en ert celé.
Ever word not from-you thereof will-be hidden
«Je sui, fait il, sire des Aies;
I am says he lord of-the Aies
«cil qui gist là, sire est de Graies;
he who lies there lord is of Graies
«Helin a non, molt est grevés,
Helin he-has name very he-is grieved
«car l'uns des bras li est copés;
for the-one of-the arms him is cut
«et l'autres est de Salebrant
and the-other is of Salebrant
«Willaumes, dont moult sui dolans.
William of-whom very I-am grieving
«Ci venimes, par mon signor,
Here we-came by my lord
«(par lui avons ceste dolor)
by him we-have this grief
«Blioblieris, que trovastes,
Bliobleheris whom you-found
«quant le Gué perillos passastes,
when the Ford perilous you-crossed
«cui vos laidistes malement,
whom you harmed evilly

«et nos tramist il vraiement
and us sent he truly
«por vos prendre u por vos ocire:
for you to-take or for you to-kill
«Males noveles li puis dire,
Evil news him I-can tell
«quant revenrai à mon signor,
when I-shall-return to my lord
«si li acroistrai sa dolor.
so him I-shall-increase his grief
«Tels cuide sa honte venger,
Such-one thinks his shame to-avenge
«qui porcace son encombrer;
who pursues his ill-luck
«qui plus monte que il ne doit:
who more climbs than he — ought
«Ains trebuce qu'il ne vaudroit.»
Rather he-tumbles than-he — would-wish
Cil des Aies lors s'en ala,
He of-the Aies then himself-thence went
Helin de Graies emporta.
Helin of Graies he-carried-off
Li Biaus Desconnéus li prie
The Fair Unknown him prays
que aveuc lui enmaint Clarie;
that with him he-may-lead-away Clarie
par lui à ses parents l'envoie:
by him to her parents her-he-sends
la pucele en demaine joie.
the maiden thereof makes joy

D'autre part Helie et li nains
On-the-other side Hélie and the dwarf
et Robers, qui n'ert pas vilains,
and Robert who not-was at-all churlish
et ses sires, si s'atornerent
and his lord so themselves-equipped
et de cevaucer s'apresterent.
and for riding themselves-prepared
Vers la cité Gaste s'en vont:
Toward the city Waste themselves-thence they-go
asés orés que il feront.
enough you-will-hear what they will-do
Or mon conte voir vos dirai;
Now my tale true to-you I-shall-tell
jà mon duel, mon mal, n'i querrai:
ever my sorrow my ill not-therein I-shall-seek
qui que s'oublit, je ne l'puis faire.
who that himself-forgets I not it-can do
Celi dont ne me puis retraire
Her from-whom not myself I-can withdraw
ne veul je mie ore oublier.
not wish I at-all now to-forget
Mais Deus me gart de li fausser!
But God me guard from her to-betray
Ce dient cil qui vont treçant,
This say those who go weaving
li uns le va l'autre contant:
the one it goes the-other telling
«Peciés n'est de feme traïr.»
Sin not-is of woman to-betray

Mais laidement sevent mentir!
But foully they-know to-lie
Ains moult est grans peciés par m'ame!
Rather very is great sin by my-soul
Or vos penserés d'une dame
Now you will-bethink of-a lady
qui n'avera talent d'amer.
who not-will-have desire to-love
Vers li irés tant sermonner,
Toward her you-will-go so-much to-preach
que sera souprise d'amor,
that she-will-be surprised of-love
tant li prierés cascun jor,
so-much her you-will-pray each day
bien li porés son cuer enbler.
well her you-will-be-able her heart to-steal
De ce nos viene Deus garder!
From this us may-come God to-guard
Por vos, tos ses amis perdra,
For you all her friends she-will-lose
et son mari, qui l'amera;
and her husband who her-will-love
quant en arés tot vo voloir,
when thereof you-will-have all your will
adont la vaurés decevoir!
then her you-will-wish to-deceive
Mal ait qui s'i acostuma,
Ill may-have who himself-there accustomed
et qui jamais jor le fera!
and who ever day it will-do

Cil qui se font sage d'amor,
Those who themselves make wise of-love
cil en sont faus et traïtor.
those thereof are false and traitors
Por ço, mius veul faire folie
For this better I-wish to-do folly
que ne soie loiaus m'amie.
than not I-may-be loyal-to my-love
Ço qu'ele n'est l'ai apelée.
That that-she not-is her-I-have called
Que dirai dont? La mult amée.
What shall-I-say then The very beloved
S'ensi l'apel, voir en dirai:
If-thus her-I-call true thereof I-shall-say
s'amie di, lors mentirai;
if-love I-say then I-shall-lie
car moi ne fait ele sanblant,
for to-me not makes she show
las! por li muir, et por li cant:
alas for her I-die and for her I-sing
tos jors serai en sa merci!
all days I-shall-be in her mercy

The Little Hound

VI

A white hound with a thorn in its foot, chasing a stag, stops before Hélie; she takes it and refuses it to its master. The huntsman arms at his castle and rides out to the Unknown. They joust, fight with swords, and wrestle until the Unknown overcomes him. The beaten knight names himself the Proud One of the Heath and pledges to go prisoner to Arthur.

Or vos redirai je par ci
Now to-you shall-tell-again I by here
del Desconnéu qui s'en vait,
of-the Unknown who himself-thence goes
la pucele lès li se trait;
the maiden beside him herself draws
une aventure va contant,
an adventure goes telling
par la forest vait chevauçant,
through the forest goes riding
li chevaliers i regarda;
the knight there looked
un cerf vit, qui lès lui passa,
a stag he-saw which beside him passed
langue traite, vait effréés;
tongue drawn goes frightened
de XVI rains estoit armés.
of sixteen branches it-was armed
Devant lui tressailli la voie,
Before him leapt-across the way
n'i a celui qui ne le voie.
not-there is he who not it may-see

Après le sivent liement
After it follow gladly
bracet mautré, qui vont saillant,
hounds ill-born which go leaping
qui vont après le cerf braiant.
which go after the stag baying
Detriers vait I bracès corant;
Behind goes a hound running
plus estoit blans que nulle nois;
more it-was white than any snow
orelles noires comme pois,
ears black as pitch
(celi qui fu au lès senestre;)
that which was at-the side left
de l'autre part, sor le flanc destre,
on the-other side upon the flank right
ot une tace tote noire;
it-had a spot all black
petit estoit, ce est la voire;
small it-was this is the truth
graindres I peu d'un erminet;
bigger a little than-an ermine
nus hom ne vit si bel bracet.
any man not saw so fair hound
Devant la pucele passa,
Before the maiden it-passed
en mi la voie s'aresta.
in-the middle-of the way itself-stopped
El pié ot ficié une espine.
In-the foot it-had stuck a thorn

La pucele vers lui se cline
The maiden toward it herself bends
et por lui prendre à pié descent,
and for it to-take on foot descends
le bracet prist isnelement,
the hound she-took swiftly
puis est hastivement montée,
then is hastily mounted
et chevauça tote l'estrée.
and rode all the-road
Le bracet dist qu'enportera
The hound she-said that-she-will-carry-off
et à sa dame le dorra,
and to her lady it will-give
es vos poignant I venéor,
behold here spurring a huntsman
deseur I ronci cacéor.
upon a nag hunting
Les ciens sivoit, son cor tenoit,
The dogs he-followed his horn he-held
en la main I espiel avoit;
in the hand a boar-spear he-had
corte cote avoit d'un burel;
short coat he-had of-a frieze
le cors ot avenant et bel.
the body he-had comely and fair
D'une houses estoit hosés;
In boots he-was booted
estrangement estoit hastés.
strangely he-was hurried

Quant il vit prendre le bracet
When he saw take the hound
à la pucele, qui le met
by the maiden who it puts
sous son mantel, et reponoit;
beneath her mantle and hid
et quant li veneres le voit,
and when the huntsman it sees
si vint poingnant à la pucele,
so he-came spurring to the maiden
se li a dit: «Amie bele,
so her he-has said Friend fair
«laissés, laissés mon cien ester;
let let my dog be
«damoisele, laissé le aler
damsel let it go
«aprês les autres qui s'en vont.»
after the others which themselves-thence go
La demoisele li respont
The damsel him answers
que del bracet n'aura il mie;
that of-the hound not-will-have he at-all
car biaus est, si en a envie;
for fair it-is so thereof she-has desire
et por ce, si le veut porter,
and for this so it she-wishes to-carry
à sa dame le veut donner.
to her lady it she-wishes to-give

Cil li respont: «Ma damoisele
He her answers My damsel
«ci auroit moult male novele:
here there-would-be very ill news
«Rendés le moi, n'i avés droit.»
Give it me not-therein you-have right
Cele li dist: «N'i aurés droit;
She him said Not-therein you-will-have right
«c'est li ciens que vos mais n'aurés
it-is the dog that you more not-will-have
«por quant que vos dire sacés.»
for however-much that you to-say may-know
Li veneres se coreça
The huntsman himself angered
et le chevalier apela:
and the knight called
«Sire, fait-il, estes caele;
Lord says-he you-are such-a-one
«dites à cele Damoisele
tell to that Damsel
«que le mon bracet n'enport pas.»
that the my hound not-she-carry-off at-all
Et cil le prie en eslé pas:
And he her prays in that-very step
«Doce amie, car li rendés.»
Sweet friend so him give-back
Cele dist: «Jà plus n'en parlés;
She said Ever more not-thereof speak
«c'est li bracès que mais n'aura.
it-is the hound that more not-will-have

«Sive son cerf qui tost s'en va,
Let-him-follow his stag which quickly itself-thence goes
«que le bracet pas ne rendrai.»
for the hound at-all not I-shall-give-back
— «Sire, dist li venere, or sai
Lord said the huntsman now I-know
«que mon cien en faites porter.
that my dog thereof you-make carry
«Faites le moi abandonner;
Make it me give-up
«que mon cien, là ù est, presisse,
for my dog there where it-is I-would-take
«certes jà plus ne vos quesisse.
certainly ever more not you I-would-ask
«Vostre force l'en fait porter;
Your force it-thence makes carry
«por ce le vos dei demander.
for this it you I-must ask
«Del bracet n'enportera mie
Of-the hound not-will-carry-off at-all
«se vos ne li faites aïe.»
if you not her make help
Et cil au venéor respont:
And he to-the huntsman answers
«Por nule rien qui soit el mont
For any thing which may-be in-the world
«ne l'abandonneroie mie.
not it-I-would-give-up at-all
«Car ce serait grand coardie.
For this would-be great cowardice

«Mais bel me serrait, se vausist,
But fair me it-would-be if she-wished
«qu'ele le bracet vos rendist.
that-she the hound to-you might-give-back
«Car li rendés, france pucele.»
So him give-back noble maiden
Lors respondi la damoisele:
Then answered the damsel
«Parler vos oi de grant folie,
Speak you I-hear of great folly
«car le bracet n'ara il mie.»
for the hound not-will-have he at-all
Li venere s'en vait atant,
The huntsman himself-thence goes at-that
sans congié prendre maintenant,
without leave taking at-once
et dist entre ses dens: «Sans faille,
and said between his teeth Without fail
«ne l'en menrés pas sans bataille!»
not it-thence you-will-lead at-all without battle
Chevaliers fu de haut parage,
Knight he-was of high lineage
petit prise son vaselage,
little he-prizes his prowess
s'ensi en laist son cien porter.
if-thus thereof he-lets his dog carry
Son harnas faisoit sejorner
His gear he-made stay
à I castel qui siens estoit,
at a castle which his was

mult près de là où il caçoit;
very near from there where he hunted
le castel i avoit fait faire,
the castle there he-had made build
quant il voloit cace retraire;
when he wished hunt to-withdraw
par la forest se il caçoit,
through the forest if he hunted
adonc el castel sejornoit
then in-the castle he-stayed
au castel vint moult tost poingnant
to-the castle he-came very quickly spurring
encontre lui vont si serjant:
toward him go his sergeants
«Alés, dist il, mi escuier,
Go said he my squires
«amenés moi mon bon destrier
bring me my good charger
«et mes armes; si m'armerai,
and my arms so I-shall-arm-myself
«gardés que n'i faites delai.»
take-care that not-therein you-make delay
Cil les vont querre isnelement,
They them go to-seek swiftly
les aportent hastivement.
them they-bring hastily
Li uns les cauces li laça,
The one the chausses him laced
vest son hauberc, l'elme ferma,
he-dons his hauberk the-helmet he-fastened

au lès senestre çainst l'espée,
at-the side left he-girded the-sword
qui bonne estoit et acerée.
which good was and steeled
Puis est montés sor son destrier;
Then he-is mounted upon his charger
le bracet cuide calongier.
the hound he-thinks to-claim
Son escu prist, au col le mist,
His shield he-took at-the neck it he-put
à l'orestil sa lance prist.
by the-butt his lance he-took
Del castel ist, poingnant s'en vait.
From-the castle he-goes-out spurring himself-thence goes
Moult tient à honte et à grant lait
Much he-holds to shame and to great ugliness
s'ensi en laist son cien porter,
if-thus thereof he-lets his dog carry
qu'il ne l'face cier conperer.
that-he not it-may-make dear pay
Par la forest s'en vait poingnant;
Through the forest himself-thence he-goes spurring
si lor est venus au devant,
so them he-is come to-the front
par une voie qu'il savoit;
by a way that-he knew
et quant il le chevalier voit,
and when he the knight sees
à haute vois lors li escrie:
with high voice then him he-cries

«Vasal, vasal, or est folie
Vassal vassal now is folly
«de mon cien qu'en faites porter!
of my dog that-thence you-make carry
«Or le vos estuet conperer;
Now it you it-behooves to-pay
«en pardon pas ne le menrés.
in pardon at-all not it you-will-lead
«Je vos desfi, or vos gardés.»
I you defy now yourself guard
Quant cil le venéor entent,
When he the huntsman hears
son escu prist isnelement;
his shield he-took swiftly
et puis après reprist sa lance
and then after he-took-again his lance
contre li fierement s'avance;
against him fiercely himself-advances
si se commande au créator,
so himself he-commends to-the creator
por joster muet au venéor.
for to-joust he-moves to-the huntsman
Moult orent andui beles armes
Very had both fair arms
les escu prendent as enarmes;
the shields they-take by-the straps
cevals poingnent por tost aler,
horses they-spur for quickly to-go
baissent les lances, por joster,
they-lower the lances for to-joust

fendent escus, faussent haubers,
they-split shields they-pierce hauberks
des estriers font ploier les fers.
of-the stirrups they-make bend the irons
Des lances les esclisses volent;
From-the lances the splinters fly
de nule amisté ne parolent.
of any friendship not they-speak
Des tronçons donent grans colées;
With-the stumps they-give great blows
après revienent as espées.
after they-come-again to-the swords
Si s'en vont eus entre férir.
So themselves-thence they-go them between to-strike
Lors oïssiés elmes tentir,
Then you-would-have-heard helmets ring
l'un enforcier, l'autre pener,
the-one strain the-other toil
vasals ferir, cevals suer,
vassals strike horses sweat
moult fiert bien cascuns de l'espée;
very strikes well each with the-sword
moult est dure d'els la mellée;
very is hard of-them the melee
moult sont vasal, fier caple font,
very they-are vassals fierce hacking they-make
lor elme tot embaré sont
their helmets all dented are
et lor escu tot decopé.
and their shields all cut-up

Si furent andui moult lassé,
So they-were both very weary
(tos li plus fors vait moult lassant);
all the most strong goes very wearying
et quant ne poent en avant,
and when not they-can on further
as bras s'aerdent demanois,
by-the arms themselves-seize at-once
laissent lor fors brans vienois.
they-leave their strong blades Viennese
Li uns tint l'autre durement;
The one held the-other hard
li ceval se vont esloignant.
the horses themselves go withdrawing
Tornent seles, ronpent poitrals;
They-turn saddles they-break breast-straps
guerpir lor estuet les cevals,
quit them it-behooves the horses
à la terre caient andui:
to the ground fall both
moult prioit Deu cascuns por lui.
much prayed God each for himself
Li Veneres lever cuida;
The Huntsman to-rise thought
mais cil durement le saca
but he hard him pulled
as dens l'abati maintenant.
on-the teeth him-threw at-once
Ce pesa celui duremant,
This weighed him hard

qui moult legiers et fors estoit.
who very nimble and strong was
De relever moult s'esforçoit;
Of rising much himself-he-strove
mais cil ne l'laisse relever,
but he not him-lets rise
que que il li doie grever,
whatever that it him may grieve
le refist tost caïr, sans faille;
him he-made-again quickly fall without fail
si le sace par la ventaille,
so him he-pulls by the ventail
le cief li desarme et la face.
the head him he-disarms and the face
Lors voit jesir emmi la place
Then he-sees lie amid the place
l'espée que il bien conut;
the-sword that he well knew
isnelement por li corut;
swiftly for it he-ran
mais ne laist pas le venéor,
but not he-leaves at-all the huntsman
anceis la tient par grant vigor.
rather him holds with great vigor
Quant s'espée auroit recouvrée,
When his-sword he-would-have recovered
jà li eust la teste copée.
already him he-would-have the head cut-off
Li veneres set bien de voir,
The huntsman knows well of truth

qu'el recovrer n'est mie espoir,
that-in-the recovering not-is at-all hope
que il escaper ne puet mie;
that he escape not can at-all
moult doucement merci li crie,
very sweetly mercy him he-cries
dist que il fera son plaisir;
said that he will-do his pleasure
à son plaisi n'i puet faillir.
to his pleasure not-therein he-can fail
Cil respont: «Ne pues escaper,
He answers Not thou-canst escape
«ne fians prison atorner
nor-unless thou-pledge prison to-render
«ens en la cort Artur le roi;
in in the court (of-)Arthur the king
«et se le dites, de par moi,
and so it you-say of by me
«je vos envoi en sa prison.
I you send into his prison
«Car moult me dona rice don,
For very me he-gave rich gift
«quant m'envoia la dame aidier,
when me-he-sent the lady to-help
«qui besoing en a et mestier.»
who need thereof has and want
Li vasals dist: «Bien li dirai,
The vassal said Well him I-shall-say
«et de cui pris me clamerai?
and of whom taken myself I-shall-declare

«Biaus dous amis, bien le sarai:
Fair sweet friend well it I-shall-know
«Del Biel Desconnéu dirai.»
Of-the Fair Unknown I-shall-say
Del venéor a la foi prise.
Of-the huntsman he-has the faith taken
Une autre cose li devise.
An other thing him he-says
Li Biaus Desconnéus dist: «Sire,
The Fair Unknown said Lord
«mon non avés trové à dire;
my name you-have found to tell
«or veul je votre non savoir.»
now wish I your name to-know
Et cil li regehist le voir;
And he him confesses the truth
faire l'estuet ce qu'il conmande:
do him-it-behooves this that-he commands
«J'ai non l'Orguillous de la Lande,
I-have name the-Proud-One of the Heath
«de la prison que plévi ai
of the prison that pledged I-have
«ains le mois m'en aquiterai.»
before the month myself-thereof I-shall-acquit
Li uns à l'autre congié prent;
The one of the-other leave takes
es cevals montent erranment.
on-the horses they-mount straightway
Li venères s'en retorna;
The huntsman himself-thence returned

de son cien mie n'enporta,
of his dog at-all not-carried-off
et li Desconnéus s'en vait,
and the Unknown himself-thence goes
et Robers, qui grant joie en fait,
and Robert who great joy thereof makes
li nains et la dame ensement,
the dwarf and the lady likewise
le grant cemin s'en vont anblant.
the great road themselves-thence they-go ambling

The Sparrowhawk

VII

Near the castle of Fair Place they meet Margerie weeping. Her lover was killed that day by the lord of the castle, Giflet son of Do, in a fight over a sparrowhawk on a golden perch, the prize of the fairest. The Unknown has her take the bird. Giflet, who holds his ugly lady Rose in Bloom the fairer, challenges him and is beaten and sent to Arthur. Margerie is the daughter of King Agolant of Scotland and Hélie's cousin; Hélie gives her the hound, and they part.

Le jor ont faite grant jornée;
The day they-have made great journey
et quant ce vint à la vesprée,
and when this came to the evening
si issirent d'un bos foillu.
so they-came-out of-a wood leafy
Un castel de pris ont veü,
A castle of worth they-have seen
qui moult estoit et bons et bels.
which very was both good and fair

Bel leus avoit non li castels.
Fair place had name the castle
Tot entor cort une riviere;
All around runs a river
por poissons nul millor ne quiere;
for fish any better not may-one-seek
et si porte l'aue navie.
and so carries the-water ships
Par là i vient la marçandie,
By there there comes the merchandise
dont li passages moult valoit.
of-which the passage very was-worth
De molins plenté i avoit,
Of mills plenty there there-was
et rivieres et praeries,
and rivers and meadows
et si est grans gaagneries.
and so it-is great tillage
D'autre part les vignes estoient,
On-other side the vines were
qui plus de II liues tenoient.
which more than two leagues held
Li castels fu clos de fossés
The castle was enclosed with ditches
grans et parfons, et loncs et lés;
great and deep and long and wide
sor les fossés hals murs avoit,
upon the ditches high walls there-were
dont li castels tos clos estoit.
by-which the castle all enclosed was

Li Desconnéus s'aresta,
The Unknown himself-stopped
la damoisele en apela,
the damsel thereof he-called
si li a le castel mostré.
so her he-has the castle shown
Por l'esgarder sont aresté,
For it-to-look-at they-are stopped
et dient que bels est et gens,
and they-say that fair it-is and noble
millor rien ot ne rois, ne quens.
better thing had neither king nor count
Vers le castel s'en vont corant.
Toward the castle themselves-thence they-go running
Li vespres va moult aproçant.
The evening goes very approaching
Encontré ont une pucele
Met they-have a maiden
entor voie, qui moult ert bele.
around way who very was fair
D'un drap de soie estoit vestue;
Of-a cloth of silk she-was clad
si bele riens ne fu veüe.
so fair thing not was seen
La pene d'edres fu bendée,
The lining of-eider was banded
d'ermine de gris geronée;
of-ermine of gray gored
li sebelins moult bons estoit;
the sable very good was

en nul païs millor n'avoit.
in any country better not-there-was
Moult fu la damoisele gente;
Very was the damsel noble
sa grans biautés moult atalente
her great beauty much pleases
à cels qui virent la pucele,
to those who saw the maiden
onques nus hom ne vit tant bele.
ever any man not saw so fair
Le front ot large et cler le vis,
The brow she-had broad and clear the face
et blanc, come est la flors de lis;
and white as is the flower of lily
les sorcils ot noirs et vautis,
the brows she-had black and arched
delgiés, et grailles et traitis.
slender and thin and well-drawn
Le vis avoit si colouré,
The face she-had so colored
comme la rose el tens d'esté.
as the rose in-the time of-summer
Bien faite boce, dens petistes,
Well made mouth teeth small
de plus bele parler n'oïstes.
of more fair speaking not-you-heard
Les crins ot blons et reluisans,
The locks she-had blonde and shining
comme fin or reflanboians.
as fine gold flaming

D'un fil d'arge fu galonnée.
With-a thread of-silver she-was braided
Si cevauçait escevelée.
So she-rode bareheaded
Les iols ot vairs, le front bien fait
The eyes she-had gray the brow well made
mains ot blances, cors bien portrait;
hands she-had white body well shaped
plus bel cors n'ot nule pucele.
more fair body not-had any maiden
Mais grant dol fait la damoisele.
But great grief makes the damsel
Ses puins tort, ses cevels decire
Her fists she-wrings her hair she-tears
cele qui a et dol et ire,
she who has both grief and wrath
del castel vint la damoisele,
from-the castle came the damsel
et li Desconnéus l'apele;
and the Unknown her-calls
et à l'encontre tost li va;
and to the-meeting quickly her goes
moult gentement la salua;
very nobly her he-greeted
son salu li rent, en plorant,
his greeting him she-renders in weeping
com cele qui a dol moult grant.
as she who has grief very great
Cil demanda à la pucele:
He asked to the maiden

«Por coi plorés, amie bele,
For what weep-you friend fair
«s'il vos plait, je le veul savoir.»
if-it you pleases I it wish to-know
Cele respont: «Dol doi avoir:
She answers Grief I-must have
«Ne je jamais joie n'aurai.
Nor I ever joy not-shall-have
«Car la rien c'onques plus aimai
For the thing that-ever most I-loved
«ai je perdue hui cest jor!
have I lost today this day
«Sire, fait ele, por ce plor,
Lord says she for this I-weep
«por mon ami, que perdu ai.
for my friend whom lost I-have
«Ocis m'est hui; de dol morrai;
Killed me-is today of grief I-shall-die
«li cuers me crieve de dolor.
the heart me bursts with grief
«Lasse! conment vivrai mais jor?
Alas how shall-I-live more day
Quant cil l'oï, pitié en a.
When he it-heard pity thereof has
A la pucele demanda
To the maiden he-asked
comment estoit mors ses amis,
how was dead her friend
s'il estoit à armes ocis,
if-he was at arms killed

u autrement, que le li die.
or otherwise that it him she-may-tell
La pucele respont marie;
The maiden answers distressed
«Sire, ocis l'a I chevaliers,
Lord killed him-has a knight
«qui moult est orguillous et fiers.
who very is proud and fierce
«Si est sires de cest castel.
So he-is lord of this castle
«Il a en la vile I oisel,
He has in the town a bird
«esprevier bien mué et bel.
sparrowhawk well molted and fair
«En I plain, dalès I mostier,
In a plain beside a minster
«illuec out assis l'esprevier,
there he-had set the-sparrowhawk
«sor I perce tote d'or.
upon a perch all of-gold
«Li espreviers vaut I tresor.
The sparrowhawk is-worth a treasure
«Cele qui l'esprevier ara
She who the-sparrowhawk will-have
«et à la perce le prendra,
and from the perch it will-take
«si ara los de la plus bele,
so will-have praise of the most fair

«et si convient à la pucele
and so it-behooves to the maiden
«qui vaura aveir l'esprevier,
who will-wish to-have the-sparrowhawk
«que maint o soi I chevalier,
that she-lead with herself a knight
«por desrainier qu'ele est plus bele
for to-prove that-she is more fair
«que nule dame, ne pucele.
than any lady nor maiden
«Car cil qui del castel est sire.
For he who of-the castle is lord
«Maintenant li va contredire,
At-once her goes to-gainsay
«et le desfent, de par s'amie;
and it forbids of by his-love
«et dist que si bele n'est mie
and said that so fair not-is at-all
«com s'amie est, ce dist sans faille.
as his-love is this said without fail
«Ici conmence la bataille.
Here begins the battle
«Sire, mes amis i ala;
Lord my friend there went
«por l'oisel prendre m'i mena;
for the-bird to-take me-there he-led
«quand je vauc prendre l'esprevier,
when I wished to-take the-sparrowhawk
«li Sires le vint calengier;
the Lord it came to-challenge

«que je ne le presisse mie.
that I not it might-take at-all
«Li miens amis me dist: «Amie,
The my friend me said Love
«prende le tost hardïement,
take it quickly boldly
«por demostrer lui, en present,
for to-show him in present
«que vos estes asés plus bele
that you are much more fair
«ne soit la soie damoisele.
than may-be the his damsel
«A l'autre moult en anuia,
To the-other much thereof it-grieved
«et dist que il l'en desdira.
and said that he it-thereof will-gainsay
«Ensi en prisent la bataille.
Thus thereof they-took the battle
«Ocis fu mes amis, sans faille,
Killed was my friend without fail
«qui faire me voloit honor;
who to-do me wished honor
«si m'est torné à grant dolor.
so me-is turned to great grief
«Tot ont juré cil del castel
All have sworn those of-the castle
«de deseur le cors saint Marcel.
from upon the body (of-)saint Marcel
«Un cier cors saint, qui'st en la ville,
A dear body holy which-is in the town

«que vers celui ne feront guille,
that toward him not they-will-do guile
«qui au signor se conbatra.
who with-the lord himself will-fight
«Se il l'ocist, garde n'ara.
If he him-kills fear not-he-will-have
«Ne se convient avoir paor,
Nor himself it-behooves to-have fear
«ne nule dote, ne cremor.
nor any doubt nor dread
«Ne jà nus tort ne l'en fera,
Nor ever any wrong not him-thereof will-do
«tot séurs aler s'en porra.»
all secure go himself-thence he-will-be-able
Cil li respont, qui ce li dist:
He her answers who this her said
«Bon gré l'en sarïés, je cuit,
Good will him-thereof you-would-know I think
«qui vos rendroit cel esprevier,
who to-you would-give-back that sparrowhawk
«et vostre ami porroit vengier.»
and your friend could avenge
Cele respont: «Sire, por voir,
She answers Lord for true
«bon gré l'en devroie savoir;
good will him-thereof I-ought to-know
«grant cose i vauroie avoir mise,
great thing therein I-would-wish to-have put
«qu'il fust vengiés à ma devise.
that-he were avenged at my will

«Qui mon ami porroit vengier
Who my friend could avenge
«cil me porroit bien ens gagier,
he me could well therein pledge
«en cest païs, ce dist la bele.»
in this country this said the fair-one
Et cil respont à la pucele:
And he answers to the maiden
«Venés o moi, je vos en pri,
Come with me I you thereof pray
«ne lairai pas, je vos afi,
not I-shall-leave at-all I you assure
«que vostre ami n'aille vengier,
that your friend I-may-go to-avenge
«et ne vos rende l'esprevier.»
and — to-you I-give-back the-sparrowhawk
Et la pucele li respont:
And the maiden him answers
«Cil Sires, qui forma le mont
That Lord who formed the world
«vos doinst qu'à cief le puissiés faire!
you grant that-to end it you-may do
«Se vos certes le poés faire,
If you certainly it can do
«saciés que grant honor j'aurois,
know that great honor I-would-have
«car moult grant proesse ferois.
for very great prowess you-would-do
«O vos veul aler cele part:
With you I-wish to-go that way

«Dius, se lui plaist, de mal vos gart!»
God if him it-pleases from ill you guard
Ceste pucele fu montée;
This maiden was mounted
Margerie estoit apelée;
Margerie she-was called
ensi vers le castel s'en vont;
thus toward the castle themselves-thence they-go
passent les lices et le pont,
they-pass the lists and the bridge
vers le cort vont, et Margerie
toward the court they-go and Margerie
tot droit vers l'esprevier le guie.
all straight toward the-sparrowhawk him guides
Grant gent le vont après sivant,
Great folk him go after following
chevalier, borjois et sergant;
knights burghers and sergeants
dames et puceles issoient
ladies and maidens came-out
de lor ouvrois, et demandoient
from their workshops and asked
del chevalier, qui il estoit,
of-the knight who he was
qui l'esprevier querre venoit.
who the-sparrowhawk to-seek came
Pluisor respondent: «Ne savons.
Many answer Not we-know

«Mais itant dire nos poons
But so-much say we can
«que ses elmes est effondrés;
that his helmet is broken-in
«bien pert qu'il a esté portés.
well it-appears that-he has been borne
«Maint chevalier i ont feru!
Many-a knight there have struck
«Tot est effondrés son escu;
All is broken-in his shield
«de cols d'espées est orlés,
with blows of-swords it-is bordered
«et ses haubers est descloés,»
and his hauberk is unriveted
ce dist cascuns: «sans devinaille,
this said each without guessing
«il est bons chevaliers, sans faille.
he is good knight without fail
«Ha Dius! qui sont ces damoiseles
Ah God who are these damsels
«qu'il maine o lui, qui tant sont beles?»
that-he leads with him who so-much are fair
Dist I borjois: «A mon sanblant,
Said a burgher To my seeming
«la pucele qui va devant,
the maiden who goes before
«ele amena le chevalier
she brought the knight
«qui fu ocis por l'espervier;
who was killed for the-sparrowhawk

«hui mais, après messe cantant,
today more after mass singing
«l'ocist mes sires voirement.
him-killed my lord truly
«Moult en fu dure la bataille.»
Very thereof was hard the battle
Ce dist cascuns, «c'est voir, sans faille!»
This said each it-is true without fail
Après le vont trestot sivant,
After him they-go all following
et li chevaliers vait devant.
and the knight goes before
Si est venus à l'esprevier,
So he-is come to the-sparrowhawk
en la place lès I vergier.
in the place beside an orchard
Moult fu la place bele et gente.
Very was the place fair and noble
En miliu ot planté I ente
In-the middle there-was planted a graft
qui à tos jors florie estoit.
which at all days flowering was
Une perce d'or i avoit
A perch of-gold there there-was
ù li esprevier fu asis,
where the sparrowhawk was set
le trait d'un arc, ce m'est avis,
the shot of-a bow this to-me-is opinion

estoit à conpas ordenée
it-was by compass ordered
environ et bien delivrée.
around and well cleared
Li espreviers enmi estoit
The sparrowhawk amid was
et tantost comme cil le voit,
and as-soon as he it sees
en haut apele Margerie:
on high he-calls Margerie
«Venés avant, ma douce amie,
Come forward my sweet friend
«prendre à la perce l'esprevier.
to-take from the perch the-sparrowhawk
«Par vos le veul je desrainier.
For you it wish I to-prove
«Car vos le devés moult avoir,
For you it ought much have
«tant avés biauté et savoir,
so-much you-have beauty and wisdom
«ensement et pris et valor
likewise both worth and valor
«et bel cors et bele color.»
and fair body and fair color
Et cele vint, parmi la place,
And she came through the place
à l'esprevier, si le deslace.
to the-sparrowhawk so it unfastens
Et li Sires i vient poingnant,
And the Lord there comes spurring

armés sor un ceval ferrant.
armed upon a horse iron-gray
Ses escus en argent estoit.
His shield in silver was
Roses vermelles i avoit
Roses red there there-were
de sinople les roses sont.
of red the roses are
Bien fu armés sor le Gascont,
Well he-was armed upon the Gascon
un bel ceval de moult grant pris;
a fair horse of very great worth
l'escu par les enarmes pris,
the-shield by the straps taken
venoit armés moult gent et bel.
he-came armed very nobly and fair
De roses avoit I capel,
Of roses he-had a chaplet
en son elme qui bels estoit;
on his helmet which fair was
ses cevals tos covers estoit
his horse all covered was
d'un samit, et si ot vermelles
with-a samite and so it-had red
unes roses, et à mervelles
some roses and at marvels
estoit esgardés; et s'amie,
it-was looked-at and his-love
qui avoit non Rose espanie,
who had name Rose in-bloom

en costé celui cevauçoit
at side of-him rode
un palefroi qui brief estoit;
a palfrey which short was
moult estoit et laide et froncie.
very she-was both ugly and wrinkled
Ni a celui cui ne desfie
Not-there is he whom not he-defies
qu'il la maintint por la plus bele.
that-he her upheld for the most fair
Tot s'esmervellent cil et cele
All themselves-marvel he and she
qu'amors li fait son sens muer.
that-love him makes his sense change
Mais nus hom ne se puet garder
But any man not himself can guard
qu'amors ne l'face bestorner;
that-love not him-may-make turn-upside-down
la laide fait bele sanbler,
the ugly makes fair seem
tant set de guille et d'encanter!
so-much it-knows of guile and of-enchanting
Li chevaliers vint à esploit
The knight came at speed
et vers la pucele tot droit,
and toward the maiden all straight
à moult halte vois li escrie
with very high voice her he-cries
que l'esprevier ne prenge mie;
that the-sparrowhawk not she-take at-all

qu'à li n'afiert pas qu'ele l'ait.
for-to her not-belongs at-all that-she it-have
Li Biaus Desconnéus se trait
The Fair Unknown himself draws
avant; si li a dist: «Biaus sire,
forward so him he-has said Fair lord
«por quel cose volés vos dire
for what thing wish you to-say
«que l'esprevier ne deie avoir?
that the-sparrowhawk not she-must have
«N'a ele biauté et savoir?
Not-has she beauty and wisdom
«Plus bele de li je ne sai,
More fair than her I not know
«et je por li desrainerai
and I for her shall-prove
«qu'ele doit avoir l'esprevier.
that-she ought have the-sparrowhawk
«Si ne li faites delaier.»
So not her make delay
Cil li respont: «N'en ara mie;
He him answers Not-thereof she-will-have at-all
«qu'asés est plus bele m'amie,
for-much is more fair my-love
«qu'aveuc mei ai ci amenée.
whom-with me I-have here brought
«Onques si bele ne fu née.
Ever so fair not was born

«Sans mentir et sans devinaille
Without lying and without guessing
«demostrer sui près, par bataille,
to-show I-am ready by battle
«que porter n'en doit l'esprevier.»
that carry not-thereof she-must the-sparrowhawk
Desfient soi li chevalier.
Defy themselves the knights
Comme home iré, les cevals poingnent,
As man angered the horses they-spur
et por joster si s'entreloingnent,
and for to-joust so each-other-withdraw
tant com ceval puent aler;
as-much as horse can go
muet l'uns à l'autre por joster.
moves the-one at the-other for to-joust
Si s'entrevont entreferir,
So each-other-they-go to-strike
que les escus se font croissir,
that the shields themselves make crack
ronpent et çaingles et poitrals;
they-break both girths and breast-straps
andui s'abatent des cevals.
both themselves-throw-down from-the horses
Ne furent navré ne blecié;
Not they-were wounded nor hurt
isnelement sont redrecié,
swiftly they-are raised-up
et traient les brans vienois,
and draw the blades Viennese

si s'entre fierent demanois.
so each-other strike at-once
Sor les elmes s'en vont ferir,
Upon the helmets themselves-thence they-go to-strike
si que le fu en font salir.
so that the fire thereof they-make leap
Des puins, as tronçons des espées,
With-the fists with-the stumps of-the swords
s'entre donnent moult grans colées.
each-other they-give very great blows
En tos sanblans bien se requierent,
In all seemings well themselves they-assail
sor les elmes sovent se fierent;
upon the helmets often themselves they-strike
as puins sovent se vont sacier,
by-the fists often themselves they-go to-pull
les las des elmes esracier;
the laces of-the helmets to-tear-out
fiere et grans est moult la mellée.
fierce and great is very the melee
Li Biaus Desconnéus s'espée
The Fair Unknown his-sword
tint, si le fiert bien à devise
held so him strikes well at will
et tote sa force i a mise;
and all his strength therein has put
si grant colée li donna
so great blow him he-gave
que li chevaliers trebuça,
that the knight tumbled

tos estordis ciet en la place;
all stunned he-falls in the place
sor I piere fiert sa face.
upon a stone strikes his face
Que ses vis trestos en torbla.
So-that his face all thereof clouded
Cil maintenant sor lui ala;
He at-once upon him went
tant durement le tire et sace,
so-much hard him he-pulls and drags
que l'elme del cief li esrace.
that the-helmet from-the head him he-tears
Cil n'a pooir de relever;
He not-has power of rising
que que il doie li grever,
whatever that it may him grieve
li convient dire et consentir:
him it-behooves to-say and to-consent
«Conquis m'avés, ne l'puis soufrir!»
Conquered me-you-have not it-I-can endure
Mais Cil qui desous lui le tient
But He who beneath him him holds
li dist: «Sire, el i convient;
him said Lord else there it-behooves
«atant n'en irès vos plus vites
at-that not-thence will-go you more quickly
«vostre estre et vostre non me dites;
your being and your name me tell
«et si fiancerés prison,
and so you-will-pledge prison

«que vos irés, sans oquison,
that you will-go without excuse
«ens en la cort Artur le roi.»
in in the court (of-)Arthur the king
Li chevaliers plévi sa foi,
The knight pledged his faith
puis li a dit après son non:
then him has said after his name
«Sire, Giflet m'apele on.
Lord Giflet me-calls one
«Giflès, li fius d'O, sui nommés,
Giflet the son of-Do I-am named
«en cest païs, et apelés.
in this country and called
«Vostre sui tos d'or en avant,
Yours I-am wholly from-now on forward
«car moult vos aim d'or en avant.»
for much you I-love from-now on forward
Atant se levent de la place;
At-that themselves they-raise from the place
l'uns acole l'autre et enbrace.
the-one embraces the-other and clasps
Giflès, li fius de O, l'enmaine,
Giflet the son of Do him-leads-away
liement en la soie demaine.
gladly into the his domain
Tant debonnairement pria,
So graciously he-prayed
c'o lui cele nuit herberga.
that-with him that night he-lodged

Moult lor fist bon ostel la nuit,
Very them he-made good lodging the night
et moult i orent grant deduit.
and much there they-had great delight
Cele nuit traisent au castel,
That night they-withdrew to-the castle
et furent servi bien et bel.
and were served well and fair
Bien matinet à l'ajornée,
Well early at the-dawn
que li jors pert par la contrée,
when the day appears through the country
li Biaus Desconnéus leva
the Fair Unknown rose
isnelement et tost s'arma.
swiftly and quickly himself-armed
Si se remetent à la voie.
So themselves they-put-again to the way
Giflès, le fius d'O, les convoie,
Giflet the son of-Do them escorts
et Margerie, la pucele,
and Margerie the maiden
que li Desconnéus apele,
whom the Unknown calls
si li demande que fera,
so her asks what she-will-do
et dist que ele s'en ira
and she-said that she herself-thence will-go
en Escoce, dont fu ses pere,
into Scotland whence was her father

rois Agolans, il et ses frere.
king Agolant he and his brother
Sor son puing porte l'esprevier
Upon her fist she-carries the-sparrowhawk
qu'ele ot conquis; si l'ot moult cier.
that-she had conquered so it-she-had very dear
Quant li Desconnéus l'entent,
When the Unknown it-hears
qu'ele estoit de si haute gent,
that-she was of so high folk
et qu'ele estoit fille de roi,
and that-she was daughter of king
Giflet a apelé à soi;
Giflet he-has called to himself
si li dist que il envoiast
so him said that he should-send
un chevalier, qui enmenast
a knight who should-lead-away
la damoisele en sa contrée;
the damsel into her country
et Giflès bonnement li grée;
and Giflet kindly him grants
si li dist que bien le fera.
so him said that well it he-will-do
Atant à Diu se commanda.
At-that to God himself he-commended
Et quant la parole ot Helie,
And when the word heard Hélie
qu'ele estoit d'Escoce norie,
that-she was in-Scotland nurtured

si l'a moult reconneüe;
so her-has much recognized
car maintes fois l'avoit veüe,
for many times her-she-had seen
et si estoit pres sa parente.
and so she-was near her kinswoman
Moult li est bon et atalente
Very her is good and pleases
qu'ele enporte son esprevier.
that-she carries-off her sparrowhawk
«Cosine, fait ele, acointier
Cousin says she acquainted
«vos deussiés moult grant pieça;
you ought very great while-ago
«car or m'en convient aler ça,
for now me-thence it-behooves to-go here
«et vos en irés autre voie.
and you thence will-go other way
«Moult desir qu'encor vos revoie;
Much I-desire that-yet you I-may-see-again
«ne sai se jamais vos verrai,
not I-know if ever you I-shall-see
«mais en mon cuer vos aimerai.
but in my heart you I-shall-love
«Or vos veul mon bracet laissier,
Now you I-wish my bound to-leave
«porterés le o l'esprevier.
you-will-carry it with the-sparrowhawk
«Andoi sont conquis par bataille;
Both are conquered by battle

«n'a si bon cien en Cornouaille.
not-there-is so good dog in Cornwall
«Moult fu conquis, par grant vigor,
Much it-was conquered by great vigor
«d'un mal chevalier venéor.»
from-a bad knight huntsman
Tot li conte come ele l'a
All her she-tells how she it-has
le bracet, et puis li bailla.
the hound and then her gave
Li une à l'autre prent congié;
The one of the-other takes leave
andex ploroient de pitié.
both wept for pity

The Isle of Gold

VIII

They reach the castle of the Isle of Gold, whose lady, the maiden of the White Hands, is versed in the seven arts. Before its causeway stand stakes topped with knights' heads. Malgier the Gray guards it; he has been her suitor seven years and will wed her if he holds it two more, though she hates him. The Unknown kills him, to the joy of the town, and is led into the castle hailed as its lord.

Li Biaus Desconnéus s'en vait;
The Fair Unknown himself-thence goes
vers Helie le nains se trait.
toward Hélie the dwarf himself draws
Son palefroi aloit caçant,
Her palfrey he-went driving

or menoit autre lien tirant.
now he-led other leash pulling
Del Bel Desconnéu dirai
Of-the Fair Unknown I-shall-tell
l'istoire, si com je le sai,
the-story so as I it know
qui tote jor avoit erré.
who all day had journeyed
Li vespres lors fu apresté.
The evening then was ready
Il esgarde, voit I castel;
He looks sees a castle
onques nus hom ne vit si bel.
ever any man not saw so fair
Moult fu li castels bien asis,
Very was the castle well set
moult ert rice et plentevis.
very it-was rich and plentiful
Uns bras de mer entour coroit,
An arm of sea around ran
qui tote la vile ceingnoit;
which all the town girded
d'autre part la grans mers estoit,
on-other side the great sea was
qui au pié del castel feroit.
which at-the foot of-the castle struck
Moult i avoit rice castel,
Very there there-was rich castle
li murs en furent rice et bel,
the walls thereof were rich and fair

dont li castels tos clos estoit.
by-which the castle all enclosed was
Nois, blances flors, ne riens qui soit,
Snow white flowers nor anything which may-be
n'est pas si bel com li mur sont
not-is at-all so fair as the walls are
qui tot en tor la vile vont.
which all in round the town go
De blanc marbre li mur estoient,
Of white marble the walls were
qui le castel entor clooient,
which the castle around enclosed
si hals, com pooit un ars traire;
so high as could a bow shoot
nus hom ne pooit engien faire
any man not could engine make
qui peüst à crenals tocier;
which could at-the battlements touch
traire n'i puet on, ne lancier;
shoot not-there can one nor throw
et tant estoient li mur haut
and so-much were the walls high
qu'il ne doutoient nul assaut.
that-they not feared any assault
En la vile ot II tors vermelles;
In the town there-were two towers red
qui beles èrent à mervelles,
which fair were at marvels
et furent de marbre vermeil,
and were of marble red

qui moult reluist contre soleil.
which much shines against sun
C. conte ens en la vile estoient,
A-hundred counts in in the town were
qi dedens ices tors manoient;
who within these towers dwelt
et tot sont casé del castel;
and all are enfeoffed of-the castle
un palais i ot bon et bel.
a palace there was good and fair
Cil qui le fist sot d'encanter,
He who it made knew of-enchanting
que nus hom ne l'puet deviser
that any man not it-can describe
de coi il fu; mais bel estoit.
of what it was but fair it-was
Cristal la piere resanbloit,
Crystal the stone resembled
dont li palais estoit tot fait
of-which the palace was all made
et à conpas trestos portrait.
and by compass all drawn
A vaute fu covert d'argent,
In vault it-was covered of-silver
et par desus, à pavement;
and by above with pavement
une escarboucle sus luissoit,
a carbuncle above shone
plus que solaus resplendissoit,
more than sun it-shone-bright

et par nuit rent si grant clarté
and by night gives so great brightness
com se ce fust en tens d'esté.
as if it were in time of-summer
Vint tors sostienent le palais.
Twenty towers support the palace
Plus beles ne verrés jamais.
More fair not you-will-see ever
Totes indes d'une color;
All blue of-one color
ainc hom ne vit nule millor.
ever man not saw any better
Iluec vienent li marcéant,
There come the merchants
qui d'avoir sont rice et manant.
who of-goods are rich and wealthy
Si ameinent lor marchandie
So they-bring their merchandise
par la mer qui illuec les guie,
by the sea which there them guides
dont li passages moult valoit
of-which the passage much was-worth
que cele vile recevoit.
which that town received
De lor avoir qui i vient grans
From their goods which there comes great
est la vile rice et manans.
is the town rich and wealthy

Icis castels dont vos oiés
This castle of-which you hear
de l'Isle Dor estoit nommés.
of the-Isle of-Gold was named
El palais ot une pucele,
In-the palace there-was a maiden
onques nus hom ne vit si bele.
ever any man not saw so fair
Les VII ars sot et encanter,
The seven arts she-knew and to-enchant
et sot bien estoiles garder,
and knew well stars to-watch
et bien de mal tot ço savoit.
and well of ill all this she-knew
Mervillous sens en li avoit.
Marvelous sense in her there-was
Cele estoit dame del castel;
She was lady of-the castle
moult ot le cors et gent et bel.
very she-had the body both noble and fair
Ses pere n'ot oir, fors que li;
Her father not-had heir except that her
encor n'avoit ele mari.
yet not-had she husband
C'est la pucele as blances mains,
It-is the maiden with-the white hands
de ço sui je moult bien certains;
of this am I very well certain
et moult estoit grans sa biauté.
and very was great her beauty

Li chevaliers s'est aresté.
The knight himself-is stopped
S'apele demoisele Helie,
So-he-calls damsel Hélie
qu'il menoit en sa conpaignie.
whom-he led in his company
Se li a le castel mostré,
So her he-has the castle shown
et del palais la grant clarté,
and of-the palace the great brightness
et I tré qu'il avoit veü
and a tent that-he had seen
qui entr'els et le castel fu,
which between-them and the castle was
qui moult grant place porprendoit.
which very great space took-up
Et une caucie i avoit
And a causeway there there-was
del pavillon dusques au pont,
from-the pavilion as-far-as to-the bridge
por les augues qui de fors sont.
for the waters which of outside are
Li pavillons au cief estoit,
The pavilion at-the head was
devant unes lices avoit.
before some lists there-were
Mult bien faite de pels agus,
Very well made of stakes sharp
aguisiés desos et desus.
sharpened below and above

En cascun pel ficié avoit
On each stake stuck there-was
une teste, c'armée estoit;
a head which-armed was
cascune avoit l'elme lacie,
each had the-helmet laced
qui ens el pel estoit ficie.
which in in-the stake was stuck
De chevaliers tot li cief sont,
Of knights all the heads are
qui en els pels erent amont.
which on the stakes were above
Dedens le pavillon estoit
Within the pavilion was
uns chevaliers qui jà s'armoit
a knight who already armed-himself
et laçoit ses cauces de fer,
and laced his chausses of iron
que, tot esté et tot iver,
who all summer and all winter
atendoit iluec s'aventure,
awaited there his-adventure
qui moult estoit greves et dure.
which very was grievous and hard
Quant vit le chevalier venir,
When he-saw the knight come
son hauberc a pris à vestir.
his hauberk he-has taken to don
Quant l'ot vestu, son elme lace,
When it-he-had donned his helmet he-laces

et vint ester en mi la place.
and came to-stand in-the middle-of the place
Espée bone çainte avoit.
Sword good girt he-had
Cil chevaliers amis estoit
This knight friend was
à la pucele del castel;
to the maiden of-the castle
de totes armes bien et bel
of all arms well and fair
estoit armés et ses cevals.
was armed and his horse
Atant est venus li vasals
At-that is come the vassal
qui Bel Desconnéu s'apele.
who Fair Unknown himself-calls
Dalès lui mainne la pucele
Beside him he-leads the maiden
vers le tré vint, si vaut passer;
toward the tent he-came so he-wished to-pass
mais cil li osa bien véer,
but he him dared well to-forbid
qui dedens ert moult fierement.
who within was very fiercely
Si dist en halt hastivement:
So he-said on high hastily
«Se vos par ci volés passer,
If you by here wish to-pass

«moult vos estera ains lasser
much you it-will-be-needful before to-weary
«as armes encontre mon cors,
in arms against my body
«u vos remanrés là de fors.»
or you will-remain there of outside
— «Sire, dist la pucele Helie,
Lord said the maiden Hélie
«tels est l'usage; ne ment mie,
such is the-custom not he-lies at-all
«et cil qui ici est conquis
and he who here is conquered
«si puet estre de la mort fis;
so can be of the death sure
«la teste a maintenant copée,
the head he-has at-once cut-off
«ne jà ne li ert desarmée;
nor ever not him will-be disarmed
«atot l'elme sera trancié,
with the-helmet it-will-be cut
«et puis en I des pels ficié
and then on one of-the stakes stuck
«avec les autres qui là sont
with the others which there are
«defors les lices de cel pont.
outside the lists of that bridge
«VII^{xx} testes i ot et III,
Seven-score heads there were and three
«tos fius de contes et de rois,
all sons of counts and of kings

«que li chevaliers a conquis,
which the knight has conquered
«qui est à la pucele amis.
who is to the maiden friend
«Ses amis a esté VII ans.
Her friend he-has been seven years
«Onques de li n'ot ses talans;
Ever of her not-had his desires
«mais s'encor puet II ans durer,
but if-yet he-can two years last
«si le doit prendre et espouser.
so her he-must take and wed
«La pucele l'a fiancie
The maiden him-has pledged
«que, se desfent si la caucie,
that if he-defends so the causeway
«VII ans tos plains, que il l'aura;
seven years all full that he her-will-have
«et s'il ne l'fait il i faura.»
and if-he not it-does he therein will-fail
Li usages itels estoit;
The custom such was
quant nus de ses amis moroit,
when any of her friends died
quant il estoit mors en bataille,
when he was dead in battle
celui prendroit, sans nule faille,
him she-would-take without any fail
qui son ami ocis avoit.
who her friend killed had

De celui ami refaisoit
Of him friend she-made-again
por qu'il peüst VII ans tenir
provided that-he could seven years hold
l'usage faire et maintenir.
the-custom to-do and to-maintain
Et qui VII ans i puet durer,
And who seven years there can last
à celui se veut marier;
to him herself she-wishes to-marry
de li est sire et del manoir;
of her he-is lord and of-the manor
en cele guise doit avoir.
in that manner he-must have
Ele savoit bien, sans mentir,
She knew well without lying
que cil qui se porra furnir
that he who himself will-be-able to-accomplish
que tant est bons qu'avoir le doit;
that so-much he-is good that-to-have her he-must
por l'esprover içо faisoit.
for him-to-prove this she-did
Mais ele dist: Jà ne sara
But she said Ever not she-will-be
cestui, ains dist que ains morra,
this-one rather she-said that before she-will-die
que là n'a cure ne talent;
for there not-has care nor desire
car il est fait à tote gent.
for he is made to all folk

N'avait à garder que II ans,
Not-had to keep but two years
mais trop ert plains de mautalans;
but too-much he-was full of ill-will
il estoit fels de cuer et mals,
he was felon of heart and evil
et trop tirans et desloyals.
and too tyrannous and disloyal
Por ce la dame le haoit,
For this the lady him hated
et por ce que haïs estoit
and for this that hated he-was
tant durement mal li volait
so hard ill him she-wished
que jà à nul jor nen iert siens.
that ever on any day not she-will-be his
Car en cest monde nule riens
For in this world any thing
n'est que ançois ne devenist
not-is that before not she-might-become
que de li ses talens refist.
than of her his desire he-should-make
De totes gens haïs estoit;
Of all folk hated he-was
car en la vile homme n'avoit
for in the town man not-there-was
qui liés n'en fust et ne vausist
who glad not-thereof would-be and not would-wish
que cil en desus en venist.
that he on top thence should-come

Ce voloient grant et menor;
This wished great and small
que nus à lui n'avoit amor.
for anyone to him not-had love
Mais por doutance le servoient;
But for fear him they-served
et nient por el ne le faisoient,
and nothing for else not it they-did
qu'il n'estoit de nului amés.
for-he not-was by anyone loved
Ses cevals li fu amenés
His horse him was brought
couvers d'un bon paile vermel;
covered with-a good silk red
ainc nus hom ne vit son parel.
ever any man not saw its equal
Parmi ot unes blances mains.
Amid it-had some white hands
D'un samit blanc com flors de rains
Of-a samite white as flower of branch
furent les mains, et bien ouvrées,
were the hands and well worked
et deseur le cendal passées.
and upon the sendal set
Les escus à sinople estoit,
The shield of red was
et mains blances parmi avoit;
and hands white amid it-had
sor son elme portoit uns gans:
upon his helmet he-carried a glove

d'armes estoit preus et vaillans.
of-arms he-was valiant and worthy
Tantost com il vint au destrier,
As-soon as he came to-the charger
si est montés sur son estrier.
so he-is mounted upon his stirrup
Uns vallès son escu li tent,
A young-man his shield him holds-out
il tantost à son col le pent;
he at-once at his neck it hangs
uns autres li baille sa lance;
an other him gives his lance
as armes avoit grant poissance;
in arms he-had great might
ainc nus ne fu de son pooir,
ever any not was of his power
n'à armes peüst tant valoir.
nor-in arms could so-much be-worth
Il les laisse parmi les prés;
He them leaves amid the meadows
puis est au pavillon torné,
then he-is to-the pavilion turned
ù li Desconnéus l'atent;
where the Unknown him-awaits
faire le cuide tot dolent.
to-make him he-thinks all grieving
Quant li Desconnéus le voit
When the Unknown him sees
que il as armes l'atendoit,
that he in arms him-awaited

bien set qu'il aura la bataille:
well he-knows that-he will-have the battle
par el n'en puet aler, sans faille;
by else not-thence he-can go without fail
car illuec l'en estuet aler;
for there him-thence it-behooves to-go
car par aillors n'en puet passer.
for by elsewhere not-thence he-can pass
L'escu a pris, au col le pent,
The-shield he-has taken at-the neck it hangs
isnelement la lance prent,
swiftly the lance he-takes
vers la caucie vint errant.
toward the causeway he-came straightway
Li chevaliers li vint devant.
The knight him came before
Li Biaus Desconnéus dist: «Sire,
The Fair Unknown said Lord
«prier le vos vauroie et dire
to-pray it you I-would-wish and to-say
«que vos nos laississiés aler:
that you us should-let go
«Nos n'avons mestier d'arester;
We not-have need of-stopping
«ne me delaiés demanoie;
not me delay at-once
«car li rois Artur m'i envoie.»
for the king Arthur me-there sends
Cil li respont: «Or oi foloie!
He him answers Now I-hear folly

«Par ci ne passerés vos mie;
By here not will-pass you at-all
«c'est casement tieng de m'amie,»
this fief I-hold from my-love
et cil al chevalier respont:
and he to-the knight answers
«Sire, fait il, por tot le mont,
Lord says he for all the world
«ne veul avoir tel casement
not I-wish to-have such fief
«d'ensi ocire tote gent.
of-thus killing all folk
«Quant je plus ne puis amender,
When I more not can amend
«ne vos ne me laissés aler,
nor you not me let go
«j'esgarderai vostre voloir;
I-shall-regard your will
«desfendrai moi, à mon pooir.»
I-shall-defend myself to my power
Lors se desfient à itant,
Then themselves they-defy at that-moment
esloingnent soi plus d'un arpent.
they-withdraw themselves more than-an acre
Il ne remaint arme el castel,
There not remains soul in-the castle
li villart et li jovencel,
the old-men and the young-men
les dames et li chevalier,
the ladies and the knights

et li clerc et li escuier,
and the clerks and the squires
que ne viengent à la bataille.
that not may-come to the battle
Del seignor vausissent, sans faille,
Of-the lord they-would-have-wished without fail
que mors i fust et desconfis;
that dead there he-were and discomfited
car moult estoit de tos haïs.
for very he-was by all hated
Moult estoit sa mors desirée.
Very was his death desired
Là dame n'i est pas alée:
The lady not-there is at-all gone
à l'estres de la tor ala
to the-window of the tower she-went
et ses puceles i mena.
and her maidens there led
As fenestres en vint ester,
At-the windows thence she-came to-stand
por la bataille regarder
for the battle to-watch
de celui que puent haïr.
of him whom they-can hate
Dès ore sont as cols ferir.
From now they-are at-the blows striking
Andoi furent de grant valor;
Both were of great valor
les cevals poingnent, par vigor,
the horses they-spur with vigor

tant com cevals pueent aler,
as-much as horses can go
muet l'uns vers l'autre, por joster;
moves the-one toward the-other for to-joust
ensi vienent andoi fendant,
thus come both cleaving
com esfondres va vent caçant.
as thunderbolt goes wind chasing
Nus riens ne puet si tost aler
Any thing not can so quickly go
com li uns vait l'autre encontrer;
as the one goes the-other to-meet
baissent les lances, com il viennent,
they-lower the lances as they come
sor les escus grans cols se fierent
upon the shields great blows themselves they-strike
rompent les ais et li fust brise;
they-break the boards and the wood breaks
les lances metent à devise.
the lances they-place at will
Par les escus dusqu'as haubers
Through the shields as-far-as-the hauberks
fisent ens II passer les fers.
they-made in two pass the irons
Lances orent roides et fors;
Lances they-had stiff and strong
si s'entrefierent par effors,
so each-other-they-strike with efforts
tument ceval et chevalier,
tumble horse and knight

desous els font tumer destriers.
beneath them they-make tumble chargers
Andoi se sont entrabatu;
Both themselves are each-other-thrown-down
moult estoient de grant vertu.
very they-were of great strength
A la terre gisent pasmé
On the ground they-lie swooned
ne sont pas li ceval levé;
not are at-all the horses risen
car estonné sont li destrier;
for stunned are the chargers
lès els gisent li chevalier.
beside them lie the knights
Tot cil qui cele joste virent
All those who that joust saw
moult durement s'en esbahirent;
very hard themselves-thereof were-amazed
car moult estoit bonne et loée;
for very it-was good and praised
onques miudre ne fu jostée.
ever better not was jousted
Quant sont de pamisson venu,
When they-are from swoon come
si se sont bien entreveü.
so themselves are well each-other-seen
Des fueres traient les espées,
From-the sheaths they-draw the swords
dont il se donnent grans colées.
with-which they themselves give great blows

Les escus treient et esclissent,
The shields they-strike and splinter
haumes effondrent et debrissent,
helmets they-break-in and shatter
les haubers rompent et desmaillent;
the hauberks they-break and unmail
des espées souvent s'asaillent;
with-the swords often themselves-they-assail
sor les elmes tels cols feroient
upon the helmets such blows they-struck
que estinceles en voloient.
that sparks thereof flew
A genillons souvent se metent;
On knees often themselves they-put
notre Signor del ciel proumetent
our Lord of-the heaven they-promise
aumonnes et vels pentéis,
alms and vows of-penitence
que lor sires i fust ocis.
that their lord there were killed
Li chevaliers cuidoit de voir
The knight thought of truth
de ses hommes, sans decevoir,
of his men without deceiving
que il proiaissent Diu por lui;
that they would-pray God for him
mais il prient son grant anui.
but they pray his great harm
Amors de force petit vaut:
Love by force little is-worth

saciés que au besoing tost faut;
know that at need quickly it-fails
por ce fait bon sa gent amer,
for this it-makes good one's folk to-love
que tost puet la roe torner!
for quickly can the wheel turn
Li Desconnéus tint s'espée,
The Unknown held his-sword
celui en done grant colée;
him thereof gives great blow
il savoit asés d'escremir.
he knew enough of-fencing
Desor le col le vait ferir,
Upon the neck him goes to-strike
à un entrejet qu'il jeta
with a feint that-he cast
les las de l'elme li trencha;
the laces of the-helmet him he-cut
li elmes chaï en la place,
the helmet fell in the place
desarmée remest la face;
disarmed remained the face
puis le refiert en la cervele.
then him strikes-again in the brain
Li chevaliers tos en chancele
The knight all thereof totters
la coiffe del hauberc trencha,
the coif of-the hauberk he-cut
de si qu'al test li fers ala.
from so that-to-the skull the iron went

Par la cervele met l'espée
Through the brain he-puts the-sword
dusques es dens li est colée.
as-far-as in-the teeth him is slid
Les gens crient et joie ont grant:
The folk cry and joy have great
dès que Jhesus forma Adant,
since that Jesus formed Adam
tel joie n'ot en une place.
such joy not-was in one place
Ni ot celui joie ne face.
Not-there was he joy not may-make
Cil chevaliers qui fu ocis
That knight who was killed
Malgiers fut apelés Li Gris.
Malgier was called The Gray
Le cors en fisent aporter
The body thereof they-made carry
à l'autre se vont présenter:
to the-other themselves they-go to-present
«Sire, font il, moult as conquis
Lord say they much thou-hast conquered
«et terre et hommes et païs.
both land and men and country
«Tos soumes tien, sans decevoir,
All we-are thine without deceiving
«nus roiaumes ne puet valoir
any kingdom not can be-worth
«ço que tu as hui conquesté;
that which thou hast today conquered

«moult t'a nostre Sires amé.
much thee-has our Lord loved
«Mort as le millor chevalier
Dead thou-hast the best knight
«qui onques montast en destrier,
who ever mounted on charger
«dont nos avés mis en la joie.
whereby us you-have put in the joy
«Sire, metons nos à la voie.
Lord let-us-put ourselves to the way
«Vien ton roiaume recevoir,
Come thy kingdom to-receive
«et la millor dame véoir.
and the best lady to-see
«Conquis fust, que tu ameras,
Conquered it-was that thou wilt-love
«et, se diu plaist, encor l'auras.
and if God please yet her-thou-wilt-have
Un ceval li ont présenté:
A horse him they-have presented
es vos celui desus monté.
behold here him upon mounted
Or l'enmainent vers le castel
Now him-they-lead-away toward the castle
ù recéus fu bien et bel,
where received he-was well and fair
à crois et à procession.
with crosses and with procession
Grant joie en fisent li baron;
Great joy thereof made the barons

el grant palais le ont mené,
into-the great palace him they-have led
et maintenant l'ont desarmé.
and at-once him-they-have disarmed

The Lady of the White Hands

IX

The lady offers the Unknown her land and herself, waives the causeway's custom, and calls her barons to the wedding. Hélie warns he will be held if he refuses, and they plan to steal away at dawn. That night the lady comes to his bed in her shift, but will not kiss him before they wed. He dreams of her, and leaves with Hélie, Robert, and the dwarf.

Atant est la dame venue:
At-that is the lady come
si bele riens ne fu veüe.
so fair thing not was seen
Ceste ne trove sa parelle,
This-one not finds her equal
tant estoit bele à grant mervelle.
so-much she-was fair to great marvel
Sa biauté tel clarté jeta,
Her beauty such brightness cast
quant ele ens el palais entra,
when she in in-the palace entered
com la lune qu'ist de la nue.
as the moon which-comes-out of the cloud

Tele mervelle en a eüe
Such marvel thereof has had
li Desconnéus, quant le vit,
the Unknown when her he-saw
qu'il chaï jùs, à bien petit.
that-he fell down by well little
Si l'avait bien nature ouvrée,
So her-had well nature worked
et tel biauté li ot donnée,
and such beauty her had given
que plus bel vis, ne plus bel front,
that more fair face nor more fair brow
n'avoit feme qui fust el mont.
not-had woman who was in-the world
Plus estoit blance d'une flor
More she-was white than-a flower
et d'une vermelle color
and of-a red color
estoit sa face enluminée;
was her face lit-up
moult estoit bele et colorée.
very she-was fair and colored
Les oels ot vair, boce riant,
The eyes she-had gray mouth laughing
le cors bien fait et avenant;
the body well made and comely

les levres avoit vermelletes,
the lips she-had reddish

* * *
(lacuna)

Boce bien faite por baisier
Mouth well made for kissing

et bras bien fais por embracer.
and arms well made for embracing

Mains ot blances com flors de lis,
Hands she-had white as flower of lily

et la gorges, desous le vis.
and the throat beneath the face

Cors ot bien fait et le cief blont;
Body she-had well made and the head blonde

onques si bele n'ot el mont.
ever so fair not-was in-the world

Ele estoit d'un samit vestue
She was in-a samite clad

onques si bele n'ot sous nue.
ever so fair not-was beneath cloud

La pene en fu moult bien ouvrée
The lining thereof was very well worked

d'ermine tote eschekerée;
of-ermine all checkered

moult sont bien fait li eschekier.
very are well made the checks

Li orles fu mout a prisier;
The border was much to prize

et deriere ot ses crins jetés;
and behind she-had her locks thrown

d'un fil d'or les ot galonés.
with-a thread of-gold them she-had braided
De roses avoit I capel
Of roses she-had a chaplet
moult avenant et gent et bel,
very comely and noble and fair
d'un afremail son col frema,
with-a brooch her neck she-fastened
quant ele ens el palais entra.
when she in in-the palace entered
Molt i ot gente damoisele,
Very there was noble damsel
onques nus hom ne vit tant bele.
ever any man not saw so fair
La dame entre el palais riant,
The lady enters in-the palace laughing
al Desconnéu vint devant
to-the Unknown she-came before
si li a ses bras au col mis;
so him she-has her arms on-the neck put
puis li a dist: «Li miens amis,
then him she-has said The my friend
«conquis m'avés, vostre serrai.
conquered me-you-have yours I-shall-be
«Jamais de vos ne partirai.
Ever from you not I-shall-part
«Un don vos veul orendroit faire,
A gift to-you I-wish now to-make
«dont venu sont moult de contraire;
from-which come are many of contrary

«le don orendroit vos dirai.
the gift now to-you I-shall-tell
«Je veul ne l'pas metre en delai.
I wish not it-at-all to-put in delay
«De la caucie aval garder
Of the causeway below to-guard
«l'uisage ne cuide clamer.
the-custom not I-think to-claim
«Por vos, sire, quites serra,
For you lord quit it-will-be
«que jamais garde n'i ara;
that ever guard not-there it-will-have
«et si ferai de vos signor;
and so I-shall-make of you lord
«ma terre vos doins et m'amor:
my land to-you I-give and my-love
«A mari, sire, vos prendrai.
As husband lord you I-shall-take
«Millor de vous certes ne sai.»
Better than you certainly not I-know
Moult bonement cil la mercie.
Very kindly he her thanks
La dame par le main le guie
The lady by the hand him guides
sor une kuite de brun pale
upon a quilt of brown silk
qu'aportée fu de Tesale,
which-brought was from Thessaly
iluec se sont andoi asis.
there themselves are both seated

Moult i ot chevaliers de pris,
Much there was knights of worth
en la sale de totes parts.
in the hall from all sides
La dame pense engiens et ars,
The lady thinks devices and arts
et moult en est en grant anguisse,
and much thereof is in great anguish
comment celui retenir puisse.
how him to-retain she-may
Ses cuers à lui otroie et donne;
Her heart to him she-grants and gives
par le palais nus mot ne sonne,
through the palace any word not sounds
fors il doi qui forment s'entr'aisent,
except they two who greatly each-other-please
de bials dis qui forment lor plaisent.
with fair sayings which greatly them please
La dame dist que le prendra,
The lady said that him she-will-take
et c'ainc avant en parlera
and that-first before thereof she-will-speak
à tos les princes de s'onor,
to all the princes of her-domain
se il veut estre son venjor.
if he wishes to-be her avenger
Al VIIIe jor soient ici,
At-the eighth day may-they-be here
que le vaura prendre à mari,
for him she-will-wish to-take as husband

et qu'il ne facent demorée;
and that-they not make delay
à tos le dit par la contrée.
to all it she-says through the country
Et quant ce vint à la vesprée,
And when this came to the evening
por laver ont l'iaue portée.
for washing they-have the-water brought
Quant ont lavé, se sont asis,
When they-have washed themselves they-are seated
et tos les sieges ont porpris;
and all the seats they-have taken
et la dame s'i est asise,
and the lady herself-there is seated
qui molt ert sage et bien aprise.
who very was wise and well taught
Li Desconnéus siet lès li,
The Unknown sits beside her
et Helie tot autresi.
and Hélie all likewise
Moult font le valet grant honor.
Much they-make the young-man great honor
Trestote s'entente et s'amor
All her-intent and her-love
a mis la dame en lui servir;
has put the lady in him to-serve
car faire voloit son plaisir.
for to-do she-wished his pleasure

Par la vile font joie grant
Through the town they-make joy great
et li viellart et li enfant.
both the old-men and the children
Quant mangié orent, à loisir,
When eaten they-had at leisure
à Helie vint à plaisir
to Hélie came to pleasure
que de la table se levast,
that from the table herself should-rise
le Desconnéu apelast.
the Unknown she-should-call
Levée s'est, à lui l'apele
Risen she-is to herself him-calls
à une part la damoisele.
to one side the damsel
Si li a dist: «Biaus très dous sire,
So him she-has said Fair very sweet lord
«une cose vos ai à dire,
a thing to-you I-have to say
«que la dame a envoié querre
that the lady has sent to-seek
«trestous les Barons de sa terre;
all the Barons of her land
«qu'ele vos velt à mari prendre;
for-she you wishes as husband to-take
«et se vos en volés desfendre
and if you thereof wish to-defend
«que vos ne le veilliés avoir,
that you not her may-wish to-have

«si serrés pris, je l'sai de voir.
so you-will-be taken I it-know of truth
«Sire n'i pensés vilonie
Lord not-therein think villainy
«ne ma dame n'obliés mie!»
nor my lady not-forget at-all
Et cil li respondi: «Amie,
And he her answered Friend
«ce n'ert pas, por perdre la vie!
this not-will-be at-all for to-lose the life
«Consilliés vos ent, damoisele,
Counsel yourself thereof damsel
«que nos ferons.» Et la pucele
what we shall-do And the maiden
dist: «Bien nos en porons enbler
said Well ourselves thence we-shall-be-able to-steal-away
«et por matin de ci torner.
and by morning from here to-turn
«La cose bien atornerai.
The thing well I-shall-arrange
«A mon ostel gesir m'irai,
To my lodging to-lie I-shall-go
«qui laiens est en cele vile;
which therein is in this town
«faire vos covient une gille;
to-do you it-behooves a trick
«à Robert veul conter l'afaire,
to Robert I-wish to-tell the-affair
«qui bien le saura à cief traire.
who well it will-know to end to-bring

«Le ceval mais atornera,
The horse but he-will-make-ready
«ains que le jor véoir pora,
before that the day to-see one-will-be-able
«arons nos cevals maintenant,
we-shall-have our horses at-once
«à ceste porte là devant
at this gate there before
«ù a une bele capele.
where there-is a fair chapel
«Et vos levés matin, kaele,
And you rise morning such-a-one
«vos armes en ferai porter;
your arms thereof I-shall-make carry
«issi nos en porrons aler.
thus ourselves thence we-shall-be-able to-go
«Et quant vos venrés au portier,
And when you will-come to-the porter
«aler en volés au mostier;
to-go thence you-wish to-the minster
«ice li porés vos bien dire,
this him will-be-able you well say
«ce ne vos porra contredire.»
this not you will-be-able gainsay
Et cil icel consel loa;
And he this counsel praised
atant lor parlemens fina.
at-that their parley ended

A la dame s'en est tornés
To the lady himself-thence he-is turned
et dalès li s'est acostés.
and beside her himself-is set
Helie congié demanda,
Hélie leave asked
et dist qu'à son ostel gira.
and said that-at her lodging she-will-lie
La dame velt la retenir
The lady wishes her to-retain
et avec li faire gesir,
and with her to-make lie
mais ne puet faire nul sanblant
but not she-can make any show
que ele cangast son talent.
that she might-change her desire
Robers ses armes enporta
Robert his arms carried-off
et la pucele s'en ala.
and the maiden herself-thence went
Au Desconnéu font le lit.
For-the Unknown they-make the bed
Onques nus home plus bel vit.
Ever any man more fair saw
De kuïtes pointes et moles
Of quilts stitched and soft
que feroie longes paroles?
why should-I-make long words
Li lis ens el palais fu fais;
The bed in in-the palace was made

plus bel ne veirés vos jamais.
more fair not will-see you ever
La soie et l'or qu'el lit estoit
The silk and the-gold which-in-the bed was
plus de c. mars d'argent valoit;
more than a-hundred marks of-silver was-worth
et fu covers d'un drap de soie:
and it-was covered with-a cloth of silk
ki l'a sor lui tos tans a joie.
who it-has upon him all time has joy
Lors a la dame congié pris;
Then has the lady leave taken
se li a dit: «Mes ciers amis,
so him she-has said My dear friend
l'estreme desir que vos aie...
the-utmost desire that you I-may-have
De sa parole moult l'apaie,
With her word much him-she-appeases
et ne vault pas atant laissier;
and not she-wishes at-all at-that to-leave
ains le commence à enbracier
rather him she-begins to embrace
entre ses bras molt docement.
between her arms very sweetly
Atant s'enpart et congié prent.
At-that herself-thence-parts and leave takes
En sa canbre s'en est entrée.
Into her chamber herself-thence she-is entered
Plus bele feme ne fu née.
More fair woman not was born

Trestot s'en vont, petit et grant,
All themselves-thence go small and great
ni a remés keu ne serjant.
not-there is remained cook nor sergeant
Le Biau Desconnéu coucierent.
The Fair Unknown they-laid
A son coucier le feu tocierent,
At his lying-down the fire they-poked
por véoir li metent devant.
for seeing him they-put before
Puis dormirent tuit li sergant.
Then slept all the sergeants
Et li Desconnéus pensa.
And the Unknown thought
Vers l'uis de la canbre garda.
Toward the-door of the chamber he-looked
Par l'uis la dame voit venir;
By the-door the lady he-sees come
lors cuide avoir tot son plaisir.
then he-thinks to-have all his pleasure
Sans guimple, estoit eschevelée
Without wimple she-was bareheaded
et d'un mantel fu afublée
and in-a mantle was wrapped
d'un vert samit o riche hermine.
of-a green samite with rich ermine
Moult estoit bele la mescine.
Very was fair the girl

Les ataces de son mantel
The clasps of her mantle
de fin or furent li tasel;
of fine gold were the tassels
de sus sa teste le tenoit,
from above her head it she-held
l'orle lès sa face portoit.
the-border beside her face she-bore
Li sibelins, qui voirs estoit,
The sable which true was
lès le blanc vis moult avenoit.
beside the white face very became
N'avoit vestu fors sa cemise,
Not-she-had clad except her shift
qui plus estoit blance, à devise,
which more was white at will
que n'est la nois qui siet sor branche.
than not-is the snow which sits on branch
Moult estoit la cemise blanche.
Very was the shift white
Mais encor est la cars moult plus,
But yet is the flesh very more
que la cemise de desus!
than the shift of above
Les ganbes auc blances estoient
The legs somewhat white were
qui I petit apparissoient.
which a little appeared

La cemise brunette estoit
The shift brownish was
envers les jambes qu'il véoit.
against the legs which-he saw
A l'uis la dame s'apuia
At the-door the lady herself-leaned
et vers le lit adiès garda.
and toward the bed always looked
Puis demanda se il dormoit.
Then she-asked if he slept
En cel palais nului n'avoit.
In that palace anyone not-there-was
Dort-il, fait ele, qui ne dit?
Sleeps-he says she who not speaks
Est-il ja cociés en son lit?
Is-he already laid in his bed
Il li respont qu'il ne dort mie;
He her answers that-he not sleeps at-all
son cief drece quant l'ot oïe
his head he-raises when her-he-has heard
et dist: «Dame, je ne dort pas.»
and said Lady I not sleep at-all
Vers lui se fait trestot le pas,
Toward him herself she-makes all the pace
que moult ot le cors gent et bel;
who very had the body noble and fair
son brac jetta fors del mantel,
her arm she-threw out of-the mantle
de seur celui qui se gisoit.
from above him who himself lay

L'un l'autre moult volontiers voit.
The-one the-other very gladly sees
Ses mameles et sa poitrine
Her breasts and her bosom
furent blances comme flors d'espine;
were white as flower of-thorn
se li ot desus son pis mis.
so him she-had upon his breast put
Docement li dist: «Biaus amis,
Sweetly him she-said Fair friend
«molt desir vostre conpaignie,
much I-desire your company
«se dame Dius me benéie.»
so Lord God me bless
Son pis sor le sien retenoit
Her breast upon the his she-held
nu à nu, que rien n'i avoit.
naked to naked for anything not-there there-was
Entr'els not plus que sa cemise,
Between-them not-was more than her shift
en lui joïr a paine mise;
in him to-enjoy she-has pain put
lès son menton li met sa face,
beside his chin him she-puts her face
et cil moult doucement l'enbrace.
and he very sweetly her-embraces
La dame li dist: «Biaus amis,
The lady him said Fair friend
«li mals d'amors m'a por vos pris;
the ill of-love me-has for you taken

«ice saciés vos bien, de voir,
this know you well of truth
«que je vos aim outre pooir;
that I you love beyond power
«plus ne me pooie soufrir
more not myself I-could endure
«de vos véoir, ne plus tenir.»
from you to-see nor more to-hold
Et cil de bon oeil l'esgarda;
And he with good eye her-looked-at
un doc baiser prendre cuida.
a sweet kiss to-take he-thought
Quant la dame ariere se traist,
When the lady back herself drew
se li a dit: «Ce ne me plaist,
so him she-has said This not me pleases
«tot torneroit à lecerie:
all would-turn to lechery
«Saciés je ne l'feroie mie,
Know I not it-would-do at-all
«dès que vos m'aiés esposée,
until that you me-may-have wedded
«lors vos serrai abandonnée.»
then to-you I-shall-be abandoned
De lui separa maintenant;
From him she-parted at-once
se li dist: A Diu vos commant!»
so him she-said To God you I-commend

En ses chambres l'ont enfermée
Into her chambers her-have shut
les puceles et ramenée.
the maidens and brought-back
Celui a laissé esbahi,
Him she-has left dumbfounded
qui moult se tint à escarni.
who much himself held as mocked
Quant la dame s'en fu alée,
When the lady herself-thence was gone
maudit sa male destinée,
he-cursed his evil destiny
que trop a fait greveuse faille.
that too-much he-has made grievous fault
Amors le destraint et travaille.
Love him constrains and torments
Mais lasés ert, si s'endormi.
But weary he-was so himself-fell-asleep
En dormant a véu celi
In sleeping he-has seen her
por cui ses cuers muert et cancele;
for whom his heart dies and totters
entre ses bras tenoit la bele.
between his arms he-held the fair-one
Tote nuit songe qu'il le voit
All night he-dreams that-he her sees
et qu'entre ses bras le tenoit,
and that-between his arms her he-held
dus qu'al main que l'aube creva.
until at-the morning that the-dawn broke

Isnelement et tost leva;
Swiftly and quickly he-rose
à la porte vint maintenant.
to the gate he-came at-once
Li portiers l'euvre isnelement.
The porter it-opens swiftly
Venus s'en est à la capele
Come himself-thence he-is to the chapel
ù il trove sa damoisele
where he finds his damsel
et son escuier et le nain,
and his squire and the dwarf
qui son ceval tint par le frain.
who his horse held by the bridle
Les armes commande à porter
The arms he-commands to bring
isnelement, por lui armer.
swiftly for him to-arm
Robers son elme li laça
Robert his helmet him laced
hastivement et bien l'arma;
hastily and well him-armed
et puis se metent à la voie.
and then themselves they-put to the way
Si cevaucièrent à grant joie.
So they-rode with great joy
Tot au grant oïrre s'en vont.
All at-the great pace themselves-thence they-go
Li solaus reluist par le mont;
The sun shines through the world

Helie s'en aloit cantant
Hélie herself-thence went singing
et moult grant joie demenant.
and very great joy making
Son palefroi caçoit li nains,
Her palfrey drove the dwarf
et chevauchierent bos et plains.
and they-rode woods and plains
Vers le gaste cité en vont
Toward the waste city thence they-go
dusques as vespres erré ont.
until at-the evening journeyed they-have

Lampart's Custom

x

Hélie warns the Unknown against Galigan, whose gray-haired lord, Lampart, lodges no knight who has not unhorsed him, and the townsfolk pelt the losers with filth. The Unknown insists and unseats Lampart at the third course. Lampart, the seneschal of Hélie's lady, hears her praise him and honors him, and next day they saddle for the Waste City.

Atant un bel castel coisirent;
At-that a fair castle they-perceived
outre I pont el l'ève virent;
beyond a bridge in the-water they-saw
les tors estoient bien antisses
the towers were well ancient
bien faites environ assisses.
well made around set

S'ert de haus murs clos li donjons:
So-was with high walls enclosed the keep
moult ot en la vile maisons
many there-were in the town houses
et li bos moult près i estoit.
and the wood very near there was
Moult rices borgois i avoit,
Very rich burghers there there-were
dont la vile estoit bien peuplée.
of-whom the town was well peopled
Mult estoit bele la contrée,
Very was fair the country
de vignes, de bos et de plains;
of vines of woods and of plains
et si ot moult rices vilains;
and so there-were very rich peasants
de tos biens estoit raenplie;
of all goods it-was filled
bien estoit la vile garnie.
well was the town furnished
Li castials ot non Galigans,
The castle had name Galigan
ki ert moult biaus et avenans.
which was very fair and comely
Li chevaliers dist: «Que ferons?
The knight said What shall-we-do
«Damoisele, herbergerons
Damsel shall-we-lodge
«en cest castel ici devant?»
in this castle here before

Cele respondit maintenant:
She answered at-once
«Sire, fait ele, nenil mie.
Lord says she no at-all
«De là aler n'aiés envie.
Of there going not-have desire
«Car tant en ai oï parler,
For so-much thereof I-have heard speak
«que moult i fait mauvais aler.
that much there it-makes bad going
«Un usage vos en dirai,
A custom to-you thereof I-shall-tell
«dou castel que je moult bien sai.
of-the castle which I very well know
«Li borjois qu'en la vile sont
The burghers who-in the town are
«jà homme ne herbergeront.
ever man not will-lodge
«Tot herbergent cis le signor;
All lodge at-the-house-of the lord
«car il veut faire à tos honor,
for he wishes to-do to all honor
«et Lampars a à non li sire,
and Lampart has as name the lord
«dont je vos veul l'usage dire.
of-whom I to-you wish the-custom to-tell
«Il ne herberge chevalier
He not lodges knight
«qui viengne armé sur son destrier,
who may-come armed upon his charger

«se premiers ne jostent andui,
if first not joust both
«tant qu'il l'abatra, u il lui.
until that-he him-will-throw-down or he him
«Mais se Dius velt itant aider
But if God wishes so-much to-help
«celui qui i vient herberger,
him who there comes to-lodge
«que il abate le signor,
that he may-throw-down the lord
«ostel ara, à grant honor;
lodging he-will-have with great honor
«et se li sires abat lui
and if the lord throws-down him
«si s'en retorne à grant anui
so himself-thence he-returns with great harm
«parmi la vile, sans cheval;
through the town without horse
«asés i suefre honte et mal.
enough there he-suffers shame and ill
«Car cil qui en la vile sont
For those who in the town are
«trestout à l'encontre li vont
all to the-meeting him go
«et portent torces enboées
and carry torches mudded
«qui sont de la boe loées,
which are with the mud smeared
«et puis pleins de cendre et d'ordure.
and then full of ash and of-filth

«Trop i reçoit très grant laidure,
Too-much there he-receives very great foulness
«que tot li getent vers le vis
for all him they-throw toward the face
«les grands ordures qu'il ont pris.
the great filths which-they have taken
«Moult fait el castel grief entrer;
Very it-makes in-the castle grievous to-enter
«mius vos covient de fors aler.
better you it-behooves of outside to-go
«En tant comme li murs açaint
In so-much as the wall girds
«n'a chevalier venu à mains
not-has knight come to hands
«nesun c'ot sels millor de lui.
any that-had himself better than him
«A mains home ot fait anui.
To many man he-had done harm
«Biaus sire, por ice, fait ele,
Fair lord for this says she
«n'irons pas.» Cil li dit: «Pucele,
not-we-shall-go at-all He her says Maiden
«por ces cose ne quier laisser;
for these thing not I-seek to-leave
«car Dius nos puet moult bien aider.
for God us can very well help
«Jà ne me sarïés tant dire,
Ever not me you-could so-much say
«mais por Diu! ne l'prendés à ire,
but for God not it-take in wrath

«que je n'i voise herbergïer;
that I not-there may-go to-lodge
«et josterai au chevalier
and I-shall-joust with-the knight
«qui si cuide, par la manace,
who so thinks by the threat
«de la maison tenir la place,
of the house to-hold the place
«qu'o lui n'ait hauberc chevalier.
that-with him not-may-have hauberk knight
«A lui me veul je asaier.»
With him myself wish I to-try
«Or i alons, ne doutés mie.»
Now there let-us-go not fear at-all
Dist la pucele: «Dius aïe!
Said the maiden God help
«Puis qu'il vos sert, or i alons,
Since that-it you pleases now there let-us-go
«Dius nos soit garde et li suens nons!»
God us may-be guard and the his name
El castel vienent maintenant;
Into-the castle they-come at-once
parmi la porte entrent errant.
through the gate they-enter straightway
Parmi la grant voie s'en vont.
Through the great way themselves-thence they-go
Les Jus qui en la vile sont
The (People) who in the town are
quant le virent, sivent riant;
when him they-saw follow laughing

li uns le va l'autre mostrant.
the one him goes to-the-other showing
Tuit s'atornent; les torces font;
All themselves-make-ready the torches they-make
lor pos de cendres enplir vont,
their pots with ashes to-fill they-go
et drapias molliés en ordures;
and rags soaked in filths
tot en parolent et consellent,
all thereof they-speak and take-counsel
et de ferir tot s'aparellent.
and for striking all themselves-prepare
Car il cuident de fi savoir
For they think of certain to-know
que vers son signor n'ait pooir.
that against his lord not-he-may-have power
Robers regarde lor ator,
Robert looks-at their array
si le mostra à son signor
so it he-showed to his lord
que si vers le castel s'en vont.
that so toward the castle themselves-thence they-go
Le signor de fors trové ont,
The lord of outside found they-have
ù as échés avoit joé.
where at-the chess he-had played
Un chevalier avoit maté.
A knight he-had mated
Lanpars le voit, si s'est levés,
Lampart him sees so himself-is risen

de blanc poil est entremelés.
with white hair he-is mingled
Robe ot d'eskerlate, por voir,
Robe he-had of-scarlet for true
et de vair a I seble noir.
and of vair he-has a sable black
Sans aligos la roube estoit.
Without lappets the robe was
Uns estivals cauciés avoit,
A summer-boots shod he-had
et d'une coroie barée
and with-a belt barred
fu çains, à argent bien ouvrée.
he-was girt with silver well worked
Moult i avoit bon chevalier,
Very there there-was good knight
en lui n'en ot que ensigner.
in him not-thereof was what to-teach
Li Desconnéus le salue,
The Unknown him greets
de son ceval ne se remue.
from his horse not himself stirs
Lanpars respont, come afaitiés:
Lampart answers as well-bred
«Bials sire, fait-il, bien viegniés
Fair lord says-he well come
«léanc vos venés herbergier;
therein you come to-lodge
«par sanblant en avés mestier.
by seeming thereof you-have need

«Volentiers vos herbergerai,
Willingly you I-shall-lodge
«selonc l'usage que je ai.
according-to the-custom which I have
«A moi vos estuet ains joster;
With me you it-behooves first to-joust
«et se jùs me poés jeter,
and if down me you-can throw
«par raison vos doi herbergier;
by right you I-must lodge
«et se j'abat vos del destrier,
and if I-throw-down you from-the charger
«sans ostel ariere en irés.
without lodging back thence you-will-go
«Vilain conroi i troverés.
Churlish treatment there you-will-find
Et cil moult volentiers l'otroie;
And he very willingly it-grants
de rien nule ne s'en effroie;
of thing any not himself-thereof frightens
et Lanpars l'enmaine en la sale
and Lampart him-leads into the hall
ù tenoit la costume male.
where he-held the custom evil
La sale en bas vers terre estoit,
The hall in low toward ground was
que lonc qu'ele moult porprendoit.
which long that-it much took-up
Illuec devoit à tos joster.
There he-was-to with all joust

Un tapit a fait aporter.
A carpet he-has made bring
Quant à terre fu estendus,
When on ground it-was spread
si est tost cele part venus;
so he-is quickly that side come
et puis est se Lanpars asis
and then is himself Lampart seated
sor l'image d'un lupart bis,
upon the-image of-a leopard dun
que el tapis estoit portraite.
which in-the carpet was portrayed
De lui armer forment s'afaite.
For himself to-arm greatly himself-busies
Cauces de fer li font caucier
Chausses of iron him they-make put-on
qui moult faisoient à prisier.
which very were to prize
Plus sont blances que flors d'espine;
More they-are white than flower of-thorn
moult est la maille blance et fine.
very is the mail white and fine
Son ceval li ont amené.
His horse him they-have brought
Quant de tot en tot l'ont armé,
When from all to all him-they-have armed
et li chevaliers est montés,
and the knight is mounted
qui moult ert prous et alosés.
who very was valiant and renowned

Quant fu armés, son escu prist
When he-was armed his shield he-took
et sa fort lance aporter fist,
and his strong lance bring he-made
quanque doi vallet porter porent,
whatever two young-men carry could
estes vos que totes les orent
behold here that all them had
grandes et roides et quarrées.
great and stiff and squared
Quant les lances sont aportées
When the lances are brought
cascuns a tost la soie prise,
each has quickly the his taken
tele com vaut à sa devise.
such as he-wished at his will
Lor regnes tornent, si s'eslongent,
Their reins they-turn so themselves-withdraw
por tost aler lor cevals poingent.
for quickly to-go their horses they-spur
Molt aloient tost li ceval.
Very went quickly the horses
Si s'entrefierent li vasal
So each-other-strike the vassals
des lances grans cols à devise.
with-the lances great blows at will
Dusqu'en ses puins cascuns les brise.
As-far-as-in his fists each them breaks
Ensanble hurtent li destrier;
Together hurtle the chargers

bien se tinrent li chevalier,
well themselves held the knights
que l'uns ne l'autres ne caï;
that the-one nor the-other not fell
andoi furent preu et hardi.
both were valiant and bold
Et quant cascuns ot fait son tor,
And when each had made his turn
n'i font demore, ni sejor;
not-there they-make delay nor stay
lances reprendent por joster
lances they-take-again for to-joust
et laissent tost cevals aler;
and let quickly horses go
et puis durement s'entrevienent,
and then hard each-other-they-come
les lances alongées tienent;
the lances lengthened they-hold
si se fierent de tel angoisse
so themselves they-strike with such anguish
que l'une lance l'autre froisse.
that the-one lance the-other shatters
Les esclices en font voler
The splinters thereof they-make fly
si haut, que on povoit jeter.
so high as one could throw
De grant feu sorent bien joster.
Of great fire they-knew well to-joust
Cascuns vait lance demander:
Each goes lance to-ask

et Robers moult bien i eslist;
and Robert very well there chose
la millor et la plus fort prist,
the best and the most strong he-took
et vint corant à son signor;
and came running to his lord
se li tendi par grant amor.
so him held-out with great love
Et dist: «Sire, n'obliés mie
And said Lord not-forget at-all
«por amor Diu, le fil Marie,
for love (of-)God the son (of-)Mary
«les laides torces, ne les pos!
the ugly torches nor the pots
«Ne soiés pas de joster sos.
Not be at-all of jousting foolish
«Molt vos cuident tot mal baillier.
Much you they-think all ill to-handle
«Jà sont tot prest de vos laidier,
Already they-are all ready of you to-foul
«et les grans gens et les menues;
both the great folk and the small
«plaines en sont totes les rues.»
full thereof are all the streets
— «Amis, fait-il, ne t'esmaier:
Friend says-he not thyself-dismay
«Dius nos en puet moult bien aidier.»
God us thereof can very well help
Lors retorne, sans demorance,
Then he-turns without delay

contre le chevalier, sa lance.
against the knight his lance
Et li chevaliers point vers lui.
And the knight spurs toward him
Lors s'entrefierent anbe dui.
Then each-other-strike both two
Mais Lanpars l'a premiers feru
But Lampart him-has first struck
moult ruiste cop en son escu;
very violent blow on his shield
de l'autre part fait fer passer
to the-other side he-makes iron pass
de l'anste fist l'estros voler.
of the-shaft he-made the-splinter fly
Mais cil à Lanpart ne faut mie.
But he at Lampart not fails at-all
De sus la boucle, ù l'or clarie,
From above the boss where the-gold shines
l'a si feru del fer trençant,
him-has so struck with-the iron cutting
que l'escu li perce devant.
that the-shield him he-pierces before
La lance fu et roide et fors;
The lance was both stiff and strong
et il l'enpaint par cel esfors,
and he him-thrusts with that effort
que les estriers li fist guerpir,
that the stirrups him he-made quit
que il ne s'i pot plus tenir.
that he not himself-there could more hold

Il ne fu navrés, ne bleciés.
He not was wounded nor hurt
Isnelement est redreciés,
Swiftly he-is raised-up
al Desconnéu est alés:
to-the Unknown he-is gone
«Sire, fait-il, ça, descendés;
Lord says-he here dismount
«par droit avés l'ostel conquis
by right you-have the-lodging conquered
«vos l'auerés à vo devis.»
you it-will-have at your will
Et cil isnelement descent.
And he swiftly dismounts
Uns damoisials son ceval prent.
A page his horse takes
Lors furent vallet apresté
Then were young-men ready
qui maintenant l'ont desarmé.
who at-once him-have disarmed
Après redesarment Lanpart,
After they-disarm-again Lampart
Helie se trait d'une part,
Hélie herself draws to-one side
et Lanpars l'enbrace et acole.
and Lampart her-embraces and clasps
A une part à li parole:
To one side to her he-speaks

andoi moult grant joie faisoient
both very great joy made
que moult bon chevalier estoient.
for very good knight they-were
Car senescals sa dame estoit,
For seneschal (of-)her lady he-was
Lanpars por ce moult l'onoroit;
Lampart for this much her-honored
puis li demande qu'ele a fait.
then her he-asks what-she has done
Cele li respont entresait:
She him answers straightway
«Le roi Artur à cort trovai
The king Arthur at court I-found
«à Carlion, à li parlai
at Caerleon to him I-spoke
«à ma damoisele en aïe.
for my damsel in help
«Dou tot cuidai estre esbahie,
Of-the all I-thought to-be dumbfounded
«quant cest chevalier me carça,
when this knight me charged
«qui or en droit à vos josta.
who now in right with you jousted
«Il me siert bien, tot à mon gré;
He me serves well all to my will
«bien l'ai en la voie esprové.
well him-I-have on the way proved
«Es grans estors jo veü l'ai:
In-the great battles I seen him-have

«Certes millor de li ne sai.
Certainly better than him not I-know
«Or li portés moult grant honor,
Now him bear very great honor
«car il est moult de grant valor.»
for he is very of great worth
Quant Lanpars l'ot, grant joie en a.
When Lampart it-hears great joy thereof has
Vers lui maintenant s'en ala
Toward him at-once himself-thence went
maintenant le va acoler;
at-once him goes to-clasp
moult bel sanblant li fait mostrer.
very fair show him he-makes show
«Sire, molt avés enduré
Lord much you-have endured
«et molt travaillié et pené;
and much toiled and labored
«molt avés fait à mon plaisir,
much you-have done at my pleasure
«as estors que savés furnir.
in-the battles that you-know to-furnish
«Or est bien tans de reposer.
Now it-is well time to rest
Adont s'asisent au souper.
Then themselves-they-sat at-the supper
Moult sont bien servi à devise
Very they-are well served at will
et si ont mès de mainte guise.
and so they-have dishes of many-a kind

Après souper tot maintenant
After supper all at-once
font porter vin à respandant.
they-make bring wine at pouring
Car reposer veulent aler
For to-rest they-wish to-go
et matin se veulent lever,
and morning themselves they-wish to-raise
la messe oïr et Diu prier.
the mass to-hear and God to-pray
Puis resont à l'ostel venu,
Then they-are-again to the-lodging come
ù li digners aprestés fu.
where the dinner prepared was
Lanpars l'avoit fait atorner,
Lampart it-had made arrange
capons cras et oisiaus torner.
capons fat and birds turn
Li chevaliers sist au mangier,
The knight sat at-the eating
un petitet, por esforcier;
a little-bit for strengthening
et quant sont levés del digner,
and when they-are risen from-the dinner
les cevals fisent enseler.
the horses they-made saddle

The Waste City

XI

Lampart warns that a thousand jongleurs at a palace's windows will greet him; he must curse them and wait in the hall. He rides in alone. A knight with a green shield fights him and flees into a chamber. The hall is dark until a jongleur relights the candles. A second knight rides out on a horned, fire-breathing horse. The Unknown kills him, and the body turns to rotten flesh. The jongleurs leave in a great din, and in the dark he thinks of the lady of the White Hands.

Lanpars au chevalier conselle
Lampart to-the knight counsels
privéement, ens en s'orelle
privately in in his-ear
que cele fois ne sejornast,
that that time not he-should-stay
ne nul encontre ne doutast; 2735
nor any encounter not should-fear
mestier aura d'armes porter.
need he-will-have of-arms to-carry
Tot son harnas a fait torser
All his gear he-has made pack
des ore dist qu'il s'en ira,
from now he-said that-he himself-thence will-go
et ses escuiers tot torsa.
and his squire all packed
Li ceval furent apresté, 2740
The horses were ready
et il sont maintenant monté.
and they are at-once mounted

Ensanble à els Lanpars s'en vait;
Together with them Lampart himself-thence goes
près de la pucele se traist.
near of the maiden himself drew
Se li conselle por amor
So her counsels for love
au nain qui tint le misau d'or.
to-the dwarf who held the cup of-gold
Li nains le palefroi caçoit
The dwarf the palfrey drove
que la pucele cevaucoit;
which the maiden rode
tot III aloient consillant.
all three went counseling
Li Desconnéus vait devant.
The Unknown goes before
Aveuc Robert son escuier.
With Robert his squire
Arière les voit consiller.
Behind them he-sees take-counsel
N'est mervelle se paor a;
Not-is marvel if fear he-has
ses aventures redouta.
his adventures he-dreaded
Et quant ce vint à l'avesprer,
And when this came to the-evening

une forest ont à passer
a forest they-have to pass
et la cité Gaste ont veüe
and the city Waste they-have seen
onques si bele de veüe
ever so fair of sight
ne vit nus que cele ert jadis:
not saw anyone as that was formerly
or est gaste, ce m'est à vis.
now it-is waste this to-me-is at opinion
Entre II augues moult bruians
Between two waters very roaring
sist la cités qui moult fu grans.
sat the city which very was great
Les tors virent et les maisons
The towers they-saw and the houses
et les clociers et les dongons,
and the belfries and the keeps
les bons palais qui resplandoient,
the good palaces which shone
et les aigles qui reflanboient.
and the eagles which flamed
Quant ont veüe la cité
When they-have seen the city
tot maintenant sont aresté.
all at-once they-are stopped
Lors descent cascuns de sa sele:
Then dismounts each from his saddle
Lanpars ploroit et la pucele.
Lampart wept and the maiden

Les armes font avant porter
The arms they-make forward bring
por le Desconnéu armer.
for the Unknown to-arm
A bones coroies de cer
With good straps of deer
li lacent les cauces de fer;
him they-lace the chausses of iron
le hauberc li ont el dos mis,
the hauberk him they-have on-the back put
le hiaume après el cief asis.
the helm after on-the head set
Et quant il l'orent bien armé,
And when they him-had well armed
si l'a Lanpars a raisonné:
so him-has Lampart ad- addressed
«Sire, fait-il, or en irés;
Lord says-he now thence you-will-go
«que compaignie n'i menrés;
for company not-there you-will-lead
«car cil qu'iront ensanble o vos,
for those who-will-go together with you
«serront ocis tot à estros.
will-be killed all at once
«Quant vos verrés en la cité,
When you will-see in the city
«les murs nères d'antiquité
the walls black of-antiquity
«et les portraits, et les clociers,
and the portraits and the belfries

«et les maisons et les soliers,
and the houses and the upper-rooms
«les arsvolus de ouvréor,
the arches of workshop
«les cretials des palais autor,
the battlements of-the palaces around
«trestous destruis les troverrés;
all destroyed them you-will-find
«homme ne feme n'i verrés.
man nor woman not-there you-will-see
«Icele rue adès alés,
That street always go
«gardés ja ne vos retornés,
take-care ever not yourself turn-back
«dès qu'en milieu de la cité,
until that-in middle of the city
«ù vos verrés d'antiquité
where you will-see of-antiquity
«un palais moult grant et marbrin.
a palace very great and of-marble
«Laiens irés tot le cemin.
Therein you-will-go all the way
«La sale est moult grant et moult lée,
The hall is very great and very wide
«et li portels grans à l'entrée;
and the portal great at the-entrance
«vos verrés asés bien les estres.
you will-see enough well the rooms
«El front devant a mil fenestres.
In-the front before there-are a-thousand windows

«En cascune a I jugléor,
In each there-is a jongleur
«et tot sont de moult riche ator.
and all are of very rich array
«Cascuns a divers estrumens
Each has diverse instruments
«et devant lui I cierge ardent,
and before him a candle burning
«de très costés les armories,
from three sides the coats-of-arms
«i a moult doces melaudies.
there there-are very sweet melodies
«Tantost con venir vos verront,
As-soon as come you they-will-see
«trestout bel vos salueront;
all fair you they-will-greet
«vos respondrés: Dius vos maudie!
you will-answer God you may-curse
«Ceste orison n'obliés mie.
This prayer not-forget at-all
«Et en la sale en entrerés,
And into the hall thereinto you-will-enter
«vostre aventure i atendrés.
your adventure there you-will-await
«Et tant com vos amés vo vie,
And so-much as you love your life
«si gardés que vos n'entrés mie
so take-care that you not-enter at-all
«en la cambre que vos verrés.
into the chamber which you will-see

«Quant vos en la sale serrés
When you in the hall will-be
«très en miliu vos arestés.
right in middle yourself stop
«Vostre aventure i atendés.
Your adventure there await
«Or montés en vostre destrier
Now mount on your charger
«que n'i avés que atargier.»
for not-there you-have what to-delay
Et cil sor son ceval monta;
And he upon his horse mounted
trestos à Diu les commanda,
all to God them he-commended
et il i recommandent lui.
and they there commend-again him
Mais moult lor torne à grant anui,
But much them turns to great grief
que il le ont véu aler,
that they him have seen go
si commencièrent à plorer.
so they-began to weep
Jamais ne l'cuident revéoir;
Ever not him-they-think to-see-again
or le gard Dius par son pooir!
now him may-guard God by his power
Lanpars ploroit et la pucele;
Lampart wept and the maiden

Robers ciet pasmés à la terre
Robert falls swooned to the ground
de l'autre part plorait li nains,
on the-other side wept the dwarf
les cevals traioit à ses mains.
the horses he-drew by his hands
D'estrange guise grant dol fait;
In-strange manner great grief he-makes
et le Desconnéus s'en vait!
and the Unknown himself-thence goes
Tant que il vint à la cité.
Until that he came to the city
Sor I iaugue a I pont trové
Upon a water he-has a bridge found
qui devant la porte coroit.
which before the gate ran
D'une part, la cité clooit.
On-one side the city it-enclosed
V liues duroit la cités
Five leagues lasted the city
close de murs et de fosés;
enclosed by walls and by ditches
li murs estoient bon et bel,
the walls were good and fair
de mabre sont tot li quartel;
of marble are all the blocks
li uns es autres entaillié
the ones in-the others carved
et à ciment entrelacié,
and with cement interlaced

et furent de maintes colors;
and were of many colors
taillié a bietes et à flors.
carved with beasts and with flowers
Et sont li quartel bien asis,
And are the blocks well set
indes et vers, gaunes et bis;
blue and green yellow and gray
et a V toises tot entor,
and there-is five fathoms all around
ot adiès une haute tor,
there-was always a high tower
si que on i puet bien aler,
so that one there can well go
et li uns à l'autre parler.
and the one with the-other speak
Et la cité home n'avoit
And the city man not-had
tote gaste la vile estoit.
all waste the town was
Quant il le vit, si se saingna;
When he it saw so himself crossed
par la porte dedans entra.
by the gate within he-entered
Le porte a trové abatue.
The gate he-has found thrown-down

Il s'envait adiès la grant rue,
He himself-thence-goes always the great street
regardant adiès les grans rues
looking always the great streets
dont les fenestres sont marbrues.
of-which the windows are marbled
Chaet en sont tot li piler,
Fallen thereof are all the pillars
il ne se vaut mie arester,
he not himself wished at-all to-stop
tant qu'à la sale en est venus,
until that-to the hall thence he-is come
ù les jogléors a véus,
where the jongleurs he-has seen
sor les fenestres tot asis.
upon the windows all seated
Devant cascuns I cierge espris,
Before each a candle lit
et son estrument retenoit
and his instrument held
cascuns, ital con il l'avoit.
each such as he it-had
L'un voit as fenestres harper,
The-one he-sees at-the windows harp
l'autre delès celui roter,
the-other beside him play-the-rote
l'un estive, l'autre vièle,
the-one pipe the-other viol
li autres gigle et calimèle,
the other gigue and shawm

et cante cler comme seraine,
and sings clear as siren
li autres la citole maine,
the other the citole plays
li uns entendoit au corner,
the one attended to-the horn-blowing
et l'autres au bien flahuter;
and the-other to-the well fluting
li un notoient lai d'amor;
the ones sang lay of-love
sonnent timbre, sonnent tabor;
sound timbrel sound tabor
muses, saltères et frétel,
bagpipes psalteries and panpipes
et buissines et moïnel,
and trumpets and little-horns
cascuns ovre de son mestier.
each works at his craft
Et quant voient le chevalier
And when they-see the knight
venu sor son destrier armé,
come upon his charger armed
à hautes vos sont escrié:
with high voices they-are cried-out
«Dius saut, Dius saut le chevalier,
God save God save the knight
«qui est venus la dame aidier,
who is come the lady to-help
«de la maisnie Artur le roi!»
of the household (of-)Arthur the king

Adont fu il en grant effroi;
Then was he in great fright
et ne por quant si lor respont:
and not for how-much so them he-answers
«Cil dames Dius, qui fist le mont,
That Lord God who made the world
«vos doinst à tos mal aventure!»
you may-grant to all ill adventure
Outre s'en va, grant aléure,
Beyond himself-thence he-goes great pace
parmi la sale cevauçant
through the hall riding
que de rien ne s'en va targant.
for of anything not himself-thence goes delaying
Derier l'uis ot I jougléor
Behind the-door there-was a jongleur
qui en sa main tint I tabor,
who in his hand held a tabor
et li a l'uis après fermé.
and him has the-door after shut
En la sale avoit grant clarté
In the hall there-was great brightness
des cierges qui laiens ardoient
from-the candles which therein burned
que tuit li jugléor tenoient.
which all the jongleurs held
Li palais moult rices estoit.
The palace very rich was
Une grant table en mi avoit,
A great table in-the middle there-was

qui séoit desus VII dormans.
which sat upon seven trestles
Li Bias Desconnéus laiens
The Fair Unknown therein
en mi la sale s'aresta,
in-the middle-of the hall himself-stopped
et à sa lance s'apuia.
and on his lance himself-leaned
Iluec atendoit s'aventure.
There he-awaited his-adventure
A tant voit d'une cambre oscure
At that he-sees from-a chamber dark
issir I chevalier armé,
come-out a knight armed
sur I destrier bien acesmé,
upon a charger well arrayed
l'escu au col qui vers estoit,
the-shield at-the neck which green was
autre devise n'i avoit,
other device not-there there-was
et sist deseur I destrier ver
and he-sat upon a charger dapple
hanste ot moult grosse, à trençant fer.
shaft he-had very thick with cutting iron
Quant il voit le Desconnéu,
When he sees the Unknown
il point à lui de grant vertu.
he spurs at him with great strength
Quant cil le vit vers lui venir,
When he him saw toward him come

vers lui reguencist por ferir.
toward him he-swerves for to-strike
Cascuns d'esperoner ne fine,
Each of-spurring not ceases
moult s'entrevienent de ravine.
much each-other-they-come with violence
Sor les escus haut se requierent
Upon the shields high themselves they-assail
de lances tels cols sentrefierent,
with lances such blows each-other-they-strike
que des cevals s'entr'abatirent.
that from-the horses each-other-they-threw-down
Il se relievent maintenant;
They themselves raise at-once
cascuns tint l'espée trançant;
each held the-sword cutting
sor les elmes, sor les escus,
upon the helmets upon the shields
ont grans cols et pesans ferus,
they-have great blows and heavy struck
de nule rien ne s'espargnoient,
of any thing not themselves-they-spared
sovent à genillons venoient.
often on knees they-came
Cil voit bien que rien ne li vaut,
He sees well that anything not him avails
car li Desconnéus l'asaut,
for the Unknown him-assails
et tant le voit bon chevalier,
and so-much him he-sees good knight

que plus ne s'i velt asaier.
that more not himself-there he-wishes to-try
Plus tost que pot vers l'uis se trait
More quickly than he-could toward the-door himself draws
en sa cambre cil s'en entra.
into his chamber he himself-thence entered
Cil va après qui l'encauça.
He goes after who him-chased
Parmi l'uis ens voloit entrer,
Through the-door in he-wished to-enter
quant vit destendre et enteser
when he-saw stretch and lift
de haces grans por lui ferir.
of axes great for him to-strike
Par deseur lui les vit venir.
From above him them he-saw come
Ariere maintenant se trait,
Back at-once himself he-draws
mors fust, se il n'éust ce fait.
dead he-were if he not-had this done
En mi la sale s'aresta.
In-the middle-of the hall himself-stopped
Une grant piece i demora
A great while there he-remained
que goute n'i pooit véoir.
that drop not-there he-could see
Tant i faisoit oscur et noir,
So-much there it-made dark and black
que son ceval ne pot trover.
that his horse not he-could find

Diu commencha à reclamer,
God he-began to invoke
que fors de laiens le jetast.
that out of therein him he-should-cast
Entrals qu'il se demente ensi,
Meanwhile that-he himself laments thus
li uns des jogléors sailli,
the one of-the jongleurs leapt
à tos les cierges fu touça;
to all the candles fire he-touched
atant la clartés repaira
at-that the brightness returned
des cierges qui alumé sont.
from-the candles which lit are
Li jugléor lor mestier font;
The jongleurs their craft do
cascuns sonnoit son estrumant,
each sounded his instrument
ainsi com il faisoit devant.
thus as he did before
Quant fu venue la clartés,
When was come the brightness
de rien ne s'est espovantés.
of anything not himself-is frightened
Cele part vint corant tot dreit
That side he-came running all straight
ù vit que ses cevals estoit.
where he-saw that his horse was
Par le regne tantost le prent,
By the rein at-once it he-takes

sa lance voit el pavement,
his lance he-sees on-the pavement
puis l'a prise, si est montés,
then it-he-has taken so he-is mounted
en mi la sale en est alés;
in-the middle-of the hall thence he-is gone
iluec estoit tot à estal;
there he-was all at stand
liés fu quant il ot son ceval.
glad he-was when he had his horse
A tant est de la cambre issus
At that is from the chamber come-out
uns chevaliers grans et corsus.
a knight great and burly
Bien fu armés li chevaliers,
Well was armed the knight
et tot armés ert ses destriers.
and all armed was his charger
Moult ert bons et ciers ses cevals,
Very was good and dear his horse
si oil luissoient comme cristals.
its eyes shone like crystals
Une corne ot el front devant;
A horn it-had in-the brow before
par la gole rent feu ardant:
through the throat it-gives fire burning
n'ainc hom ne vit si bien movant;
nor-ever man not saw so well moving
l'alaine avoit fiere et bruiant.
the-breath it-had fierce and roaring

Li sire fu et grans et fiers,
The lord was both great and fierce
moult fu corsus li chevaliers,
very was burly the knight
il vint bruians comme tonnoires,
he came roaring like thunder
ses armes furent totes noires.
his arms were all black
La sale fu à pavement,
The hall was with pavement
et li cevals ne vint pas lent,
and the horse not came at-all slow
des IIII piés si fort marçoit.
with-the four feet so hard it-stepped
Que tot le pavement brissoit.
That all the pavement it-broke
Et fu et flame en fait salir:
And fire and flame thereof it-makes leap
tot en fait le païs torbir.
all thereof it-makes the land shake
La piere dure en esmuoit
The stone hard thereof it-moved
desous ses piés, si fort marçoit.
beneath its feet so hard it-stepped
Quant le Desconnéus le voit,
When the Unknown him sees
de sa façon s'esmerveilloit.
at his fashion himself-marveled
Dieu reclama, le roi de glore,
God he-invoked the king of glory

que vers celui lui doinst victore.
that against him him he-may-give victory
Por joster muet au chevalier;
For to-joust he-moves at-the knight
des esperons fiert le destrier;
with-the spurs he-strikes the charger
et li chevaliers point vers lui.
and the knight spurs toward him
Lors s'entrevienent anbedui
Then each-other-they-come both
des lances de totes leur forces;
with-the lances with all their strength
ne leur valurent II escorces
not them were-worth two barks
li escus qui as cols lor pendent,
the shields which at-the necks them hang
li cuir ronpent et les ais fendent,
the leathers they-break and the boards split
les mailles ronpent des haubers,
the mails they-break of-the hauberks
par les cors se metent les fers;
through the bodies themselves put the irons
si durement se sont feru
so hard themselves they-are struck
que andoi se sont abatu;
that both themselves are thrown-down
ne furent pas à mort blecié;
not they-were at-all to death hurt
isnement se sont redrecié.
swiftly themselves they-are raised-up

Cascuns a sa lance à lui traite,
Each has his lance to him drawn
il n'i ot cele qui fust fraite;
it not-there had one which were broken
el pavement les ont jetées;
on-the pavement them they-have thrown
del fuerre traient les espées;
from-the sheath they-draw the swords
grans cols se fierent des brans nus,
great blows themselves they-strike with-the blades naked
sor les elmes, sor les escus.
upon the helmets upon the shields
Moult s'entrerendent grant bataille:
Much each-other-they-render great battle
onques cele de Cornouaille
ever that of Cornwall
del grant Morholt, ne de Tristant,
of-the great Morholt nor of Tristan
ne d'Olivier ne de Rollant,
nor of-Oliver nor of Roland
ne de Mainet, ne de Braimant,
nor of Mainet nor of Braimant
de chevalier, ne de gaiant,
of knight nor of giant
ne fu tels bataille véue;
not was such battle seen
onques si grant n'ot sos la nue;
ever so great not-was beneath the cloud

tout se sont andoi abatu
all themselves are both thrown-down
et si grans cols entreferu,
and so great blows each-other-struck
que moult furent andoi lassé.
that very were both weary
Moult a li uns l'autre grevé,
Much has the one the-other grieved
moult se dolousent, moult sont las,
much themselves they-grieve much they-are weary
ne por quant ne recroient pas.
nor for how-much not they-give-up at-all
Li Desconnéus le requiert,
The Unknown him assails
de l'espée si bien le fiert,
with the-sword so well him strikes
l'elme li fait del cief voler.
the-helmet him he-makes from-the head fly
Cil se cuide, si vaut torner,
He himself thinks so he-wished to-turn
qu'il ot la teste desarmée.
for-he had the head disarmed
Mais cil entretant de l'espée
But he meanwhile with the-sword
l'a si bien de son cop ataint,
him-has so well with his blow reached
le test del cief li brise et fraint.
the skull of-the head him he-breaks and shatters

La coife ne le pot tenir
The coif not it could hold
que le cief n'en fesist partir.
that the head not-thence he-should-make part
Doné li a si grant colée
Given him he-has so great blow
que mort l'abat guele baée.
that dead him-he-throws-down mouth gaping
Del cors li saut I fumiere
From-the body him leaps a smoke
qui molt estoit hideuse et fiere,
which very was hideous and fierce
qui li issoit parmi la boce.
which him came-out through the mouth
Li bials Desconnéus le toce,
The fair Unknown him touches
por savoir s'il est encor vis;
for to-know if-he is yet alive
sa main li met deseur le pis:
his hand him he-puts upon the breast
tos fu devenus chaire pure
all was become flesh rotten
qui moult estoit et laide et sure,
which very was both ugly and foul
issi li canja la figure.
thus him changed the figure
Moult estoit de male nature.
Very he-was of evil nature

Quant il ço voit, si se saingna,
When he this sees so himself crossed
vers son ceval aler cuida.
toward his horse to-go he-thought
A tant s'en vont li jogléor,
At that themselves-thence go the jongleurs
cascuns en part par tel vigor
each thence parts with such vigor
sa fenestre, quant il s'enpart,
his window when he himself-departs
que li palais tos s'entresart.
that the palace all itself-shakes
Si durement batent et hurent
So hard they-beat and bang
que tot li uis qui laiens furent
that all the doors which therein were
qu'a poi qu'il n'abatent la sale,
that-at little that-they throw-down the hall
de la noise hiduse et male.
with the noise hideous and evil
Li cierge furent enporté.
The candles were carried-off
Si i faisoit grant oscurté
So there it-made great darkness
que on n'i pooit rien véoir,
that one not-there could anything see
tant i faisoit oscur et noir.
so-much there it-made dark and black
Cil ne se puet plus soustenir;
He not himself can more sustain

à terre le covient venir.
to ground him it-behooves to-come
Vis fu que ciés et tere font,
Seeming it-was that sky and earth melt
dels cols que les fenestres font,
from-the blows that the windows make
à celui qui laiens estoit.
to him who therein was
De sa main souvent se saingnoit;
With his hand often himself crossed
Diu reclama l'espéritable
God he-invoked the-spiritual
mal ne li facent li diable.
ill not him may-do the devils
Et quant il fu en piés levés,
And when he was on feet risen
si s'en est maintenant alés
so himself-thence he-is at-once gone
tot droit à la table dormant.
all straight to the table fixed
Trestot i va i atastant,
All there he-goes there groping
si comme aventure le maine.
so as adventure him leads
Trovée l'a, à quelque paine.
Found it-he-has with some pain
Quant il i fu, si s'apuia.
When he there was so himself-leaned
La noise moult li anuia.
The noise much him grieved

Diu son signor aoure et prie,
God his lord he-adores and prays
que secors li face et aïe.
that succor him he-may-make and help
«A Dius, fait-il, ne sai que dire:
Ah God says-he not I-know what to-say
«Mais livrés sui à grant martire!
But delivered I-am to great martyrdom
«Jamais içо ne me faura,
Ever this not me will-fail
«ne jors i anc mais ne serra;
nor day there ever more not will-be
«bien sai ne puis longes durer,
well I-know not I-can long last
«car je ne sai quel part aler,
for I not know what side to-go
«ne mon destrier mie ne sai.
nor my charger at-all not I-know
«Et neporeuc por ce m'esmai,
And nevertheless for this me-I-dismay
«de rien ne me doi esmaier;
of anything not myself I-must dismay
«ce n'afiert pas à chevalier
this not-belongs at-all to knight
«qu'il s'esmait, por nule aventure,
that-he himself-dismay for any adventure
«porquist armes tant ne l'ait dure;
though-he-seek arms so-much not it-may-be-have hard

«entemes cil qui a amor
especially he who has love
«ne doit avoir nule paor.
not must have any fear
«Bien me devroie porpenser
Well me I-ought bethink
«por cele que tant poi amer,
for her whom so-much I-could love
«la damoiselle as blances mains,
the damsel with-the white hands
«dont je parti comme vilains,
from-whom I parted as churl
«je l'en irai merci rover,
I her-thereof shall-go mercy to-ask
«se de ci me puis escaper.
if from here myself I-can escape
«Se Diu plaist encor le verrai
If God please yet her I-shall-see
«ne jamais jor n'en partirai.
nor ever day not-thence I-shall-part
«S'amors me done ja vigor
If-love me gives ever vigor
«de rien que je voi n'ai paor.»
of anything that I see not-I-have fear

The Fearsome Kiss

XII

A wyvern with eyes like carbuncles comes out of a cupboard. Each time he reaches for his sword it bows and he holds his hand; it kisses him on the mouth and withdraws. A voice tells him he is Guinglain, son of Gawain and the fairy White Hands. He wakes beside a beautiful lady, King Gringras's daughter, whom the enchanters Mabon and Evrain, the two knights he fought, had made a wyvern until the best knight of Arthur's household should free her.

A tant vit I aumaire ouvrir
At that he-saw a cupboard open
et une Wivre fors issir,
and a Wyvern out come
qui jetoit une tel clarté
which cast a such brightness
com I cierge bien enbrasé.
as a candle well kindled
Tot le palais enluminoit,
All the palace it-lit-up
une si grant clarté jetoit.
a so great brightness it-cast
Hom ne vit onques sa parelle,
Man not saw ever its equal
que la bouce ot tot vermelle;
for the mouth it-had all red
parmi jetoit le feu ardent;
through-it it-cast the fire burning
moult par estoit hideus et grant;
very much it-was hideous and great

parmi le pis plus grosse estoit
through the breast more thick it-was
que I vaissaus d'un mui ne soit;
than a vessel of-a hogshead — may-be
les iols avoit gros et luisans,
the eyes it-had big and shining
comme II escarbocles grans;
as two carbuncles great
contreval l'aumaire descent
down-from the-cupboard it-descends
et vint parmi le pavement.
and came through the pavement
Quatre toises de lonc duroit,
Four fathoms of length it-lasted
en la queue III neus avoit,
in the tail three knots it-had
c'onques nus hom ne vit greignor.
that-ever any man not saw greater
Ains Dius ne fist cele color,
Ever God not made that color
qu'en li ne soit entremellée.
that-in it not may-be mingled
Dessous sanbloit estre dorée.
Beneath it-seemed to-be gilded
Vers le chevalier s'en venoit.
Toward the knight itself-thence it-came
Cil se saine, quant il le voit,
He himself crosses when he it sees
apoiés estoit sor le table;
leaned he-was upon the table

et quant il vit si fait dyable,
and when he saw so made devil
vers soi aproimer et venir,
toward himself approach and come
isnelement por soi garnir.
swiftly for himself to-arm
A mise la main à l'espée.
He-has put the hand to the-sword
Ançois qu'il l'éust fors jetée,
Before that-he it-had out thrown
et la grans Wivre li encline,
and the great Wyvern him bows
del cief dusqu'à la poiterine;
from-the head as-far-as the breast
sanblant d'umelité li fait,
show of-humility him it-makes
et cil s'espée plus ne trait.
and he his-sword more not draws
«Jo ne le doi, fait-il, tocier
I not it ought says-he touch
«puisque le voi humelier.»
since it I-see humble
La guivre adès vers lui venoit
The wyvern always toward him came
et plus et plus s'en aproimoit.
and more and more itself-thence approached

Et cil adonc se porpensa
And he then himself bethought
que l'espée adonques traira
that the-sword then he-will-draw
por icel fier serpent ferir,
for that fierce serpent to-strike
que il le voit vers lui venir.
for he it sees toward him come
Et le serpens le renclina
And the serpent him bowed-again
et sanblant d'amisté mostra.
and show of-friendship showed
Il se retint, ne le trait pas,
He himself held-back not it draws at-all
et le serpens, en eslés pas,
and the serpent in that-very step
de si es dens li est alée.
from so to-the teeth him is gone
Et cil trait del fuere s'espée,
And he draws from-the sheath his-sword
ferir le vaut par la poitrine;
to-strike it he-wished through the breast
la guivre autrefois le rencline,
the wyvern another-time him bows-again
vers lui doucement s'umelie.
toward him sweetly itself-humbles
Il se retint; ne le fiert mie.
He himself held-back not it strikes at-all
Il l'esgarde, pas ne l'oublie,
He it-looks-at at-all not it-forgets

ne de rien nule ne ferie
nor of thing any not would-strike
et si i a moult grant mervele
and so there has very great marvel
de la bouce qu'il a si bele.
of the mouth that-it has so fair
Tant s'entent en li regarder,
So-much himself-he-intends in it to-look
que d'autre part ne pot garder:
that of-other side not he-could look
la guivre vers lui s'elança
the wyvern toward him itself-darted
et en la bouce le baisa
and on the mouth him kissed
quant l'ot baisié, si se retorne,
when him-it-had kissed so itself turns
et li Desconnéus s'atorne;
and the Unknown himself-makes-ready
por li ferir a trait s'espée;
for it to-strike he-has drawn his-sword
et la guivre s'est arestée.
and the wyvern itself-is stopped
Sanblant d'umelité li fait;
Show of-humility him it-makes
encliné l'a, puis si s'en vait.
bowed him-it-has then so itself-thence goes
Et cil à soi son cop retint:
And he to himself his blow held-back

de moult grant francise li vint
of very great nobleness him came
que il ferir ne le velt mie,
that he to-strike not it wishes at-all
por ce que vers lui s'umelie.
for this that toward him itself-humbles
Ensi s'en ert la guivre alée,
Thus itself-thence was the wyvern gone
en l'aumaire s'en est rentrée,
into the-cupboard itself-thence is re-entered
et l'aumaire après soi reclot.
and the-cupboard after itself reclosed
Ainc puis tabarie n'i ot,
Ever afterward uproar not-there was
ne nule autre male aventure,
nor any other evil adventure
fors que la sale fu oscure.
except that the hall was dark
Et Cil del baisier fu pensis,
And He of-the kiss was thoughtful
delès la table s'est asis;
beside the table himself-is seated
«Dius sire, fait il, que ferai?
God lord says he what I-shall-do
«Del fier baisier que fait i ai?
Of-the fearsome kiss that done there I-have
«Moult dolerous baisier ai fait
Very grievous kiss I-have done
«or sui je traïs entresait.
now am I betrayed certainly

«Li diable m'a encontré
The devil me-has met
«que j'ai baisié otre mon gré!
whom I-have kissed beyond my will
«Or pris je moult petit ma vie.»
Now prize I very little my life
A tant a une vois oïe
At that has a voice heard
qui bien li dist apertement
which well him said openly
dont il estoit et de quel gent
whence he was and of what folk
en haut crie non pas en vain:
on high cries not at-all in vain
«Li fius à mon signor Gauvain!
The son of my lord Gawain
«Très bien le savoie de voir,
Very well it I-knew of truth
«que chevalier n'aroit pooir,
that knight not-would-have power
«ne ne péust pas delivrer,
nor not could at-all deliver
«ne ne péust tant endurer,
nor not could so-much endure
«ne le baisier, ne l'aventure,
neither the kiss nor the-adventure
«qui tant est perilleuse et dure!
which so-much is perilous and hard
«El monde n'a I chevalier,
In-the world not-there-is a knight

«tant preu, ne tant fort, ne tant fier
so valiant nor so strong nor so fierce
«qui osast enprendre sor soi,
who would-dare to-undertake upon himself
«fors ton pere Gauvain et toi!
except thy father Gawain and thee
«Autres ne l'pooit delivrer
Other not it-could deliver
«ne de son grant peril jeter.
nor from its great peril cast
«Estorse as par grant vaselage
Rescued thou-hast by great prowess
«la dame qui preus ert et sage.
the lady who valiant was and wise
«Li rois Artur mal te nomma;
The king Arthur ill thee named
«bel Desconnéu t'apela:
fair Unknown thee-he-called
«Giglains as non, en batestire.
Guinglain thou-hast name in baptism
«Tote ta vie te sai dire:
All thy life thee I-can tell
«Mesire Gauvains est ton père;
My-lord Gawain is thy father
«si te dirai qui est ta mère.
so thee I-shall-tell who is thy mother
«Fius es à Blances mains la fée:
Son thou-art to White hands the fairy
«Armes te donna et espée;
Arms thee she-gave and sword

«au roi Artur puis t'envoia,
to-the king Arthur then thee-she-sent
«qui cest afaire te donna
who this affair thee gave
«de secorre la damoisele.
of succoring the damsel
«Bien a conquise ta querele,» 3220
Well thou-hast conquered thy cause
atant s'en est la vois alée,
at-that itself-thence is the voice gone
quant ele ot sa raison finée.
when she had her speech ended
Et Cil remaint; grant joie fist,
And He remains great joy he-made
de ço qu'il ot que la vois dist.
of this that-he hears that the voice said
Bien li a dit en sa raison 3225
Well him it-has said in its speech
qui ses peres est et le non.
who his father is and the name
D'ore en avant vos veul traitier
From-now on forward to-you I-wish to-treat
de Giglain le bon chevalier
of Guinglain the good knight
l'istoire, qui mais ne faudra,
the-story which ever not will-fail
tant que li siecle duerra. 3230
so-long as the world will-last

Moult estoit Giglains travilliés;
Very was Guinglain wearied
deseur la table s'est couciés;
upon the table himself-he-is laid
à son cief a son escu mis.
at his head he-has his shield put
De dormir li est talens pris,
Of sleeping him is desire taken
car lassés est et travilliés.
for weary he-is and wearied
Dormi a, puis est esvilliés.
Slept he-has then he-is awakened
Grant jors estoit, quant s'esvilla;
Great day it-was when he-awoke
en la sale grant clarté a.
in the hall great brightness there-is
A son cief trova une dame
At his head he-found a lady
tant bele, c'onques nule fame
so fair that-ever any woman
ne fu de sa biauté formée;
not was of her beauty formed
tant estoit fresse et alosée,
so-much she-was fresh and renowned
que clers ne le saroit descrire,
that clerk not it would-know-how to-describe
ne boce ne le poroit dire,
nor mouth not it could say
ne nus ne le poroit conter:
nor anyone not it could tell

tant le sot bien nature ovrer,
so-much her knew well nature to-work
c'onques si bele n'ot el mont,
that-ever so fair not-was in-the world
de bouce, d'iols, de vis, de front,
of mouth of-eyes of face of brow
de cors, de bras, de piés, de mains,
of body of arms of feet of hands
fors que celi as blances mains,
except that her with-the white hands
quar nule à li ne s'aparelle,
for any to her not herself-equals
de sa biauté est grans mervelle.
of her beauty is great marvel
Mais moult vos os bien aficier
But very you I-dare well affirm
qu'en cesti n'ot à reprocier.
that-in this-one not-was to reproach
Issi l'avoit nature faite,
Thus her-had nature made
par grant estude l'ot portraite.
by great study her-had portrayed
De robe porpre estoit vestue,
In robe purple she-was clad
onques miudre ne fu véue;
ever better not was seen
moult estoit riçhes ses mantials,
very was rich her mantle
II sebelins ot as tasials;
two sables it-had at-the tassels

la pene fu et bone et fine;
the lining was both good and fine
et si estoit de blance ermine.
and so it-was of white ermine
Les ataces qui furent mises
The clasps which were put
furent faites de maintes guises;
were made in many fashions
moult par faisoient à proisier,
very much they-made to prize
n'es puet on ronpre ne trencier.
not-them can one break nor cut
Ensi les ovra une fée
Thus them worked a fairy
en l'ille de la Montbestèe.
in the-isle of the Montbestèe
De cel drap dont li mentials fu,
Of that cloth of-which the mantle was
fu li blials qu'ele ot vestu;
was the tunic that-she had donned
moult estoit ciers et bien ovrés;
very it-was costly and well worked
d'une ermine fu tos forrés.
with-an ermine it-was all furred
Plus de V onces d'or, sans faille,
More than five ounces of-gold without fail
avoit entor le kieuetaille.
there-was around the collar
As puins en ot plus de IIII onces,
At-the wrists thereof there-was more than four ounces

par tot avoit asés jaconces,
through all there-were plenty jacinths
et autres pierres de vertu,
and other stones of virtue
qui furent deseur l'or batu.
which were upon the-gold beaten
Giglains a la dame véue;
Guinglain has the lady seen
drece son cief, si le salue.
he-raises his head so her greets
La dame resalua lui:
The lady greeted-again him
«Sire, fait ele, vostre sui;
Lord says she yours I-am
«vostre doi estre par raison,
yours I-must be by right
«jetée m'avés de prison.
cast me-you-have from prison
«De votre part vangée fui,
On your part avenged I-was
«ciers sire, tote vostre sui.
dear lord all yours I-am
«Je sui fille au bon roi Gringras.
I am daughter of-the good king Gringras
«De moult grant paine jeté m'as.
From very great pain cast me-thou-hast

«Sire, fait ele, je suis cele
Lord says she I am she
«por cui ala la damoisele
for whom went the damsel
«au roi Artur le secors querre;
to-the king Arthur the succor to-seek
«por moi estes en ceste terre.
for me you-are in this land
«Jetée m'avés de grant paine,
Cast me-you-have from great pain
«ù j'ai esté mainte semaine.
where I-have been many-a week
«Moult par estoit la paine fiere;
Very much was the pain fierce
«si vos dirai en quel maniere.
so to-you I-shall-tell in what manner
«Quant mors fu mes peres li rois,
When dead was my father the king
«ne tarja pas plus de III mois,
not delayed at-all more than three months
«que caiens vint un enchanterres,
that hither came an enchanter
«et aveu lui estoit ses freres.
and with him was his brother
«Il i vinrent con jugléor.
They there came as jongleurs
«Cil doi enchantèrent, le jor,
Those two enchanted (on-)the day

«tot la gent de ceste vile
all the folk of this town
«dont bien en i avoit cinc mile.
of-which well thereof there there-were five thousand
«Cascuns d'els cuidoit esragier;
Each of-them thought to-go-mad
«les tors faisaient erracier;
the towers they-made uproot
«et tos les clociés jus caoir;
and all the belfries down fall
«mervelles péussiés véoir.
marvels you-could see
«La terre véissiés partir,
The earth you-would-have-seen split
«et durement en haut croissir.
and hard on high crack
«Les pierres faisaient voler,
The stones they-made fly
«et li une l'autre encontrer.
and the one the-other meet
«Sire, tot sanbloit que caïst
Lord all seemed that it-should-fall
«et que cius et terre fondist.
and that sky and earth should-melt
«Tant fisent grans encantemens,
So-much they-made great enchantments
«que tote s'en fuist la gens;
that all themselves-thence fled the folk
«nus n'avoit pooir d'els grever.
anyone not-had power them to-harm

«Caens me vinrent encanter.
Here me they-came to-enchant
«Quant il m'orent tocé d'un livre,
When they me-had touched with-a book
«si fui senblans à une wivre:
so I-was like to a wyvern
«Issi m'ont fait lonc tans ester.
Thus me-they-have made long time stay
«Quant voloient à moi parler,
When they-wished to me to-speak
«andoi me venoient devant,
both me came before
«si estoit lor encantemant.
so was their enchantment
«Mabons avoit non li plus sire;
Mabon had name the most lord
«cil me venoit moult souvent dire
he me came very often to-say
«que jo à mari le presisse
that I as husband him should-take
«et que de cuer amasse lui,
and that from heart I-should-love him
«si m'osteroit de cest anui;
so me-he-would-take-away from this harm
«et se jo amer ne l'voloie,
and if I to-love not him-wished
«à tos jors mais Guivre vivroie.
for all days more Wyvern I-would-live
«Içe me covenoit soufrir,
This me behooved to-suffer

«et riens ne me porroit garir,
and anything not me could save
«fors que li miudres chevaliers
except that the best knight
«li plus vaillans et li plus fiers
the most valiant and the most fierce
«de la mainie Artur le roi.
of the household (of-)Arthur the king
«Nesun millor ni sai que toi,
Any better not-there I-know than thee
«fors que tes père Dans Gauvains,
except that thy father Lord Gawain
«qui est de totes bontés plains.
who is of all goodnesses full
«Li Jogléor que vos véistes,
The Jongleurs whom you saw
«quant vos en la sale venistes,
when you into the hall came
«estoient de l'encantement.
were of the-enchantment
«Moult par i avoit fiere gent.
Very much there there-was fierce folk
«Li chevaliers qui vint premiers
The knight who came first
«ert apelés Eurains li fiers,
was called Evrain the fierce
«et cil après, Mabons estoit,
and he after Mabon was
«qui tot l'encantement faisoit.
who all the-enchantment made

The Queen of Wales

XIII

The lady offers him herself and her kingdom of Wales, but he will marry only with Arthur's leave. Hélie, Lampart, Robert, and the dwarf find him, and his wounds are dressed. The clergy of Wales come in procession and bless the city. Her barons urge her to take him, and their envoys ask him. He answers that she must first go to Arthur's court to thank the king, and there he will take counsel. The journey is set for the eighth day, and the city is peopled again.

«Quant vos l'éustes mort jeté
When you him-had dead thrown
«dont éustes vos tot finé
then had you all ended
«lor ovres, lor encantemens,
their works their enchantments
«puis si devint trestot niens.
then so it-became all nothing
«La Guivre qui vos vint baisier,
The Wyvern which you came to-kiss
«qui si vos savoit losengier
which so you knew-how to-flatter
«ce fui je, sire, sans mentir;
this was I lord without lying
«ne pooie autrement garir
not I-could otherwise be-saved
«que tot adès guivre ne fusse,
that all always wyvern — I-should-be
«de si que baisié vos éusse.
from so that kissed you I-had

«Sire, del tot vos ai dit voir,
Lord of-the all to-you I-have said true
«sans mentir et sans decevoir.
without lying and without deceiving
«Or vos veul autre cose dire.
Now to-you I-wish other thing to-say
«De mon regne serrés vos sire.
Of my realm will-be you lord
«Gales a non ceste contrée,
Wales has name this country
«dont je sui roïne clamée;
of-which I am queen proclaimed
«et ceste vile par droit non
and this town by right name
«est apelée Senaudon;
is called Snowdon
«por ce que Mabons l'a gastée,
for this that Mabon it-has wasted
«est Gastecités apelée
it-is Waste-City called
«c'est de mon roiaume li ciés,
it-is of my kingdom the head
«III roi tienent de moi lor fiés.
three kings hold from me their fiefs
«Moult par est cil roiaumes grans,
Very much is that kingdom great
«moult est rices, moult est vaillans.
very is rich very is worthy
«Mais prier vos veul, par francise,
But to-pray you I-wish by nobleness

«quant vos m'avés del tot conquise,
when you me-have of-the all conquered
«que vos à fame me prendés.
that you as wife me take
«Rices rois serés coronnés.
Rich king you-will-be crowned
«Tot sevent jà par la contrée
All know already through the country
«que de péril m'avés jetée.»
that from peril me-you-have cast
Com Giglains l'a oï parler
As Guinglain her-has heard speak
moult li sot bel sanblant mostrer.
very her he-knew-how fair show to-show
Se li a dit: «Ma doce dame,
So her he-has said My sweet lady
«volentiers vos prendrai à fame,
willingly you I-shall-take as wife
«se Artur le me velt loer;
if Arthur it me wishes to-approve
«et je irai à lui parler;
and I shall-go to him to-speak
«car sans lui ne le ferai mie:
for without him not it I-shall-do at-all
«Içо serroit grans vilonie
This would-be great villainy
«se je prendoie, sans son los,
if I took without his approval
«fame: mais je ne veul, ne n'os.
wife but I not wish nor not-dare

«Mais lui irai son los rouver;
But him I-shall-go his approval to-ask
«sans lui ne me veul marier;
without him not myself I-wish to-marry
«et s'il le loe, si l'ferai,
and if-he it approves so it-I-shall-do
«et à fame si vos prendrai.»
and as wife so you I-shall-take
Issi la pucele delaie;
Thus the maiden he-puts-off
de sa parole moult l'apaie,
with his word much her-appeases
qui de tot cuide estre s'amie.
who of all thinks to-be his-love
Atant s'entorne et voit Helie
At-that himself-turns and sees Hélie
et avec lui les vit aler,
and with her them saw go
parmi l'uis les vit tot entrer;
through the-door them he-saw all enter
Robers son escuier tenoit
Robert his squire he-held
et le nain qui de tiers venoit.
and the dwarf who as third came
Tot III venoient en riant.
All three came in laughing
Saciés que lor ot joie grant,
Know that then there-was joy great
quant tot ensanble il s'entrevirent;
when all together they each-other-saw

de moult bon cuer se conjoïrent.
with very good heart they each-other-welcomed
L'uns acole l'autre et enbrace;
The-one clasps the-other and embraces
n'i a celui joie ne face.
not-there is he joy not may-make
Helie et Lanpars joie font,
Hélie and Lampart joy make
quant la dame reconnue ont,
when the lady recognized they-have
et Robers joïst son signor,
and Robert rejoices-in his lord
de cui il ot éu paor.
for whom he had had fear
Quant entreconjoï se furent,
When each-other-rejoiced themselves they-were
por Giglain desarmer corurent,
for Guinglain to-disarm they-ran
si le desarment en la place
so him they-disarm in the place
et Robers son elme deslace.
and Robert his helmet unlaces
Quant de tot fu il desarmés
When of all was he disarmed
si l'ont rait et plaié trové.
so him-they-have scraped and wounded found
Tant avoit ses armes portées,
So-much he-had his arms carried
et recéu tantes colées,
and received so-many blows

que del sanc a perdu asés;
that of-the blood he-has lost plenty
moult estoit bleciés et navrés.
very he-was hurt and wounded
Et quant ses plaies ont lavées,
And when his wounds they-have washed
si les ont tantost rebendées.
so them they-have at-once bandaged-again
Puit le mainent en une cambre.
Then him they-lead into a chamber
Ù ot asés d'or d'Alixandre,
Where there-was plenty of-gold of-Alexandria
tires, pales et siglatons,
tiretaines silks and ciclatons
mantials vairs et gris peliçons,
mantles vair and gray furs
et maint bon autre garnement;
and many-a good other garment
asés i ot or et argent;
plenty there was gold and silver
moult est la cambre convenable;
very is the chamber fitting
un lit i ot moult delitable,
a bed there was very delightful
et vos je veul conter et dire,
and to-you I wish to-tell and to-say
que nule riens n'en est à dire.
that any thing not-thereof is to lack

S'on ne l'devoit à mal torner,
If-one not it-ought to ill turn
dorenavant vos veul conter
henceforth to-you I-wish to-tell
briement, sans trop longue raison,
briefly without too long speech
comment de Galles li baron
how of Wales the barons
et li evesque et li abé
and the bishops and the abbots
et tot li prince, et li casé,
and all the princes and the vassals
vinrent, quant sorent la novele
came when they-knew the news
qu'estorse fu la damoisele,
that-rescued was the damsel
et qu'ensi est cose avenue.
and that-thus is thing happened
Puis n'i ot nule retenue,
Then not-there was any holding-back
que tot ne venissent à cort,
that all not should-come to court
por la grant joie qui lor sort.
for the great joy which them springs
Tot li palais vint cele part,
All the palace came that side
petis et grans, moult lor est tart,
small and great much them is late

qu'il aient lor dame véue
that-they may-have their lady seen
moult i est grans lies méue.
very there is great gladness moved
Arcevesque, évesque et abé
Archbishops bishops and abbots
et tot li autre clerc letré,
and all the other clerks lettered
s'est venu à porcession,
so-are come in procession
et canterent à moult haut ton;
and sang in very high tone
et portent crois et encensiers,
and they-carry crosses and censers
gonfanons de riches draps ciers,
gonfanons of rich cloths costly
à casses, à tot les cors sains;
with shrines with all the bodies holy
à lors mostiers sonent les sains.
at their minsters they-ring the bells
Aigue benéoite ont jeté
Water blessed they-have thrown
par les rues de la cité.
through the streets of the city
Tote ont la cité benéi
All they-have the city blessed
li saint home, li Diu ami.
the holy men the God's friends
Et quant fait orent le servise,
And when done they-had the service

au mostier de la maistre eglise,
at-the minster of the master church
vers la cité tot droit s'en vont,
toward the city all straight themselves-thence they-go
et le servise Diu i font.
and the service (of-)God there they-do
Por Mabon qui avoit esté
For Mabon who had been
encantères en la cité,
enchanter in the city
l'auge benéoite ont jetée.
the-water blessed they-have thrown
Si l'ont benéïe et sacrée.
So it-they-have blessed and consecrated
Et puis revont vers le palais
And then they-go-again toward the palace
ù n'orent esté piéça mais.
where not-they-had been long-since more
Com iluec sont, quant ont véue
As there they-are when they-have seen
lor dame qu'il orent perdue,
their lady whom-they had lost
moult i fu la joie enterine,
very there was the joy complete
quant reconue ont la roïne,
when recognized they-have the queen
ki france estoit et debonaire;
who noble was and gracious
à tos savoit bon sanblant faire.
to all she-knew-how good show to-make

Moult fu de ses barons amée,
Very she-was by her barons loved
car moult l'avoient desirée,
for much her-they-had desired
car moult estoit et pros et sage.
for very she-was both valiant and wise
Ele parole à son barnage.
She speaks to her baronage
«Signor, fait ele, or m'entendés. 3480
Lords says she now me-hear
«De ce baron que me loés,
Of this baron what me counsel-you
«ki por moi a soufert tel paine?
who for me has suffered such pain
«Tel chevalier n'a dusqu'Almaine;
Such knight not-there-is as-far-as-Germany
«tot li devés porter honor,
all him you-must bear honor
«car il est moult de grant valor. 3485
for he is very of great worth
«Giglans a non, moult est vasals
Guinglain he-has name very he-is valiant
«ses peres est Gauvains, li bials,
his father is Gawain the fair
«li niés le roi qui tint Bretaingne
the nephew (of-)the king who held Britain
«et la terre dusqu'en Espaingne.
and the land as-far-as-into Spain

«Me loés vos que je li face
Me counsel you that I him may-do
«tel cose dont aie sa grace?»
such thing whereby I-may-have his favor
Tot li Barnages li escrie:
All the Baronage her cries
«France dame, ne l'laissiés mie
Noble lady not it-let at-all
«que ne le prendés à mari:
that not him you-take as husband
«Car il vos a de mort gari.
For he you has from death saved
«Moult vos a trait de grant dolor.
Much you he-has drawn from great grief
«Cestui volons nos à signor.
This-one wish we as lord
«Car millor ne savons el mont.»
For better not we-know in-the world
Et la roïne lor respont:
And the queen them answers
«Signor, içe se lui plaisoit,
Lords this if him it-pleased
«saciés que moult bel me serroit:
know that very fair to-me it-would-be
«Dès que lui plaist ne l'quier muer.
Since that him it-pleases not it-I-seek to-change
«Or en alés à lui parler,
Now thence go to him to-speak

«se il me voleit â moillier,
if he me wished as wife
«molt l'amerai et l'arai cier.»
much him-I-shall-love and him-I-shall-have dear
Tot maintenant i fait aler
All at-once there she-makes go
III des moult haus, à lui parler,
three of-the very high to him to-speak
et III contes que ele apele
and three counts whom she calls
et Lanpars et sa damoisele
and Lampart and her damsel
II evesques et III abés.
two bishops and three abbots
Estes les vos ja là alés
Behold them you already there gone
ù Giglains gist, qui fu bleciés.
where Guinglain lies who was hurt
Robert troverent à ses piés.
Robert they-found at his feet
Quant en la cambre sont entré,
When into the chamber they-are entered
moult docement l'ont salué
very sweetly him-they-have greeted
et Giglains ausi, ce me sanble,
and Guinglain also this me seems
les resalue tos ensanble.
them greets-again all together

Encontre els est un poi dreciés
Toward them he-is a little raised-up
sanblant lor fait qu'il fust haitiés.
show them he-makes that-he were well
Par la cambre se sont asis,
Through the chamber themselves they-are seated
un rice duc qu'il orent pris
a rich duke whom-they had chosen
a le parole commencie,
has the speech begun
qui lor estoit devant noncie:
which them was before announced
«Sire, fait il, or m'escoutés.
Lord says he now me-hear
«Madame et trestous ses barnés
My-lady and all her barons
«vos mandent por moi une rien:
you send by me a thing
«Votre honors ert, ce saciés bien,
Your honor it-will-be this know well
«car le prendrés, sans demorance,
so her you-will-take without delay
«et sans nule autre prologance,
and without any other delaying
«nostre dame à benéïçon.
our lady with blessing
«Li duc, li prince et li baron
The dukes the princes and the barons
«vos ameront en bone foi,
you will-love in good faith

«sans fauseté et sans belloi
without falsehood and without guile
«tot serront à vostre plaisir,
all will-be at your pleasure
«por vos honerer et servir.
for you to-honor and to-serve
«Moult serrés rices et poissans,
Very you-will-be rich and powerful
«en ceste terre de tos sans.
in this land of all sides
«N'a baron qui à vos marchoist,
Not-there-is baron who on you may-border
«qu'à vostre commant tos ne soit.
that-at your command all not may-be
«Or prendés madame à mollier;
Now take my-lady as wife
«ne le devés mie laissier;
not it you-must at-all leave
«car moult i conquerrés honor.
for much there you-will-win honor
«Tos vos demandent à signor;
All you ask as lord
«qu'en vos serra bien mis l'enpire;
for-in you will-be well put the-empire
«d'une grant terre serés sire.
of-a great land you-will-be lord
«Tot arés quant qu'il i aura;
All you-will-have whatever that-it there will-be
«riens nule celé n'i aura.
thing any hidden not-there will-be

«Vos arés ciens, bos, et praieres
You will-have dogs woods and meadows
«bones routes, beles rivieres,
good roads fair rivers
«hostoirs, espreviers et gerfaus,
goshawks sparrowhawks and gerfalcons
«faucons gentius et bons cevaus;
falcons noble and good horses
«s'arés asez or et argent,
so-you-will-have plenty gold and silver
«por departir à vostre gent.
for to-distribute to your folk
«Et quant vaurés armes porter,
And when you-will-wish arms to-carry
«et au tornoiement aler,
and to-the tourneying to-go
«à vostre voloir les arois,
at your will them you-will-have
«et moult aisïés en serrois.
and very at-ease thereof you-will-be
«Et moult grant gent mener porés,
And very great folk lead you-can
«por tot ù vos aler vaurés,
for all where you to-go will-wish
«tot séur porés tornoier;
all secure you-can tourney
«car vostre home vos aront cier.
for your men you will-hold dear

«Or me dites vostre corage
Now me tell your heart
«si le redirai au barnage,
so it I-shall-tell-again to-the baronage
«et à ma dame la roïne
and to my lady the queen
«qui vos aime moult d'amor fine.»
who you loves very with-love fine
A tant a respondu Giglains
At that has answered Guinglain
qui moult estoit pales et vains:
who very was pale and faint
«Sire, moult grant mercis vos rent
Lord very great thanks to-you I-render
«et à tos barons ensement;
and to all barons likewise
«de ço que je vos en oï dire,
of this that I to-you thereof heard say
«je ne m'en veul pas escondire;
I not myself-thereof wish at-all to-excuse
«que je volentiers ne le praingne.
that I willingly not her may-take
«Mais primes irai en Bretaingne,
But first I-shall-go into Britain
«au roi demander le congié;
to-the king to-ask the leave
«car autrement ne l'prendrai jé.
for otherwise not her-shall-take I
«Car se li rois ne le voleit,
For if the king not it wished

«jo cuit que folie serroit,
I think that folly it-would-be
«se ensi prent fame sans lui.
if thus one-takes wife without him
«Ses niés et ses messages sui;
His nephew and his messenger I-am
«sans lui tel cose ne feroie.
without him such thing not I-would-do
«Quant il ne savoit qui j'estoie,
When he not knew who I-was
«si me retint, soie merci;
so me he-retained his thanks
«bon gré l'en sai, Madame pri,
good will him-thereof I-know My-lady I-pray
«qu'au roi Artur aut merci rendre,
that-to-the king Arthur she-go thanks to-render
«de ço qu'il l'a faite desfendre.
for this that-he her-has made defend
«Par lui est hors de la dolor.
By him she-is out of the grief
«A moi n'en doit faire l'onor.
To me not-thereof she-must do the-honor
«En sa cort le doit mercier
In his court him she-must thank
«de ce qu'il l'a fait delivrer.
for this that-he her-has made deliver
«Por son commant ai je ce fait.
For his command have I this done
«Soie est l'onors, tot entresait.
His is the-honor all certainly

«Car il me donra rice don,
For he me will-give rich gift
«s'il me retient à compainon.
if-he me retains as companion
«Madame lo, par bone foi
My-lady I-counsel by good faith
«qu'ele voist à la cort le roi,
that-she go to the court (of-)the king
«por grace rendre et por offrir
for thanks to-render and for to-offer
«que dès ore ert à son plaisir;
that from now she-will-be at his pleasure
«et s'ele me veut à signor,
and if-she me wishes as lord
«au roi doit ele faire onor:
to-the king must she do honor
«Ilueques me consillerai:
There myself I-shall-take-counsel
«Se li rois veut, si le prendrai.
If the king wishes so her I-shall-take
«Iço li lo par mon consel.
This her I-counsel by my counsel
«Si face tot son aparel,
So let-her-make all her preparation
«d'aler à cort moult ricement,
of-going to court very richly
«à bel harnas, o bele gent;
with fair gear with fair folk

«et s'ele veut aler à cort
and if-she wishes to-go to court
«moult hastivement s'en atort.»
very hastily herself-thence let-her-equip
Tot a la dame créanté
All has the lady granted
quanques Giglains a devisé,
whatever Guinglain has devised
que volentiers à cort ira
that willingly to court she-will-go
et que tot son voloir fera.
and that all his will she-will-do
D'aler ont bien lor terme pris;
Of-going they-have well their term taken
al uitieme jor l'ont asis.
at-the eighth day it-they-have set
Atant est li conseils finés;
At-that is the council ended
si sont parti tos li barnés,
so are departed all the barons
et congié prirent à Giglain
and leave they-took of Guinglain
qu'il laissèrent et feble et vain.
whom-they they-left both feeble and faint
A Diu les a tos commandés.
To God them he-has all commended
S''a la dame mires mandés
So-has the lady physicians summoned
moult bons, por tost Giglain garir;
very good for quickly Guinglain to-heal

à grant honor le fist servir,
with great honor him she-made serve
tant com longes i demora,
so as long there he-remained
de lui honerer se pena.
of him honoring herself she-took-pains
Ains que la dame fu véue
Before that the lady was seen
à cort fu tote revenue,
at court was all returned
la gens arière en la cité,
the folk back into the city
ù ele avoit ançois esté.
where she had before been
Cil ki vif et sain remés èrent
Those who alive and sound remained were
ensanble aveuc els aportèrent
together with them brought
or et argent et roubes beles.
gold and silver and robes fair
Que vos f'roie longes noveles?
Why to-you should-I-make long tidings
Tot fu la cités restorée
All was the city restored
et de boene gent bien puplée.
and with good folk well peopled

Love's Sickness

XIV

While Blonde Esmerée makes ready for Britain, Guinglain, healed, pines for the lady of the White Hands and repents leaving her without leave. Robert advises him to leave the queen on the road and return to the Isle of Gold. He takes his leave of Blonde Esmerée, who grieves, and rides there. He begs the lady's mercy; she rebukes him for the shame of his going and spares him only for the love she had. In despair, he vows to die in her country.

La roïne pas ne s'oublie;
The queen at-all not herself-forgets
moult a semons grant conpaignie,
very she-has summoned great company
qu'o li veut mener en Bretaingne,
that-with her she-wishes to-lead into Britain
en ses cambres s'aaise et baingne,
in her chambers herself-eases and bathes
et son harnas fait atorner,
and her gear she-makes arrange
à grant honor i veut aler;
with great honor there she-wishes to-go
que moult avoit grant conpaignie.
for very she-had great company
XXX cités ot en baillie.
Thirty cities she-had in keeping
Ele ot à non Blonde Esmerée;
She had as name Blonde Esmerée
issi fu par droit non nommée.
thus she-was by right name named

Giglain à mari moult desire;
Guinglain as husband much she-desires
ses cuers à lui s'otroie et tire.
her heart to him itself-grants and draws
Tant com la roïne s'atorne,
So-long as the queen herself-makes-ready
Giglains en la cité sejorne;
Guinglain in the city stays
tot fu garis en la quinzaine.
all he-was healed in the fortnight
Mais entrés est en autre paine.
But entered he-is into other pain
Amors li cange son penser;
Love him changes his thought
ne puet dormir, ne reposer.
not he-can sleep nor rest
Unques mais n'ot il d'amor cure;
Ever before not-had he of-love care
mais or se deult à desmesure
but now himself he-grieves beyond measure
por la pucele as blances mains.
for the maiden with-the white hands
Tos en devint pales et vains.
All thereof he-became pale and faint
Dès l'ore que il se parti
From the-hour that he himself departed
de l'Ile-d'Or, puis en oubli
from the-Isle-of-Gold then into oblivion
ne le mesist, por nule rien;
not her would-have-put for any thing

si l'en pensa durement bien,
so thereof he-thought hard well
que il s'en departi de lui
that he himself-thence departed from her
sans congié; moult en a anui;
without leave much thereof he-has grief
quant il se departi au main
when he himself departed at-the morning
aincque puis n'ot jor le cuer sain.
ever afterward not-had day the heart sound
Tant l'a adès puis desirée;
So-much her-has always since desired
mais or li est s'amors doublée.
but now him is his-love doubled
La joie souvent li doubla,
The joy often him doubled
por li sanblant que li mostra;
for her show which him she-showed
et maintes fois li est à vis,
and many times him it-is at opinion
quant il dort mius, si voit son vis;
when he sleeps best so he-sees her face
et que il est el lit couciés,
and that he is in-the bed laid
el palais ù fu herbergiés,
in-the palace where he-was lodged
et c'aveuc lui voie la fée,
and that-with him he-sees the fairy
ausi d'un mantiel afublée,
likewise in-a mantle wrapped

tot à nus piés, en sa cemise,
all with bare feet in her shift
en tel sanblant et en tel guise,
in such seeming and in such manner
com il le vit quant ele vint
as he her saw when she came
au lit el palais ù le tint.
to-the bed in-the palace where him she-held
A li penser a mis s'entente.
On her thinking he-has put his-intent
Un jor el palais se demente:
A day in-the palace himself he-laments
«Elas! fait il, ne sai que dire
Alas says he not I-know what to-say
«quels mals ço est, qui si enpire!
what ill this is which so worsens
«Ço est amors, mien enscient,
This is love to-my knowledge
«ensi l'ai oï de la gent,
thus it-I-have heard from the folk
«que on doit moult dames amer.
that one must much ladies love
«Il dient voir, ne l'puis celer.
They say true not it-I-can hide
«Esprové l'ai en la pucele
Proved it-I-have in the maiden
«por cui je muir, qui tant est bele.
for whom I die who so-much is fair
«Moult me fist grant honor la fée,
Very me did great honor the fairy

«dont je m'enblai la matinée.
from-whom I myself-stole the morning
«Mais déusse voloir morir,
But I-ought wish to-die
«que je de ço, dont tant desir,
for I from this which so-much I-desire
«me parti si vilainement.
myself parted so churlishly
«Ce que dont fis or me repent.
This that then I-did now me repents
«Or en trait mes cors grief martire.
Now thereof suffers my body grievous martyrdom
«Ha Dius! ne li oserai dire
Ah God not her shall-I-dare say
«que me pardoinst! dont que ferai?
that me she-pardon then what shall-I-do
«Il n'i a plus, por li maurai:
It not-there has more for her I-shall-die
«N'est nus, qui me péust aidier
Not-is anyone who me could help
«ne je ne l'os mais asaier.
nor I not it-dare more to-try
«Ains je maurai de male mort,
Rather I shall-die of evil death
«que jà rien n'averai confort.
for ever anything not-I-shall-have comfort
«Tai! mar le di! Va li rover
Hush ill it I-say Go her to-ask
«merci, e va à li parler;
mercy and go to her to-speak

«ne te lai mie morteier,
not thyself let at-all die
«quant plus ne le pues endurer; 3705
when more not it canst-thou endure
«car trop te destrait et travaille.
for too-much thee it-constrains and torments
«Se il longes te tient, sans faille
If it long thee holds without fail
«à mains n'en pues tu pas partir?»
with less not-thence canst thou at-all part
Il apele son escuier,
He calls his squire
qu'à lui s'en aurra consillier. 3710
that-with him himself-thence he-will-have to-counsel
Cil est venus à son signor,
He is come to his lord
et il li conte sa dolor.
and he him tells his grief
«Robert, fait-il, or me conselle:
Robert says-he now me counsel
«Trop sui destrois, à grant mervelle,
Too I-am constrained to great marvel
«ne puis dormir, ne reposer, 3715
not I-can sleep nor rest
«tant me met à celi penser
so-much me puts to her to-think
«que véismes en l'Ile d'or.
whom we-saw in the-Isle of-gold
«Icele me destraint si or,
She me constrains so now

«que de morir sui je certains,
that of dying am I certain
«se je n'ai cele as blances mains.
if I not-have her with-the white hands
«Moult le desire à grant mervelle;
Much her I-desire to great marvel
«l'amors m'ocist, souvent m'esvelle,
the-love me-kills often me-wakes
«ço m'a duré moult lonc termine;
this me-has lasted very long term
«moi d'angoissier amors ne fine.
me of-anguishing love not ceases
«Que ferai je, frans debonaire,
What shall-do I noble gracious
«onques mais mal ne prisai gaire;
ever before ill not I-prized much
«mais cis m'ocist tot à estros.»
but this-one me-kills all at once
Ce dist Robers: «Gabés me vos?
This said Robert Mock me you
«Quant d'amor soloie parler;
When of-love I-was-wont to-speak
«adont me soliés vos gaber.»
then me were-wont you to-mock
— «Je ne gabe, si dist Giglains,
I not mock so said Guinglain
«se onques mais amors me fains,
if ever before love me I-feigned
«or en prent vers moi sa vengance:
now thereof it-takes on me its vengeance

«Elle m'ocist de male lance!»
It me-kills with evil lance
Robers respont: «Cele en ait los
Robert answers She thereof may-have praise
«qui l'amor a en vos enclos.
who the-love has in you enclosed
«Je ne sai rien de chevalier,
I not know anything of knight
«ne cil ne doit avoir mestier
nor he not must have use
«c'aucune fois ne veut amer;
who-any time not wishes to-love
«ne cil ne doit en pris monter,
nor he not must in worth rise
«qui vers amors n'a son corage;
who toward love not-has his heart
«se il n'est moult de grant éage.
if he not-is very of great age
«Sire, ne vos esmaiés mie,
Lord not yourself dismay at-all
«s'amors vos a en sa baillie;
if-love you has in its keeping
«elle velt les preus en se part;
it wishes the valiant on its side
«mauvais et faus ele aime à tart.
bad and false it loves at late
«Por ce ne vos esmaiés pas,
For this not yourself dismay at-all
«bien passerés d'amor le pas.
well you-will-pass of-love the pass

«Et je vos en conselleraï
And I you thereof shall-counsel
«à tost, à mius que je porrai.
at quickly at best that I shall-be-able
«Se vos volés issi m'en croire,
If you wish thus me-thereof to-believe
«quant atorné ara son oire,
when arranged will-have her journey
«la roïne d'à cort aler,
the queen of-to court going
«et fera ses muls enseler,
and will-make her mules saddle
«ses palefrois et ses cevals,
her palfreys and her horses
«ses rices dras et ses penals,
her rich cloths and her furs
«et verrés carcier les destriers,
and you-will-see load the chargers
«et si carcier or fin et ciers,
and so load gold fine and costly
«trestos les en laissiés issir;
all them thence let go-out
«et si vos armés à loissir
and so yourself arm at leisure
«en vostre ostel, que ne le voie.
in your lodging that not it she-may-see
«Après, vos metés en la voie.
After yourself put on the way
«Quant atraite arés la roïne,
When overtaken you-will-have the queen

«à cui tos cis règnes acline,
to whom all this realm bows
«moult belement à li parlés
very fairly to her speak
«et le congié li demandés.
and the leave her ask
«Dites qu'aveuc li plus n'irois
Say that-with her more not-you-will-go
«qu'autre part aler en vaurois,
for-other side to-go thence you-would-wish
«ù vos avés asés à faire,
where you have plenty to do
«et que vos ne targerés gaire;
and that you not will-delay much
«car au plus tost que vos porés
for at-the most soon that you will-be-able
«après li à la cort irés.
after her to the court you-will-go
«Et quant le congié arés pris,
And when the leave you-will-have taken
«et el retor vos serés mis,
and on-the return you will-be put
«puis irons nos nostre cemin,
then shall-go we our way
«à l'avesprer et au matin,
at the-evening and at-the morning
«que nos à l'Ille d'Or venrons.»
until we to the-Isle of-Gold shall-come
— «Biaus amis, qu'est ce que tu dis?
Fair friend what-is this that thou sayest

«Serroie je tant dont hardis,
Would-be I so then bold
«que retorner osaisse à li?
that return I-should-dare to her
«Vilainement me départi!»
Churlishly myself I-departed
Robers respont: «Oïl, bials sire,
Robert answers Yes fair lord
«bien li porés vostre mal dire.
well her you-will-be-able your ill tell
«Qui ne porcace sa besoigne,
Who not pursues his need
«tost li puet torner à vergoigne;
quickly him can turn to shame
«cil qui del mal sent le martire,
he who of-the ill feels the martyrdom
«le doit moult bien mostrer au mire.
it must very well show to-the physician
«Sans nul respit, dist li vilains,
Without any respite said the churl
«querre doit pain cil qui est fains.
seek must bread he who is hungry
«Comment sara vostre corage
How will-she-know your heart
«se devant ne l'en faites sage?
if before not her-thereof you-make aware
«Monstrer li devés la dolor
Show her you-must the grief
«que vos traiés por soie amor;
that you suffer for her love

«bien tost porrés merci rover;
well quickly you-will-be-able mercy ask
«après plor, ai oi canter!» 3795
after weeping I-have heard sing
Giglains respont: «C'est lons termine;
Guinglain answers It-is long term
«dès que se mueve la roïne,
until that herself moves the queen
«encore a III jors à venir;
yet there-are three days to come
«ançois poroie bien morir.
before I-could well die
«S'autrement mes mals n'asouage.» 3800
If-otherwise my ills not-abate
— «Sire, covés vostre corage;
Lord hide your heart
«ne vos en esmaiés de rien;
not yourself thereof dismay of anything
«que l'amor conquerrés vos bien.»
for the-love will-win you well
Issi a Giglains sejorné,
Thus has Guinglain stayed
et le mal d'amor enduré, 3805
and the ill of-love endured
tant que III jors sont acompli;
until that three days are accomplished
al quart jor, quant l'aube esclarci,
on-the fourth day when the-dawn brightened

Blonde Esmerée de l'aler
Blonde Esmerée for the-going
s'atorna, et fist aprester
herself-equipped and made prepare
le menu harnas, qu'avant vait.
the small gear which-before goes
Les damoisials monter a fait;
The pages mount she-has made
puis fist monter ses compaignons;
then she-made mount her companions
et portent ostoirs et faucons
and they-carry goshawks and falcons
et ostoirs et bons espreviers;
and goshawks and good sparrowhawks
les escrins carcent as somiers,
the coffers they-load on-the pack-horses
et rices cofres, rices males,
and rich chests rich trunks
moult jetent grant avoir de Gales,
very they-cast great wealth of Wales
hanas, copes d'or et d'argent,
goblets cups of-gold and of-silver
et moult rice autre garnement,
and very rich other garment
escueles et culliers d'or,
bowls and spoons of-gold
dont molt avoit en son tresor.
of-which much there-was in her treasure
Lors est la roïne montée.
Then is the queen mounted

C. chevaliers de sa contrée
A-hundred knights of her country
a menés en sa conpaignie;
she-has led in her company
moult estoit sa gens bien garnie.
very was her folk well furnished
Si s'en issent de Senaudon
So themselves-thence go-out from Snowdon
l'a roïne et tot si baron.
the queen and all her barons
Cevals fist mener aveuc soi,
Horses she-made lead with herself
et palefroi de bel conroi;
and palfreys of fair array
de la cité s'en issent tuit;
from the city themselves-thence go-out all
et Giglains s'arme, sans grant bruit.
and Guinglain himself-arms without great noise
Quant la roïne fu venue,
When the queen was come
ançois si s'ert bien porvéue
before so herself-was well perceived
que Giglains encor n'i est mie.
that Guinglain yet not-there is at-all
«Signor, fait ele, Dius aïe!
Lords says she God help
«Ù est mes amis et mesire?
Where is my friend and my-lord
«Ù est qui voir l'en sace dire?»
Where is who true thereof may-know to-say

Arestée s'est la roïne;
Stopped herself-is the queen
de Giglain demander ne fine,
of Guinglain to-ask not she-ceases
il regardent vers la cité;
they look toward the city
si le voient venir armé
so him they-see come armed
et aveuc lui son escuier.
and with him his squire
Tot se prendent à merviller
All themselves take to marvel
por quel afaire armés estoit.
for what affair armed he-was
Vers la roïne vint tot droit;
Toward the queen he-came all straight
quant la véu blonde Esmerée,
when him-has seen blonde Esmerée
vers lui a son regne tirée;
toward him she-has her rein drawn
si li a demandé de loing
so him she-has asked from afar
por quel cose et por quel besoing
for what thing and for what need
s'estoit armés, que il li die.
himself-was armed that he her may-tell
Giglains respont: «Ma douce amie,
Guinglain answers My sweet friend
«jo ne puis pas o vous aler.
I not can at-all with you go

«D'autre part m'en estuet aler,
To-other side me-thence it-behooves to-go
«ù ai à faire grant besoigne.
where I-have to do great need
«Quant l'arai faite, sans essoigne,
When it-I-shall-have done without excuse
«après vos à la cort irai,
after you to the court I-shall-go
«si tost comme je le porrai,
so soon as I it shall-be-able
«le roi Artur. Me salués
the king Arthur Me greet
«et vostre congié me donés.»
and your leave me give
Dist la roïne: «Merci, sire,
Said the queen Mercy lord
«mise seroie en grant martire.»
put I-would-be into great martyrdom
— «Dame, ne puet estre autrement.
Lady not can be otherwise
«Je m'en vois: à Diu vos commant
I myself-thence go to God you I-commend
«et vos et tos vos compagnons.»
both you and all your companions
Issi departi des barons;
Thus he-departed from-the barons
mais à grant paine s'en depart;
but with great pain himself-thence he-departs
son cemin torne d'autre part.
his way he-turns to-other side

De son aler ont grant anui;
Of his going they-have great grief
mais il n'en pesa tant nului
but it not-thereof weighed so-much on-anyone
com il faisoit à la roïne.
as it did to the queen
Moult se clamoit souvent frarine;
Much herself she-called often wretched
de lui ne se partist, son vuel.
from him not herself she-would-part (by-)her will
Moult fait la roïne grant duel.
Very makes the queen great grief
Dolente estoit et esmaïe,
Grieving she-was and dismayed
et ne porquant ne remaint mie
and not for-how-much not she-remains at-all
que ele adès à cort ne aille:
that she always to court — may-go
mais moult est dolente, sans faille!
but very she-is grieving without fail
Bien vos ai conté et retrait
Well to-you I-have told and related
comment la roïne s'en vait:
how the queen herself-thence goes
mais ains veul de Giglain conter,
but rather I-wish of Guinglain to-tell
ki ne fine de tost aler.
who not ceases from quickly going
La bele as blances mains le tire;
The fair-one with-the white hands him draws

que le véist; moult le désire,
that-he her might-see much it he-desires
de li véir a grant besoingne;
of her seeing he-has great need
vis li est que la veie aloingne.
opinion to-him it-is that the way lengthens
Cevaucié ont dès la jornée,
Ridden they-have from the day
de si que vint à la vesprée,
from so that it-came to the evening
plus de XXX liues galesces;
more than thirty leagues Welsh
tant qu'il vont devant les bretesces
until that-they go before the battlements
de l'Ile d'Or, le bon castel,
of the-Isle of-Gold the good castle
dont li mur sont et fort et bel.
of-which the walls are both strong and fair
Moult fu li castials bons et fors.
Very was the castle good and strong
Se cil qui sont dèsqu'à Limors
If those who are as-far-as-to Limors
i fuissent à siege XXX ans,
there were in siege thirty years
n'enterroient-il pas dedens.
not-would-enter-they at-all within
Moult estoit bials à demesure.
Very it-was fair beyond measure

Mais del deviser n'ai or cure
But of-the describing not-I-have now care
à cette fois; qu'allors l'ai dit;
at this time for-elsewhere it-I-have said
saciés nus hom plus bel ne vit.
know any man more fair not saw
Quant Giglains apercéu l'ot,
When Guinglain perceived it-had
ens en son cuer forment s'i plot;
in in his heart greatly himself-therein pleased
bien a le castel connéu,
well he-has the castle known
de si lonc com il l'a véu.
from so far as he it-has seen
Tot entor coroit la marine.
All around ran the sea
Giglains de tost aler ne fine
Guinglain of quickly going not ceases
vers l'Ille d'Or, qui siet sor mer.
toward the-Isle of-Gold which sits on sea
Dehors ont véu ceminer
Outside they-have seen journey
dames, chevaliers, ne puceles;
ladies knights and maidens
et il se traient envers elles.
and they themselves draw toward them
Espreviers portent et faucons,
Sparrowhawks they-carry and falcons
ostoirs, tercets, esmerillons;
goshawks tercels merlins

car il vivoient de jebiers.
for they lived on game
Quant il les vit, moult en fu liés;
When he them saw much thereof he-was glad
car entre els connut s'amie.
for among them he-knew his-love
De si lonc com il l'ot véïe,
From so far as he her-has seen
son cief et son vis desarma,
his head and his face he-disarmed
et vint errant, si l'salua:
and came straightway so her-greeted
«Dame, fait il, je veul parler
Lady says he I wish to-speak
«à vos et mon consel mostrer;
to you and my counsel to-show
«si vus traiés à une part.»
so yourselves draw to one side
Cele respont: «Dius i ait part!»
She answers God there may-have part
Cil se met devers li à destre;
He himself puts toward her at right
dès or li veut conter son estre:
from now her he-wishes to-tell his state
«Dame, fait il, entendés moi;
Lady says he hear me
«liés sui de ce que je vos voi;
glad I-am of this that I you see
«quar por vos muir, ne l'pui celer.
for for you I-die not it-I-can hide

«Dame, merci vos veul crier;
Lady mercy of-you I-wish to-cry
«por Diu, de mei aiés pitiés,
for God of me have pity
«que mes mals me soit alegiés;
that my ill me may-be lightened
«et que ne soiés vers mei pire,
and that not you-may-be toward me worse
«por rien que vos amoiés dire.
for anything that you me-you-may-hear say
«Car amors ne me laisse mie
For love not me lets at-all
«que tot le voir ne vos en die.
that all the truth not to-you thereof I-may-tell
«Vergogne en ai, mais ne me vaut.
Shame thereof I-have but not me avails
«Amors me destraint et asaut,
Love me constrains and assails
«ki tot me mainne à son talent.
which all me leads at its desire
«Dame, saciés vos vraiement
Lady know you truly
«que se je devoie estre pris,
that if I were-to be taken
«u ars, u pendus, u ocis,
or burnt or hanged or killed
«ne me péusse je celer.
not myself could I hide
«Or est en vos del pardoner.
Now it-is in you of-the pardoning

«Del tot sui en vostre ballie
Of-the all I-am in your keeping
«u de la mort, u de la vie.»
either of the death or of the life
La dame dist: «Qui estes vos?»
The lady said Who are you
— «Dame vostre sui à estros:
Lady yours I-am at once
«Dès l'ore que prime vos vi,
From the-hour that first you I-saw
«et que je m'en parti de ci.»
and that I myself-thence parted from here
— «Ù vos vi je dont onques mais?—»
Where you saw I then ever before
— «Dame, dedens vostre palais
Lady within your palace
«me herbergastes avant ier,
me you-lodged before yesterday
«quand je alai la dame aidier,
when I went the lady to-help
«qui est fille le roi Gringas:
who is daughter (of-)the king Gringras
«De ce, Dame, je ne menc pas.
Of this Lady I not lie at-all
«Lors me promistes votre honor.
Then me you-promised your honor
«Mais je m'en parti, par folor,
But I myself-thence parted by folly
«por le secors que je vauc faire.
for the succor that I wished to-make

«Puis m'a fait vostre amors contraire,
Since me-has made your love contrary
«qui dedens mon cuer est enclos,
which within my heart is enclosed
«ainc puis ne pot avoir repos.
ever since not it-could have rest
— «Comment, fait ele, estes vos cil
How says she are you he
«qui si m'éustes eu por vil,
who so me-had held for base
«et qui fistes si grant outrage
and who did so great outrage
«à moi et à tot mon lignage,
to me and to all my lineage
«qu'ensi de moi vos en enblastes,
that-thus from me yourself thence you-stole
«que congié ne me demandastes?
that leave not of-me you-asked
«Et je vos fis si grant honor,
And I you did so great honor
«que moi et ma terre et m'amor
that me and my land and my-love
«mis en vostre subjection?
I-put in your subjection
«Moult fesistes grant mesprison,
Very you-did great misprision
«come vilains et outragens:
as churl and outrageous
«Ne cuidez pas que ce soit gens.
Not think at-all that this may-be noble

«Se je amé ne vos éusse,
If I loved not you had
«envers vos si vilaine fusse,
toward you so churlish I-would-be
«que je vos fesisse grant lait,
that I to-you would-do great ugliness
«por le honte que m'avez fait!
for the shame that me-you-have done
«Car trop fesistes mesprisure;
For too-much you-did misdeed
«por ce estes en aventure.
for this you-are in adventure
«Car j'ai en cest païs assés
For I-have in this country plenty
«contes et dus, princes casés,
counts and dukes princes vassals
«qui tos vos aueroient mort,
who all you would-have killed
«u ce fust à droit, u à tort,
whether this were by right or by wrong
«s'il vos connissoient de voir!
if-they you knew of truth
«Moult fesistes de fol espoir,
Much you-did of foolish hope
«quant retorner arière osastes
when return back you-dared
«et que de rien à moi parlastes.
and that of anything to me you-spoke
«Moult vos aimai, bien m'en souvient;
Much you I-loved well me-thereof remembers

«iceste cose me detient
this thing me holds-back
«que je ne vos faic deshonnor.
that I not to-you do dishonor
«Mais il me souvient de l'amor;
But it me remembers of the-love
«car contre vos rien n'en amaisse:
for against you anything not-thereof would-I-love
«Se ce ne fust, je m'en vengaisse.
If this not were I myself-thereof would-avenge
«Por seul itant ne veul je mie
For only so-much not wish I at-all
«que vos encor perdés la vie.
that you yet may-lose the life
«Mais itant vos en di avant
But so-much to-you thereof I-say before
«que jamais, en votre commant,
that ever at your command
«ne serrai vers vos si souprise,
not I-shall-be toward you so overcome
«que m'amors soit vers vos trop mise!»
that my-love may-be toward you too-much put
Quant Giglains l'oï si parler,
When Guinglain her-heard so speak
li vis, qu'il ot bien fait et cler,
the face which-he had well made and clear
li devint moult pales et tains:
him became very pale and wan
moult estoit febles et atains.
very he-was feeble and stricken

«Dame, fait-il, or est issi,
Lady says-he now it-is thus
«de moi n'arés nule merci?
of me not-you-will-have any mercy
«Si en morrai, tot à delivre,
So thereof I-shall-die all at once
«bien sai, ne puis pas longes vivre,
well I-know not I-can at-all long live
«de moi n'i ara nul confort;
of me not-there will-be any comfort
«vostre amors m'a doné la mort.
your love me-has given the death
«Il vos en avenra peciés,
It to-you thereof will-come sin
«se vos tost ensi m'ociés.
if you quickly thus me-kill
«Mais quant escaper je ne puis,
But when escape I not can
«n'endroit vos nul confort permis,
nor-toward you any comfort permitted
«la vie en cest païs metrai.
the life in this country I-shall-put
«Bien voi que par vos i maurai,
Well I-see that by you there I-shall-die
«que tant vos desirent mi oil
for so-much you desire my eyes
«qu'en vostre païs morir veul.
that-in your country to-die I-wish

«Bele, or ne me chaut qui m'ocie;
Fair-one now not me matters who me-kills
«car por vos me desplait ma vie.»
for for you me displeases my life

The Fairy's Message

XV

Left outside the town, Guinglain lodges with Robert's old host, spends all he has, and sickens with love; the poet speaks of his own lady. A maiden brings Guinglain a rich robe from her lady and leads him through a marvelous orchard to the fairy. She asks how he has fared and reproaches him for his last parting. He begs her mercy, and she, hiding it, loves him; each grieves for the other more than Tristan for Iseut.

Tant ont al parler entendu,
So-much they-have to-the speaking attended
que il sont el castel venu.
that they are in-the castle come
La dame à son palais descent;
The lady at her palace dismounts
la soie mainie ensement,
the her household likewise
si chevaliers, ses demoiseles,
her knights her damsels
dont il en i avoit de beles,
of-whom it thereof there there-were of fair-ones
tot s'entornent li chevalier,
all themselves-turn-away the knights
à lor ostel, por herbergier.
to their lodging for to-lodge

Mais defors la vile est Giglains
But outside the town is Guinglain
desconsilliés foibles et vains:
unconsoled feeble and faint
ne nul à lui molt parole;
nor anyone to him much speaks
or est il en fole riole;
now is he in foolish tune
ne sait que dise, ne que face;
not he-knows what he-may-say nor what he-may-do
arestés est en une place.
stopped he-is in a place
«Robert, fait il, que porons faire?
Robert says he what we-can do
«Venu somes à mal repaire;
Come we-are to evil abode
«de consels grant mestier avons,
of counsels great need we-have
«ù querre hostel ù herbergons?»
where to-seek lodging where we-may-lodge
Robiers respont: «Or m'escoutés;
Robert answers Now me-hear
«laiens moult bon ostel avés,
therein very good lodging you-have
«en cele rue tot aval,
in that street all down
«là ù jurent nostre ceval,
there where lay our horses
«quant ci fumes à l'autrefois.
when here we-were at the-other-time

«Cortois est l'ostes et adrois
Courteous is the-host and adroit
«tot nostre estuoir i arons.»
all our need there we-shall-have
Giglains respont: «Or i alons.»
Guinglain answers Now there let-us-go
La nuit, sont à l'ostel venu;
The night they-are to the-lodging come
liément ils i sont recéu.
gladly they there are received
Li ostes moult bel les reçut,
The host very fair them received
per ce que il Robert connut,
for this that he Robert knew
moult le herberga bien la nuit.
very him he-lodged well the night
Mais Giglains n'i ot nul deduit:
But Guinglain not-there had any delight
k'amors l'a si pris en ses las,
for-love him-has so taken in its snares
que ses cuers est dolens et mas:
that his heart is grieving and downcast
moult le point l'amors de la bele.
much him pricks the-love of the fair-one
Son escuier à lui apele:
His squire to him he-calls
«Robert, fait il, que ferai, las!
Robert says he what shall-I-do alas
«En poi de terme me perdras.
In little of term me thou-wilt-lose

«La mort me veut amors donner.»
The death me wishes love to-give
Cil velt à son signor parler:
He wishes to his lord to-speak
«Quel cose vos a respondue
What thing you has answered
«vostre dame, qu'avés véue?
your lady whom-you-have seen
— «Certes ni a el que la mort:
Certainly not-there has else than the death
«Qu'en li ne tins nul reconfort.
For-in her not I-held any comfort
«Ains me dist bien tot entresait
Rather me she-said well all certainly
«que molt me fesist honte et lait
that much me she-would-do shame and ugliness
«se ne fust l'amors qui jadis
if not were the-love which formerly
«fust de moi en son cuer asis;
was of me in her heart seated
«ço a dit qu'encor se souvient;
this she-has said that-yet herself she-remembers
«por cel itant si s'en retient.»
for that so-much so herself-thereof she-holds-back
— «Sire, ne vos esmaiés mie;
Lord not yourself dismay at-all
«bien a respondu vostre amie;
well has answered your love
«quant reconnost que vos ama,
when she-recognizes that you she-loved

«de cele amor encore i a.
of that love yet there there-is
«Ceste response m'asouage,
This answer me-soothes
«que dist que vos ot en corage.
that she-said that you she-had in heart
«Cil respons vos mostre aucun bien.
This answer to-you shows some good
«Or ne vos esmaiés de rien,
Now not yourself dismay of anything
«qu'à mon sanblant et à ma aire
for-to my seeming and to my mind
«vos doit cis respons joie faire.
you must this answer joy make
«Se je péusse à li parler,
If I could to her speak
«tost péussiés merci rover.»
quickly you-could mercy ask
Et Giglains issi longement
And Guinglain thus long
couve son mal et si atent
broods-on his ill and so waits
qu'il cuide parler à s'amie;
that-he thinks to-speak to his-love
mais ce qu'il cuide n'i a mie.
but this that-he thinks not-there is at-all
Car ne le puet por rien veoir;
For not her he-can for anything see
si i despent tot son avoir.
so there he-spends all his wealth

Tant poi com il en ot o lui,
So little as he thereof had with him
qu'il ne trova onques celui
that-he not found ever anyone
que il del sien ne li donast,
that he of-the his not him should-give
se il à prendre le daingnast.
if he to take it deigned
Despent acroit, barate donne,
He-spends he-borrows barter gives
quanques il a, tot abandonne.
whatever he has all abandons
Tant a illueques atendu,
So-much he-has there waited
que son harnas a despendu
that his gear he-has spent
tote une quinsaine enterine.
all a fortnight entire
Bien l'a amors en sa saisine,
Well him-has love in its seisin
qu'il ne mangüe, ne ne dort.
for-he not eats nor not sleeps
Trop est arivés à mal port.
Too-much he-is arrived at evil port
Amors le destraint et justise,
Love him constrains and governs
del tot le met à sa devise;
of-the all him puts at its will

n'en son consel ne puet trover
nor-in his counsel not he-can find
comment il puist à li parler.
how he may to her speak
De ço que ensi les destraint
Of this that thus them constrains
et nuit et jor por li se plaint,
both night and day for her himself complains
amors ne l'laisse reposer;
love not him-lets rest
tot son cuer atorne à penser;
all his heart turns to thinking
le mangier laisse et le dormir:
the eating he-leaves and the sleeping
amors le maine à son plaisir.
love him leads at its pleasure
Moult par fu Giglains angoissiés:
Very much was Guinglain anguished
ens en son lit estoit couciés.
in in his bed he-was laid
Nule hore ne pot hors issir
Any hour not he-could out go
bien cuide qu'il doie morir;
well he-thinks that-he must die
tranble, fremist, gemist, souspire;
he-trembles shudders groans sighs
moult par soufre cruel martire,
very much he-suffers cruel martyrdom

torne, retorne et puis s'estent
turns turns-again and then himself-stretches
et adens se remet souvent.
and face-down himself puts-again often
En soi a d'amors le maniere.
In himself he-has of-love the manner
Moult le trove male guerriere.
Very her he-finds evil warrior
En celui cui je sui amis
In her of-whom I am friend
dès que primes vit son bel vis
from that first saw her fair face
onques puis n'en partit mon cuer
ever since not-thence parted my heart
ne partir n'en puet à nul fuer.
nor part not-thence can at any price
De moi ocire ne repose
Of me killing not she-rests
et je l'aim plus que nule cose.
and I her-love more than any thing
Onques vers li rien ne mesis
Ever toward her anything not I-misdid
fors tant que sui loiaus amis.
except so-much that I-am loyal friend
Mais por içe me puet mal faire,
But for this me she-can ill do
que je ne m'en quier mais retraire
that I not myself-thence seek more to-withdraw
mon cuer qui à tos jors le voit.
my heart which at all days her sees

Or escoutés ici en droit
Now hear here in right
comment Giglains morait d'amors,
how Guinglain was-dying of-love
que moult li fait traire dolors.
which much him makes suffer griefs
Robers esgarde son signor
Robert looks-at his lord
qui moult li fait muer color;
who much him makes change color
bien sait qu'amors trop le destraint,
well he-knows that-love too-much him constrains
car il le vit et pale et taint;
for he him saw both pale and wan
grant paor en a et anui.
great fear thereof he-has and grief
Tot maintenant ala vers lui.
All at-once he-went toward him
Moult est Giglains de mal laidis,
Very is Guinglain by ill disfigured
afebloiés et maladis.
enfeebled and sickly
Et Robers va à lui parler;
And Robert goes to him to-speak
se l'prie moult de conforter.
so him-he-prays much to take-comfort
Quant Robers l'a mis a raison,
When Robert him-has put to speech

atant entra en la maison
at-that entered into the house
une pucele bien aprise.
a maiden well taught
Vestu ot un vert peliçon
Clad she-had a green fur-coat
qui fu covers d'un siglaton.
which was covered with-a ciclaton
Moult estoit gente la pucele;
Very was noble the maiden
une robe aporte moult bele,
a robe she-brings very fair
partie de deus dras divers,
parted of two cloths diverse
de soie, d'un osterin pers,
of silk of-an purple-silk blue
et d'un diaspe bon et bel.
and of-a diaper good and fair
La pene qui fu el mantel
The lining which was in-the mantle
refu moult de rice partie,
was-also very of rich parting
de rice vair, devers Hungrie.
of rich vair from Hungary
L'autre d'ermine bon et fin,
The-other of-ermine good and fine
ki estoit d'un rice osterin;
which was of-a rich purple-silk
et li vairs el diaspe estoit,
and the vair in-the diaper was

ù moult rice sable i avoit,
where very rich sable there there-was
dont li mantials estoit orlés.
with-which the mantle was bordered
Moult estoit li dras bien ovrés
Very was the cloth well worked
de coi estoit fais li mantials;
of which was made the mantle
jà mar querrés deus dras plus bials
ever ill you-will-seek two cloths more fair
que cil de cele reube estoient.
than those of that robe were
Moult bien andoi s'entrevenoient.
Very well both each-other-suited
Giglains la pucele a véue;
Guinglain the maiden has seen
son cief dreça, si la salue;
his head he-raised so her greets
et cele son salu li rent:
and she his greeting him renders
«Li rois del ciel omnipotent
The king of-the heaven omnipotent
«vos doist ço que vostre cuer veult
you may-give this that your heart wishes
«de cele rien dont plus se deult.
of that thing of-which most it grieves
«Sire, ma dame vos salue,
Lord my lady you greets
«cele que vos querrés adïue;
she whom you will-seek at-all-times

«c'est la dame de ceste vile.
it-is the lady of this town
«Il n'a si bele entre cent mile.
There not-has so fair among hundred thousand
«Ceste roube vos a tramise;
This robe to-you she-has sent
«si vos mande qu'en nule guise
so to-you she-sends that-in any manner
«ne soit laissé ne le véés;
not be left — her you-may-see
«tantot com vos garis serés.»
as-soon as you healed will-be
Quant Giglains l'ot, moult en fu liés.
When Guinglain it-hears much thereof he-was glad
Se li respont: «Tot sui haitiés;
So her he-answers All I-am well
«de nule rien je ne me duel,
of any thing I not myself grieve
«puisque verrai ce que je vuel.
since I-shall-see this that I wish
«Je n'ai nul mal qui me retiengne,
I not-have any ill which me may-hold-back
«puisqu'ele veut qu'à li je viengne.
since-she wishes that-to her I may-come
«Dius en ait los, par son plaisir,
God thereof may-have praise by his pleasure
«de ço qu'ele me veut véir.
for this that-she me wishes to-see
«Bien ait la dame et li mesages,
Well may-have the lady and the messenger

«k'or est alegiés mes malages.»
for-now is lightened my sickness
A la pucele fait grant joie.
To the maiden he-makes great joy
Vestue a la reube de soie,
Clad he-has the robe of silk
que cele li a avant traite;
which she him has forth drawn
moult s'atorne bien et afaite.
very himself-he-equips well and adorns
La robe moult bien li avint.
The robe very well him became
Mais la dolors qu'al cuer li tint
But the grief which-at-the heart him held
li avoit enpali le vis,
him had paled the face
et nequident, ce m'est avis,
and nevertheless this to-me-is opinion
que on péust asés cerkier,
that one could plenty search
ains com trovast un chevalier
before that one-could-find a knight
tant preu, tant sage, ne tant bel.
so valiant so wise nor so fair
La pucele par le mantel
The maiden by the mantle
le prist, puis li a dit: «Alons
him took then him she-has said Let-us-go
«à ma dame; car trop tardons.»
to my lady for too-much we-delay

Giglains respont: «Içо me plaist.»
Guinglain answers This me pleases
Envers la pucèle se traist,
Toward the maiden himself draws
et par le rue andoi s'en vont,
and through the street both themselves-thence go
tot droit vers le palais amont.
all straight toward the palace above
Et quant sont el palais venu,
And when they-are in-the palace come
si se sont d'autre part issu,
so themselves they-are on-other side gone-out
parmi un huis en un vergier,
through a door into an orchard
qui moult se faisoit à proisier.
which much itself made to prize
Tot estoit clos de mur marbrin,
All it-was enclosed with wall of-marble
qui bien fu ovrés de grant fin,
which well was worked of great fineness
c'onques Dius ne fist cele cose,
that-ever God not made that thing
qui fust en tot le monde enclose,
which were in all the world enclosed
que ne fust bien el murs ouvrée.
that not were well in-the walls worked
Moult taillée ert et devisée;
Very carved it-was and devised
fenestres avoit tot entor,
windows it-had all around

(par une i venoit la calor)
by one there came the heat
trestoutes ouvrées d'argent.
all worked of-silver
Ains nus ne vit vergier si grant,
Ever any not saw orchard so great
tant bon, tant rice, ne tant bel;
so good so rich nor so fair
ainc Dius ne fist cel abrissel
ever God not made that shrub
que en el vergier ne trouvast,
which one in-the orchard not should-find
qui le lé et le lonc cercast.
who the breadth and the length should-search
Grant masse i avoit de loriers,
Great mass there there-was of laurels
de figiers et d'alemandiers,
of fig-trees and of-almond-trees
de saigremors et de sapins,
of sycamores and of firs
paumiers moult ot, asés melliers,
palms much there-was plenty medlars
pruniers, grenas, roziers ramés;
plum-trees pomegranates rosebushes branching
d'autres arbres i ot asés,
of-other trees there was plenty
et s'i croissait li reculisses,
and so-there grew the licorice
et li encens et moult espisses.
and the incense and many spices

Dius ne fist herbe de bonté
God not made herb of goodness
que el vergier n'éust planté.
that in-the orchard not-had planted
Encens, gerofle et atoual,
Incense clove and zedoary
et le canele et garingal,
and the cinnamon and galingale
et spic, petre, pouvre, commins,
and spikenard pellitory pepper cumin
de ce ot asés el gardins;
of this there-was plenty in-the garden
rosiers ot d'itele nature
rosebushes there-were of-such nature
que en tos tans la flors soüre;
that at all times the flower ripened
moult fu li vergiers gens et bials;
very was the orchard noble and fair
tos jors i avoit cris d'osials,
all days there there-were cries of-birds
de calendres et d'orials,
of larks and of-orioles
de merles et de lorsingnals;
of blackbirds and of nightingales
et d'autres dont i ot asés,
and of-others of-which there were plenty
ne jà lor cans ne fust lassés.
nor ever their singing not were wearied

Laiens avoit itels odors
Therein there-were such scents
et des especes et des flors,
both of-the spices and of-the flowers
que cil qui s'estoit laiens mis
that he who himself-was therein put
cuidoit qu'il fust en paradis.
thought that-he were in paradise
Giglains et la pucele cointe
Guinglain and the maiden elegant
qui moult près de lui s'étoit jointe,
who very near to him herself-was joined
s'en vont par le vergier adès.
themselves-thence go through the orchard always
Tant ont alé qu'il furent près
So-much they-have gone that-they were near
de la dame, qui el vergier
to the lady who in-the orchard
s'onbrooit lès un olivier.
herself-shaded beside an olive-tree
Entor li dames et puceles;
Around her ladies and maidens
et il s'en vont adès vers eles.
and they themselves-thence go always toward them
Or voit Giglains ço qu'il voloit
Now sees Guinglain this that-he wished
quant la dame venir le voit
when the lady come him sees
si s'est encontre li levée.
so herself-is toward him risen

Ainc Elaine qui fu anblée,
Ever Helen who was stolen
que por biauté ravi Paris,
whom for beauty ravished Paris
n'Isex la blonde, ne Bliblis,
nor-Iseut the blonde nor Byblis
ne Lavine de Lombardie,
nor Lavinia of Lombardy
qui à Enée estoit amie,
who to Aeneas was love
ne Morge la fée méisme,
nor Morgan the fairy herself
n'orent pas de biauté la disme.
not-had at-all of beauty the tenth
A li ne s'enprendroit nesune,
To her not herself-would-compare any
ne qu'al solel s'enprent la lune.
no-more than-to-the sun itself-compares the moon
En tot le mont n'ot sa parelle,
In all the world not-was her equal
tant estoit bele, à grant mervelle;
so-much she-was fair to great marvel
moult estoit la dame honerée.
very was the lady honored
Giglains l'a primiers saluée,
Guinglain her-has first greeted
quant il fu devant li venus.
when he was before her come
La dame li rent son salus.
The lady him renders his greeting

Après les pucele salue;
After the maidens he-greets
et la dame par sa main nue.
and the lady by her hand bare
Et puis après se sont asis
And then after themselves they-are seated
sor le kuite de pale bis,
upon the quilt of silk gray
et les puceles d'autre part.
and the maidens on-other side
N'i a celi qui ne le gart,
Not-there is she who not him may-look-at
tant estoit biaus et bien apris.
so-much he-was fair and well taught
La dame l'a à raison pris,
The lady him-has to speech taken
se li dist: «Comment vos estoit?
so him she-said How to-you it-was
— «Madame, bien et mal menoit.
My-lady well and ill it-led
«Por vous ai soufert moult grant paine
For you I-have suffered very great pain
«or me doist Dius millor quinsaine,
now me may-give God better fortnight
«que cele que jo ai passée;
than that which I have passed
«car moult i ai paine endurée.
for much there I-have pain endured

«Tant le me convenra soufrir
So-much it me will-behoove to-suffer
«com il vos venra à plaisir.»
as it you will-come to pleasure
— «Avoi! fait la dame, biaus sire,
Come-now says the lady fair lord
«jà poriés vous bien mius me dire
already could you well better me say
«de coi vos poés vos doloir. 4295
of what you can you grieve
«Par moi n'est pas, je l'sai de voir:
By me not-it-is at-all I it-know of truth
«Mais vos me volés rengignier,
But you me wish to-trick
«com vos fesistes avant ier.
as you did before yesterday
«Et se je vostre amor perdoie,
And if I your love lost
«l'autre moult partant i perdroie. 4300
the-other much withal there I-would-lose
«Car vos en iriés ausi,»
For you thence would-go likewise
quant Giglains loï, si rogi,
when Guinglain it-heard so he-blushed
la face li devint vermelle;
the face him became red
s'en fu plus biaus, à grant mervelle;
so-thereof he-was more fair to great marvel

tant estoit biaus à demesure
so-much he-was fair beyond measure
qu'en tot le mont, tant com il dure,
that-in all the world as-long as it lasts
ne trovast on un chevalier
not would-find one a knight
ne qui tant fesist à proisier:
nor who so-much should-make to prize
sages et pros et cortois fu.
wise and valiant and courteous he-was
S'a à la dame respondu
So-has to the lady answered
moult bonement, au mius qu'il pot:
very kindly at-the best that-he could
«Dame, fait il, tant com vos plot,
Lady says he as-long as you it-pleased
«le m'avés fait cier conperer;
it me-you-have made dear pay
«que ne vauc congié demander,
that not I-wished leave to-ask
«quant je alai le secors faire.
when I went the succor to-make
«Ma doce dame debonaire,
My sweet lady gracious
«car vos prenge pitié de moi;
so you may-take pity of me
«car onques rien faire ne soi,
for ever anything to-do not I-knew
«s'il vos pléust, que ne fesisse,
if-it you pleased that not I-would-do

«et que merci ne vos quesisse.
and that mercy not of-you I-would-ask
«Mon cuer avés, ce est la voire:
My heart you-have this is the truth
«Et se ne me voliés croire,
And if not me you-wished to-believe
«amor m'en fera garantie;
love me-thereof will-make guarantee
«car je muir por vos, dame amie;
for I die for you lady love
«s'enfin de moi merci n'avés,
if-in-the-end of me mercy not-you-have
«enfin sui à la mort livrés.
in-the-end I-am to the death delivered
«Se vos n'atemprés ma dolor
If you not-temper my grief
«de la vostre doce savor!»
with the your sweet savor
La dame li fait un regart,
The lady him makes a look
et Giglains li, de l'autre part.
and Guinglain her on the-other side
A iols senblent les cuers andui.
By eyes seem the hearts both
Car la dame r'amait tant lui
For the lady loved-back so-much him
qu'ele ne l'pooit plus amer;
that-she not him-could more love
mais son cuer li voloit celer.
but her heart him she-wished to-hide

De bon cuer la dame l'amoit,
With good heart the lady him-loved
mais son corage li celoit.
but her heart him she-hid
Andoi s'entr'amoient forment.
Both each-other-loved greatly
Un cuer orent et un talent.
One heart they-had and one desire
Car plus l'uns por l'autre se deut.
For more the-one for the-other himself grieved
Qui ne fist Tristans por Yseut.
Than not did Tristan for Iseut

The Enchanted Night

XVI

She lodges him in the hall and forbids him her chamber, whose door she leaves open. At night he tries to go to her and twice finds himself in an enchantment. First he hangs from a plank over a torrent; then he holds up the palace's vaults. Each time the sergeants find him clinging to a sparrowhawk's perch or bearing his pillow. Then a maiden comes to lead him to the lady's bed, and they become lovers. The poet praises ladies and love.

Que vos iroie je contant?
What to-you should-go I telling
Moult furent bel et avenant.
Very they-were fair and comely
La dame esgarde son bel vis,
The lady looks-at his fair face
puis li a dit: «Li miens amis,
then him she-has said The my friend

«moult mar i fut vostre proece
very ill there was your prowess
«vostre sens et vostre largece,
your sense and your largesse
«qu'en vos n'a rien à amender,
for-in you not-there-is anything to amend
«fors tant que ne savés amer.
except so-much that not you-know to-love
«Mar fustes, quant ne le savés;
Ill you-were when not it you-know
«totes autres bontés avés
all other goodnesses you-have
«et je vos di en voir gehir:
and I you tell in truth to-confess
«Issi me puisse Dius merir
So me may God reward
«quan que me laist faire por lui,
whatever that me he-lets do for him
«plus vos aimasse que nului.
more you I-would-love than anyone
«Se vos içe faire saviés.
If you this to-do knew
«Mais or vos pri que vos soiés
But now you I-pray that you may-be
«caiens en cel palais o moi.
herein in this palace with me
«Car debonaire et franc vos voi,
For gracious and noble you I-see
«et je veul que soiés ça sus.
and I wish that you-may-be here up

«Car trop avés esté là jus.
For too-much you-have been there down
«Si fait ça sus plus bel manoir;
So it-makes here up more fair dwelling
«et mius vos en venra espoir.»
and better to-you thereof will-come perhaps
Atant a respondu Giglains,
At-that has answered Guinglain
ki ne fu ne fols, ni vilains:
who not was neither foolish nor churlish
«Dame, fait il, gabés me vos?
Lady says he mock me you
«Se je ço savoie à estros
If I this knew at once
«que de bon cuer le eussiés dit,
that with good heart it you-had said
«onques Dius cele rien ne fist
ever God that thing not made
«dont je serroie si joians,
of-which I would-be so joyful
«com serroie d'estre ceans.
as I-would-be of-being herein
«En tos les lius ù vos verroie
In all the places where you I-would-see
«saciés moult volentiers iroie,
know very willingly I-would-go
«k'aillors ne puisse joie avoir.
for-elsewhere not I-can joy have
«Dame, dites me vos dont voir?»
Lady tell me you then true

— «Oïl, sire, je ne gap mie.»
Yes lord I not mock at-all
Quant cil l'oï, si l'en mercie;
When he it-heard so her-thereof thanks
cele parole moult li plot,
that word very him pleased
dedens son cuer grant joie en ot.
within his heart great joy thereof he-had
Lors se sont d'ilueques torné.
Then themselves are from-there turned
Ens el palais s'en sont alé,
In in-the palace themselves-thence they-are gone
qui moult ert biaus et delitable.
which very was fair and delightful
Là faisoit on metre les tables,
There made one put the tables
car il estoit tans de souper.
for it was time of supper
Por laver font l'iauge crier;
For washing they-make the-water cry
si se sont au mangier asis.
so themselves they-are to-the eating seated
Pain et vin ont à table mis,
Bread and wine they-have on table put
de tot quanques mestier lor fu
of all whatever need them was
ont tot à lor voloir éu.
they-have all at their will had
Quant mangié orent à loisir,
When eaten they-had at leisure

à grant aise et à lor plaisir,
at great ease and at their pleasure
si sont des tables levés tuit.
so they-are from-the tables risen all
Grans pièce estoit jà de la nuit,
Great piece was already of the night
et tans estoit jà de coucier.
and time it-was already of lying-down
As ostels vont li chevalier
To-the lodgings go the knights
aval en la vile gesir.
down in the town to-lie
Or fu Giglains à son plaisir,
Now was Guinglain at his pleasure
ki de joste s'amie fu,
who of beside his-love was
qui el palais l'ot retenu.
who in-the palace him-had retained
Li uns li autre gabe et rit;
The one the other mocks and laughs
li canberlenc ont fait un lit,
the chamberlains have made a bed
à l'oes Giglan ens el palais.
for the-use (of-)Guinglain in in-the palace
Li lis ne fu mie mauvais
The bed not was at-all bad
tant i ot de pales gregois,
so-much there was of silks Greek
qu'à honor i géust un rois.
that-in honor there might-lie a king

Quant li sergant ont fait li lit,
When the sergeants have made the bed
si a la dame à Giglain dit:
so has the lady to Guinglain said
«Amis, en cest lit vos garois,
Friend in this bed you will-lie
«qu'à honor i giroit I rois:
that-in honor there would-lie a king
«N'en alés or pas, sor mon pois,
Not-thence go now at-all against my liking
«com vos fesistes autre fois;
as you did other time
«et je en ma cambre girai,
and I in my chamber shall-lie
«et l'uis trestout overt lairrai.
and the-door all open I-shall-leave
«Il ne serra mie à nuit clos.
It not will-be at-all at night shut
«Gardés que ne soiés tant os
Take-care that not you-be so bold
«que vos laiens à nuit alés:
that you therein at night go
«Sor mon desfens pas n'i entrés.
Upon my prohibition at-all not-there enter
«De l'uis est vostre lis si près,
From the-door is your bed so near
«gardés ne soiés tant engrès
take-care not you-be so eager
«que en ma cambre entrés à nuit;
that into my chamber you-enter at night

«paor me feriés vos, je cuic:
fear me would-make you I think
«Ne le faites sans mon commant.»
Not it do without my command
«Je m'en vais, à Diu vos commant.
I myself-thence go to God you I-commend
Giglains respont: «Dame, et je vos!»
Guinglain answers Lady and I you
Ensi departirent andos.
Thus parted both
La dame est en sa cambre entrée,
The lady is into her chamber entered
et cil l'a adés regardée,
and he her-has always looked-at
de tant comme véir le puet;
for so-much as see her he-can
onques de li ses iols ne muet.
ever from her his eyes not he-moves
Après s'est ens el lit couciés,
After himself-is in in-the bed laid
moult fu dolens et esmaiés;
very he-was grieving and dismayed
ne puet dormir, ne reposer,
not he-can sleep nor rest
viller l'estuet et retorner.
wake him-it-behooves and turn
Vers l'uis regarde moult souvent,
Toward the-door he-looks very often

savoir s'il verroit ensement
to-know if-he would-see likewise
la dame de sa cambre issir,
the lady from her chamber come-out
et à son lit à lui venir,
and to his bed to him come
si come ele fist autrefois.
so as she did another-time
Quant ne le vit, si fu destrois.
When not her he-saw so he-was distressed
Moult fu Giglains en grant ferfel;
Very was Guinglain in great torment
onques la nuit n'a pris somel.
ever the night not-has taken sleep
Mais à l'uis tot dis esgardoit,
But at the-door all days he-looked
qui tot overs adès estoit.
which all open always was
Souvent se levoit en estant,
Often himself he-raised in standing
et de l'entrer li prent talant;
and of the-entering him takes desire
puis se commence à porpenser
then himself he-begins to bethink
et à lui méisme esfréer:
and at him himself to-take-fright
«Dius, fait il, sire, que ferai?
God says he lord what I-shall-do
«Irai je, ou ci remanrai?
Shall-go I or here I-shall-remain

«Ma dame le m'a desfendu,
My lady it me-has forbidden
«et par sanblant ai je véu
and by seeming have I seen
«ele veut bien que je i aille.
she wishes well that I there may-go
«Se je remaing, je croi, sans faille,
If I remain I believe without fail
«que ne me tiegne à recréant.
that not me she-may-hold for recreant
«Dius! que ne sace son talant!»
God that not I-may-know her desire
Souvent se levoit por aler,
Often himself he-raised for to-go
et puis si se laissoit ester.
and then so himself he-let be
Vent et revent, si se remaint;
Comes and comes-again so himself remains
ens en son lit souvent se plaint,
in in his bed often himself complains
souvent disoit: «Or i irai;
often he-said Now there I-shall-go
«non ferai, voir — voir, si ferai!»
not I-shall-do truly truly so I-shall-do
Ensi le destraint et justise
Thus him constrains and governs
amors qui le maine en justise.
love which him leads in governance
Mais or ne laira qu'il n'i aut.
But now not he-will-leave that-he not-there go

Amors le destraint et asaut.
Love him constrains and assails
Atant s'est de son lit levés,
At-that himself-is from his bed risen
et d'un mantel est afublés;
and in-a mantle is wrapped
vers la cambre se vait sans bruit.
toward the chamber himself goes without noise
Là estoit près de mienuit.
There it-was near of midnight
Quant il quide en la cambre entrer,
When he thinks into the chamber to-enter
à l'uis ne pooit asener;
to the-door not he-could reach
sur une plance est vis qu'il soit;
upon a plank it-is seeming that-he be
une grant iaugue sos avoit,
a great water beneath there-was
rude et bruiant plus que tempeste.
rough and roaring more than tempest
Giglains à le plance s'areste,
Guinglain on the plank himself-stops
quant il ne pot avant aler,
when he not could forward go
n'arière ne puet retorner,
nor-back not can return
tant par estoit la plance estroite.
so very was the plank narrow
Moult desire et moult le convoite,
Much he-desires and much it covets

qu'il éust la plance passée,
that-he had the plank crossed
aval a l'iaue regardée,
down he-has the-water looked-at
qui si fait la plance croler,
which so makes the plank shake
qu'il ne se puet sor piés ester,
that-he not himself can on feet stand
ço li est vis qu'il caie jus:
this him is seeming that-he may-fall down
il se tient à deus mains desus.
he himself holds with two hands above
Et l'autre cors aval pendelle.
And the-other body down dangles
S'il a paor, ne m'en mervelle:
If-he has fear not me-thereof marvel
desous lui voit l'iaue bruiant!
beneath him he-sees the-water roaring
Les bras li vont afebloiant,
The arms him go weakening
perdre cuide tantost la vie.
lose he-thinks at-once the life
Au plus haut que il puet s'escrie:
At-the most high that he can himself-cries
«Signor, fait il, aidiés! aidiés!
Lords says he help help
«Por Diu, car je serai noiés;
For God for I shall-be drowned
«secorés moi, bone gens france!
succor me good folk noble

«Car je pent ci à une plance,
For I hang here on a plank
«ne je me puis mais retenir.
nor I myself can more hold
«Signor, ne m'i laissiés morir!»
Lords not me-there let die
Par le palais se lievent tuit,
Through the palace themselves raise all
li sergant, qui orent le bruit,
the sergeants who heard the noise
candoiles, cierges, ont espris;
candles tapers they-have lit
trovent Giglan qui si fu pris
they-find Guinglain who so was taken
à la perce d'un esprevier;
on the perch of-a sparrowhawk
si avoit paor de noier.
so he-had fear of drowning
A la perce as mains se tenoit
On the perch with-the hands himself he-held
li autres cors aval pendoit.
the other body down hung
Dès qu'il ot véus les sergans,
As-soon-as he had seen the sergeants
s'en fu alés l'encantemans.
itself-thence was gone the-enchantment
Giglains s'est d'ilueques partis,
Guinglain himself-is from-there parted
tos vergondés et esbahis.
all shamed and dumbfounded

En son lit s'i est retornés,
Into his bed himself-there he-is returned
si s'est couciés trestos lassés.
so himself-is laid all weary
Moult en ot grant honte et grant ire;
Very thereof he-had great shame and great wrath
les sergans voit juer et rire
the sergeants he-sees play and laugh
de ço que il orent véu;
of this that they had seen
bien sot qu'il enfaumantés fu.
well he-knew that-he enchanted was
De vergoigne mot ne lor dist;
For shame word not them he-said
en son lit nient en pais se gist.
in his bed not-at-all in peace himself lies
Li sergant se vont recoucier
The sergeants themselves go to-lie-down-again
Giglains si a pris à villier,
Guinglain so has taken to wake
qui d'amors fu en grant torment;
who of-love was in great torment
il ne se repose de nient
he not himself rests in anything
saciés que moult est esmaiés
know that very he-is dismayed
de ce que tant est travilliés.
of this that so-much he-is wearied
De l'amor la dame li mambre,
Of the-love (of-)the lady him remembers

et puis regarde vers sa cambre:
and then he-looks toward her chamber
«Ha Dius! fait-il, qu'ai je véu?
Ah God says-he what-have I seen
«Quels cose est ce que j'ai éu?
What thing is this that I-have had
«Je cuic que c'est fantomerie.
I think that it-is phantasm
«Bien sai que caiens est m'amie,
Well I-know that herein is my-love
«qui cest mal me fait endurer,
who this ill me makes endure
«ke ne vais je à li parler?
why not go I to her to-speak
«Se devoie perdre la vie
If I-were-to lose the life
«ne l'deveroie laissier mie,
not it-I-ought leave at-all
«à l'angoisse que je en ai,
for the-anguish that I thereof have
«que la revoïsse ù je sai.
that her I-should-see-again where I know
«Que n'i vais je dont, las caitis!
Why not-there go I then wretched captive
«Voire! car moult me est bien pris
Truly for very me it-is well taken
«de ço c'orendroit i alai!
of this that-now there I-went
«Tot vergondés m'en retornai.
All shamed myself-thence I-returned

«Mult sui or fols, quant içо di
Very I-am now foolish when this I-say
«que ço fu songes que je vi.
that this was dream which I saw
«Por ço ne doi je pas laissier
For this not must I at-all leave
«qu'encore n'i voisse asaier.
that-yet not-there I-may-go to-try
«Se je poroie à li parler;
If I could to her speak
«ausi ne puis je adurer.»
likewise not can I endure
De l'aler a moult grant talant;
Of the-going he-has very great desire
moult va la cambre regardant.
much he-goes the chamber looking-at
Amors del corage li donne
Love of-the heart him gives
que il d'aler s'en abandonne.
that he of-going himself-thereof abandons
Quant les sergans endormi vit,
When the sergeants asleep he-saw
moult tost se lieve de son lit,
very quickly himself he-raises from his bed
vers la canbre s'en vait tot droit.
toward the chamber himself-thence he-goes all straight
Dont li est vis qu'il soustenoit
Then him is seeming that-he sustained
totes les vautes de la sale.
all the vaults of the hall

Moult li est ceste amie male,
Very him is this love evil
tel mal li fait et tel angoisse,
such ill him it-makes and such anguish
ce li est vis les os li froisse
this him is seeming the bones him it-crushes
li grans fais qui sor li estoit;
the great burden which upon him was
à poi li cuers ne li partoit.
by little the heart not him burst
En si haut com il pot hucier
In so high as he could shout
cria qu'on li venist aidier:
he-cried that-one him should-come to-help
«Signor, fait il, aiue! aiue!
Lords says he help help
«Bone gens, qu'estes devenue?
Good folk what-are-you become
«Sor lo col me gist cis palais;
Upon the neck me lies this palace
«ne puis plus soustenir cest fais:
not I-can more sustain this burden
«A mort je cuic serrai grevés,
To death I think I-shall-be grieved
«se de venir ne vos hastés!»
if of coming not you hasten
Lors se relievent maintenant;
Then themselves raise-again at-once
cierges ont espris li sergant:
tapers have lit the sergeants

Giglain ont trové, com fol,
Guinglain they-have found as fool
son orillier de seur son col;
his pillow from upon his neck
et si n'avoit autre besoingne.
and so not-had other trouble
Quant il les vit, si ot vergoigne.
When he them saw so he-had shame
Jus jete le plus tost qu'il pot
Down he-throws the most soon that-he could
l'orillier, si ne sonna mot,
the-pillow so not sounded word
ne les sergans pas n'araisonne;
nor the sergeants at-all not-addresses
de nule rien mot ne lor sonne,
of any thing word not them sounds
son cief a enbrucié en bas,
his head he-has bowed in low
puis s'est couciés en eslés pas
then himself-is laid in that-very step
ens en son lit tos esmaris,
in in his bed all distressed
et de honte tos esbahis.
and with shame all dumbfounded
Amors le destraint et tormente;
Love him constrains and torments
à lui méisme se demente.
to him himself himself laments
«Ha las! fait il, com fière cose!
Ah alas says he how fierce thing

«Bien voi, la cambre n'est pas close,
Well I-see the chamber not-is at-all closed
«et si n'en puis entrer dedens.
and so not-thereinto I-can enter within
«Je cuic ço est encantemens,
I think this is enchantment
«qui caens est en cest palais.
which herein is in this palace
«Vergondés sui, à tos jors mais.
Shamed I-am to all days more
«Moult par sui laidement traïs.
Very much I-am foully betrayed
«Dius! por coi sui je si hardis?
God for what am I so bold
«Ja m'avoit desfendu m'amie
Already me-had forbidden my-love
«que je por rien n'entrasse mie:
that I for anything not-should-enter at-all
«Sor son defois le cuidai faire;
Upon her prohibition it I-thought to-do
«mais torné m'est à grant contraire.
but turned me-it-is to great contrary
«Tels cuide bien faire, qui faut.
Such-a-one thinks well to-do who fails
«Or sai que penser: Petit vaut
Now I-know what to-think Little is-worth
«c'a fait mes fals cuers? sen n'i ot,
what-has done my false heart sense not-there was
«qui tant par est contrarios.
which so very is contrary

«Li penser qui dedens est clos
The thought which within is enclosed
«ne puet avoir bien, ne repos.
not can have good nor rest
«II hontes m'a jà fait recoivre:
Two shames me-has already made receive
«Encor se l'en voloie croire
Yet if it-thereof I-wished to-believe
«me feroit la tierce sentir!
me it-would-make the third feel
«Mais mius me lairoie morir,
But better myself I-would-let die
«que mès a nuit por rien i aille.
than more at night for anything there I-go
«Bien sai que je feroie faille.
Well I-know that I would-make fault
«II hontes me vaut mius avoir,
Two shames me is-worth better to-have
«que III, ne IIII recevoir!»
than three nor four to-receive
Bien dist que jà plus n'i ira.
Well he-said that ever more not-there he-will-go
Vers l'uis de la cambre garda
Toward the-door of the chamber he-looked
et vit venir une pucele,
and saw come a maiden
gente de cors et de vis bele,
noble of body and of face fair
ele portoit I cierge espris;
she carried a taper lit

en son puign destre l'avait mis.
in her fist right it-she-had put
Fors de la cambre estoit issue,
Out of the chamber she-was come-out
si est au lit Giglan venue.
so she-is to-the bed (of-)Guinglain come
Le covertor I petit tire,
The coverlet a little she-draws
puis li a dit: «Dormés vos, sire?»
then him she-has said Sleep you lord
Giglains respont, quant l'ot véue:
Guinglain answers when her-he-had seen
«Pucele, bien soiés venue!
Maiden well you-be come
«Ja ne dorc mie: que vos plaist?»
Ever not I-sleep at-all what you pleases
— «Bien sai que grans joie vos naist:
Well I-know that great joy to-you is-born
«Ma dame çà à vos m'envoie,
My lady hither to you me-sends
«qui talent a qu'ele vos voie.
who desire has that-she you may-see
«Par mei vos mande parlement;
By me to-you she-sends parley
«dedens sa canbre vos atent.
within her chamber you she-awaits
«Bials sire, alés parler à li;
Fair lord go speak to her
«k'ele vos tient à son ami.»
for-she you holds as her friend

— «Pucele, fait il, est ce songes?
Maiden says he is this dream
«Or me servés vos de mençonges?»
Now me serve you with lies
— «Ahi, sire, fait la pucele,
Ah lord says the maiden
«jà vos metrai es bras la bele,
already you I-shall-put in-the arms the fair-one
«que vos tenés por vostre amie;
whom you hold for your love
«si sacés que je n'i ment mie.
so know that I not-therein lie at-all
«Cest songe ferai je à veir.
This dream shall-make I to true
«Venés à ma dame parler.»
Come to my lady to-speak
Quant Giglains l'ot, mult li fu bel.
When Guinglain it-heard very him was fair
Il afubla I grant mantel,
He wrapped-on a great mantle
del lit sali, à moult grant joie,
from-the bed he-leapt with very great joy
qu'il cuide que s'amie voie.
for-he thinks that his-love he-may-see
«Bele, fait il, alons, alons!
Fair-one says he let-us-go let-us-go
«Doce suer, trop i delaions.
Sweet sister too-much there we-delay
«France cose, ne demorés,
Noble thing not delay

«cest petit pas pri que doublés!»
this little pace I-pray that you-double
Et la pucele après s'en rist,
And the maiden after herself-thereof laughed
et adonc par le main le prist.
and then by the hand him took
Atant par le canbre s'en vont;
At-that through the chamber themselves-thence they-go
très parmi l'uis trové il l'ont.
right through the-door found they it-have
Quant en la canbre entré sont,
When into the chamber entered they-are
tot maintenant trové i ont,
all at-once found there they-have
une si très douce flairor,
a so very sweet fragrance
dont asés mius valoit l'odor
of-which much better was-worth the-scent
k'encens, ne pètre, ne canele;
than-incense nor pellitory nor cinnamon
tant i avoit de bone odor,
so-much there there-was of good scent
que qui éust mal ne dolor,
that who should-have ill or grief
s'un petit i péust ester,
if-a little there he-could stay
lues se péust tot sain trover.
at-once himself he-could all sound find
Laiens avoit cierges espris;
Therein there-were tapers lit

la canbre sanbloit paradis.
the chamber seemed paradise
Asés i ot argent et or,
Plenty there was silver and gold
de tos biens i ot grant tresor.
of all goods there was great treasure
Parée fu de dras de soie
Adorned it-was with cloths of silk
de mult cier pris. Que vos diroie?
of very costly price What to-you I-would-tell
Mais moult en i ot de divers,
But very thereof there were of diverse
bofus, tois, osterines, pers,
bofus tois purple-silks blue
tires, pales et siglatons
tiretaines silks and ciclatons
i ot de moult maintes fassons,
there were of very many fashions
dyapes et bons bogeraus;
diapers and good bougerans
* * *
(lacuna)
Moult par estoit la canbre noble.
Very much was the chamber noble
D'un pale de Constantinoble
With-a silk of Constantinople
estoit desus encortinée;
it-was above curtained
et desous ert tote pavée.
and beneath it-was all paved

Esmeraudes, safirs eslis,
Emeralds sapphires choice
et caldonies, et rubis,
and chalcedonies and rubies
il i ot de maintes colors.
it there had of many colors
Li pavement fu fait à flors,
The pavement was made with flowers
à images et à oisials.
with images and with birds
Tant fu bien fait et tant fu bials,
So-much it-was well made and so-much was fair
qu'en tot le mont, ne en la mer,
that-in all the world nor in the sea
jà nus hom ne poroit trover
ever any man not could find
poisson, beste, n'oisel volant
fish beast nor-bird flying
ne fust ouvrés el pavement.
not were worked in-the pavement
La dame se gist en son lit
The lady herself lies in her bed
onques cuis hom plus bel ne vit.
ever I-think man more fair not saw
Bien vos diroie la fasson
Well to-you I-would-tell the fashion
sans mentir et sans mesproisson.
without lying and without misprision
Mais por sa grant joie conter,
But for her great joy to-tell

que moult en avoit grant mestier,
which very thereof had great need
ne le veul entendre et descrire;
not it I-wish to-attend and to-describe
que trop me costeroit à dire.
for too-much me it-would-cost to say
La pucele tint par la main
The maiden held by the hand
et maine dusqu'al lit Giglain.
and leads as-far-as-to-the bed Guinglain
Tant que il i sont parvenu.
Until that they there are arrived
La pucele cortoise fu,
The maiden courteous was
s'a mise sa dame a raison:
so-has put her lady to speech
Vées ci, Dame, le baron
See here Lady the baron
«que je vos ai ci amené;
whom I to-you have here brought
«un petit de sa volonté
a little of his will
«li faites por l'amor de moi:
to-him do for the-love of me
«Gardés le bien à bone foi.»
Keep him well in good faith
La dame respont maintenant:
The lady answers at-once

«Damoisele, vostre commant
Damsel your command
«ferai, por l'amor c'ai à vos;
I-shall-do for the-love that-I-have to you
«alés vos ent, laissiés le nos.»
go yourself thence leave him to-us
— «Or tenés dont, je le vos rent.» 4705
Now hold then I him to-you render
La dame par le main le prent
The lady by the hand him takes
et cil s'est dalès lui cociés.
and he himself-is beside her laid
Ainc mais ne fu nus hom si liés.
Ever before not was any man so glad
Et Giglains quant il fu el lit,
And Guinglain when he was in-the bed
desor ara de son delit. 4710
henceforth will-have of his delight
Ensanble li amant se jurent.
Together the lovers themselves lay
Quant il furent ensenble et jurent,
When they were together and lay
molt docement andoi s'enbracent;
very sweetly both each-other-embrace
les levres des bouces s'enlacent;
the lips of-the mouths each-other-entwine
li uns à l'autre son droit rent; 4715
the one to the-other his due renders
fors de baiser n'orent content;
except of kissing not-they-had contention

et cascuns en voloit plus faire
and each thereof wished more to-do
de baiser dont son cuer esclaire.
of kissing whereby his heart brightens
As baisers qu'il firent d'amors
In-the kisses that-they made of-love
del cuer se traient les dolors.
from-the heart themselves draw the griefs
Et si les aboivrent de joie.
And so them they-drench with joy
Amors les mainne bone voie,
Love them leads good way
les oils tornent à esgarder;
the eyes they-turn to looking
les bras metent à acoler,
the arms they-put to embracing
le cuers s'atornent al voloir.
the hearts themselves-turn to-the willing
L'uns velt de l'autre près manoir;
The-one wishes from the-other near to-dwell
por l'amor qu'entr'els II estoit
for the-love which-between-them two was
veut l'uns ço que l'autres voloit.
wishes the-one this that the-other wished
Je ne sai s'il le fist s'amie,
I not know if-he it did to-his-love
car n'i fu pas, ne l'en vi mie;
for not-there I-was at-all not it-thereof I-saw at-all

mais non de pucele perdi
but name of maiden lost
la dame dalès son ami.
the lady beside her friend
Cele nuit restoré se sont
That night restored themselves they-are
de quanques il demoré ont.
of whatever they delayed have
Or a Giglains ce que il volt,
Now has Guinglain this that he wished
qu'il tient ce dont doloir se solt;
for-he holds that of-which to-grieve himself he-was-wont
n'ele ne s'esmaie de rien;
nor-she not herself-dismays of anything
car à gré prent tot ses jus bien;
for at will she-takes all his games well
de tos les mals est le contraire
of all the ills it-is the contrary
c'amors a fait à Giglain traire;
that-love has made to Guinglain suffer
iluec le guerredon li rent.
there the reward him it-renders
Por ço d'amors ne m'en repent
For this of-love not me-thereof I-repent
que desloiauté n'i falt mie
for disloyalty not-there fails at-all
et vers amors, ne vers m'amie:
both toward love and toward my-love

en un jour me puet bien merir
in one day me can well reward
plus que je ne puis jà deservir.
more than I — can ever deserve
Moult doit on cele rien amer
Much must one that thing love
qui si tost puet joie doner.
which so quickly can joy give
Cil ki les dames servir veut
He who the ladies to-serve wishes
s'il tot I termine se deut,
if-he all a term himself grieves
por ce ne s'en retraie mie;
for this not himself-thence let-him-withdraw at-all
que dames ont tel signorie
for ladies have such lordship
que quant veulent guerredoner,
that when they-wish to-reward
si font le travail oblier,
so they-make the toil forget
que il aura lonc tans éu.
which he will-have long time had
Dius les fist de si grant vertu,
God them made of so great virtue
de tos bien les forma et fist
of all good them he-formed and made
et biautés à eles eslit;
and beauties for them chose

et Dius nos vaut, je cuic, former
and God us wished I think to-form
por eles toutes honerer
for them all to-honor
et por lor comandement faire.
and for their command to-do
Por ce est fals qui s'en veut traire;
For this is false who himself-thence wishes to-draw
que des dames tos les biens meut;
for from-the ladies all the goods move
fols est qui aveir ne les veut.
foolish is who to-have not them wishes
Dius qui sire est lor amaint joie!
God who lord is them may-bring joy
Doucement li prie qu'il m'oie.
Sweetly him I-pray that-he me-may-hear
Et cels qui sont mal diséor
And those who are evil speakers
des dames et de fine amor,
of-the ladies and of fine love
maudie Dius et sa vertus
may-curse God and his power
et de parler les face mus!
and from speaking them may-make mute
Car à cele ovre que il font
For by that work which they do
demostrent bien de coi i sont,
they-show well of what they are
qui tant se painent de mentir.
who so-much themselves take-pains of lying

Ha Dius! arai je mon plaisir
Ah God shall-have I my pleasure
de cele que je aime tant?
of her whom I love so-much
De Giglain vos dirai avant.
Of Guinglain to-you I-shall-tell forward
Il avoit joie en sa baillie;
He had joy in his keeping
entre ses bras avoit sa mie
between his arms he-had his love
que il souvent acole et baise;
whom he often embraces and kisses
moult estoit à joie et à aise.
very he-was at joy and at ease

The Lovers

XVII

Guinglain laughs, remembering the enchantments, which the lady says punished his leaving. She learned the seven arts from her father, loved him before he was a knight, sent Hélie to Arthur, and was the voice that told him his name. Scorning her counsel will lose her; he swears obedience. Her barons accept him as lord.

Giglain souvient de l'orillier
Guinglain remembers of the-pillow
et de la perce, à l'espervier:
and of the perch of the-sparrowhawk
ù tel paor éu avoit.
where such fear had had

Mervelle soi que ço estoit.
He-marvels himself what this was
Quant il l'enprist à souvenir,
When he it-took to remember
de rire ne se puet tenir.
from laughing not himself he-can hold
Quant la dame en rire le vit,
When the lady in laughing him saw
se li a tot maintenant dit:
so him she-has all at-once said
«Dites le moi, fait ele, amis,
Tell it me says she friend
«por quel cose vos avés ris.
for what thing you have laughed
«Ri avés, je ne sais por coi:
Laughed you-have I not know for what
«Biaus ciers amis, dites le moi.
Fair dear friend tell it me
«Moi ne l'devés vos celer mie.»
From-me not it-must you hide at-all
Cil li respont: «Ma douce amie,
He her answers My sweet love
«certes j'ai ris de la mervelle.
certainly I-have laughed at the marvel
«Onques nus hom n'ot sa parelle.
Ever any man not-had its equal
«En cest palais, à mie nuit,
In this palace at mid night
«quant endormi se furent tuit;
when asleep themselves were all

«et je en mon lit me gisoie
and I in my bed myself lay
«si angoissés, que ne pooie
so anguished that not I-could
«ne me reposer, ne dormir,
neither myself rest nor sleep
«si me fist vostre amor fremir,
so me made your love tremble
«et tant torner et retorner,
and so-much turn and turn-again
«si me fist de mon lit verser;
so me it-made from my bed tumble
«por avenir à vos me mui:
for to-arrive to you myself I-moved
«Mais jo si enfaumantés fui,
But I so enchanted was
«ne sai se fu encantemens;
not I-know if it-was enchantment
«mais quant je vos entrer laens,
but when I wished to-enter therein
«si me trovai sor une plance.
so myself I-found upon a plank
«De sus coroit I iaugue blance
From above ran a water white
«qui mult bruians et corans ert.
which very roaring and running was
«Là chaï je, en tel maniert,
There fell I in such manner
«qu'à le plance me pris as mains.
that-to the plank myself I-took with-the hands

«De chaïr fui trestos certains.
Of falling I-was all certain
«Grant paor de chaïr i eus.
Great fear of falling there I-had
«Tos les sergans fis lever sus,
All the sergeants I-made rise up
«por moi et secourre et aidier:
for me both to-succor and to-help
«A la perce d'un esprevier
On the perch of-a sparrowhawk
«me trovèrent, si me tenoie,
me they-found so myself I-held
«autre besoigne n'i avoie.
other trouble not-there I-had
«Puis me vint I autre aventure,
Then me came an other adventure
«ki plus pesans me fu et dure;
which more heavy me was and hard
«moult grant angoisse i endurai.
very great anguish there I-endured
«L'aventure vos en dirai,
The-adventure to-you thereof I-shall-tell
«que paines i asés éu.
for pains there plenty I-had
«Dame, savés vos que ce fu?
Lady know you what this was
«Dites le moi, se vos savés;
Tell it me if you know
«car moult furent tuit encantés.»
for very were all enchanted

— «Amis, fait ele, bien le sai;
Friend says she well it I-know
«l'aventure vos en dirai.
the-adventure to-you thereof I-shall-tell
«Ceste paine vos ai je faite,
This pain to-you have I made
«que vos avés ici grant traite,
which you have here great drawn
«por la honte que me fesistes
for the shame which me you-did
«que vos issi de moi partistes;
that you thus from me departed
«et por ce vos ai cele fait,
and for this to-you I-have that done
«je vo le di tot entresait,
I to-you it tell all certainly
«que vos en gardés à tos jors
that you thereof may-guard at all days
«que ne soiés tant fols ne ors
that not you-may-be so foolish nor foul
«que dames volliés escarnir.
that ladies you-may-wish to-mock
«Car vos n'en poés pas joïr.
For you not-thereof can at-all enjoy
«Car cil qui dames traïra
For he who ladies will-betray
«hontes et mals l'en avenra.
shames and ills him-thereof will-come
«Por ce dès or vos en gardés.
For this from now yourself thereof guard

«Or vos dirai, se vos cuidés,
Now to-you I-shall-tell if you think
«en quele maniere et comment
in what manner and how
«je sai faire le cantement.
I know to-make the enchantment
«Mes pere fu moult rices rois,
My father was very rich king
«qui moult fu sages et cortois,
who very was wise and courteous
«onques n'ot oir ne mais que moi;
ever not-had heir nor more than me
«si m'ama tant en bone foi,
so me-be-loved so-much in good faith
«que les VII mos me fist aprendre,
that the seven arts me be-made learn
«tant que totes les soc entendre;
so-much that all them I-knew understand
«arimetiche, dyometrie,
arithmetic geometry
«nigremance, et astrenomie,
necromancy and astronomy
«et des autres asés apris.
and of-the others enough learned
«Tant i fu mes cuers ententis,
So-much there was my heart intent
«que bien soc prendre mon consel,
that well I-knew-how to-take my counsel
«et à la lune et au solel.
both by the moon and by-the sun

«Si sai tos encantemens faire,
So I-know all enchantments to-make
«deviner et connoistre en l'aire
to-divine and to-know in the-air
«quanques dou mois puet avenir.
whatever of-the month can happen
«De vos seu je bien, sans faillir,
Of you knew I well without failing
«quant vos ci venistes l'autre ier
when you here came the-other day
«que vos n'i vauriés delaier.
that you not-there would-wish to-delay
«Bien soc que vos vos en iriés.
Well I-knew that you yourself thence would-go
«Se je voloie resteriés:
If I wished you-would-remain
«Mais je ne l'vausisse por rien,
But I not it-would-have-wished for anything
«por ce que je savoie bien
for this that I knew well
«que vos parferiés tot l'afaire,
that you would-accomplish all the-affair
«bien savoc que vos la poriés faire,
well I-knew that you it could do
«si que los vos en avenroit;
so that praise to-you thereof would-come

«et mes corages bien savoit
and my heart well knew
«que au plus tost que vos poriés
that at-the most soon that you could
«por moi ariere revenriés.
for me back you-would-come-again
«Trestout ce so je par mon sens:
All this knew I by my sense
«Et saciés que moult a lonc tens
And know that very there-is long time
«qu'amer vos commençai premiers,
that-to-love you I-began first
«ains que vos fuissiés chevaliers,
before that you were knight
«vos amai je, car bien le soi,
you loved I for well it I-knew
«qu'en le maisnie Artur le roi
that-in the household (of-)Arthur the king
«n'en avoit I millor vasal
not-there had a better vassal
«fors vostre pere le loial.
except your father the loyal
«Por ce vos amai je forment,
For this you loved I greatly
«ciés vostre mère moult sovent,
at-the-house-of your mother very often
«aloie je por vos véir;
went I for you to-see
«mais nus ne m'en fesist issir.
but anyone not me-thence made go-out

«Votre mere vos adoba
Your mother you dubbed
«au roi Artur vos envoia,
to-the king Arthur you sent
«et si vos commanda très bien
and so you commanded very well
«qu'au roi demandissiés del sien,
that-of-the king you-should-ask of-the his
«le don comment que il fu cier,
the gift however that it were dear
«que vos li querriés li premier.
that you of-him would-ask the first
«Ce so je tot premierement
This knew I all first
«l'avanture certainement
the-adventure certainly
«que vos avés ici trovée;
which you have here found
«et tote vostre destinée
and all your destiny
«je resavoie, par mon sens,
I knew-also by my sense
«qu'à la cort vos venriés par ans.
that-to the court you would-come by years
«Biaus amis, certes je sui cele
Fair friend certainly I am she
«qui fis savoir à la pucele
who made know to the maiden
«qui estoit apelée Helie
who was called Hélie

«qu'à la cort alast querre aïe,
that-to the court she-should-go to-seek help
«por sa dame, à Artur le roi;
for her lady to Arthur the king
«que certaine fui endroit moi
for certain I-was in myself
«que vos i querrirés le don
that you there would-ask the gift
«d'oster la dame de prison.
of-taking the lady from prison
«De tot mon pooir i aidai,
With all my power therein I-helped
«por ce que je moult vos amai;
for this that I very you loved
«et si sui cele, biaus amis,
and so I-am she fair friend
«quant éustes Mabon ocis
when you-had Mabon killed
«et quant le fier baiser fesistes,
and when the fearsome kiss you-did
«la vois que vos après oïstes,
the voice that you after heard
«qui vostre non vos fist savoir,
which your name to-you made know
«ce fu je, biaus amis, por voir,
this was I fair friend for true
«por vos faire souef ester
for you to-make softly stay
«dormir et la nuit reposer;
sleep and the night rest

«puis fis savoir par la contrée
then I-made know through the country
«que lor dame estoit delivrée.
that their lady was delivered
«Saciés moult me sui entremise
Know very myself I-am busied
«en tot sanblans, en tot servise,
in all seemings in all service
«comment avoir je vos péusse,
how have I you might
«ne comment vostre amie fusse.
nor how your love I-might-be
«Or vos ai je, Dius en ait los!
Now you have I God thereof may-have praise
«Dès or mais serrons à repos,
From now more we-shall-be at rest
«entre moi et vos, sans grant plait;
between me and you without great dispute
«et saciés bien tot entresait,
and know well all certainly
«que tant que croire me vaurés
that so-much that to-believe me you-will-wish
«ne vaurés rien que vos n'aiés.
not you-will-wish anything that you not-may-have
«Et quant mon consel ne croirés
And when my counsel not you-will-believe
«ce saciés bien, lors me perdrés!»
this know well then me you-will-lose
— «Taisiés vos, Dame, cil respont;
Be-silent you Lady he answers

«por tot l'avoir qui est el mont,
for all the-wealth which is in-the world
«ne por del cors perdre la vie,
nor for of-the body to-lose the life
«ne feroie si grant folie,
not I-would-do so great folly
«que de vo commandement isse,
that from your commandment I-should-go-out
«ne jamais anui vos fesisse.»
nor ever harm to-you I-should-do
A tant ont lor raison finée.
At that they-have their speech ended
Au main, quant l'aube fu crevée,
At-the morning when the-dawn was broken
li saint sonnent au grant mostier;
the bells ring at-the great minster
tuit sont levé li chevalier.
all are risen the knights
Giglains s'est levés et s'amie;
Guinglain himself-is risen and his-love
au mostier de Sainte-Marie
to-the minster of Saint-Mary
s'en alerent andoi orer;
themselves-thence went both to-pray
la dame fist messe canter.
the lady made mass sing
Quant la messe cantée fu
When the mass sung was
si se sont el palais venu,
so themselves they-are to-the palace come

et la dame a partot tramis
and the lady has everywhere sent
as dus, as contes, as marcis,
to-the dukes to-the counts to-the marquises
que il vienent à la cort tuit,
that they may-come to the court all
à lor léece, à lor deduit;
to their gladness to their delight
car son amì a recovré
for her friend she-has recovered
que ele avoit tant desiré.
whom she had so-much desired
Quant venu furent li baron,
When come were the barons
la dame lor dist sa raison;
the lady them told her speech
«Signor, fait ele, or escoutés:
Lords says she now hear
«Cil chevaliers, que vos veés,
This knight whom you see
«cest cil cui tant ai desiré.
this-is he whom so-much I-have desired
«Qui moult m'aura servi à gré,
Who very me-will-have served at will
«si soit engrès de lui servir,
so let-him-be eager of him to-serve
«et de faire tuit son plaisir.
and of doing all his pleasure

«Car c'est li chevaliers el monde
For this-is the knight in-the world
«en cui grande proèce abonde.
in whom great prowess abounds
«Je veul que faciés son commant.»
I wish that you-do his command
Cil respondent communaument
They answer in-common
que il li feront grant honor, 4965
that they him will-do great honor
et que le tenront à signor.
and that him they-will-hold as lord

Blonde Esmerée at Court

XVIII

Blonde Esmerée rides to Arthur with four knights the Unknown defeated as his prisoners. At London she thanks Arthur, tells him the Unknown is Guinglain, Gawain's son, and asks for him as husband. On Amangon's counsel Arthur proclaims a tourney at the Castle of Maidens to draw him out. On the Isle of Gold Guinglain resolves to go, though his lady warns he will lose her.

Or fu Giglains de joie sire;
Now was Guinglain of joy lord
tot ot quanques ses cuers desire.
all he-had whatever his heart desires
Or dirons de Blonde Esmerée,
Now we-shall-tell of Blonde Esmerée

qui mut de Gales la contrée
who set-out from Wales the country
et s'en vait à la cort Artus.
and herself-thence goes to the court (of-)Arthur
Quatre jornées, voire plus,
Four days'-journeys indeed more
avoit chevauché la roïne.
had ridden the queen
Quant à l'issir d'une gaudine
When at the-going-out of-a woodland
a trové IIII chevaliers,
she-has found four knights
sor lor palefrois, sans destriers.
upon their palfreys without chargers
Escus ne armes ne portoient;
Shields nor arms not they-carried
tot nu vers la cort en aloient;
all bare toward the court thence they-went
espreviers portoient mués,
sparrowhawks they-carried molted
que jà plus biaus ne demandés.
that ever more fair not you-may-ask
Quant la roïne atains les a,
When the queen overtaken them has
tos ensenble les salua,
all together them she-greeted
et cil son salu li rendirent,
and they her greeting her returned
et à tos cels qui aveuc virent.
and to all those whom with-her they-saw

Ele les a araisonnés:
She them has addressed
«Signor, fait ele, dont venés?
Lords says she whence you-come
«Qui est dont estes savoir vuel.
Who is whence you-are to-know I-wish
«Si ne demant por nul orguel.»
So not I-ask for any pride
Cil ont la dame respondu:
They have the lady answered
«Dame, nos soumes ci venu,
Lady we are here come
«qu'à la cort Artur en irons.
for-to the court (of-)Arthur thence we-shall-go
«Car ains fiancé nos l'avons.
For before pledged we it-have
«Por prisons nos i covient tendre,
As prisoners us there it-behooves to-head
«fiancé l'avons à atendre.
pledged it-we-have to wait
«Cascuns de nos fiancé l'a
Each of us pledged it-has
«à un chevalier qui ala
to a knight who went
«por delivrer une pucele;
for to-deliver a maiden
«li biaus Desconnéus s'apele.
the fair Unknown himself-calls
«En bataille nos a conquis;
In battle us he-has conquered

«nos ne soumes pas du païs.
we not are at-all of-the country
«Trové nos soumes el chemin,
Found ourselves we-are on-the road
«trestot IIII très ier matin;
all four very yesterday morning
«et nos vos avons ci trovée.
and we you have here found
«Dont estes vos, de quel contrée?»
Whence are you of what country
— «Par Diu del ciel, signor, fait ele,
By God of-the heaven lords says she
«sachiés, por voir, que je sui cele
know for true that I am she
«que cil aloit por delivrer,
whom he went for to-deliver
«qui en prison vos fait aler;
who into prison you makes go
«estorse m'a, par grant vigor,
rescued me-he-has by great vigor
«et par proece et par valor.
and by prowess and by valor
«Bons chevaliers ert et séurs,
Good knight he-was and sure
«et en bataille fors et durs.
and in battle strong and hard
«Mais il n'est pas à droit només
But he not-is at-all by right named
«par cel non que vos l'apelés.
by that name that you him-call

«En batesme il a non Giglains:
In baptism he has name Guinglain
«Ses peres est li bons Gauvains.
His father is the good Gawain
«A la cort me commande aler
To the court me he-commands to-go
«por le roi Artu mercier,
for the king Arthur to-thank
«de ço que il rescossé m'a.
of this that he rescued me-has
«Li rois, ce dist, li envoia;
The king this said him sent
«por ce l'en veut faire l'onor,
for this him-thereof he-wishes to-do the-honor
«que il le tient à son signor.
for he him holds as his lord
«Il doit à la cort repairier,
He must to the court return
«se Dius le garde d'encombrier.
if God him guards from-ill-luck
«Il est ne sai quel part tornés,
He is not I-know what side turned
«liée sui quant vos ai trovés.
glad I-am when you I-have found
«Or irons à la cort ensanble
Now we-shall-go to the court together
«preudome estes, si com moi sanble.»
worthy-men you-are so as me seems

Cil respondent: «Vostre voloir
They answer Your will
«ferons, dame, à nostre pooir.»
we-shall-do lady to our power
Dès or se metent à la voie.
From now themselves they-put to the way
La roïne fait moult grant joie.
The queen makes very great joy
De ce qu'a trové les prisons.
Of this that-she-has found the prisoners
Bien vos dirai de tos les nons.
Well to-you I-shall-tell of all the names
Li uns est Blioblieris,
The one is Bliobleheris
qui preus estoit et bien apris;
who valiant was and well taught
li autres fu des Aies sire,
the other was of-the Aies lord
del tiert vos sai bien le non dire:
of-the third to-you I-know well the name to-tell
l'Orguillous de la Lande fu,
the-Proud-One of the Heath he-was
qui maint chevalier a vencu.
who many-a knight has vanquished
Li quars fu Giflès, le fils d'Eu;
The fourth was Giflet the son of-Do
moult estoient tot IIII preu.
very were all four valiant

Or chevaucent tot une plaigne,
Now they-ride all a plain
tot le droit chemin vers Bretaigne.
all the straight road toward Britain
Tant ont le droit chemin erré,
So-much they-have the straight road journeyed
qu'à Londres ont le roi trové.
that-at London they-have the king found
Ilueques enseingniés lor fu,
There shown them it-was
ançois qu'il i fussent venu.
before that-they there were come
La roïne a avant tramis
The queen has ahead sent
les sergans, qui ont ostels pris
the sergeants who have lodgings taken
mult rices et bien atornés.
very rich and well arranged
Uns sergans est encontre alés.
A sergeant is toward-them gone
Es vos la dame qui descent
Behold here the lady who dismounts
et li chevalier et sa gent.
and the knights and her folk
En une cambre encortinée
Into a chamber curtained
s'en est dont la roïne entrée.
herself-thence is then the queen entered

Illueques se fait atorner
There herself she-makes adorn
de chieres roubes d'outre mer,
with costly robes from-beyond sea
qui tant estoit et bele et rice
which so-much was both fair and rich
qu'en tot le mont n'ot cele bisse.
that-in all the world not-was that blind
Caucatri, lupart, ne lion,
Crocodile leopard nor lion
ne serpent volant, ne dragon,
nor serpent flying nor dragon
n'alerion, ne escramor,
nor-alerion nor escramor
ne papejai, ne papemor,
nor parrot nor papemor
ne nesune beste sauvage
nor any beast wild
qui soit en mer, ne en bocage,
which may-be in sea nor in grove
qui ne fust à fin or portraite.
which not were in fine gold portrayed
Moult estoit la roube bien faite.
Very was the robe well made
El mantel ot pene de sable,
In-the mantle there-was lining of sable
qui mult fu bone et avenable.
which very was good and becoming
Li orles estoit de pantine:
The border was of panther

ço est une beste marine;
this is a beast marine
plus souef flaire que canele.
more sweetly it-smells than cinnamon
Ainc Dius ne fist beste si bele.
Ever God not made beast so fair
Dalès le mer paist la racine;
Beside the sea it-grazes the root
et porte si grant medecine,
and it-carries so great medicine
qui sor lui l'a ne crient venin.
he-who upon him it-has not fears venom
Tant le boive soir, ne matin,
So-much it may-drink evening nor morning
mius vaut que conter ne porroie.
better it-is-worth than tell not I-could
Et d'une cainture de soie
And with-a girdle of silk
à or broudée tot entor;
with gold embroidered all around
si s'en estoit cainte, à un tort,
so herself-therewith was girt in a twist
moult cointement la damoisele.
very elegantly the damsel
Or fu tant avenant et bele
Now she-was so comely and fair
que nus hom son per ne trovast,
that any man her equal not would-find
en tout le mont, tant le cerkast.
in all the world however-much it he-should-search

De parler ne fu mie fole;
Of speaking not was at-all foolish
cortoise fu de sa parole,
courteous she-was of her speech
d'amor estoient si regart:
of-love were her looks
onques n'ot de biauté le quart
ever not-had of beauty the quarter
nule dame qui dont fust née.
any lady who then were born
Quant ele fu bien atornée,
When she was well adorned
et si baron tuit atorné,
and her barons all adorned
si se sont vers la cort torné.
so themselves they-are toward the court turned
En son palais trova le roi
In his palace she-found the king
et maint bon chevalier o soi,
and many-a good knight with him
maint roi, et maint duc et maint conte;
many-a king and many-a duke and many-a count
tant en i ot, n'en sai le conte.
so-many thereof there were not-thereof I-know the count
Quant la dame el palais entra
When the lady in-the palace entered
li rois encontre li leva;
the king toward her rose
et quant l'a véu la roïne,
and when him-has seen the queen

si le salue et si l'encline.
so him she-greets and so him-bows
Tuit li baron se releverent
All the barons themselves raised-again
li un les autres saluerent,
the ones the others greeted
et li rois l'a par la main prise;
and the king her-has by the hand taken
si l'a dejoste lui assise.
so her-he-has beside him seated
Et quant asis se furent tuit,
And when seated themselves were all
que nus ne fist noise ne bruit,
so-that any not made noise nor sound
la dame a raisonné le roi:
the lady has addressed the king
«Sire, dist ele, entent à moi.
Lord said she attend to me
«Je fus fille le roi Gringas,
I was daughter (of-)the king Gringras
«cui le chevalier envoias
to-whom the knight thou-sentest
«ki biaus Desconnéus ot non:
who fair Unknown had name
«Mal l'apelerent li breton;
Ill him-called the Britons
«par droit non l'apelent Giglain;
by right name him-they-call Guinglain
«si est fius mon signor Gauvain.
so he-is son (of-)my lord Gawain

«Si l'ot de Blancemain la fée.
So him-he-had of White-hand the fairy
«Tu l'envoias en ma contrée,
Thou him-sentest into my country
«por moi à rescoure et aidier;
for me to rescue and to-help
«moult par est jà bon chevalier.
very much is already good knight
«Jetée m'a de grant torment.
Cast me-he-has from great torment
«Sire, grans mercis vos en rent,
Lord great thanks to-you thereof I-render
«de ce que vos le m'envoiastes
of this that you him me-sent
«et ma pucele le cargastes.
and my maiden him charged
«A tos jors vos m'avés conquise
At all days you me-have conquered
«ne jamais n'ert en nule guise
nor ever not-will-be in any manner
«que tréu n'aiés en ma terre,
that tribute not-you-may-have in my land
«dès que vos l'envoierés querre.
as-soon as you it-will-send to-seek
«De Gales, dont je suis roïne.
From Wales of-which I am queen
«Or vos pri, rois de france orine,
Now you I-pray king of noble origin

«que vos à mari me donés
that you as husband me give
«Giglain: si ert rois coronés.
Guinglain so he-will-be king crowned
«Je le vos quier et mi baron;
I him of-you ask and my barons
«sire, ne me véés cest don.
lord not me refuse this gift
«En Gales de moi se parti.
In Wales from me himself he-departed
«Onques puis, sire, ne le vi.
Ever since lord not him I-saw
«Il doit venir, ne sai quele eure.
He must come not I-know what hour
«Grant paor ai que tant demeure,
Great fear I-have since so-much he-stays
«ne remaigne en autre païs
lest he-may-remain in other country
«et qu'il autre consel n'ait pris.
and that-he other counsel not-may-have taken
«Remés est en aucune guerre;
Remained he-is in some war
«car moult entent après conquerre.»
for very he-intends after conquering
Quant li rois entent la parole,
When the king hears the word
moult en fu liés; la dame acole;
very thereof he-was glad the lady he-embraces
Gauvain et ses hommes apele;
Gawain and his men he-calls

si lor reconte la nouvele
so them he-retells the news
que la dame li ot contée,
which the lady him had told
et bien sot que ses fius estoit
and well he-knew that his son he-was
et que la fée amée avoit.
and that the fairy loved he-had
Grant joie en font tuit li baron.
Great joy thereof make all the barons
Atant revienent li prison
At-that come-back the prisoners
qui a la dame s'asanblerent,
who to the lady themselves-joined
el cemin ù il la troverent;
on-the road where they her found
au roi se rendirent, porpris,
to-the king themselves they-rendered taken
si com li rois lor ot apris.
so as the king them had taught
Saciés lors fu la joie graindre.
Know then was the joy greater
Tuit commencent Giglain à plaindre
All begin Guinglain to lament
de ço que n'estoit pas venus;
of this that-he not-was at-all come
grant dol en fait le roi Artus,
great grief thereof makes the king Arthur
Gauvains et tuit cil de la cort;
Gawain and all those of the court

le rois s'est dilueques levés;
the king himself-is from-there risen
de ses barons a apelés,
of his barons he-has called
à consel d'une part les trait.
to counsel to-one side them he-draws
Trestout premiers Gauvains i vait,
All first Gawain there goes
ensanble lui rois Agolans
together-with him king Agolant
et après lui i vait Tristrans;
and after him there goes Tristan
Kés i revient le Senescaus,
Kay there comes-also the Seneschal
rois Amangons, Gales li caus,
king Amangon Gales the bald
et des autres barons asés.
and of-the other barons plenty
Li rois les a araisonés:
The king them has addressed
«Signor, fait-il, et qu'en loés,
Lords says-he and what-thereof counsel-you
«de cel Guiglain dont vos oés,
of that Guinglain of-whom you hear
«comment recouvrer le porons?
how recover him shall-we-be-able
«Grant damage est, se le perdons.
Great harm it-is if him we-lose
«Por nule rien ne le vauroie;
For any thing not it I-would-wish

«jamais mes cuers n'en aroit joie,
ever my heart not-thereof would-have joy
«tant que nos l'arons recovré.»
until that we him-shall-have recovered
Amangons a premier parlé:
Amangon has first spoken
«Sire, fait-il, vos aurés droit;
Lord says-he you will-have right
«car qui tel chevalier perdroit
for who such knight should-lose
«mult i aueroit grant damage,
much there would-have great harm
«or vos en dirai mon corage,
now to-you thereof I-shall-tell my heart
«tel consel com je sai donner.
such counsel as I know to-give
«Il aime moult armes porter;
He loves much arms to-carry
«faites prendre un tournoiement,
make take-up a tournament
«et ce soit fait procainement.
and this be done soon
«Et quant cil en orra parler
And when he thereof will-hear speak
«saciés qu'il i vaura aler.
know that-he there will-wish to-go
«Por nule rien ne laissera,
For any thing not he-will-leave
«quant la nouvele en aprendra,
when the news thereof he-will-learn

«que il dont ne viegne au tornoi.
that he then not may-come to-the tourney
«Içe vos lo en bone foi;
This to-you I-counsel in good faith
«et si vos lo bien de la dame,
and so to-you I-counsel well of the lady
«que vos lors li donés à fame;
that you then him may-give as wife
«car moult est ses roiaumes grans. 5195
for very is her kingdom great
«Moult par porra estre poissans;
Very much he-will-be-able to-be mighty
«car jà com fui en cel païs,
for once when I-was in that country
«à un tournoi ù je fui pris,
at a tourney where I was taken
«Gringas m'aquita sans avoir.
Gringras me-freed without ransom
«Faites la dame remanoir, 5200
Make the lady remain
«tant qu'aions le tornoi éu,
until that-we-may-have the tourney had
«qui par les marces ert séu.
which through the marches will-be known
«Les IIII prisons jeterés,
The four prisoners you-will-release
«de no mainie les tenrés.»
of our household them you-will-hold

Li rois a le consel loé
The king has the counsel praised
et tuit li autre créanté.
and all the others granted
Tuit sont à cel consel tenu.
All are to that counsel held
Atant sont ariere venu
At-that they-are back come
là ù erent li chevalier,
there where were the knights
et li rois a fait fiancer
and the king has made pledge
le tornoiement à la cort;
the tournament at the court
et dist que cascuns s'en atort.
and said that each himself-therefor prepare
Là ù les plaignes furent beles
There where the plains were fair
entre le castel as Puceles
between the castle of-the Maidens
en Valledon fu fiancés.
and Valedon it-was pledged
Premiers s'est Tristrans avancés
First himself-is Tristan advanced
devers Valedé le fiance.
on-the-side-of Valedon it he-pledges
Le rois de Montesclair s'avance,
The king of Montesclair himself-advances
qui le fiance d'autre part:
who it pledges on-other side

puis ont del terme pris esgart.
then they-have of-the term taken regard
Si fu à un mois establis,
So it-was at a month established
et li rois s'est d'iluec partis.
and the king himself-is from-there departed
Si a ses mesages tramis
So he-has his messengers sent
tot maintenant par le païs,
all at-once through the country
par les marces et par l'Epire,
through the marches and through the-Empire
por le tornoi crier et dire.
for the tourney to-cry and to-tell
La dame dist que remansist;
The lady he-said that she-should-remain
et cele tot son voloir fist.
and she all his will did
Les IIII chevaliers prisons
The four knights prisoners
a retenus por conpaignons.
he-has retained as companions
Giglains fu ensanble s'amie,
Guinglain was together-with his-love
qui del tot vers lui s'umelie.
who of-the all toward him herself-humbles
Tot avoit ce que il voloit,
All he-had this that he wished
à l'Ille d'Or ù il estoit,
at the-Isle of-Gold where he was

quant il voloit, s'aloit chacier,
when he wished so-he-went to-hunt
et es forès erbanoier,
and in-the forests to-sport
por traire as bestes et berser,
for to-shoot at-the beasts and to-stalk
quant lui anuioit sejorner,
when him wearied to-stay
u en gibier, ù en riviere,
or at game or at river
tot avoit quant que bon li ere,
all he-had whatever that good to-him was
de s'amie ot tot son voloir
of his-love he-had all his will
tot ço que il voloit avoir;
all this that he wished to-have
si estoit trestout apresté
so it-was all prepared
ainçois que il l'éust pensé.
before that he it-had thought
En son palais estoit un jor;
In his palace he-was one day
atant es vos un jogléor,
at-that behold here a jongleur
qui del tornoi porte noveles,
who of-the tourney carries tidings
qu'au castel serroit as puceles,
that-at-the castle it-would-be of-the maidens
et ço que moult par serra grant.
and this that very much it-will-be great

Quant Giglains l'ot, s'en fu joiant.
When Guinglain it-hears himself-thereof he-was joyful
En son corage se pensa
In his heart himself thought
qu'à cel tornoiement ira.
that-to that tournament he-will-go
Quant cele l'ot, moult fu marie;
When she it-hears very she-was distressed
si dist: «Amis, vos n'irés mie,
so she-said Friend you not-will-go at-all
«par mon los et par mon otroi,
by my counsel and by my grant
«n'irés vos pas à cel tornoi!
not-will-go you at-all to that tourney
«Bien ai connéu par mon art
Well I-have known by my art
«et des estoiles au regart,
and of-the stars at-the looking
«que se vos au tornoi alés
that if you to-the tourney go
«que del tot perdue m'avés.
that of-the all lost me-you-have
«Car là vos atent une dame
For there you awaits a lady
«qu'Artus vos veut donner à fame.»
whom-Arthur you wishes to-give as wife
— «Certes, dame, Giglains respont,
Certainly lady Guinglain answers
«par tos les sains qui sont el mont,
by all the saints who are in-the world

«nesune feme ne prendroie
any woman not I-would-take
«fors vos, pas ne vos mentiroie.
except you at-all not you I-would-lie
«Dames, volés que je i aille,
Lady you-wish that I there may-go
«je revenrai moult tost sans faille,
I shall-return very quickly without fail
«et se vos plaisoit, bon matin
and if you it-pleased good morning
«me covenroit metre au cemin,
me it-would-behoove to-put on-the road
«qu'autrement venir n'i poroie
for-otherwise come not-there I-could
«se je bien matin ne movoie.»
if I well morning not set-out
Cele respont: «Mes ciers amis
She answers My dear friend
«bien sai qu'ensi l'avés enpris
well I-know that-thus it-you-have undertaken
«d'aler à cel tornoiement.
of-going to that tournament
«Mais ce n'ert pas à mon talent.
But this not-will-be at-all to my desire
«Bien sai, vos ne m'avés tant chière
Well I-know you not me-have so-much dear
«que le laissiés por ma proiere.
that it you-may-leave for my prayer

«Je n'en puis mais; ce poise moi.
I not-thereof can more this weighs-on me
«Or puet on véir vostre foi!»
Now can one see your faith

The Castle of Maidens

XIX

After a night with his love, Guinglain wakes in a wood with Robert, their horses, and their gear. Knowing his folly has lost her, he rides grieving with Robert to the Castle of Maidens, a pilgrim showing them the way. The poet names the kings and knights on both sides, Arthur's party at Valedon, Blonde Esmerée's hundred under Lampart among them.

Riens ne puet Giglain retenir,
Anything not can Guinglain hold-back
car moult cuide tost revenir.
for much he-thinks quickly to-return
Del aler grant talent avoit
Of-the going great desire he-had
et moult convoitous en estoit:
and very covetous thereof he-was
car grant piece avoit jà esté
for great while had already been
que il n'avoit armes porté.
that he not-had arms carried
Giglains cuit del tot son corage
Guinglain I-think of-the all his heart
ainc om ne fist si grant folage.
ever man not made so great folly

Son escuier apele et dist
His squire he-calls and said
que son hauberc li blancesist
that his hauberk him he-should-burnish
et que son harnois aprestast,
and that his harness he-should-prepare
et de main lever s'aprestast
and for morning rising himself-should-prepare
et si ait tost mises ses seles.
and so have quickly put his saddles
Robers fu liés de ces noveles.
Robert was glad of these tidings
Tot le harnois a atorné,
All the harness he-has arranged
si com Giglains l'ot commandé.
so as Guinglain it-had commanded
Li jors faut, la nuit est venue;
The day fails the night is come
Giglains se couce lès sa drue.
Guinglain himself lies beside his beloved
Dalès li se jut tote nuit,
Beside her himself he-lay all night
si orent moult de lor deduit.
so they-had much of their delight
Por ce que main devait lever
For this that morning he-was-to rise
et puis sor son ceval monter,
and then upon his horse mount
s'est endormis dalès s'amie,
himself-is fallen-asleep beside his-love

car ses corages le desfie.
for his heart him defies
Qui le bien voit et le mal prent
Who the good sees and the ill takes
saciés que après s'en repent.
know that after himself-thereof repents
Quant Giglains au matin s'esvelle,
When Guinglain at-the morning himself-wakes
de ce qu'il vit ot grant mervelle;
of this that-he saw he-had great marvel
car il se trova en un bois.
for he himself found in a wood
Dalès lui trova son harnois,
Beside him he-found his harness
son cief tenoit sor son escu
his head he-held upon his shield
et devant lui si r'a véu
and before him so he-has-also seen
son ceval qui fu atachiés.
his horse which was tied
Robert r'a véu à ses piés;
Robert he-has-also seen at his feet
par le frain son roncin tenoit;
by the bridle his nag he-held
desous son cief un fust avoit.
beneath his head a log he-had
Or lor a mestier garison,
Now them has need remedy
de cel penser tel gueredon.
for that thought such reward

Quant li uns a l'autre véu,
When the one has the-other seen
moult en sont andui esperdu.
very thereof are both distraught
Bien voit Giglains mal a esté.
Well sees Guinglain ill it-has been
Li uns a l'autre regardé:
The one has the-other looked-at
«Robert, dist Giglains, que dis tu?
Robert said Guinglain what sayest thou
«Avons nos ci à nuit jéu?
Have we here at night lain
«Er soir me couçai je aillors,
Yester evening myself lay I elsewhere
«dalès m'amie à grant honor;
beside my-love with great honor
«or me sui en un bois trovés,
now myself I-am in a wood found
«tos esbahis et esgarés.
all dumbfounded and lost
«Et tu, venis tu ci er soir?»
And thou camest thou here yester evening
Ce dist Robers: «Naie por voir.
This said Robert No for true
«Er soir en mon lit me dormi;
Yester evening in my bed myself I-slept
«or me resui trovés ici.»
now myself I-am-again found here
— «Robert, com male destinée!
Robert how evil destiny

«Moult ai m'amie mal gardée!
Very I-have my-love ill kept
«Bien me dist ier soir je l'perdroie,
Well me she-said yester evening I her-would-lose
«se je au tornoi m'en aloie!
if I to-the tourney myself-thence went
«Perdue l'ai par mon folage.
Lost her-I-have by my folly
«Halas, fait-il, com grant domage!
Alas says-he how great harm
«Or ai je tos jors mais dolor!»
Now have I all days more grief
Et Robers dist à son signor:
And Robert said to his lord
«Sire, nos n'en poons el faire:
Lord we not-thereof can else do
«Mais alons ent en nostre afaire.
But let-us-go thence on our affair
«Grans biens nos puet avanturer.
Great goods us can befall
«On ne se doit desconforter.»
One not himself must discomfort
Giglains respont: «Donques alons!»
Guinglain answers Then let-us-go
Atant cauce ses esperons.
At-that he-puts-on his spurs
Li escuiers l'aubert torsa
The squire the-hauberk packed
et cil sor son ceval monta.
and he upon his horse mounted

Si se sont mis en bon sentier;
So themselves they-are put on good path
dès or pensent de chevaucier,
from now they-think of riding
tant qu'il trovent un pelerin
until that-they find a pilgrim
qui lor enseigne le cemin
who them shows the road
le plus droit au tornoiement.
the most straight to-the tournament
Moult fu Giglains en grant torment;
Very was Guinglain in great torment
cel jor cevauche tos iriés
that day he-rides all angered
et tos dolans et coreciés,
and all grieving and wrathful
de ce que s'amie ot perdue;
of this that his-love he-had lost
ne set que ele est devenue.
not he-knows what she is become
Or cevaucent plains et boscages,
Now they-ride plains and groves
et landes, et vals, et rivages;
and heaths and vales and shores
tant ont coru par les contrées
so-much they-have run through the countries
et tant erré par lor jornées,
and so-much journeyed by their days

et tant lor droite voie tinrent,
and so-much their straight way they-held
qu'al castel des Puceles vinrent.
that-at-the castle of-the Maidens they-came
Quant il sont au castel venu,
When they are to-the castle come
tot s'en estoient ja issu
all themselves-thence were already gone-out
li chevalier, por tornoier.
the knights for to-tourney
Giglains ne se vaut plus targier,
Guinglain not himself wished more to-delay
ains s'en est après els alés;
rather himself-thence he-is after them gone
si a les chevaliers trovés,
so he-has the knights found
qui lor cauces de fer cauçoient,
who their chausses of iron put-on
et lors fors cevaus cevauçoient.
and their strong horses rode
Mult i ot grant chevalerie.
Very there was great knighthood
Yvains li rois de Lindezie
Yvain the king of Lindsey
i fut bien a VII^{xx} escus,
there was well with seven-score shields
haumes laciés, haubers vestus;
helmets laced hauberks donned

d'Escoce i fu rois Aguizans
of-Scotland there was king Aguisant
qui s'armoit sor II arbres grans,
who himself-armed under two trees great
II^{xx} chevaliers ot o soi,
two-score knights he-had with himself
qui tos furent à son conroi.
who all were in his troop
De Gohenet li rois Hoel,
Of Gohenet the king Hoel
issus sor son ceval isnel.
come-out upon his horse swift
O soi avoit C. chevaliers
With himself he-had a-hundred knights
moult bien armés sor lor destriers;
very well armed upon their chargers
et li rois de Baradigan,
and the king of Baradigan
que on apele Caraan,
whom one calls Caraan
il fu armés en la canpaigne.
he was armed in the field
IIII^{xx} ot en sa conpaigne.
Four-score he-had in his company
Li rois Ban Regomer i fu;
The king Ban Regomer there was
IX^{xx} en sont o soi issu.
nine-score thereof are with himself come-out

Li rois de la Roge cité
The king of the Red city
C. chevaliers ot amené.
a-hundred knights had brought
Et Guivres i refu li rois,
And Guivret there was-also the king
qui ot amenés les Irois.
who had brought the Irish
Geldras li rois de Dunelrie,
Geldras the king of Dunelrie
cil vint o grant chevalerie.
he came with great knighthood
IIII^{c} chevaliers amaine,
Four-hundred knights he-brings
que il tenoit o soi de maine.
whom he held with himself of household
Li Lais hardis de Cornouaille
The Ugly bold of Cornwall
est venus au tornoi, sans faille,
is come to-the tourney without fail
C. chevaliers amaine o soi;
a-hundred knights he-brings with himself
ni a celui n'ait bon conroi.
not-there is one not-may-have good array
Kahadist i estoit venus,
Kahadin there was come
qui de l'Ample bois estoit dus.
who of the-Ample wood was duke
Li Sors i fu de Montescler:
The Sorrel there was of Montesclair

son elme lacé bel et cler.
his helmet laced fair and bright
Deseure ot une connissance;
Above it-had a device
aquiter i vint sa fiance;
to-acquit there he-came his pledge
VII^{c} chevaliers amena,
seven-hundred knights he-brought
por ce que il le fiança.
for this that he it pledged
Si fu Parcevals le Galois,
So was Perceval the Welsh
uns chevaliers preus et cortois,
a knight valiant and courteous
li vallès de Baladigant
the young-man of Baladigan
i fu armés moult richement
there was armed very richly
et volait aler asanbler
and wished to-go to-engage
contre le Sor de Montescler.
against the Sorrel of Montesclair
Et Lancelot dou lac se r'arme
And Lancelot of-the lake himself arms-again
en un ouble, dalès un carme.
in an elm beside a hornbeam
Li dus Elias i refu,
The duke Elias there was-also
ki le poil ot entrekenu,
who the hair had grizzled

mais moult i ot bon chevalier,
but very there was good knight
et bien savoit un droit jugier.
and well he-knew a right to-judge
Et cil de la Haute montaigne
And he of the High mountain
i refu, à mult grant conpaigne.
there was-also with very great company
De Truerem li quens i fu,
Of Truerem the count there was
armés sor un ceval kenu;
armed upon a horse gray
miudres ne fu onques à dire.
better not was ever to say
De l'Ille noires estoit sire.
Of the-Isle black he-was lord
Grahelens de Fineposterne
Graislemier of Fineposterne
se r'armait dalès une jerne;
himself armed-again beside a sapling
lès lui ses freres Guingamer,
beside him his brother Guingamor
ki s'entr'armèrent de bon cuer.
who each-other-armed with good heart
Et roi Durains i fu armés,
And king Durain there was armed
en cui avoit moult de bontés.
in whom there-was much of goodnesses
Tos armés i refu Yder,
All armed there was-also Yder

sor un ceval covert de fer.
upon a horse covered with iron
Gandelus fut ensanble lui;
Gandelus was together-with him
bon chevalier furent andui.
good knights were both
De Gorhout i refu Gormans,
Of Gorhout there was-also Gorman
et de Lis i fu Melians.
and of Lis there was Melian
D'uns et d'autres tant i avoit
Of-ones and of-others so-many there there-were
que nus le nonbre ne savoit.
that any the number not knew
Moult bele estoit cele conpaigne.
Very fair was that company
De l'autre part, de vers Bretaigne,
On the-other side from toward Britain
estoit Artur et si baron
was Arthur and his barons
qui estoit devers Valendon.
who was toward Valedon
Moult r'avoit devers lui grans gens
Very he-had-also toward him great folk
à ensaigne en ot bien XX^{c}.
under banner thereof he-had well two-thousand
De la refu Gaudins, li rois
Of there was-also Gaudin the king
d'Illande, qui fut mult cortois;
of-Ireland who was very courteous

et avoit en sa conpaignie
and he-had in his company
V^{c} chevaliers de maisnie.
five-hundred knights of household
Si fu rois Mars de Cornouaille,
So was king Mark of Cornwall
et avoit bien en sa bataille
and he-had well in his battalion
VII^{c} chevaliers desfensables,
seven-hundred knights able-to-defend
moult biaus de cors et honerables.
very fair of body and honorable
Li rois Amangons i estoit,
The king Amangon there was
qui aveuc lui M. en avoit.
who with him a-thousand thereof had
Et des Illes li rois Bruians,
And of-the Isles the king Bruiant
seur destriers sors, bais et bauçans,
upon chargers sorrel bay and piebald
o V^{c} chevaliers armés,
with five-hundred knights armed
que jà millors ne demandés.
that ever better not you-may-ask
Hardis estoit comme lupars;
Bold he-was as leopard
mais moult ert de doner escars.
but very he-was of giving stingy

Et s'i refu li rois Ydès
And so-there was-also the king Ydès
qui donoit à trestos adès.
who gave to all always
Il fu de pouvre acointement,
He was of poor acquaintance
mais large fu à tote gent.
but generous he-was to all folk
VIII^{xx} en ot à sa baniere.
Eight-score thereof he-had at his banner
N'i a celui qui bien ne fiere.
Not-there is one who well not may-strike
La roïne Blonde Esmerée
The queen Blonde Esmerée
en i ot C. de sa contrée,
thereof there had a-hundred of her country
qu'ele ot amenés el païs.
whom-she had brought into-the country
Les ot à cel tornoi tramis.
Them she-had to that tourney sent
A Lanpart les avoit carciés;
To Lampart them she-had entrusted
s'es ot de bien faire proiés.
so-them she-had of well doing prayed
Gauvains i fu, li niés Artu:
Gawain there was the nephew (of-)Arthur
miudres de lui ne fu véu.
better than him not was seen

Et s'i estoit li rois Mordrés
And so-there was the king Mordred
et li suens freres Segrantés;
and the his brother Segrantés
et Gunes, niés d'Oïrecestre
and Gunes nephew of-Worcester
estoit dalès Gauvain, à destre.
was beside Gawain at right
Et li riches dus de Norgales,
And the rich duke of North-Wales
i fu et Erec d'Estregales;
there was and Erec of-Estregales
et Beduer de Normendie
and Bedivere of Normandy
i fu o bele conpaignie.
there was with fair company
Flores i avoit, des Francois,
Flores there there-was of-the French
uns rices dus, LX et trois.
a rich duke sixty and three
De Nantes i refu Hoel,
Of Nantes there was-also Hoel
qui s'armoit de joste un ruissel,
who himself-armed of beside a stream
armés se r'estoit Catehuels
armed himself again-was Catehuel
et Tors, li fius le roi Atels;
and Tor the son (of-)the king Ares
Tristans se r'estoit jà armés,
Tristan himself again-was already armed

et de bien faire ert aprestés.
and of well doing was ready
Le tornoi avait fiancie,
The tourney he-had pledged
et portoit la mance s'amie;
and carried the sleeve (of-)his-love
Yseuls la bele l'ot tramise;
Iseut the fair it-had sent
deseur son hauberc l'avoit mise.
upon his hauberk it-he-had put
Por asanbler el ceval monte.
For to-engage on-the horse he-mounts
Et li autre, dont ne sai conte.
And the others of-whom not I-know count
De la Ronde table Libnus
Of the Round table Libnus
estoit avec le roi Artus.
was with the king Arthur

The Tournament
XX

The tourney opens with Tristan unhorsing the Sorrel of Montesclair. Guinglain unhorses Kay, stuns Mordred, and jousts with Erec, giving away the horses and knights he wins. Arthur charges with four hundred knights and routs the other side until King Aguisant restores the fight. Guinglain is judged the best, and Aguisant lodges him. Next day, after a gap, he takes the whole prize.

Quant armé furent li baron
When armed were the barons
en la plaingne sous Valedon,
in the plain below Valedon
là véissiés tant elme cler
there you-would-have-seen so-many helmet bright
et tante ensaigne venteler,
and so-many-a banner flutter
et tans destriers, bauchant et bai,
and so-many chargers piebald and bay
plus nombreus que dire ne sai,
more numerous than say — I-know
et tans escu reflanbloier,
and so-many shield flash
et tante guimple desploier,
and so-many-a wimple unfold
sor elmes tantes connissances,
upon helmets so-many devices
tant blanc hauber et tantes lances,
so-many white hauberk and so-many lances
paintes à or et à ason,
painted with gold and with azure

fremir tant vermel siglaton
quiver so-many red ciclaton
et tant pingnon et tante mance,
and so-many pennon and so-many-a sleeve
et çainte tante espée blance,
and girt so-many-a sword white
et tant brocher ceval de pris,
and so-many spur horse of worth
tant roi, tant conte, tant marcis,
so-many king so-many count so-many marquis
jamais tels n'i ert asanblée.
ever such not-there will-be assembly
Li jors fu bials par la contrée
The day was fair through the country
et la place fu grans et lée.
and the place was great and wide
Atant es vos par la valée,
At-that behold here through the valley
venir le sor de Montescler:
come the sorrel of Montesclair
à Tristan venoit asanbler.
with Tristan he-came to-engage
O lui avoit XX chevaliers;
With him he-had twenty knights
por joster venoit tos primiers.
for to-joust he-came all first
Atant es vos Tristans i vint,
At-that behold here Tristan there came
l'escu au col, la lance tint,
the-shield at-the neck the lance he-held

sa route grans après venoit:
his troop great after came
quant li uns l'autre venir voit,
when the one the-other come sees
si traient avant les escus,
so they-draw forward the shields
qu'il avoient au col pendus,
which-they had at-the neck hung
et poignent les chevals andui.
and spur the horses both
Tristans le fiert et li Sor lui
Tristan him strikes and the Sorrel him
de la lance, par tele angoisse,
with the lance with such anguish
que sor Tristan sa lame froisse,
that upon Tristan his blade shatters
et Tristans le r'a si feru,
and Tristan him has-again so struck
de seur la boucle de l'escu,
from upon the boss of the-shield
que tant com la hanste li dure,
that so-far as the shaft him lasts
l'abati à la terre dure.
him-threw-down to the ground hard
Le ceval prent, de lès s'avance.
The horse he-takes from aside himself-advances
Atant la route au Sor s'eslance,
At-that the troop of-the Sorrel itself-darts

trestout ensanble à la rescousse
all together to the rescue
sor lui cascuns sa lance estrousse.
upon him each his lance breaks
Cil se tient bien qu'il ne caï.
He himself holds well so-that-he not fell
Mais le destrier lor a guerpi.
But the charger them he-has quitted
Por Tristan rescorre et aidier,
For Tristan to-rescue and to-help
repoingnent tout les chevalier,
spur-again all the knights
sor cels au Sor de Montescler.
upon those of-the Sorrel of Montesclair
Là véissiés maint cop donner,
There you-would-have-seen many-a blow give
ferir de lames et d'espées.
strike with blades and with-swords
Quant les routes sont asanblées,
When the troops are engaged
moult le fist bien et belement
very it did well and fairly
li vallès de Baladigant;
the young-man of Baladigan
le Sor rescoust par sa puissance.
the Sorrel he-rescued by his might
Tant i feri cols de sa lance,
So-many there he-struck blows with his lance
que moult en abati le jor.
that very-many thereof he-threw-down the day

Moult le faisoit bien en l'estor,
Very it he-did well in the-battle
quant sor lui vint li rois Ydès
when upon him came the king Ydès
et si conpaignon, à eslès,
and his companions at gallop
li valès se va defendant,
the young-man himself goes defending
et cil le viengnent ataingnant.
and they him come reaching
Encontreval une praiele.
Down-along a meadow
Là ot vuidée mainte sele
There there-was emptied many-a saddle
et maint chevalier abatu.
and many-a knight thrown-down
Por poi que n'orent retenu
By little that not-they-had held
le vallet de Baladigant,
the young-man of Baladigan
quant le rescout Brus de Balant.
when him rescued Brun of Balant
VII^{xx} chevaliers ot o soi;
Seven-score knights he-had with himself
il point as gens Yder le roi;
he spurs at-the folk (of-)Yder the king
cil relaissent cevaus aler,
they let-again horses go
durement les vont encontrer.
hard them they-go to-meet

Là ot tant gonfanon brisié,
There there-was so-many gonfanon broken
et tant chevalier trebuchié,
and so-many knight tumbled
et tant cheval i ot perdu.
and so-many horse there was lost
Atant es vos Giglains venu,
At-that behold here Guinglain come
qui ariere s'estoit armés.
who behind himself-was armed
Quant il ot les rens regardés
When he had the ranks looked-at
si laisse corre le ceval
so he-lets run the horse
et fiert si Keu le senescal,
and strikes so Kay the seneschal
qui venus estoit asanbler,
who come was to-engage
l'escu li fist au bras hurter,
the-shield him he-made against-the arm strike
et les estriers li fist laissier,
and the stirrups him he-made leave
si qu'envers l'abat del destrier.
so that-backward him-he-throws from-the charger
Vers le roi Yder point avant;
Toward the king Yder he-spurs forward
si le fiert sor l'escu devant,
so him strikes upon the-shield before
de la lance, par tel devise,
with the lance in such manner

l'escu perce, la lance brise,
the-shield he-pierces the lance breaks
en sa main retint le tronçon,
in his hand he-kept the stump
et vait ferir tot à bandon
and goes to-strike all at abandon
del tros de lance qu'il tenoit,
with-the stump of lance that-he held
là où la grinnor presse avoit,
there where the greatest press there-was
sor cel elme, par tel aïr,
upon that helmet with such fury
si que le renc fait tot fremir.
so that the rank he-makes all shake
Sovent guencist, point et desroie;
Often he-swerves spurs and charges
quel part qu'il voist, faisait bien voie!
what side that-he go he-made well way
Moult par estoit grans li tornois
Very much was great the tourney
de ducs, de contes et de rois.
of dukes of counts and of kings
Li rois Mars point et sa bataille,
The king Mark spurs and his battalion
qui sire estoit de Cornouaille.
who lord was of Cornwall
Contre lui point li rois Hoel,
Against him spurs the king Hoel
et C. chevalier à isnel.
and a-hundred knights at speed

Li un vont les autres ferir.
The ones go the others to-strike
La presse fisent departir;
The press they-made part
escus fendent, hiaumes esclicent,
shields they-split helmets splinter
elmes esfondrent et deslicent.
helmets they-break-in and unlace
Li rois Bruians vint au tornoi
The king Bruiant came to-the tourney
et fist apoindre son conroi;
and made spur his troop
et li bons rois Condrins d'Illande
and the good king Condrin of-Ireland
ses chevaliers poindre commande.
his knights to-spur commands
Bruians point desous devers destre,
Bruiant spurs below toward right
et li roi Baudris vers senestre.
and the king Baudri toward left
Le tornoi ont andui forclos.
The tourney they-have both shut-in
Le roi Hoel y ont enclos
The king Hoel there they-have enclosed
et abatu de son destrier.
and thrown-down from his charger
Illuec ot pris maint chevalier,
There there-was taken many-a knight
maint cop recéu et donné,
many-a blow received and given

parmi les plains et par le pré,
through the plains and through the meadow
les encaucent tos desconfis.
them they-chase all discomfited
Moult i fu grans li capléis,
Very there was great the hacking
quant Giglains torna et guencist;
when Guinglain turned and swerved
le cheval point, l'anste brandist;
the horse he-spurs the-shaft he-brandishes
fiert le roi Gaudi en l'escu,
strikes the king Gaudin on the-shield
trestout li a frait et fendu.
all him he-has broken and split
Atant li rois Bruians desserre,
At-that the king Bruiant unleashes
li cevals met les piés à terre,
the horse puts the feet to ground
vers Giglain et Giglains vers lui:
toward Guinglain and Guinglain toward him
si s'entrenviennent anbedui.
so each-other-they-come both
Lances orent roides et fors;
Lances they-had stiff and strong
si se fierent par tels esfors
so themselves they-strike with such efforts
de sor les boucles des escus,
from upon the bosses of-the shields
dès que sor les haubers menus,
until that upon the hauberks fine

en fist cascuns passer le fer.
thereof made each pass the iron
Mais moult sont rice les hauber,
But very are rich the hauberks
que maille n'en fausse, ne ront;
that mail not-thereof gives-way nor breaks
des lances volent contremont
from-the lances fly upward
les esclices et li tronçon.
the splinters and the stumps
Moult bien se tienent li baron,
Very well themselves hold the barons
qu'il ne s'entrabatirent mie.
that-they not each-other-threw-down at-all
Giglains tint l'espée forbie;
Guinglain held the-sword burnished
des esperons fiert le ceval
with-the spurs he-strikes the horse
en son puig tint le branc roial,
in his fist he-held the blade royal
et fiert Mordret sor l'elme cler,
and strikes Mordred upon the-helmet bright
si que tot le fist estonner;
so that all him he-made stun
sor le col del destrier le plaisse.
upon the neck of-the charger him he-bends
Autre refiert et celui laisse
Another he-strikes-again and him leaves
de l'espée, par sous l'escu,
with the-sword by beneath the-shield

que tot li a trait et fendu.
so-that all him he-has drawn and split
Moult durement se desfendoit
Very hard himself he-defended
de l'espée que il tenoit.
with the-sword that he held
En la presse se met souvent
Into the press himself he-puts often
si bien le fait, si se desfent,
so well it he-does so himself defends
et tant i fiert cols demanois,
and so-many there he-strikes blows at-once
que tos recovre li tornois.
that all recovers the tourney
Tuit recouvrent cil devers lui,
All recover those toward him
en un biau plain, au pié d'un pui
in a fair plain at-the foot of-a hill
là ot feru de grans colées
there there-was struck of great blows
de roides lances et d'espées.
with stiff lances and with-swords
Moult par estoit li caples grans;
Very much was the hacking great
bien le faisait le rois Bruians,
well it did the king Bruiant
qui devers les batans estoit.
who toward the fighters was
Le roi Hoel tot près avoit.
The king Hoel all near he-had

Quant point li rois Cadoalens,
When spurs the king Cadoalent
o lui de chevaliers IIIᶜ.
with him of knights three-hundred
Lès lui li rois de Lindesie,
Beside him the king of Lindsey
qui moult r'avoit grant conpaignie.
who very had-also great company
Andoi sont au tournoi venu;
Both are to-the tourney come
parmi les rens se sont feru.
through the ranks themselves they-are struck
Là ot maint escu estrové
There there-was many-a shield pierced
et maint chevalier aterré;
and many-a knight grounded
tant ot gaignié et tant perdu,
so-much there-was gained and so-much lost
tant cop doné, tant recéu,
so-many blow given so-many received
tant fièrent d'anstes et de tros,
so-much they-strike with-shafts and with stumps
que le roi Hoel ont rescos.
that the king Hoel they-have rescued
Lès un rocier, en un biaus prés,
Beside a rock in a fair meadow
estoit li tornois arestés.
was the tourney stopped
Iluec ot mainte joste faite,
There there-was many-a joust done

maint cop féru d'espée traite.
many-a blow struck with-sword drawn
Entre II rens Giglains estoit,
Between two ranks Guinglain was
l'escu au col, l'anste tenoit,
the-shield at-the neck the-shaft he-held
et sist desur un vair destrier
and sat upon a gray charger
qu'il ot gaignié d'un chevalier.
which-he had won from-a knight
A joste l'avoit abatu:
At joust him-he-had thrown-down
vers le cief dou rent a véu
toward the head of-the rank he-has seen
Erec, un moult bon chevalier,
Erec a very good knight
sor un cheval fort et legier.
upon a horse strong and light
Por joster avoit l'escu pris,
For to-joust he-had the-shield taken
et la lance sor fautre mis.
and the lance on rest put
Giglains encontre lui s'adrece,
Guinglain against him himself-directs
l'anste brandist, l'escu enbrece,
the-shaft he-brandishes the-shield he-grasps
des esperons au cheval donne;
with-the spurs to-the horse he-gives
li uns envers l'autre esperonne.
the one toward the-other spurs

Moult très durement se requierent;
Very very hard themselves they-assail
par si grant vertu s'entrefierent,
with so great strength each-other-they-strike
que li escu percent et croissent,
that the shields pierce and crack
et les lances brisent et froissent;
and the lances break and shatter
ensanble hurtent li ceval.
together hurtle the horses
Moult bien se tinrent li vasal
Very well themselves held the vassals
que l'uns ni l'autres ne balance.
that the-one nor the-other not sways
Atant Giglains prist une lance,
At-that Guinglain took a lance
que Robers li ot apportée;
which Robert him had brought
sa regne a autre part tornée.
his rein he-has to-other side turned
Quant le roi Cadoc poindre voit,
When the king Cadoc spur he-sees
qui devers les Bretons estoit.
who toward the Britons was
VII^{xx} chevaliers ot o soi,
Seven-score knights he-had with himself
qui tot poignent à son conroi.
who all spur at his array
Au renc venoient por ferir;
To-the rank they-came for to-strike

et quant Giglains les vit venir,
and when Guinglain them saw come
si lor laisse cevals aler.
so them he-lets horses go
Tos les vait ensanble encontrer.
All them he-goes together to-meet
Si a Cadoc primiers feru,
So he-has Cadoc first struck
qu'a devant les autres véu.
whom-he-has before the others seen
Feru l'a par si grant puissance,
Struck him-he-has with so great might
droit enmi le pis, de la lance,
straight in-the-middle-of the breast with the lance
que nule riens ne l'pot tenir,
that any thing not him-could hold
qu'à terre ne l'fesist venir.
that-to ground not him-he-should-make come
Mais les gens Cadoc poignent lors
But the folk (of-)Cadoc spur then
tot sor Giglain, à grans esfors;
all upon Guinglain with great efforts
moult durement le vont ferir;
very hard him they-go to-strike
et ains qu'il se péust guencir,
and before that-he himself could swerve
l'orent de maintes pars feru,
him-they-had from many sides struck
qui sor elme, qui sor escu,
some on helmet some on shield

u sor hauberc, u sor destrier.
or on hauberk or on charger
Giglains traist l'espée d'acier,
Guinglain drew the-sword of-steel
si se desfent comme lupars.
so himself he-defends like leopard
Cil li furent de totes pars,
They him were from all sides
qui moult se painent de lui prendre.
who much themselves take-pains of him to-take
Lors véissiés home desfendre,
Then you-would-have-seen man defend
et ferir grans cols de l'espée,
and strike great blows with the-sword
qui il consuit fiert tel colée
whom he reaches he-strikes such blow
que puis n'ot talent de retor
that after not-he-had desire of return
ariere en cel liu, en estor.
back into that place in battle
Giglains fu forclos en la presse.
Guinglain was shut-in in the press
Atant li rois Geldain s'eslesse
At-that the king Geldras himself-rushes
et la route qu'avec lui ere.
and the troop which-with him was
VIII^{c} furent à sa baniere.
Eight-hundred were at his banner
Lès lui repoint un rices rois,
Beside him spurs-again a rich king

Guivrez, li sire des Irois.
Guivret the lord of-the Irish
C. chevaliers ot de grant los,
A-hundred knights he-had of great praise
là ù Giglains estoit forclos.
there where Guinglain was shut-in
Poignent ensanble li doi roi,
Spur together the two kings
et lor chevalier à desroi;
and their knights in disorder
durement vienent por ferir.
hard they-come for to-strike
Rois Amangons les vit venir
King Amangon them saw come
cevauçant à travers la plaigne,
riding at across the plain
qui fu devers cels de Bretaigne.
who was toward those of Britain
Rois Bans de Gomertel ausi;
King Ban of Gomeret also
il et tuit si home autresi;
he and all his men likewise
C. chevaliers avoit et plus.
a-hundred knights he-had and more
Cascuns s'est en l'estor ferus.
Each himself-is into the-battle struck
Cil doi roi poignent come cels;
Those two kings spur as those
moult fu cis encontres cruels;
very was this encounter cruel

de fors lances se vont ferir.
with strong lances themselves they-go to-strike
Là oïssiés escus croissir;
There you-would-have-heard shields crack
et seur chevals gens enforcier,
and upon horses folk strain
et tant chevaliers trebucier;
and so-many knights tumble
là fu abatus Amangons
there was thrown-down Amangon
et asés de ses conpaignons.
and plenty of his companions
Geldains li rois abatus ere,
Geldras the king thrown-down was
tos envers, en une jonciere.
all backward in a rush-bed
Illueques poingnent tuit ensanble;
There spur all together
tos li tornois sor els s'asanble;
all the tourney upon them assembles
moult sesforçoient de tos sens.
much themselves-strove from all sides
Iluecques fu li caples grans;
There was the hacking great
fierent de tronçons et d'espées.
they-strike with stumps and with-swords
Là véissiés tantes mellées
There you-would-have-seen so-many melees
por le gaaing, por les prisons,
for the gain for the prisoners

et por les bons destriers gascons.
and for the good chargers Gascon
Giglains point souvent par la plaigne,
Guinglain spurs often through the plain
et sist sor un ceval d'Espaigne.
and sat upon a horse of-Spain
Souvent le point des esperons
Often him he-spurs with-the spurs
et souvent guencist as Bretons.
and often swerves at-the Britons
Chevaliers prent, cevals gaaigne,
Knights he-takes horses he-wins
mais moult petit mener les daigne.
but very little to-lead them he-deigns
Quant il trove qui li requiere
When he finds who him may-ask
si le donne, sans grant proiere.
so it he-gives without great prayer
Quantques il gaaigne as Bretons,
Whatever he wins from-the Britons
done as croisiés et as prisons.
he-gives to-the crusaders and to-the prisoners
Plus le criement li chevalier
More him fear the knights
qu'estornel ne font esprevier.
than-starling — do sparrowhawk
Erec moult bien le refaisoit
Erec very well it did-also
et Gauvains lors venus estoit.
and Gawain then come was

Entre II rens point et desroie
Between two ranks he-spurs and charges
s'a encontré enmi sa voie
so-has met in-the-middle-of his way
le rice conte Galoain.
the rich count Galoain
A son ceval lasque le frain,
To his horse he-loosens the bridle
si le fiert, si de grant ravine,
so him strikes so with great violence
en l'escu deseur la potrine,
on the-shield above the breast
que tot l'escu li perce et brise,
that all the-shield him he-pierces and breaks
si que del bon ceval de Frise
so that from-the good horse of Frisia
le trebucha ens el sablon.
him he-tumbled in in-the sand
Puis point vers I autre à bandon.
Then he-spurs toward one other at abandon
Si le fiert si, sor le mamele,
So him strikes so upon the breast
ne l'pot tenir potrails ne sele,
not him-could hold breast-strap nor saddle
que ne l'abatist del destrier,
that not him-he-should-throw-down from-the charger
et ne le fist tost trebucier.
and not him made quickly tumble
Puis a mis la main à l'espée;
Then he-has put the hand to the-sword

le ceval point parmi la prée.
the horse he-spurs through the meadow
Les rens cercoit de totes pars.
The ranks he-searched from all sides
Moult bien le refaisoit Lanpars
Very well it did-also Lampart
souvent poignoit par le tornoi,
often he-spurred through the tourney
à C. chevaliers qu'ot o soi
with a-hundred knights that-he-had with himself
des chevaliers Blonde Esmerée.
of-the knights (of-)Blonde Esmerée
Li bien faires moult lor agrée.
The well doing much them pleases
Lanpars bien les caele et guie;
Lampart well them leads and guides
bien fust mis en lui grant baillie;
well were put in him great keeping
sa route moult bien le faisoit
his troop very well it did
et il adès primes feroit;
and he always first struck
et au recort venoit deriere;
and at-the regrouping came behind
moult le font bien de grant maniere.
very it they-do well in great manner
Encor n'estoit Artus venus,
Yet not-was Arthur come
ne au tornoiement véus.
nor at-the tournament seen

Ariere estoit li rices rois
Behind was the rich king
trestos armés et ses conrois.
all armed and his troops
Tos les soufri à asanbler,
All them he-let to engage
ançois qu'il i vausist aler.
before that-he there would-wish to-go
IIII^{c} chevaliers armés,
Four-hundred knights armed
que jà millors ne demandés,
that ever better not you-may-ask
avoit Artus, à sa baniere.
had Arthur at his banner
Li plus mauvais moult vaillans ere.
The most bad very valiant was
A lui vint un vallès poignant,
To him came a young-man spurring
qui venoit del tornoiement.
who came from-the tournament
Icil li a dit et conté
He him has said and told
que tot estoient asanblé
that all were assembled
fors que sol Aguissans li rois,
except that only Aguisant the king
qui moult ert sages et cortois;
who very was wise and courteous
mais tot li autre sont venu:
but all the others are come

«Un chevalier i ai véu
A knight there I-have seen
«qui porte un escu d'azon
who carries a shield of-azure
«ù d'ermine a un blanc lion.
where of-ermine there-is a white lion
«Icil le fait si durement,
He it does so hard
«que tot vaint le tornoiement.
that all he-vanquishes the tournament
«Nus ne veut poindre cele part
Any not wishes to-spur that side
«ne le aime plus c'un lupart.
nor him loves more than-a leopard
«Li uns pense que Giglains soit,
The one thinks that Guinglain may-be
«par ce que tels armes avoit
by this that such arms he-had
«quant il vint à la cort premiers,
when he came to the court first
«et por ce qu'ert bons chevaliers.
and for this that-he-was good knight
«Il pense voir; ço estoit il,
He thinks true it was he
«qui ot esté en maint peril.»
who had been in many-a peril
Artus n'i vaut plus demorer;
Arthur not-there wished more to-stay
dès or veut au tournoi aler.
from now he-wishes to-the tourney to-go

Lor véissiés caingler cevals,
Then you-would-have-seen girth horses
elmes lacer, fremir poitrals.
helmets lace quiver breast-straps
Quant il furent bien acesmé,
When they were well arrayed
es cevals montent tuit armé.
on-the horses they-mount all armed
Puis s'en vont seré et rengié,
Then themselves-thence they-go close and ranked
tant que les rens ont aprocié.
until that the ranks they-have approached
Lors point li Rois par grant vertu,
Then spurs the King with great strength
là ù li graindres estors fu;
there where the greatest battle was
et ensanble lui vait li route;
and together-with him goes the troop
X cornéors ot en sa route;
ten horn-blowers there-were in his troop
buissines portent et grans cors,
trumpets they-carry and great horns
que il sonnent par grans esfors.
which they sound with great efforts
Quant li rois vint, ço fu à vis
When the king came it was to seeming
que tot en tranblast le païs.
that all thereof trembled the country

Li rois point; si a rencontré
The king spurs so he-has met
le roi d'Elemagne cité,
the king of-Germany city
si le fiert si en l'escu haut,
so him strikes so on the-shield high
qu'estriers ne sele ne li vaut,
that-stirrups nor saddle not him avails
que del destrier ne l'abatist.
that from-the charger not him-he-should-throw-down
Sa lance fraint, outre se mist.
His lance he-breaks beyond himself he-put
Si rencontrent si conpaignon;
So meet his companions
C. en abatent el sablon.
a-hundred thereof they-throw-down in-the sand
Là véissiés hardis bretons,
There you-would-have-seen bold Britons
et gaaingnier destriers gascons,
and win chargers Gascon
de tant chevaliers les fors prendre,
of so-many knights the strong-ones take
lances briser et escus fendre,
lances break and shields split
et tant poindre et tant guencir,
and so-much spur and so-much swerve
d'espées si grans cols ferir
with-swords so great blows strike
les gens Artu si bien le font,
the folk (of-)Arthur so well it do

que cels de là desconfis ont.
that those of there discomfited they-have
Tos fu desconfis li tornois.
All was discomfited the tourney
Artus les chace, li bons rois;
Arthur them chases the good king
pris estoit qui voloit torner.
taken was who wished to-turn
N'i avoit riens de recouvrer.
Not-there was anything of recovering
Quant li rois Aguissans d'Escoce
When the king Aguisant of-Scotland
point à l'issue d'une broce,
spurs at the-issue of-a thicket
à VII^{xx} chevaliers mult pros.
with seven-score knights very valiant
Les regnes prendent par le nos.
The reins they-take by the knot
Aguissans point, baisse sa lance
Aguisant spurs lowers his lance
et fiert Flore, le duc de France,
and strikes Flores the duke of France
en mi le pis, par tel aïr,
in-the middle-of the breast with such fury
que del destrier le fist partir.
that from-the charger him he-made part
Si conpaignon r'ont tuit feru,
His companions have-again all struck
qui mais s'en iroit abatu.
who more themselves-thence would-go thrown-down

Aguissant ne fine, ne cesse,
Aguisant not ceases nor stops
tot dis fiert en la graignor presse.
all days strikes in the greatest press
Il et li suen si bien le font
He and the his so well it do
que le tornoi recouvré ont.
that the tourney recovered they-have
Par anguisse recouvrent tuit
With anguish recover all
sos cels qui kaient à grant bruit.
upon those who fall with great noise
Sonnent flahutes et buissines,
Sound flutes and trumpets
chevalier fierent sor poitrines,
knights strike upon breasts
et sor escus et sor haubers;
and upon shields and upon hauberks
le cevals kaient tot envers,
the horses fall all backward
lances brisent et escus fendent,
lances they-break and shields they-split
et li fers des estriers estendent;
and the irons of-the stirrups stretch
regnes ronpent, espées fraignent;
reins they-break swords they-shatter
li un perdent, li autre gaignent,
the ones lose the others gain
li un keurent por les fors prendre;
the ones run for the strong-ones to-take

li autre keurent por desfendre,
the others run for to-defend
tant cop reçoivre et tant ferir,
so-many blow receive and so-many strike
li un les autres envaïr;
the ones the others assail
moult estoit grant li capléis,
very was great the hacking
et des lances li froisséis;
and of-the lances the shattering
de totes parts fremist li rans;
from all sides quivers the rank
moult par i ert la noise grans,
very much there was the noise great
des cols et des lances li frois;
of-the blows and of-the lances the crash
de totes pars sont à desrois,
from all sides they-are in disorder
en grant presse et en tel mellée;
in great press and in such melee
cascuns fiert grans cols de l'espée
each strikes great blows with the-sword
que n'i oïssiés Diu tonnant.
that not-there you-would-have-heard God thundering
Es vos entre II rans poignant
Behold here between two ranks spurring
Giglains qui fiert le Sagremor
Guinglain who strikes the Sagremor
amont sor son escu à or,
above upon his shield with gold

de la lance, par tel desroi,
with the lance with such onset
qu'il l'abati en un erboi.
that-he him-threw-down in a grass-plot
Celui laisse et autre r'abat
Him he-leaves and other throws-down-again
à terre del cheval tot plat.
to ground from-the horse all flat
Moult bien le refaisoit Giglains;
Very well it did-also Guinglain
maint chevalier prist à ses mains.
many-a knight he-took with his hands
Giflès et Bliobliéris,
Giflet and Bliobleheris
qui au Gué perillous fu pris,
who at-the Ford perilous was taken
et l'Orguillos et cil des Aies
and the-Proud-One and he of-the Aies
ne poignoient pas en manaies,
not spurred at-all in idleness
ains le parfaisoient si bien,
rather it they-accomplished so well
que nus n'i puet amender rien.
that any not-therein can amend anything
Mais nus prendre ne se pooit
But any to-take not himself could
à Giglain qui tos les venquoit.
to Guinglain who all them vanquished
Ço que il ataint, tot destruit;
That which he reaches all he-destroys

de totes pars l'esgardent tuit;
from all sides him-look-at all
por ço que tos les autres vaint,
for this that all the others he-vanquishes
l'esgardoient chevalier maint.
him-looked-at knight many-a
Tant fiert de l'espée forbie,
So-much he-strikes with the-sword burnished
que tuit li portent garantie
that all him bear warrant
qu'il avoit vencu le tornoi
that-he had vanquished the tourney
et que le pris en porte o soi.
and that the prize thereof he-carries with himself
Solaus cacha et vint li vespres;
Sun set and came the evening
si faillirent atant les vespres;
so failed at-that the vespers
et Aguissans li rois guencist
and Aguisant the king turned
et Giglain par le roquet prist,
and Guinglain by the cloak took
se li a dit, qu'aveuc lui soit
so him he-has said that-with him he-may-be
et qu'aveuc lui herbergeroit.
and that-with him he-would-lodge
Tant le losange et tant le prie,
So-much him he-flatters and so-much him prays
Giglain remaint, moult l'en mercie.
Guinglain remains much him-thereof thanks

Es les vos au mangier tornés.
Behold them here to-the eating turned
Quant il les sorrent atornés,
When they them knew arranged
si se sont au mangier assis,
so themselves they-are to-the eating seated
escuier ont as tables pris;
squires have at-the tables taken
trestot quanques lor fu mestier
all whatever them was need
orent apresté escuier.
had prepared squires
La nuit jurent à grant deduit;
The night they-lay in great delight
bien main au jor se lievent tuit.
well early at-the day themselves raise all
Quant li saint sonent au mostier,
When the bells ring at-the minster
à messe vont li chevalier.
to mass go the knights
Escuier estrillent et ferent,
Squires curry and shoe
haubers rollent, lances enferent,
hauberks they-roll lances they-tip-with-iron
si les metent, ferment potraus,
so them they-put fasten breast-straps
torsent et cainglent ces cevaus,
they-pack and girth these horses
atornent ces cauces de fer,
they-prepare these chausses of iron

metent une coroie de rer.
they-put a strap of iron

* * *

(lacuna)

Que vos iroie je contant?
What to-you should-go I telling

Bien l'avait fait Giglains devant,
Well it-had done Guinglain before

mais or le fist il assés mieus.
but now it did he much better

Car ainc on ne vit as plus preus,
For ever one not saw among-the most valiant

chevalier qui mius le fesist.
knight who better it should-do

Tot le pris dou tournoi conquist;
All the prize of-the tourney he-conquered

par verité dire vos os
by truth to-say to-you I-dare

que tot l'en donerent le los.
that all him-thereof gave the praise

The Crowning

XXI

When the tourney ends, Arthur sends Giflet and Lampart for Guinglain, welcomes him at Valedon, and at London asks him to take Blonde Esmerée. He consents, and at Snowdon in Wales, where she wishes to be crowned, he is crowned and weds her. For one kind look, Renaut tells his lady, Guinglain will find his lost love; without it, never.

Li rois Bruians bien le refist;
The king Bruiant well it did-again
au vespres li tornois falist;
at-the vespers the tourney failed
Artus tramist de l'autre part
Arthur sent from the-other side
Giflet le fil d'Eu et Lampart.
Giflet the son of-Do and Lampart
Por demander qui cil estoit
For to-ask who he was
qui le tornoi vencu avoit,
who the tourney vanquished had
et saveir se Giglains i erre.
and to-know if Guinglain there was
Et cil font del roi la proiere.
And they do of-the king the request
Quant il se furent desarmé,
When they themselves were disarmed
isnelement i sont alé.
swiftly there they-are gone
Ensanble à Aguisel le roi,
Together with Aguisant the king

trovent Giglain, qui el tornoi,
they-find Guinglain who in-the tourney
avoit vencu. Quant il le virent,
had vanquished When they him saw
saciés que grant joie se firent.
know that great joy themselves they-made
Quant entre conjoï se furent,
When each-other rejoiced themselves they-were
por aler à la cort se murent
for to-go to the court themselves they-moved
Lanpars et Giflet et Giglains.
Lampart and Giflet and Guinglain
Tant ont chevaucié par les plains,
So-much they-have ridden through the plains
et tant ont lor cemin tenu,
and so-much they-have their road held
qu'il sont à Valedon venu;
that-they are to Valedon come
à son ostel trovent Artus.
at his lodging they-find Arthur
Quant il les vit, si lieve sus,
When he them saw so he-rises up
Giglan com vit, va le baisier
Guinglain as he-saw goes him to-kiss
et de ses deus bras l'enbracier.
and with his two arms him-to-embrace
Lors véissiés grant joie faire,
Then you-would-have-seen great joy make

les chevaliers vers Giglan traire
the knights toward Guinglain draw
et saluer et conjoïr
and greet and welcome
et consentent de lui servir.
and they-consent of him to-serve
* * *
(lacuna)
As uns, hermines engolés
To-the ones ermines collared
as autres, deniers monéés
to-the others pennies minted
et mantials vairs et siglatons,
and mantles vair and ciclatons
et cotes et vairs peliçons,
and coats and vair furs
bons palefrois, reubes de soie.
good palfreys robes of silk
Moult fisent cele nuit grant joie
Very they-made that night great joy
l'uns portoit vairs, li autres gris.
the-one carried vair the other gray
Feste sanblast, ce vos fust vis;
Feast it-would-have-seemed this to-you would-be seeming
cotes à armer ont garçon.
coats for arming have boys
La nuit jurent à Valedon.
The night they-lay at Valedon
Et quant ce vint au bon matin,
And when this came to-the good morning

si se mit Artus en cemin.
so himself put Arthur on road
A Londres s'en vont trestot droit,
To London themselves-thence they-go all straight
là ù Blonde Esmerée estoit.
there where Blonde Esmerée was
Ensanble o lui Giglains s'en vait;
Together with him Guinglain himself-thence goes
li rois Artus grant joie en fait,
the king Arthur great joy thereof makes
qu'il a son cosin recovré.
that-he has his cousin recovered
Tant ont cevauché et erré,
So-much they-have ridden and journeyed
que il sont à Londres venu,
that they are to London come
ù furent volentiers véu.
where they-were willingly seen
Quant Blonde Esmerée le vit,
When Blonde Esmerée him saw
saciés que grant joie li fist.
know that great joy him she-made
Giglain enbracha et salue;
Guinglain she-embraced and greets
li rois le prit par la main nue,
the king her took by the hand bare
et par la main l'a Giglain pris,
and by the hand him-he-has Guinglain taken
si s'est entre ces deus asis.
so himself-is between these two seated

Si apela de ses barons.
So he-called of his barons
Primiers i vint rois Amangons,
First there came king Amangon
et Giflès et li rois Bruians,
and Giflet and the king Bruiant
Yvains là outres et Tristrans,
Yvain the bastard and Tristan
Lanpars et Kais li senescals,
Lampart and Kay the seneschal
Saigremors et Gale li cals,
Sagremor and Gales the bald
et des autres i vient asés.
and of-the others there comes plenty
Le rois lor dist: «Or escoutés.»
The king them said Now hear
Lors a Giglain à raison mis:
Then he-has Guinglain to speech put
«Biaus niés, fait-il, biaus ciers amis,
Fair nephew says-he fair dear friend
«moult par sui liés en mon corage,
very much I-am glad in my heart
«quant vos voi tant preu et tant sage,
when you I-see so valiant and so wise
«et que je vos ai recovré.
and that I you have recovered
«Moult vos avoie desiré.
Much you I-had desired
«Dès or mais vos veul ensaucier.
From now more you I-wish to-exalt

«Or vos veul d'une rien proier,
Now you I-wish of-a thing to-pray
«que vos prendés ceste roïne,
that you take this queen
«à cui moult grans regnes acline,
to whom very great realms bow
«à fame, bien vos l'entendés.
as wife well you it-understand
«Si en serés rois coronés,
So thereof you-will-be king crowned
«moult poissans et de grant povoir.
very mighty and of great power
«Et vos le devés bien avoir,
And you her must well have
«que par arme l'avés conquise
for by arms her-you-have conquered
«et de moult grant peril fors mise.
and from very great peril out put
«Por li vos estes moult penés,
For her you are much labored
«plus bele avoir vos ne poés;
more fair to-have you not can
«et si est de moult grant parage,
and so she-is of very great lineage
«ne por biauté, ne por lignage,
neither for beauty nor for lineage
«ne le devés vos laissier mie,
not her must you leave at-all

«que moult est de grant signorie
for very she-is of great lordship
«et que moult vos aime et desire,
and for much you she-loves and desires
«si veut que vos soiés ses sire.»
so she-wishes that you may-be her lord
Li rois et tuit l'ont tant proié
The king and all him-have so-much prayed
que Giglains lor a otroié.
that Guinglain them has granted
Il vit la dame bele et sage,
He saw the lady fair and wise
se li plot moult en son corage.
so him pleased much in his heart
Li rois dist les noces fera
The king said the wedding he-will-make
et son neveu coronera.
and his nephew will-crown
Mais ne le veut Blonde Esmerée,
But not it wishes Blonde Esmerée
tant qu'ele soit en sa contrée,
until that-she be in her country
que de la courone son pere
that with the crown (of-)her father
et de celi qui fu sa mere,
and of her who was her mother
i soient andoi couroné.
there may-be both crowned

Giglains a cel consel loé.
Guinglain has that counsel approved
Le roi prient que il i aille:
The king they-pray that he there may-go
si fera il, ce dist, sans faille;
so will-do he this said without fail
qu'andoi les velt moult onerer;
for-both them he-wishes much to-honor
lor oire font tost atorner.
their journey they-make quickly arrange
Cele nuit à grant joie furent
That night in great joy they-were
à Londres la cité, ù jurent.
at London the city where they-lay
Au main, quant li aube est crevée,
At-the morning when the dawn is broken
si se leve Blonde Esmerée
so herself raises Blonde Esmerée
et Giglains et Artus li rois.
and Guinglain and Arthur the king
Escuier torsent le harnois.
Squires pack the harness
Que feroie longes noveles?
Why should-I-make long tidings
Es cevals ont mises les seles,
On-the horses they-have put the saddles
et tost se metent en la plaigne.
and quickly themselves they-put on the plain
Moult mainne Artus bele conpaigne.
Very leads Arthur fair company

Or cevaucent à grans jornées.
Now they-ride by great days'-journeys
Tant passent marces et contrées,
So-many they-pass marches and countries
que il sont en Gales venu.
that they are into Wales come
Là sont à joie recéu
There they-are with joy received
et à moult grant porcession,
and with very great procession
en la cité de Sinaudon.
in the city of Snowdon
Par Gales va la renomée
Through Wales goes the renown
que lor dame estoit retornée,
that their lady was returned
et que celui prendre voloit
and that him to-take she-wished
qui de l'angoisse oté l'avoit.
who from the-anguish taken her-had
Ceste nouvele moult lor plot,
This news much them pleased
et la dame mandé les ot.
and the lady summoned them had
Si s'en vont tuit vers Sinaudon
So themselves-thence go all toward Snowdon
del roiaume tuit li baron.
of-the kingdom all the barons
Or vos pui bien dire, por voir,
Now to-you I-can well say for true

puis que Dius fist matin et soir,
since that God made morning and evening
ne fus nus hom plus bien venus
not was any man more well welcomed
n'à plus grant joie recéus
nor-with more great joy received
com Giglains fu en cele terre:
as Guinglain was in that land
cascuns voloit s'amor conquerre;
each wished his-love to-win
tot volent conquerre s'amor,
all wish to-win his-love
tot le veulent à lor signor.
all him wish as their lord
Que vos iroie je contant,
What to-you should-go I telling
ne autres choses devisant?
nor other things describing
Illuec fu Giglains coronés,
There was Guinglain crowned
de cui devant oï avés,
of whom before heard you-have
et la dame r'a esposée,
and the lady has-also wedded
et aveu lui fu coronée;
and with him she-was crowned
puis fu rois de moult grant memore,
then he-was king of very great memory
si com raconte li istore.
so as tells the story

Ci faut li roumans et define.
Here ends the romance and finishes
Bele, vers cui mes cuers s'acline,
Fair-one toward whom my heart bows
Renals de Biauju moult vos prie,
Renaut of Beaujeu much you prays
por Diu, que ne l'obliés mie.
for God that not it-you-forget at-all
De cuer vos veut tos jors amer,
With heart you he-wishes all days to-love
ce ne le poés vos véer.
this not it can you forbid
Quant vos plaira, dira avant,
When to-you it-will-please he-will-tell further
u il se taira ore atant.
or he himself will-be-silent now at-that
Mais por un biau sanblant mostrer
But for a fair look to-show
vos feroit Giglain retrover
to-you he-would-make Guinglain find-again
s'amie que il a perdue,
his-love whom he has lost
qu'entre ses bras le tenroit nue.
for-between his arms her he-would-hold naked
Si de çou li faites delai,
If of this him you-make delay
si ert Giglains en tel esmai,
so will-be Guinglain in such dismay
que jamais n'avera s'amie.
that ever not-will-have his-love

D'autre vengeance n'a il mie:
Of-other vengeance not-has he at-all
mais por la soie grant grevance,
but for the his great grievance
ert sor Giglain ceste vengeance,
will-be upon Guinglain this vengeance
que jamais jor n'en parlerai,
that ever day not-thereof I-shall-speak
tant que le bel sanblant aurai.
until that the fair look I-shall-have