Anglo-Norman Poems in a Dublin Manuscript

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Source: *The Modern Language Review*, Vol. 13, No. 3 (Jul., 1918), pp. 312-318

Published by: [Modern Humanities Research Association](#)

Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/3714231>

Accessed: 25/06/2014 04:09

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ANGLO-NORMAN POEMS IN A DUBLIN MANUSCRIPT.

IN the first part of my *Inventaire des anciens manuscrits de Dublin* I described briefly the Anglo-Norman contents of MS. C. 4. 2 (No. 312) of the Library of Trinity College, Dublin. In a courteous review (*Romania* XLIV, 1915, pp. 131—135) of my work M. A. Långfors offered some suggestions concerning two of the pieces indicated by me, and hence a thorough investigation of these poems is desirable.

The MS. is a vellum quarto of 184 numbered leaves, written in an English hand of the latter part of the fourteenth century. After several Latin tracts¹ there commences, on f. 46 b, an Anglo-Norman poem written in double columns and without any title:

Sage est qi sen escript
Il fet a plusors grant profist etc.

M. Långfors (*op. cit.*, p. 132) pointed out that these two verses are identical with the first two of the *Vie de saint Georges*, a poem in 1711 lines by Simund de Freine (ed. Matzke, *Soc. des Anciens Textes Français*, 1909, pp. 61—117), and suggested that our poem might be an incomplete copy of the latter work. On comparing the two, however, I find that the equivalence is limited to the first two verses, and that our poem has nothing to do with Saint George. I give here the beginning and end of the poem, which contains 337 lines:

f. 46 b Sage est qi sen escript,
Il fet a plusors grant profist ;
Pur ceo vous voil un poi toucher,
Si le vous plest escoter.
Qe cendres es devez penser,
Et a cendres devetz returner.
Tut cest an sumes passe,
Et veu avoum lez iours de este,
Les uns beaux et delitouse,
Les autres horribles et hydouse,

10

¹ The Latin contents of the MS. consist for the most part of prose treatises of the 13th and 14th centuries of a liturgical and theological nature, but there are also some rhythmical hymns. At the bottom of f. 123 b the scribe has written a short prayer in English.

- De grant tempes e de escleire,
 De pluvie, de vent e de tonere,
 De yver qi ad este pluviose
 Qe lez chemyns ad fet tayus,
 Et de la nativite
 Avoum veu la iolivete,
 Et sumes tant avant passe
 Qe en seint temps sumes entre.
 Ore ait chescun en pense,
 Cel an avant qe est ale..... 20
 f. 49 b Et com en ventre fuist nurry,
 Ne l'oblez pas ieo vous enpri,
 Qe cendres es devetz penser,
 Et a cendres devetz retourner. 337

This poem is immediately followed by another in 333 lines, which is also without title:

- f. 49 b Ore escutez lais e clers
 Ceste romaunce qe vint apers¹,
 Coment vous devietz estre confes,
 Et de toutz voz pecches avoir reles.
 Dieu qi pur nous suffri passioun
 Servir lui devom od grant devotium;
 En iunes en orisounes en vellez en plours²
 Devum nous despender totz noz labours..... 8
 f. 52 a Car certain sumes qe murrum,
 Coment ne qant nous ne savum,
 Car le temps del homme pase
 Com la nue qe le vent chace,
 Et que ceo pensast povre avereit,
 Et le meutz de pecche se gardereit. 333
Explicit quidam tractatus.

This poem is followed by a Latin tract, ff. 52 a—57 b: Incipit tractatus fratris Hugonis de Scotia de Otiositate Hominis. Quid hic statis tota die otiosi, 11° Parab.³ Deus patrum nostrorum in cuius manu est omnis potestas..... This work is not in Migne and I have not hitherto met with it elsewhere. The author, Hugh of Scotland, appears to be unknown to Fabricius, Tanner, Chevalier, etc.

After a further series of Latin ecclesiastical tracts, there comes on ff. 140 a—143 b, without any title, the Anglo-Norman poem on the Vision of Tundal published by V. H. Friedel⁴ (*La Vision de Tondale*, Paris, 1907, pp. 63—86). This is the one copy known and it is, unfortunately, imperfect, only 363½ verses remaining. How many folios have been lost between f. 143 b and 144 a (on which commences an anonymous Latin commentary on the Gospel of St John) it is impossible to say.

¹ *The MS. has ap̄s.*

² *The MS. has plūs.*

³ Cf. Matth. 20, 6.

⁴ On this edition see Paul Meyer, *Romania*, 1907, t. xxxvi, p. 335.

M. Friedel (p. 67) thinks we have about a third of the whole. This being the unique MS. the editor claimed to have reproduced its readings with absolute fidelity. That he has not done so will be evident from the following collation of the whole: 7 MS. lez, ed. les; 10 MS. fatees, ed. faites; 10 MS. playn, ed. plain; 22 MS. entere, ed. entre; 43 MS. lez, ed. les; 44 MS. conmu, ed. connu; 45 MS. lez, ed. les; 48 MS. mekerdy, ed. mekerdi; 48 MS. vassall, ed. vasall; 49 MS. cesmal, ed. cest mal; 56 MS. dist, ed. dit; 57 MS. lui, ed. luy; 80 MS. meskerdi, ed. mescerdi; 90 MS. turner, ed. tourner; 108 MS. denferen, ed. d'enfern; 113 MS. disordines, ed. disordinez; 117 MS. solies, ed. soliez; 119 MS. un estail, ed. un' estail'; 119 MS. lez, ed. les; 120 MS. asseez esgardez fchez, ed. asseez fchez; 124 MS. aprocha forment, ed. forment aprocha; 128 MS. le aungel, ed. l'aungel; 130 MS. meinne, ed. nomne; 134 MS. appellez, ed. appelez; 134 MS. faistez, ed. faisteiz; 138 MS. comfорта, ed. conforta; 146 MS. lez, ed. les; 147 MS. lez, ed. les; 172 MS. numbreez sont, ed. sont nombreez; 187 MS. lez, ed. les; 189 MS. maufes, ed. maufez; 192 MS. lez, ed. les; 195 MS. lez, ed. les; 196 MS. autres, ed. autrez; 208 MS. lez, ed. les; 208 MS. cheitiues, ed. cheities; 208 MS. aleint, ed. aleiunt; 211 MS. qi, ed. qe; 211 MS. lez, ed. les; 231 MS. graunt, ed. garaunt; 240 MS. un, ed. un'; 243 MS. lez, ed. les; 244 MS. qi, ed. qe; 245 MS. entres, ed. entrez; 250 MS. lez, ed. les; 251 MS. pes, ed. pez; 251 MS. tournes, ed. tournez; 252 MS. fermes, ed. fermez; 256 MS. lez, ed. les; 256 MS. lount, ed. sount; 261, 262, 265, MS. lez, ed. les; 266 MS. Kaunt, ed. Qaunt; 275 MS. lez, ed. les; 279 MS. entres, ed. entrez; 281 MS. ordines, ed. ordinez; 290 MS. lez, ed. les; 291 MS. meintenaunt, ed. maintenaunt; 293 MS. des chenes, ed. de chenes; 296 MS. lez, ed. les; 296 MS. coles, ed. colez; 303 MS. illoqe, ed. illoque; 304 MS. liuerez, ed. liurez; 305 MS. fut, ed. fu; 306 MS. le, ed. la; 307 MS. ouertes, ed. ouertez; 314 MS. lai, ed. lac; 318 MS. lez, ed. les; 318 MS. deuourir, ed. denourir; 321 MS. fere, ed. fer; 322 MS. pes, ed. pez; 326 MS. passere, ed. passer; 327 MS. fait, ed. fet; 329 MS. lez, ed. les; 329 MS. ount, ed. ouut; 332 MS. lez, ed. les; 337 MS. solū, ed. solun; 339 MS. seint', ed. seint; 347 MS. wache, ed. vache; 356 MS. wache, ed. vache; 357 MS. viuere, ed. viure.

On ff. 145 a—146 a, written in double columns, is found an unpublished Anglo-Norman *Oreisun de Noustre Dame* (cf. *Långfors, Romania*, XLIV, 1915, p. 132), in 186 octosyllabics. As it is short and not devoid of linguistic interest I reproduce it below, conforming as closely as possible to the orthography of the MS. There is no title. In several places the original text has been erased and other readings sub-

stituted in a contemporary hand, which has also inserted a number of words and corrections.

- f. 145 a Pretiose dame, seinte Marie,
 Mere dieu espouse e amye, [*erased and re-written*]
 Pucele franche e alose,
 E de la grace deux enlumine, 4
 Pur la ioie ke avies en tere
 Ke totz iours vous ert plenere [*er. and re-wr.*]
 Ayez pite de moy chettif doleruse,
 Alures ne say .vus quere sucurs, 8
 Si a vous noun tre duce Marie, [*er. and re-wr.*]
 De ducur e de pite tute repleine,
 Ke estes ioie a celestiens
 E vie duce a cristiens, 12
 As orphanins e povres estes succurrabels,
 As chaitifs e a peccheurs estes merciabls,
 As dolens ioie delitable,
 As bosonnus mult profitable, 16
 A vous amauns mult amiable,
 Envers voster filz tute tens aydable; [*er. and r.*]
 Vous estes du cel la reyne,
 Tute la curt vers vous encline; 20
 Vous estes mere e pucele
 Sur tutes creatures la plus bele;
 Unkes ne fu tun pier crie,
 Ne ia n'ert al mund trove. 24
 A vous servent les aungles du cel [*addition inserted*]
 Et tute la court celestiel.
 Vous estes de tuz biens la racine
 E de tuz mauz veraie medicine. [*add. ins.*] 28
 Vous estes a tuz ceus drue e amie [*correction made*]
 Ke lessent pecche e folie.
 Mult parfunt ceuz benurez
 Ke de vous, madame, sont amez. [*add. ins.*] 32
 Vous estes plaine de pite
 E mer de mercie a droit nome
 Ke a Teofle faystes succurs
 Ke rena ton fiz par ses folurs; [*add. ins.*] 36
 E la egypcien Marie
 Ke mult estoit de sole vie
 Ke vous resutes en plegage [*orig. reading recutes*]
 Devaunt voster seinte ymage; 40
 E le moyne qe en l'ewe pery [*add. ins.*]
 Par vous, madame, vint a mercy; [*add. ins.*]
 E le clerke ke iadys neya
 En disaunt 'ave Maria'; 44
 E le abbesse engrosse
 Par vous, madame, fust deluere;
 Et plusures autres, tres douce Marie,
 Par vous sunt venus de mort a vie. 48
 Nuls ne put dire les grant bienes
 Ke fetes sovent a cristienes.
 Quant ieo recorde vous grant bountez
 Ne me despayre pur mes pecchez. 52
 f. 145 b Deu say ke unkes nule ne pery
 Ke se mist, dame, en voster merci.

42 madame] *the MS. has* ma made.

- Tre duce dame, tre duce Marie,
De tute me meth en ta baillie ; 56
Cors e alme a vous commaunde
Voster amur pur en moun vivaunde.
De tus biens fu desherite,
Povre, destrute e degaste, 60
Madame aez de moy pite,
De conseil sui ieo mult esgarre,
Ne say ou aler ne ke fere
Ffors a vous dame debonere. 64
Des biens dont avez grant plente
Partiez ou moy par charite ;
Tant cum plus a peccheures partez
Si acressent plus voz bountes. [*corr. made*] 68
Le grant bien qe en vous est
Tuz ioures multiplie e crest.
Deux vous a fest a la manere,
De tuz biens est vous plenere. 72
Merci vous cri pur deux amour
Ke vous a fest si grant honure.
Aydez moy e mayntenez
Ke ieo [ne] soy de vous privez. 76
Madame merci, seinte Marie,
Des ordes pecches e de folies
Ke ieo ay feste en cest vie
Me deluerez la deux amye. 80
A vous me pleing e atendye,
Pur dieux amour ieo vous empri.
A moy pardonez mes pecches
Ke pleine su de iniquitez. 84
Madame a vous est moun resu
Ke trueres pur moy a duce Ihesu,
Ke si cher nous rechata,
Qant sa vie pur nous dona, 88
K'il nous doynt veray compunction,
Repentaunce e confeccioun,
E qe ieo puyz en cest vie
Espener mes maus e ma folie [*er. and corr.*] 92
Dount ieo su ore angusse,
Dolent e triste e ire.
Madame a ky le mund apent
Ffetes a voster fiz present [*er.*] 96
De moy e priez par grant succur
Ke il me receive en bone amur,
E ke ieo des ore metz soy
En soun servise en droit voy, 100
E ke li deble orde ne ayt poeste
De ma char frele e malure,
Ne le mund par son desire
Ne me face de li partir. 104
Defende moy seinte Marie
De pecchez e de vilanie.
Requerez Ihesu voster fiz
Ke ieo say de ses eliz, 108
Ke il m'a pardonne mes pecchez [*er. and corr.*]
Dont sui digne ester dampnez.
Tant vous ayme li haut sire

94 *The MS. has* Dolent "e ire" e triste.

	Ne vous veut de ren encounter dire. [<i>er. and corr.</i>]	112
	Madame mustrez a voster filz cher	
	Les mameles ke il deina leter,	
	E le douce venter ou il vist	
	Kant en cest mond apparust,	116
	De vous beles oez le regardez,	
	E vous beles maynes vers lui levez,	
	E requerez de quere pitus	
	Ke il aye mercie de nous.	120
	De moy chaitif eez pite	
	E merci dame benure.	
f. 146 a	Pur la amour voster fiz Ihesu	
	Donez moy grace e vertu,	124
	Fforce e vigur enterine	
	De lui e vous servir sanz fin.	
	Après ceste mortele vie	
	Receif m'alme en ta companie,	128
	E si recorder, mere de gloire,	
	De ceux ke me unt en memore,	
	Especialment fetes succures	
	A touz qe me ayment en bone amurs	132
	Ke pur vous ayent alegaunce,	
	Ke en mes priers unt affiance,	
	E de ceux prenes vous pite	
	Ki par ma folie unt pecche,	136
	E de touz cristiens ensement	
	Ke volunte unt de amendement	
	A voster fiz vous acordez,	
	E de tutes maus deluerez,	140
	Pur les almes ke sount departiez	
	Doucement requerez toun fiz	
	Ke il les meyne hors de payne	
	A la grant ioye souveraine.	144
	Merci vous crie, madame, ades	
	A grant bosoyne nous soez pres.	
	Qant de ci irray a dolur,	
	A cel hure me fetes succur,	148
	Ke dignement pus le corps user	
	Dunt voster fiz me deygna rechatte,	
	Et le saut benoyt autersi	
	Ke pur moy chaytif espan die	152
	Receyves m'alme en ta baillie	
	Qant el ert dal cors partie,	
	Ke li orde deble n'ayt poeste	
	A demustrer sa cruelte.	156
	Merci vous crie, douce Marie,	
	Ore ne dunk ne me obliez mie, [<i>add. ins.</i>]	
	Requerez Ihesu voster fiz	
	Ke ieo say de ses eliz	160
	Par sa merci, par sa duceur,	
	Et par voster saynte amour.	
	Ma douce dame merci vous cri,	
	Grantez moy qe il soyt issi	164
	Seinz e seintes communement	
	Qant la dame veez en present,	
	Pur la ioye ke de lui avez,	
	Pur nous cheitifes la requeres,	168
	Ke el nous soit envers dieu ei aye	
	De venir a voster compaynnie. Amen.	170

Grace vous renk tut pusaunt pere,	171
Verray salu de m'alme liverer	172
Ke cest nuyte me avez garde	
Et par ta merci sauve ;	
Ore te prie par ta merci	
Otriez moy d'espender ici	176
Iceo iour ke est a venir	
E toun service e a toun plaisir,	
En verray humilite,	
E pur profite e charite,	180
E purete de cors e de quer,	
Grauntez moy ceo iour passer,	
Ke moun servise vous soyt a gre,	
Ke en male ne turne ne en pecche [er.]	184
Mes seyn e sauf de encombrer	
Toun noun benoyt puyt loer. Amen.	186

171—186] *Apparently to be separated from the preceding, but there is no break whatever in the MS.*

171 renk] *the MS. has re'nk.*

178 plaisir] *the MS. has plaiser.*

The only other French pieces in the MS. are in prose :

f. 147 *a*—147 *b*: Seinte Margarete, duce pucele, amyè Ihesu Crist, pucele qe en cele estes corone, en tere estes honure, merci vous cri madame cher oyet bonement ma prier.....tel pite ayet ke par vous sentte aloynes de pecchez et de tutes malurez. Amen Pater Noster.

f. 158 *a*, six lines: Quayntyse par ffausyne, Richesse par larcyné.....

ff. 158 *a*—159 *b*: Ffrere tout tout (*sic*) pussaunt, seyngur drayturel, roy de misericord, trinite parfit.....issi soummes deluerez par vous de toutes maus.

f. 167 *a*: Cest orisoun disaite seynte Gile pur l'alme soun per chescun iour en le ane qe estoit en enfer.....

M. ESPOSITO.

DUBLIN.