

Libious Dystonies

a)

he cufes orore farione
 and his mody y fraso stonz
 he hoo vo at ony nede
 that lyentith of a congnorony
 5 that was wot wity & wye weppony
 a donyt man of dede
 his name was hote byngeldyn
 y gote he was fow farony
 bi a frofte fide
 10 of abbay knygt no pftable
 wty dwtm at the fownd table
 hnd nenev yet man vods
 byngeldyn was fwe and byzt
 fentil of body and fwe of fte
 15 byftand thoz he knowe
 and his mody kep to hym w mygt
 that he fould be no knygt
 y doned in no maner
 for that he was fo fanaye
 20 and blitche wote do outwage
 to his folowis m fze
 for dour of willede hoo
 his mody kep to hym in deoc
 do donyt childe and dore
 25 for he was so fwe of vye
 his mody callid hym beanfwe
 and now othw name
 and he hym filus was nyod
 that he no byd none y vye
 30 whate he hie of his darme
 till he bi felle bypon a day
 the childe went to play
 of dore to hane his fame
 he fownde a knygt wher he lay
 35 in Arme that was fownt and gay
 slayne and made ful tame
 the childe dore of the knygt wode
 and hym filus ther in he ftefode
 in that vlyde Armony
 40 and when he had do that dede
 a none to glafonbury he yod
 ther was King Arthow
 as he fite in his hallo
 a walye his knygtis alle
 45 he gweic hem wty honoy

and fide Arthow my lord
 graunt me to fpeke a wordo
 y pray yore farony
 y am a childe ynknowe
 fownd out of the fowte
 and wot be fownd a knygt
 lord y pray yon norwye
 and wty yore mory morwye
 graunt me that a none vlyte
 than oth Arthow the knygt
 a none wty out lefynyt
 tollid me the name a phyt
 for fychon y was bore
 no fye y none bi fze
 none o fwe a wlyte
 the childe fide bi fent fownd
 y note whate is my name
 y am the more nyod
 but when y was tame at home
 my mody in hie game
 callid me beanfwe
 than fide Arthow the knygt
 this is a wondr thynyt
 bi god and ome dombos
 when he bot ben a knygt
 and wote none whate he knygt
 knyde is o fwe of vye
 y wot hym yore a name
 bi fwe yore al in fame
 for he is fo fwe and fwe
 bi god and bi fent fownd
 so callid him none his darme
 who woman fo ome the be
 none callid him alle thynyt
 bybons dystonies
 for the lous of me
 fan may ye fownd on a vore
 the fownd on thate y knowe
 ceptis o hite he
 byng Arthow a none vlyte
 fan him to make a knygt
 vpon the filus day
 and panye him Arthow knygt
 and wty a fownd knygt of mygt
 he gweic him fte to fye

Page d'un manuscrit sur papier, contenant des recettes médicales et une poésie anglaise. Sur la dernière page, le copiste a écrit : *Hic pennam fixi. Penitet me si male scripsi . . . Anno Domini 1457.* Sur le 1^{er} feuillet une main italienne du XVI^e siècle a écrit : *Questo manoscritto in lingua tedesca* (une main plus récente a corrigé *inglese*) *l'ho havuto da Diomede di Leonardis e fu primieramente* (la note est interrompue ici). Grandeur du feuillet : 28 × 19,5 cm, de la surface écrite : 23 × 14,5 cm. Voir sur ce manuscrit et cette poésie M. Kaluza, *Libeaus Desconus. Die mittelenglische Romanze vom schönen Unbekannten*, Leipzig 1890 (vol. 5 de E. Kölbing, *Altenglische Bibliothek*). Le poète anglais n'est pas connu. La poésie est en strophes rimées de douze vers; en général le schème de la rime est : a a b a a b c c b d d b; beaucoup de strophes pourtant suivent ce schème : a a b a a b c c b c c b (voir les vers 25—36).

Gothique anglaise. L'écriture est fortement cursive. Deux fois l'on rencontre pour **th** (2. 82) le signe formé du caractère runique; il ressemble à **p**. En outre on se sert souvent du **g** demi-oncial, issu de l'ancienne écriture insulaire : il remplace **gh** dans le corps ou à la fin des mots, et de fait souvent ces mêmes mots ont le **gh** à sa place (5. 17. 34. 51. 60. 70. 86).

Lettres isolées. **a** prend parfois la grande forme singulière que nous avons déjà rencontrée pl. 113a (4. 11). **o** ressemble au petit **d** rond et à l'**s** rond (2. 3). **f** et **s** ont un jambage fort et allongé

(2. 6). **g** a deux formes (54. 55). Le trait ne se trouve sur l'**i** que rarement (80). **n** et **u** ne se peuvent distinguer (10. 11). **r** a trois formes : l'une issue de l'**r** droit et qui ressemble au **v** (1. 11. 55; comp. pl. 119); la forme ronde (46. 47); une forme allongée, issue de l'**r** anglo-saxon fourchu (2. 11). De même **s** a trois formes : voir *his, was* (2. 5); *us, wis, so* (3. 5. 25); *side, sight* (9. 14).

Voir les abréviations pour *and* (= *et*, 5), *armour* (35), *par* (28), *that* (2), *with* (16).

Aucun signe de ponctuation.

Libious Discoinnous ¹⁾

Jesus ²⁾ Criste, owre saviour,
And his modir, that swete flour,
Helpe us at our nede,
That listenith of a conquerour,
5 That was wis witty and wight werroure
A doughti man of dede.
His name was hote Gyngelwyn;
Y gete he was of sir Gaweyn
Bi a forestis side.
10 Of a betir knyght ne profitable
With Arthur at the round table
Hurd never yet man rede.

Gyngelwyn was feire and bright,
Gentil of body and feire of sight,
15 Bastard though he were.
And his modir kepit him with myght
That he schulde se no knyght
Y armed in no manere,
For that he was so savage
20 And blitheli wolde do outrage
To his felowis in fere.
For dout of wikkid loos
His modir kepit him in cloos
As doughti childe and dere.

For he was so feire of vise
His modir callid hym Beaufits
And none othir name,
And he him silve was nyce
That he ne axid never y wis,
30 Whate he hight, of his dame.
Tille hit bi fille uppon a day,
The childe went him to play,
Of dere to have his game;
He founde a knyght, where he lay,
35 On armour, that was stout and gay,
Slayne and made ful tame.

The childe drowe of the knyghtis wede
And him silve ther in he schrede
In that riche armour.
40 And whan he had do that dede,
A none to Glastonbury he yede.
Ther was kyng Arthour
As he sate in his halle
Amonge his knyghtis alle
45 He grete hem with honour

And seide: „Arthour, my lord,
Graunt me to speke a worde;
Y pray yow par amour.

Y am a childe unknowe
50 I come out of the sowthe
And wol be made a knyght.
Lord, y pray you nowthe,
And with your mery mowthe
Graunt me that a none right.“
55 Than seid Arthur the kyng:
„A none, with out lesyng,
Telle me thi name a plight!
For sithen y was bore,
Ne say y never bi fore
60 None so feire a wight.“

The childe seid: „Bi seint Jame!
Y note, whate is my name;
Y am the more nyce;
But whan I was tame at home,
65 My modur in hur ³⁾ game
Callid me Beauface.“
Than seid Arthur the king:
„This is a wondir thing,
Bi God and seint Denyce!
70 When he wol ben a knyght,
And wote never, whate he hight,
And is so feire of vis.

Y wol him yeve a name
Bi fore yow al in same,
75 For he is so feire and fre.
Bi God and bi seint Jame,
So callid him never his dame,
Who woman so ever scho be.
Nowe callith him alle thus:
80 Lybeus Dysconius, ⁴⁾
For the love of me!
Than may ye witen on a rowe
The feire on thatte y knowe
Certis, so hate he!“

85 Kyng Arthur a none right
Gan him to make a knyght
Uppon the silve day
And yave him armour bright
And with a swerde bright of myght
90 He gurde him sothe to say;

¹⁾ Il semble, du moins, qu'on doive lire ainsi, ou *Discoinnous*. Dans le texte (d'une autre main) il y a *Dysconius* (80).
²⁾ Le copiste avait tracé un **i** long comme initiale, mais elle n'a pas été exécutée. ³⁾ Comp. *hurd* (12). ⁴⁾ = *Le beau desconnu* (*inconnu*), avec la prononciation anglaise.