

ON THE TEXT OF *RICHEUT*

THE Old French poem *Richeut* was published by Méon in 1823 in the first volume of his *Nouveau Recueil de Fabliaux et Contes*, pp. 38–79. The manuscript of the poem (Bern 354, fol. 124^b–135^b) is evidently incorrect in many places, but Méon is often at fault in his reading of the manuscript. At the end of his article *Le fabliau de Richeut*, published in *Études romanes dédiées à Gaston Paris*, Paris, 1891, Professor Bédier gives somewhat more than a page of conjectured and corrected readings from a collation of the manuscript. Professor Bédier makes no claim to completeness, saying frankly, “Sans prétendre aucunement lever même la moitié des difficultés du texte, je crois utile de proposer ici les quelques corrections qui suivent.” In his review of the volume which contains Professor Bédier’s article (*Romania*, XXII, p. 137 ff.) Gaston Paris, without seeing the manuscript, adds another page of probable corrections, many of which I find supported by the manuscript, which Professor Bédier seems to have examined rather hastily.

Through the kindness of Mr. Jean Acher I have obtained an excellent photograph of the manuscript of the *Richeut*, of which I expect to publish an edition in the near future. It may be of value to some who may have occasion to use Méon’s edition of this important poem, before the appearance of a more accurate edition, to know the exact MS. reading in cases where the sense may be affected. Mere differences of orthography, where Méon often disregards the manuscript, are not mentioned here.

V. 7, Méon, *tot a sa guise*; MS., *tot as guise*. The rhyme is in *-ië* and the reading is suspicious.—20, Méon, *rayet*; MS., *raget*. Méon has *raget* in the glossary.—49, Méon, *Richaut a fait riche maudis*; MS., *mandis*, as G. Paris suggests.—

Verses 51–57, Méon reads:

Dou preste ot-el bien son escot,
Et si refist tenir por sot
Lo chevalier:
(Nes dan Guillaume definer

Qui ere atornez a Deu proier)
 Refit-el boivre lo destrier
 Et lo hernois.

G. Paris: "Suppr. les () aux vv. 54-55 et l. dans *Guillaume de Simier* (ou quelque nom pareil) pour *definer*." In the ms. v. 54 reads, *Nes dan Guillaume ler definer*, which seems to me a misreading of *Nes dan Guillaume fet desvier*. The passage would then read, correcting *qui ere* of v. 55 to *qu'ert*,

Dou preste ot el bien son escot,
 Et si refist tenir por sot
 Lo chevalier.
 Nes dan Guillaume fet desvier,
 Qu'ert atornez a Deu proier,
 Refist el boivre lo destrier
 Et lo hernois.

V. 68, Méon, *Et si ne lairai pas por honte*; Bédier, "Le ms. donne exactement, *Et si e ne lairai por honte*." The ms. reads, *Et si ne lairai pas por honte*.—99, Méon, *Ainz n'ai*, ms. *ainz noi*.—135, Bédier, "Lire avec le ms., Il i perdra ainz que s'an tort." The ms. reads *ainz qui san tort*, to be corrected to *ainz qu'il s'an tort*, cf. v. 823.—147, *ot* not in the ms.—273, ms. *aussiez*.—319, ms. *voldroie*.—445, ms. *Ri.*, corrected by Méon to *Herselot*.—469, ms. *messe*, as suggested by G. Paris.—507, Méon, *taelice*; G. Paris, *jaelice*; ms. *jaelice*.—565-7, Méon,

Tant a fait vers
 qu'il en set faire de divers:
 n'ot en l'escole si.

Bédier, "Sic dans le ms.; Lire si sachant." Paris, "M. B. propose de lire *n'ot en l'escole si sachant*, mais la rime doit être en *-ers*; je ne vois pas le mot a suppléer, *porvers* n'irait pas bien." The ms. reads clearly *si porvers*.—572, Méon, *qu'il la grisset au col*; ms. *grisset mantel*.—636, Méon, *Sor soi les fait estre enragiees*; Bédier, ms., *soz soi*. The ms. has *sor soi*.—691, Méon, *les fames*; ms., *les homes*.—777, Méon, *Car del lechors ne puet partir*; Bédier, *des lechois*; Paris, *de lechois*; ms., *del lechois*.—779, ms. *quil voit*.—784, ms. *ne trove si lonc ne si cort*.—787, ms., *veigne*.—801, ms., *plus que nus hom*.—812-14, Méon:

Onques rien ne perdi en quernes

N'a enbesa n'a deus en ternes,
Totjorz a quines.

Bédier, *ne en besa*. Méon follows the ms., where *enbesa* is evidently for *ambesas*. Cf. F. Semrau, *Würfel und Würfelspiel im alten Frankreich*, Halle, 1910 (no. 23 of *Beihefte zur Z. f. r. P.*) p. 63, note.—820, ms., *qui mis i est*.—848, ms., *Sil les fames*.—907, ms., *despersant*.—949, ms., *a bachet*.—960, ms., *nen ot*.—973, ms., *a lanjornee*.—974, ms., *trovoil soi nue*, as suggested by G. Paris.—1001, Méon, *Les chastieux vait en chant a ome*; Bédier, ms., *en chant a orne*(?); Paris, *cerchant à orne* (très clair, voy. Godefroy). The ms. has *cerchant a orne*.—1009, ms., *citeains*, as G. Paris suggests.—1015, ms., *Il li rant*.—1024, ms., *car mout semes*.—1027, Méon, *en cel carrage*; Paris, *carroge*; ms., *carroge*.—1039, Méon, *poroïl*; ms. *poroïl*.—1045, ms. *Hersanz pert bele mais nestoit*.—1070, ms., *ni tarda plus*.—1075-6, Méon,

Tint soi mout simple
qu'il ne saunte mist sa guimple;

ms., *quil ne saverte mist sa guimple*.—1117-20, Méon:

Voiz quel cors et quel vis ele a.
Où? dist Richaut, ce n'a mestier,
C'est la fille à un chevalier
Prou et cortois.

Paris, "Lacune après 1118." The *lacune* is in Méon and seems not to have been noticed by Bédier. The ms. reads:

Voiz quel cors et quel vis ele a.
Ou? dist .Ri. Il li moustra.
En cel solier
A! dist .Ri. ce na mestier.
Cest la fille a un chevalier
Preu et cortois.

—1296, Méon, *Li uns respont, Florie*; Paris, *Li uns respont: Taisiez, Florie*; ms. *Li uns respont Dame Florie*.

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