

117. *Monologue of a Drunkard*MS. Rawlinson D. 913
(Sum. Cat. No. 13679)

D . . . dronken— [Item 1, 1]
 dronken, dronken y-dronken—
 . . . dronken is tabart atte wyne.
 hay . . . suster, walter, peter, 4
 þe dronke al depe,
 ant ichulle eke!
 stonedet alle stille—
 stille, stille, stille— 8
 stonedet alle stille—
 stille as any ston;
 trippe a lutel wit þi fot,
 ant let þi body go! 12

118. *The Blacksmiths*

Arundel MS. 292

SWarte smekyd smeþes, smateryd wyth smoke, [f. 71^v]
 dryue me to deth wyth den of here dyntes!
 Swech noys on nyghtes ne herd men neuer:
 What knaue cry, & clateryng of knockes! 4
 þe cammede kongons cryen after 'col, col!'
 & blowen here bellewys þat al here brayn brestes.
 'huf, puf!' seyth þat on. 'haf, paf!' þat oþer.
 þei spyttyn & spraulyn & spellyn many spelles, 8
 þei gnauen & gnacchen, þei gronys togydere,
 and holdyn hem hote wyth here hard hamers.
 of a bole hyde ben here barm-fellys,
 here schankes ben schakeled for þe fere-flunderys; 12

No. 117. 5 MS. þe.
No. 118. *Written as prose.*

heuy hamerys þei han þat hard ben handled,
 stark strokes þei stryken on a stelyd stokke.
 'lus, bus! las, das!' rowtyn be rowe—
 sweche dolful a dreme þe deuyt it todryue; 16
 þe mayster longith a lityl & lascheth a lesse,
 twyneth hem tweyn, and towchith a treble.
 'tik, tak! hic, hac! tiket, taket! tyk, tak!
 lus, bus! lus, das!'—swych lyf þei ledyn! 20
 Alle cloþemerys cryst hem gyue sorwe,
 may no man for brenwaterys on nyght han hys rest!

119. *The Hunted Hare*

Porkington MS. 10

BI a forrest as I gan fare, [f. 81^v]
 Walkyng al myselfen a-lone,
 I hard a mornyng of an haare,
 Rouffully schew mad here mone. 4
 Dere-worth god, how schal I leve
 And leyd my lyve in lond?
 ffrov dale to doune I am I-drevfe; [f. 82^r]
 I not where I may syte or stond! 8
 I may noþer rest nor slepe
 By no wallay þat is so derne,
 Nor no couert may me kepe,
 But euer I rene fro herne to herne. 12
 hontteris wyll not heyre þer mase
 In hope of hunttyng for to wend;
 They cowpullyȝt þer howndes more & lase,
 And bryngyth theme to þe feldys ende. 16
 No. 119. 4 MS. mad he here.
 5 worth: *superior t̄ over o.*

Rochis rennyn on euery syde
 In forrovs þat hoppe me to fynd;
 honteris takythe þer horse and ryde,
 And cast the contray to þe wynd. 20

Anone as þey commyth me be-hynde,
 I loke and syt ful style and love;
 The furst mane þat me doth fynde
 Anon he cryit: 'so howe! so hoowe!' 24

'lo,' he sayth, 'where syttyt an haare—
 Aryse vpe, Watte, & go forth blyue!' [f. 82^v]
 With sorroe and with mych care
 I schape a-way with my lyve. 28

Att wyntter in þe depe snove
 Men wyl me seche for to trace,
 And by my steypes I ame I-knowe;
 And followyzt me fro place to place. 32

And yf I to þe toune come or torne,
 Be hit in worttes or in leyke,
 Then wyl þe wyffys al-so ȝeorne
 flece me with here dogis heyke. 36

And yf I syt and crope þe kovle,
 And þe wyfe be in þe waye,
 A-none schowe wyll swere, 'by cokkes sovle!
 There is an haare in my haye!' 40

Anone sche wyle clepe, 'forth, cure, knave!
 And loke ryzt weel wer I syte;
 By-hynd sche wyl with a stave
 ful wel porpos me to hette. 44

22 MS. I loke a-lowe.
 39 sovle MS. *cut* sov.
 Go forthe Wate.

30 MS. sche.
 41 MS. cure (?).

35 MS. ȝe wyne.
 44 *catchword*:

'Go forthe, Wate, Wit crystus curse, [f. 83^r]
 And yf I leve, þou schalt be take;
 I have an hare-pype in my purce,
 hit schal be set al for þi sauke!' 48

Ten hath þis wyffys ij dogges grete,
 On me sche byddynt heme goe;
 And as a scrowe sche wyll me þret,
 And euer sche cryit, 'go, dooge, gooe!' 52

But all way þis most I goo,
 By no banke I may a-byde;
 lord god, þat me is woo!
 Many a hape hath me bytyde. 56

There is no best in þe word, I wene,
 hert, hynd, buke ne dowe,
 That suffuris halfe so myche tene
 As doth þe sylly wat—go where he go. 60

ȝeyfe a gentylmane wyl have any game,
 And fynd me in forme where I syte,
 ffor dred of lossynge of his name
 I wot wele he wyle not me hyte. [f. 83^v]

ffor an acuris bred he wyll me leue,
 Or he wyll let his hondes rene;
 Of all þe men þat beth a-lyue
 I am most be-hold to gentyl-men! 68

As sone as I can ren to þe laye,
 A-non þe grey-hondys wyl me have;
 My bowels beth I-þrowe a-waye,
 And I ame bore home on a stavfe. 72

61 MS. gam.
 65 leue MS. *cut* le.

Als son as I am come home,
 I ame I-honge hye vp-on a pyne,
 With leke-worttes I am eette a-none,
 And whelpes play with my skyne! 76

120. *A Mumming of the Seven
 Philosophers*

Trinity Coll. Cambridge MS. 599

Festum Natalis Domini.

[f. 1r]

[T]Ronos celorum continens,
 whos byrthe thys day Reiterate,
 Bothe god and man in exystens,
 Borne of a mayde Immaculate; 4
 Preserue your dygne and hygh estate,
 Syth ye preferre thys most hygh feste,
 In quo Redemptor natus est.

Senek the sage that kyng ys of desert, 8
 Regent and rewler of all wyldernesse,
 Sendeth gretynge with all entier hert
 Vnto yow hys brother, kyng of Crystmas;
 lettynge yow wete with hertly tendyrnes 12
 What longeth now vnto youre astate royall
 That ye be now to so sodenly call.

Hyt ys perteynyng to euery prynce and kyng 16
 That pepyll shall haue vnder gouernaunce,
 That he haue prudent and wyse counselyng,
 And to her counseyll geue attendaunce;
 And that your reame shall nat fall perchaunce
 Vnto Rewen for defaute of good counsell, 20
 Take hede herto, hit mayest auayle.

No. 120. 14 ye supplied.

ffor oute of olde feldes, as men sayth,
 Cometh all these new cornes from yere to yere;
 So oute of olde expert men in feyth 24
 Cometh all these good rules, as ye shall here;
 And by their age they haue in thys matere
 The good rewle of verrey experience,
 Wherefore he sendeth hem to your hygh presence. 28

Attempt nothyng surmountyng your myght, Primus
 Ne that to finissh that passeth your power; Philosophus
 ffor than ye stand foule in your owne lyght,
 And whoso doth, hymself shall foule a-dere 32
 With shame, and therefore thys wysdom ye lere:
 That hyt ys foly a man suche to begyn
 Which to performe hys wyttes be to thyn.

Whan that tyme ys of grete and large expence, Secundus
 Beware of waste and spende ay by mesure;
 Who at suche tyme can fynde no dyfference,
 Hys goodes may nat with hym long endure;
 The olde ys that 'Mesure ys tresure', 40
 ffor in short tyme the good may slyp away
 That was gotyn in many a sondry day.

Of either men ye shall your myrroure make, [f. 1v]
 Conforme yow to that that may most yow auayle, 44
 What ye shall do and what shall forsake; Tercius.
 A bettyr thyng ne may ye not contryue
 Than to other mennys dedys to releue;
 To all that perteyneth yow eny thyng, 48
 Make other men rule of your leuyng.

5. cammede] Tolkien in the vocabulary to Sisam translates as *snub-nosed*, but adds that *crooked* (from Welsh *cam*) fits the context better, although the word 'is not else recorded till later.'

17-18. Sisam (pp. 257-8) comments: 'Difficult. Perhaps "The master smith lengthens a little piece (sc. of hot iron), and hammers a smaller piece, twines the two together, and strikes (with his hammer) a treble note."'

22. brenwaterys] water-burners, i.e. blacksmiths, so called from plunging hot iron into water.

119. *The Hunted Hare*

Index, No. 559. Previously printed by Halliwell, *Warton Club*, ii. 43-6. A variant text (15 stanzas) occurs in Camb. Univ. MS. Ff. 5. 48 (printed by Hartshorne, *Ancient Metrical Tales*, 1829, pp. 165). Camb. MS. omits stanzas 3 and 14 to 19; and introduces a variant stanza between Porkington text stanzas 7 and 8, and two variant concluding stanzas.

1-4.

ffer in frithe as I can fare,
My self sy3and allone,
I herd the mournyng of an hare,
Thus delffully she made hir mone.

16. Camb. 14. Be falowe be fore me for to fynde.

28. Camb. 25-28. (New stanza.)

Thus I am in turnament
Be woode, be way, be more, be mede,
And oþer while my tayle is rent;
Alle day thus my life I ledde.

34. Camb. 34. And to lurke or to leyke (Rhyme: And dere me with her doggus grete).

37. Camb. 37. I dar not sit to croppe on hawe (Rhyme cockes mawe).

51. Camb. 47. as a swyne.

Camb. 53-56.

The next tyme þou comes þer in,
be my trowthe, I the be hote,
þo þou thorowe þe hege ren,
þou shalbe hongut be the throte.

Camb. 57-60.

Thus I droupe, I drede my deth;
Alas I dye long or my day!
ffor welle & woe away it gothe,
And this word hit wendes away.

The sympathy with animals is a curiosity of Middle English poems. See here No. 48, and also *Index*, No. 368, 'Wyl Bucke his Testament'.

120. *A Mumming of the Seven Philosophers*

Index, No. 3807. Not heretofore printed.

The four pieces (Nos. 120-3) are a sampling of the large number of formal welcomes or ceremonial entertainments still extant. Lydgate was especially active in writing such items, e.g. *Index*, No. 3301; and *Index*, No. 2200, Pageant Verses for Queen Margaret's Entry into London.

40. The old (saw).

121. *A Dramatic Monologue by Law*

Index, No. 3376. Not heretofore printed.

These lesser poems, written in the style made fashionable by Lydgate, illustrate the dull mediocrity of formal poems written to order, as it were, by men of little talent.

122. *Welcome to Prince Edward at Coventry*

Index, No. 3881. Previously printed by Craig, EETS, lxxxvii. 115, and by Harris, EETS, 135. 391-3.

h. chaumbr] 'Royal chamber' was a common way of describing a city.

8. This sentiment originally comes from the religious lyrics to the B.V.M.; later it was transferred to secular mistresses.

cc. pauyer] In all cited references, this word means 'the one who paves', but the sense here requires the meaning 'pavement'.

123. *Welcome to Henry VII at York*

Index, No. 2214. Previously printed (with some inaccuracies) by Raine, *Surtees Soc.* lxxxv. 56-7, and again in *Yorkshire Archaeological Soc.* (Record Series), xcvi. 158; and by