

Transcription of M.R. James's unpublished description
Cambridge, University Library, MS Gg.4.6

Title	Roman de la Rose
Secundo folio	
Language	French
Material	vellum
Measurements	13 x 9 ¼ ins.
Collation	a ² 1 ⁸ – 17 ⁸ 18 ⁴ (one canc.) ff. 92, 93 'should be cut out and transposed': note by Mr. Bradshaw.
Number of leaves	141
Columns	double
Lines to a page	40 to 42
Date	XIV
Handwriting	Good, by several scribes. Decent pictures.
Binding	Panelled calf, gold border

Moore 834. On f. 2: Ric Smythei liber (xvi)

Contents

Roman de la Rose by Guillaume de Lorris and Jean de Meung.

Maintes gens dient quen songes

The portion by Guill. de Lorris ends on 30^a and that by Jean de Meung begins:

Et si lai ge pardu espoir

Ends 139^a

A tant fu iour et ge mesuaille

Explicit

An erased scribble on 140 [141]; on 140^b [141^b] Phillipps (xvi).

Meyer p. 352 notices the MS and calls the miniatures 'assez médiocres', which is just. There are 27, one half page, the others set in the columns, and very sparse in the latter part of the book. They have frames of patterned blue or pink with a gold trefoil sprouting from each corner, and ground of trellised or patterned blue or red, or of plain gold.

- 1 Almost half page, in two unequal compartments. In a narrow one on L the Lover, nude, in bed under a gold cusped arch with ogival top. Blue ground with a pattern of roses. Next he stands clad in red in a gold doorway. The rest of the picture has green ground with daisy buds. The Lover in blue looks R to a battlemented building. Trees seen over the top. In the upper stage a row of small figures, seven in number, all seemingly women: the one on R is half nude. They are probably characters in the poem. The lower stage is plain masonry.
The page is bordered and has a fine initial and a greyhound pursuing a rabbit at bottom.
- 2 Gold ground Haine, female seated in brownish robe. 4^a
- 3 Red ground: Vilenie in red, seated, kicks at a kneeling cup-bearer on L.
- 4 Blue ground. Convoitise in red sits handling money on a table on R. Garments hang on a bar above.
- 5 Blue ground. Avarice seated. Garments hang on R. 4^b
- 6 Enuie in blue seated with raised hands. 5^a

7	<u>Tristece</u> in red, shoulders bare, sits pulling her hair with both hands.	
8	<u>Viellece</u> in red, kerchiefed head, stoops to <u>L</u> leaning on two sticks.	5 ^b
9	<u>Papelardie</u> as a nun kneels to altar on <u>R</u> with cross.	6 ^a
10	<u>Pourete</u> in a mantle only, sits on rock between trees with crossed arms, as shivering.	6 ^b
11	<u>Oyseuse</u> gold ground. Lover in pink. Maid in red in door of battlemented garden wall takes his hand. 'R Smithe' scribbled on this picture.	7 ^b
12	<u>Deduit</u> youth in red with lute or other stringed instrument, stands between trees.	9
13	<u>Ci devise de la fontaine narcissus</u> . Gold ground. Narcissus in red kneels over spring on <u>L</u> . Tree above.	13
14	<u>Ci devise coment lamant se mira tant en la fontaine quil vit ·i· rosier chargie de roses</u> . The rose tree with 3 roses on <u>L</u> on gold ground over the spring. The Lover in the attitude of Narcissus. Tree behind on blue ground.	14
15	<u>Ci come li deux damours naura lamant des saiettes</u> . Cupid in blue winged and crowned shoots at the Lover on <u>R</u> in red.	14 ^b
16	Youth in red goes to <u>L</u> . Tree in C. Youth in pink faces <u>L</u> . Gold ground.	16
17	Youth in pink and Cupid embrace. Trees <u>R</u> and <u>L</u> .	16 ^b
18	<u>Si come lamant parle a belacueil</u> . Gold ground. Youth in pink. Belaceuil in red. Tree. Man in blue with club on shoulder (Danger)	21 ^b [22]
19	<u>Reson</u> crowned on steps of a building. Youth in red on <u>L</u> .	23
20	Youth in blue, Danger with club. Rubbed.	24
21	<u>Coment franchise parle a danger</u> . Danger with club. Maid in red. Tree.	25
22	Bearded man asleep under tree. Three maids wake him.	27 ^b
23	(Jean de Meung's work begins). Tonsured clerk in red sits writing at desk. Tree on <u>R</u> .	30
24	<u>Coment lamant vint a auns</u> . Two figures conversing, in blue and red.	49 ^b
25	Four figures in a row on <u>L</u> . Cupid winged, crowned, bearded on <u>R</u> . Gold ground.	69 ^b
26	<u>Coment faussemlant contrainte et atenance vindrent a male bouche</u> . Two figures in Dominican habit approach one in red seated. Building on <u>R</u> .	80 ^b
27	<u>Comment franchise vint parler a dangier</u> . Maid in blue with long spear. Dangier in red with club.	100