The Seven Deeds of Honour and Their Crowns: Lydgate and a Late Fifteenth-Century Scots Chivalric Treatise

L. A. J. R. Houwen

Follow this and additional works at: http://scholarcommons.sc.edu/ssl

Recommended Citation
Available at: http://scholarcommons.sc.edu/ssl/vol28/iss1/13
Almost two decades have passed since something from British Library, Harley MS 6149 was last published. This was Diane Bomstein's edition of the Scots prose Vegetius which was published in this same journal.¹ Until I started work on this manuscript a few years ago it had been virtually ignored.²

The text presented here has never been edited before. It is a curious little piece that deals with (Roman) wreaths of honor. It was probably written around 1494 by the Scottish scribe and Kintyre Pursuivant, Adam Loutfut. There is little or no evidence that points in the direction of it being a translation, although it is difficult to base any firm conclusions on such a short text. The text, however, does show remarkable similarities to a section in Lydgate's *Fall of Princes*.

Harley MS 6149 (H), also known as the Loutfut Manuscript, is a quarto volume, containing 174 leaves, partly vellum, partly paper (2 or 3 vellum leaves regularly follow six or eight paper), measuring 215 by 265mm. It is written in at least three hands, but one, that of Adam Loutfut, appears to be


²My edition of the heraldic bestiary, *The Deidis of Armorie,* will be published by the Scottish Text Society. See also my "A Scots Translation of a Middle French Bestiary," *SSL,* 26 (1991), 207-17.
responsible for most of it (about 135 leaves). From the Latin colophon on folio 44 we learn that this part of the manuscript was copied by Loutfut for the Marchmont Herald, William Cumming of Inverallochy in September 1494. In another colophon (f.78), which introduces a treatise which was either subsequently cut out of the manuscript or never written, it is stated that the treatise was translated from French into 'Scottis' at the command of William Cumming of Inverallochy 'by his obedient son in the office of arms, Kintyre Pursuivant.' It seems likely that Loutfut and the Kintyre Pursuivant are one and the same.

About Loutfut we know not much more than the manuscript tells us. The name "Loutfut" does turn up a few times in the records, but is has not been possible to link Adam with any of the Loutfuts referred to there, although some of these appear to be linked with Aberdeenshire. Appropriately for the translator of a Norman French text, the name Loutfut goes back to Levetot or Luvetot in Normandy.

The career of Loutfut's colleague and superior Sir William Cumming of Inverallochy (in Aberdeenshire) is much better documented. The manuscript tells us that the name "Loutfut" does turn up a few times in the records, but it has not been possible to link Adam with any of the Loutfuts referred to there, although some of these appear to be linked with Aberdeenshire. Appropriately for the translator of a Norman French text, the name Loutfut goes back to Levetot or Luvetot in Normandy.

---

3 The three hands occur as follows: ff. 1-44, 78 and 83 to the end are in Loutfut's hand, unless of course Loutfut did not actually write the colophon on f. 44; hand two is responsible for ff. 44-59, and the third hand for ff. 60-77 and 79-82.

4 "Explicit iste liber honorabili armigero Williamo cummy de Imarvelochy alias Marchemond heraldo per [manum] Adam loutfut Anno domini mo cccco nonagesimo quarto mensis nones Septembris" (in the MS liber ... per is obliterated with red ink).

5 Note that he refers to his own language as "Scots." This is the first recorded use of it; earlier writers had always used the term "Inglis" and it was commonly assumed Gavin Douglas was the first to use the term "Scots."

6 In Sir Francis James Grant, Court of the Lord Lyon. List of His Majesty's Officers of Arms and Other Officials with Genealogical Notes 1318-1945, Scottish Record Society, 148 (1945), 6, under the year 1494, Loutfut is the first of the Kintyre Pursuivants listed. Grant, however, bases himself on F. J. Furnivall, ed., Queene Elizabethes Achademy . . . , EETS, ES, 8 (1869), xvii. This coincides with the first reference to the Kintyre Pursuivant in the Treasurer's Accounts (i, 237, 1494).


8 For Cumming (or Comyn/Cumyn) see both Furnivall, Queene Elizabethes Achademy and the excellent article, summing up the evidence from the records, by Sir Thomas Innes, "Sir William Cumming of Inverallochy, Lord Lyon King of Arms, 1512-1519," The Juridical Review, 55 (1943), 24-38, to which i am heavily indebted.
script makes it clear he held the office of Marchmont Herald in the year 1494. In fact he had been appointed to it before 6 April 1494, when he was granted the fee-land of Easter Colessie in succession to Ross Herald, and succeeded as Laird of Inverallochy in, or before, 1499.9 He was knighted in 1507, at which time he probably became Lyon-Depute. In 1507 Cumming organized the most celebrated tournament in Scottish history (it was repeated in 1508) for James IV. This "Emprise du Chevalier Sauvage à la Dame Noire offered a challenge to all comers for five weeks in a field near the castle at Edinburgh..."10 This is the tournament celebrated by Dunbar in his "Ane Blak Moir,"11 In October of 1512 Lord Lyon Henry Thomson died and Sir William became the next Lyon King of Arms. Apart from holding the office of Lyon, Cumming was a distinguished lawyer with an extensive practice, who counted some important magnates among his clientele, including the Earl of Eroll, Burnett of Leys, Rose of Kilravock, &c.12 Sir William cumming died in August 1519.

Three later copies of Harley 6149 are extant, all of which differ slightly from the original.13 The earliest and most faithful of these is Queen's College, Oxford, MS 161 (Q), which seems to date from around 1500.14 It was copied by a M. R. Andersoun. The next is the so-called Scrymgeour MS (NLS, Adv. 31.5.2), copied in the first half of the sixteenth century by John


10Ibid., p. 308.


13Felicity Riddy is, as far as I know, the first to point to the fact that all these manuscripts differ slightly from the original, in Jean-Jacques Blanchot and Claude Graf, eds., Actes du 2e colloque de langue et de littérature écossaises (moyen âge et renaissance) (Strasbourg, 1978), p. 62, note 13. In addition to these three manuscripts there is the Thomson Manuscript (NLS, Adv. 31.7.22) from the first half of the sixteenth century, which, on ff.1-2v, contains the first 67 lines of one of the treatises in the Harley MS. It is not certain whether these lines are a copy of Harley 6149 or an independent translation. For a description and discussion of the various witnesses see Houwen, Deidis of Armorie, pp. xxxv-lxxxvi.

Scrymgeour of Myres (Fife), Master of the King’s Works. The last is the Lindsay MS (NLS, Adv. 31.3.20), owned by Sir David Lindsay of the Mount, the Lord Lyon from 1591 to 1620.

Depending on the type of division made, the manuscript contains some 19 items, most of them in Scots, the remainder in Latin. All of these cover heraldic or chivalric subjects. Most are or contain copies of well-known works, some of which are of recent date. In fact Harley 6149 is an unrepresentative heraldic manuscript. It appears to be a carefully chosen collection of some of the better-known heraldic and chivalric texts. The emphasis of these texts falls in three main areas. First, treatises covering the history of the office of arms. Second, those that deal with the various forms of chivalric encounters, with treatises on single combat as well as on battles and tournaments. Finally, treatises on ceremonials. Thus it appears that the manuscript presents quite a good and complete picture of heraldic activities in the later Middle Ages. Not only do the texts cover virtually all those tasks a herald or pursuivant might possibly have been expected to perform, they are also very up to date and comprise nearly all the medieval classics on heraldry and chivalry (Boke of St Albans, Upton's Officio Militari, Bartolus' Tractatus, and Vegetius' De re militari). The only text conspicuous through its absence is De Bado Aureo's Tractatus de armis, but even this treatise is not entirely lacking, since it has been used for some of the animal descriptions in the Deidis of Armorie.

The Seven Deeds of Honour presented here precedes a Latin note on war of less than half a page and follows on Be Coronacioun of be Emperor, a Scots treatise dealing with the various types of investitures, starting with the coronation of the emperor and working down the list of ranks with kings, dukes, marquises, and so on. It is the one treatise that cannot be easily classified. Its subject, wreaths or crowns of honor, is one that was quite significant in classical times but there is little evidence to suggest that this also held true of the medieval period, although the subject apparently came back into fashion in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, due, no doubt, to the renewed interest in the classics. In this era such works as Thomas Blount's Glossographia, Philemon Holland's translation of Pliny and Livy, and Sir Thomas Brown's Garden of Cyrus saw the light of day and all of these contain references to the various types of crowns. Whatever the significant of crowns in daily medieval life, our author clearly looked upon this treatise as

---

15 It also compares favorably with NLS, Adv. 31.6.5, which belonged to John Meldrum, Cumming's successor to the office of Marchmont Herald, in that the latter manuscript only contains copies of Bartolus' De insigniis et armis and Upton's Studio militari.

16 See the relevant entries in the OED under the various names of crowns.
a didactic rather than an expository work, which is "to gif every noble man occasion to laubour and exers paim in cheualry."

Wreaths and crowns derive from the magical and apotropaic significance of the circle and certain plants. In antiquity they adorned deities, temples and—later—priests, whose crowns were of the plant sacred to the god to whom they were sacrificing (the laurel crown, for instance, was associated with Apollo), or of a plant to which magical properties were ascribed. Pliny describes their history as follows:

In olden times indeed no Civic Wreath was presented save to a deity . . . afterwards persons performing sacrifices in honour of the gods assumed crowns . . . most recently of all they were also brought into use in ritual competitions . . . and from this has arisen the custom of also bestowing wreaths on victorious generals about to go in a triumphal procession . . . and also subsequently the practice of presenting wreaths at the games. [Natural History, ed. & tr. H. Rackham (London, 1945), Vol. 4, XVI.9-10. Cf. also XXI.11.]

As an apotropaic symbol the wreath lasts to this day in the form of funeral wreaths; previously it was also in use at birthdays and at banquets and other festive events when the guests crowned themselves with a wreath.

But it is with Roman military crowns that the following treatise is concerned. In addition to a share in the booty and occasional donatives, the Roman Princeps bestowed upon his officers and soldiers various decorations, most of which were of little value save as insignia honorum. Among these insignia crowns were awarded as decorations for particular valorous deeds though Parkes notes that, "at an early date in the Principate the original significance of the various distinctions was lost sight of, and they were bestowed upon soldiers in virtue of the rank they were holding" and were worn on dress parades and festivals.


18 Compare the custom of wearing festive hats at parties.

19 For a discussion of the Roman system of decorations see Parker, Roman Legions, pp. 228-32.

20 Parker, Roman Legions, p. 231.
Among these crowns the triumphal or laurel crown (corona triumphalis or corona laurea) ranked only second to the obsidional crown. Though formerly made of laurel leaves it came to be represented in gold and was presented to a commander in recognition of a triumph. The obsidional crown (c. obsidionalis or c. graminea) was considered the highest honor. It was made of grass and was granted to him who raised a siege. Aulus Gellius notes that custom required that it be made of the grass which grew in the place within which the besieged were confined (Attic Nights, V.6.9, Pliny, Nat. Hist., XXII.8.). The reason for the highest crown of all being of grass may perhaps be explained by its association with the field-god Mars. The mural crown (c. muralis), so named because of its peculiar form, was awarded to the first man over the wall of a besieged town (Attic Nights, V.6.16.). The "crown castrious" represents the Roman corona castrensis or vallaris. It was the reward for the first to fight his way into the enemy's camp (Attic Nights, V.6.17.). Likewise, the naval crown (c. navalis, classica or rostrata) was awarded to the first to board the enemy's ship; it was decorated with the beaks or prows of ships (Attic Nights, V.6.18.). The "crown ouall" as the text calls it, is the Roman corona ovalis or myrtle, a myrtle wreath worn for an ovatio, a minor form of triumph which might be granted to a general who could not claim a full triumph (Attic Nights, V.6.20-2, Pliny, Nat. Hist., XV.126.). The description of this crown in our text appears to be a medieval adaptation. A seventeenth-century text in the National Library of Scotland states that the "oval crown Corona ovalis... was given to the general of ane army who without receaving any wound or effusion of blood had the upper hand of his enimeis..." Aulus Gellius explains that for such easy victories it was thought the leaves sacred to Venus were more appropriate than those of Mars. The civic crown (c. civica) was a crown made of the leaves of the esculent oak and was awarded to a citizen for saving the life of a fellow citizen—or to a soldier for saving the life of a fellow soldier—who had slain the enemy and not given ground in battle (Attic Nights, V6.11-15.). Apart from the crowns referred to in the text the Romans recognized the olive crown (c. oleaginea), awarded those who had without taking any direct part in battle helped gain the victory, and the jeweled and golden crowns (c. gemmatae and aureae), the latter


23 National Library of Scotland, Advocates Library 17.2.2, f. 46v.
for outstanding bravery in battle (Attic Nights, V.6.4, Pliny, Nat. Hist., XXII.6.).

It was stated above that treatises on crowns were not very common in the medieval period but did come back into fashion in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. There is, however, one medieval work extant which is similar to this treatise and that is one that occurs as part of Lydgate's Fall of Princes. The piece in question appears at the beginning of Book IV, at the start of the story celebrating the life and times of the Roman 'consul' Marcus Manlius Torquatus who, we are told, often risked his life pro re publica and consequently won many wreaths of honor. Ultimately, however, his pride caused his downfall when he rebelled against the governor of the city. Lydgate concludes with the remark that in the end his prowess, his crowns of gold and laurel, his strong armor and triumphs did not avail him. The reference at the beginning of the narrative to the arm-ring (torques in Latin) won by Marcus Manlius causes a digression of some 95 lines. The digression first explains the nickname Torquatus and proceeds to relate how he won many crowns of gold which "for thilke tyme, for dyuers hih emprises wer... maad in many sondri wises." This leads to an exposition of the various types of wreaths, starting with the triumphal and ending with the civic wreath. As Lydgate's editor points out for this treatise Lydgate did not rely on his primary source, Boccaccio's De casibus virorum illustrium as translated and amplified by Laurent de Premierfait in his Des cas des nobles hommes et femmes. Lydgate states his source to be "Agellius" (Aulus Gellius), although it would seem that this writer was responsible for part only of the contents. If we compare Lydgate's text with our own, it will be observed that there are some parallels but also quite a few differences. For instance, both the title and the introduction (1-29) of our piece are unique. Moreover, although Lydgate deals extensively with the life and times of Marcus Manlius he nowhere claims, as our text does, that Marcus Manlius was responsible for the institution of these seven crowns. And although Lydgate does give a list of crowns before he actually describes them, his order is slightly different (he mentions the naval before the castrensic crown) and he mentions details not found in our text. The Seven Deeds also notes many facts not found in

25 IV. 225-322.
26 IV. 237-38.
27 In a note to IV. 225-322 (IV. p. 206). See also I, x.
Lydgate's text, which is not surprising since the former exceeds the latter in length by more than a third. As is to be expected, there are some parallels between the actual descriptions of the crowns and the heroic deeds associated with them in the two texts, but these are of such a general nature that I do not think they establish a clear link between the two treatises. All in all, I think we may conclude that the two texts go back to the same tradition but are not directly related to each other.

The text presented here is based on ff.124-26 of Harley 6149. Variant readings are taken from the Queen's College manuscript, the only copy of the Harley manuscript to reproduce this text, where it occurs on ff.95-96v.

The following points have been observed with respect to the transcription. The use of capitals has been normalized so as to conform to modern usage; the same applies to the rather sparing punctuation. Asterisks are used to indicate where the manuscript has ornamental capitals. Hyphens have been introduced to connect words broken by the end of the line as well as disjoined words within it; the entries in the Dictionary of the Older Scottish Tongue, the Middle English Dictionary, and the Oxford English Dictionary are followed with respect to word division. Abbreviations have been expanded on the principle that only those letters that have not been represented are italicized; as a result, superscript letters are not printed in italics. When it was not clear just how to expand the abbreviation, the form of the expansion accords with the usual spelling of the word when it appears in full. In those cases where the word only occurs in its abbreviated form the contemporary DOST or Concise Scots Dictionary (CSD) spelling is used. Latin numerals, including the vernacular superscript abbreviations, have been maintained.

The spelling of the manuscript has largely been retained: thorns and yoghs are represented as such, the distinction between long and short i has not been preserved, but the distinction between u and v has. The various forms of s and r are all given as s and r respectively.

Neither the lineation nor the foliation of the manuscript is preserved. Emendations are enclosed in brackets and commented upon in the critical apparatus, as are scribal deletions and corrections.

[f. 124] Heir begynnys þe vii deidis of honour and of þar vii crownyss, and of quhat materis þai ar maid of ande for quhat caus þai ar giffin, &c.

[f. 124v] *Into þis tyme quhen Rome schane and flourist into knychted and honoris and had dominacion of þe maist partis of all þe warld, quhilk wase subiectis and tributaris onto þam, throu þair gret
manhed and exercicioun of cheualry, and in pe tym specialy quhen pe noble werpour Marquisssus Torqueus was duk and leder off al pe Romance in pair gret werris and brocht emeny and aduersaris to subiectioun and obedience throu his gret wordynes and dedis of cheualry, in pis tym pis said Marquisssus be pe vniuersail counsell of pe mast noble and wisest pat hantit pe werris in pai dais, statut and ordanit to gif occacioun to al noble men to auentur and iupport pair bodiys in pai honorable werris and exercicioun of cheualry; and principaly in pai vii dedis of honour pat pair sulde be giffin for pai vii honorable crownis to quham pat pai dessuerit throu pai weil-doyng and manheid, the qhilk vii crownis is callit thus as followis: the crowne triumphall, the crowne obesditionall, the crowne murall, the crowne castreus, the crowne nawell, the crowne ouall, the crowne seuica. And for euerilk of pai vii dedis aforsaid wes ane of pai vii crownyss ordanyt to be giffin for pai gret honouris. And quhasa pai throw his manheid wan and conquerit ane of pai crownis wes in pai dais fallow onto a gret prince. Off pe qhilk vii crownis the fassonis, propirteis, and for quhat causs pai war giffin, and to quhat honorable ded belangit qhut croun, sal hereftir be schawin to pai end, to gif evry noble man occasioun to labour and excers pai in cheualry qhill God, qhilk is gidar or all men, will gif pai grace to wyn sic honour pat pai may haf ane of pai honorable crownis, Amen.

1This spelling not recorded OED, warrior.
2 Marquisssus Torqueus. Marcus Manlius Capitolinus, also known as Torquatus, a Roman consal and hero of a well-known legend in which he was awakened by the cackling of the sacred geese kept on the Capitol, and so was able to rally the guards and repel the Gauls from their attack in 387 B.C. (Betty Radice, Who's Who in the Ancient World, Harmondsworth, 1973, p. 158; the story is also related by Lydgate, IV.323-78). He is also reputed to have earned a remarkable number of (civic) crowns (Lydgate, IV.234-35, Livy, VI.29, Pliny, Nat. Hist., VII.103, XVI.14); see also Wissowa, Paulys Real-Encyclopaedie.
3 This spelling for "Romans" not recorded OED, Roman sb1, MED, Remain.
4 First recorded DOST, juperd(e), jupert, in the Acts of the Lords of Council in Civil Causes (MS. XLIII.140) in 1531, where it also occurs in combination with auentur. "... thai sulde juperde and aventour of thar lyvis."
5 the crowne castreus ... seuica. Cf. this list of crowns with the one given by Lydgate, IV.246-52, who adds details not found here, puts the naval crown before the one called castrensic, and does not mention the oval and civic crown here.
The vii dedis of honour and of pair crownis followis.

*The first is pe croun triumphale and is giffin wnto no[f.125]ble men as to conquerouris pat in battell of arrest, wndir baner displayit, pat conqueris and wynnis pair enemyis and puttis pair to be flicht. Bis crownn triumphale is maid of gold and in fassoun lik to pe croun of aet emprour as is heir schawyn as it accordis weill to be oneto him pat throu his hee cheualry dois bis honorabill deid and disseruis to haff it.

*The croun obsedionall is giffin wnto him pat throu his hie honour and cheualry reskwit pair at assagit within wallit toun or castell, pat sua fra man throu his gret honour had deliueryt his frendis pat ar sua stad at distres and put to discomfitour pair enemys ande staillit pe assegis he suld be crownit with bis honorable obsedionall, pe quhilk is maid of gold and the granys of it like onto pe granis of pe...
corn as heir apperis for to declar and schaw pis noble act and deid of honour. 14

*The crownn muraU 15 is giffin wnto him pat is tym of assaltis throu his grett manhed and cheualrye enteris first apon pe wall and fechtis pair befor his fallowis, 16 or quhar mynd or contermynd is maide enteris formest pair into pe invacion of his enemys, and in thar abidis pe scour, and fra a man haf done this honorable ded he sall wer a croun of greyn lawrye 17 quhilk salbe maid of pis fassoun, 18 pe quhilk is callit pe signe of victory and honour. [f.125 V]

*The croun castrious 19 is giffin wnto him pat quhen ii batteHis of arrest ar put into aray and ordinans, ilkane aganis odir, and apprechand redy to pe ionyage, pat wil appone his awyn courage and heich honour pas wnto horsbake or on fut pas betuix pai batellis as said is and do armis with his fallow, the victoury remanand with him;20 and to him pat dois pis hie ded of honour is giffin pis croun castrious, pe quhilk is of

the granys . . . declar. Cf. Lydgate, IV.260-62: "Thobsydyonal . . . devised wern, the book doth specifie,/ Croun[e]s notable wrouht lik greyn or corn."

14 The illustration that accompanies this description shows a kind of ducal crown, stud­
ded with gems on the rim and with leaves of corn alternating with clover.

15 First and only recorded in this text, DOST, murall.

16him . . . fallowis. Cf. Lydgate, IV.269-71, "hym that firste wan vpon the wal/ At any seege. and ther abood the shour/ Fihtyng alone."

17 in thar . . . lawrye. Cf. Lydgate, IV.272-73: "And he that myht[e] such a brunt sustenee,/ Sholde of laurer were a crowne greene."

18 The illustration shows a kind of ducal crown in which strawberry leaves alternate with larger laurel leaves.

19 castrious. This form is not recorded in any dictionary of English consulted; this crown does make a single appearance in the OED (Suppl.), however, under the heading castrensis in 1840, "the emperor distributed civic, naval, and castrensis crowns to those who had most distinguished themselves." Lydgate discusses the castrensis after the naval crown.

20Lydgate, IV.281-86, tells a different story when he states that this crown was re­ceived by a knight who entered into battle before all other men.
his fassoun and is made all of gold with granis lik wnto pe sternys of pe
hevin all of ane heicht in fassoun of a diademe.21

*The croun nawall22 is giffin wnto him pat fechtis on pe see and at
enteris first into the schip of his partii23 into his top or into his
wptablle, or at is pe caus of pe wynnyng of pe enterpris, or pat dois
sa hey a poynst pat it may be knawin abone al his fallowis pat he is
worthy to wer pis said croun nawall, the quhilk suld be maid of his
fassoun and all of gold and pe granys lik wnto a ruder of a schip,24
quharwith he salbe crownyt pat dois pis honorabille deid. 25

*The croun oua126 is giffin wnto him pat feichtis in singuler batell
within barreris27 and do pis armyng pair and has the victory of his
partii, pe quhilk may recoun pe hail realme quharof he is born to a
gret honour gi gi be battell standis in pat kynd. 28 And for pe gret
blythnes29 and honour of pat deid he salbe crownyt with this mast

21 The leaves in the illustration look like five-pointed stars; *diademe:* "crown or cor-

22 The naval crown is first recorded in 1593 (*OED, naval*).

23 *The croun nawall... partii.* Cf. Lydgate, IV.274-78: "Naual crownes whilom wer
ordyned/ For them that fauht[e] manli on the se,/ Whan ther shippis wer togidre
cheyned,—/ He that of manhod & marcial suretel/ Vpon his enmyes made first entre."

24 *maid... schip.* Cf. Lydgate, IV.280: "Korwe lich a rother, a crowne cleer &
briht."

25 This is what the leaves in the illustrated crown resemble.

26 This form not recorded *DOST*.

27 *within barreris.* A reference to the barriers or pailsades enclosing the ground where
a tournament, tilting, or other martial contest or exhibition was held.

28 The construction with *stand* is not recorded by *DOST, MED, OED.*

29 *blythness.* An allusion to the etymology of this sense of the word "oval," which goes
back to Latin *ovalis* "belonging to an ovation." This, in turn, goes back to Latin *ovationem*
"rejoicing," from *ovare* "to exult, rejoice."
werlik crowne, callit pe croun ouall, 30 pe quhilk is of pis fassoun and is maid of pe granis and lewis of marris, pe quhilk wil langest endur wncustomyt or rottyn. 31

*The croun seuica 32 is giffin wnto him pat, in tym of batell, giff his prince, maister, or frend be takin in handis of his enemys, pat throu his only power and cheualry reskwis and freithis his prince or maister as said is; ane oper pat slais his takar; 33 and he pat may cum throw his enterprice to his honour salbe crownyt with his honorabille crow callit the croun suica, quhilk is of his fassoun, and is maid of pe granis and lewis of pe akin tre, 34 quhilk is pe hardest tre of natur, for to schaw pe hardnes and danger of pe doyng of pis enterprice and deid of honour, 35 the quhilk is pe last crownn of pe sevyn, &c.

Explicit.

*Heir endis pe vii deidis of honouris ande of pair sevyne crownyns, &c.

---

30 The crown ouall . . . ouall. Cf. Lydgate, IV.288-94: "The crowne also which callid was Oual/ Took first name of ioie and gladnesses ./ Which kynges, princis in actis marciall/ Vsid somtyme in ther ioious noblesse/ At sodeyn skarmysshes of casuel hastynesse./ As whan thei venquysshed proudli in bataille ./ Such as ther hihnesse vnwarli wolde assaille."

31 and is maid . . . rottyn. Cf. Lydgate, IV.295-98: "And for thei wern of poweer invyncible,/ Ther noble crownis coorsiusli wer wrouht/ Of mirtis branches, which been inpu­trible,/ Enduryng euere and corupte nouht." The myrtle was renowned for this. The illustration which accompanies this description resembles a wreath rather than a crown with what looks like vine-stalks as its leaves.

32 This form not recorded DOST; first recorded OED, civic, 1542.

33 The crown seuica . . . takar. Cf. Lydgate, IV.302-06: "Anothir cmwne callid Cyuyca . . . ordeyned for them which pro Re Publica/ Koude in bataile reskewe a citeseyn/ And slen his enmy that was a foreyn."

34 Cf. Aulus Gellius, Attic Nights V.6.12, who explains that leaves of the esculent oak are used because the earliest food and means of supporting life were furnished by that oak. In the illustration the oak leaves on a kind of ducal crown alternate with acorns.

35 maid . . . deid of honour. Cf. Lydgate, IV.303, 307-08, who first notes that the civic crown is made of oak boughs "round & pleyn" and then concludes that: "Of myhti ok he sholde for manheed/ Cleyme to were a crowne upon his hed."
Variant Readings

Q = Queen's College, Oxford, MS 161
H = Harley MS 6149

8 werrou[ Q weriour 9 Romance] Q romanis 10 wordynes] Q worthines
12 statut[ Q statutit 14 iuppari] Q iecardie 23 fallow] H fol preceding
this word crossed out quhil] Q quhilkis 24 caus] Q causis 26 excers] H
following this word [airin cheualry crossed out 35 oneto] Q onto him] Q
pame 47 and] Q assaltis following and crossed out 49] invacion] H a
blotted letter corrected to a 52 honour] Q honour &c 53 castrious] Q
castrous of] Q ar 54 approachand] Q approaching 55 courage] Q curaige
56 on] Q one 57 remainand] Q remainis 60 diadem] Q diadem &c 61
on] Q one 67 deid] Q deid &c 76 giff] H giffis; Q gif his 77 freind] Q
freinds 85 Explicit] Q omitted

Glossary

Line
7 manheid: "manliness, courage."
12 hantit: "practised, exercised, engaged in."
12 statut: "ordained, decreed."
13 to gif occacioun to: "give an opportunity, chance to."
13 to auentur: "to venture."
14 iupparit: "to risk, venture."
15 pat: "so that."
23 fallow onto: "the equal of."
32 as: "such as."
32 wndir baner displayit: "during combat."
36 hee: "high."
36 cheualrye: "knightly prowess or valour."
38 obesionall: "obsidional."
39 assegir: "besieged."
41 staillit: "captured by surprise."
42 assegis: "besiegers."
46 murall: "mural."
48 contermynd: "a countermine, i.e. a subterranean excavation made by
defenders of a fortress to intercept a mine made by the besiegers."
49 invacion: "assault, attack."
50 scour: "the storm of battle or combat."
55 be ionynge: "the joining of a battle, engagement, or encounter."
61 nawall: "naval."
62 top: "platform at the head of the mast of a ship."
63 wptabille: obscure
64 point: a — of armes or a — of werre, i.e., "a feat of arms."
68 ouall: "oval."
69 armyng: ?"deeds of arms."
70 redoun: "to turn to the advantage or disadvantage of a person or community."
71 standis in hat kind: "is of that nature."
74 marsis: "myrtle plants."
75 wnconsumyt: "without withering."
75 or: "before."
75 rotyn: "rotting."
76 seuica: "civic."
78 only: "sole."
78 freithas: "liberates, sets free."
80 enterprice: "undertaking."

University of Groningen