

Extracts from the *Manieres de langage*

translated by the Oxford Anglo-Norman Reading Group

2017

FOREWORD

The *Manieres de langage* are the earliest surviving model conversations for English learners of French. They were compiled in the late fourteenth and early fifteenth centuries, when French was no longer a mother tongue in England but remained an important language to master if you wished to pursue a career in law, business or administration.

Much like the medieval manuscripts that preserve the *Manieres*, this anthology comprises a selection of model conversations taken from various sources. Like at least two medieval compilers of these texts (see Cambridge University Library, MS Ii.6.17, and Lincolnshire Archives, Formulary 23), we have added English translations to the French text. Our renderings are a collective effort, the product of fortnightly sessions of the Oxford Anglo-Norman Reading Group in Michaelmas Term 2017. Individuals have taken the lead on each model conversation, however, and have contributed their own translation styles.

Thanks go to Oxford University's Medieval Studies Programme for sponsoring the reading group, to the Leverhulme Trust for enabling us to hold a workshop entitled 'In Dialogue with the *Manieres*' in November 2017, and to the Anglo-Norman Text Society for allowing us to reprint the French text of Andres Kristol's edition (*Manières de langage (1396, 1399, 1415)*, London: ANTS, 1995).

Oxford was a particularly important centre for the teaching and learning of French in the later Middle Ages, and seems to have played a key role in the dissemination of the *Manieres*. Reading these little texts more than 600 years after they were first compiled – sitting a stone's throw from the former site of the *Molyn-sur-le-hope* inn (see p. 15) – we students of French have found that they still have the capacity to instruct and entertain. We hope that our translations will be of interest and use to those in Oxford and elsewhere.

HUW GRANGE

MANIÈRE DE 1396

7. *Le drapier et son apprenti* = *The draper and his apprentice* (Kristol, pp. 18-19)

Autre manere de parler des marchantz.

Dit un marchand a un de ses apprentiz tout ainsy:

- Guilliam, ou es tu?

- Mon seignour, je su cy.

- Venez a moy. *Ou si:* Vien avant donqs.

- Maister, je vien a vous ore.

- Ou as tu eté depuis que tu levas? J'eusse esté au marché pieça se tu ne feus. Et tu sais bien que j'en fuy bien matyne levé pur aler au marché a viendre mes denrés. Male sepmaigne soit toy mys, car j'en ay perdu huy mon marché a cause de ta folie!

- Qu'en puisse je? Vous savez bien que j'ay esté occupié entour vous bosignes, sicom moi comandastez hier soir.

- Hé, tu mens fausement. Tu as esté ovec tes filletz putaignes, et pur ce je pri a Dieu que tu puisse avoit le vit coupé, car je sçai bien que tu en aras male estraine a darrains se tu ne v[u]is lesse[r] ta folie, par Dieu!

- Mon seignour, je ne fus pas.

- Tu mens fausement parmy la gorge. Je sçai bien que tu y fus.

- Save vostre grace, non fas.

- Teis toy, de par le deable. *Ou si:* Finés vous. *Ou si:* Tien te coy ou te je doneray un ytiel sufflet que tu penseras de moy decy as quatre jours, me croyez se tu v[u]is, car je teneray covenant. *Ou si:* Tenés vous coy. *Ou si:* Finés vous. *Ou si:* Ne me parlés ja plus a ceste foitz sur peril qu'en purra

Another manner in which merchants speak.

A merchant speaks thus to one of his apprentices:

5 'Guilliam, where are you?'

'Sir, I'm here.'

'Come here.' *Or:* 'Come forward then.'

'Sir, I am coming to you now.'

10 'Where have you been since getting up? I would have been at the market already if it weren't for you. And you know that I got up early to go to the market to sell my goods. I hope you have a week of bad luck because I lost business today because of your foolishness!'

15 'What can I do about it? You know I was busy with your affairs, like you told me to yesterday evening.'

20 'Oh, you are lying dishonestly. You were with your little whores, and for that I pray to God that your penis gets cut off, because I know it will bring you bad luck in the end if you aren't willing to stop your foolishness, for God's sake!'

'Sir, I wasn't.'

25 'You are lying through your teeth. I know you were there.'

'I beg your pardon, I do not lie.'

30 'Shut up, go to hell.' *Or:* 'Stop it.' *Or:* 'Be quiet or I'll give you such a slap that you'll still be thinking about me four days from now; believe you me, because I will keep my word' *Or:* 'Be quiet.' *Or:* 'Stop it.' *Or:* 'Don't say another word – I'm warning you – because if

avenir, quar se vous le frés, vous en arés dez horions si bien assés que par aventure vous 35
penserás de moy decy as troys sepmaignes, me
croiés se vous voillés, quar vraiment je vous
tiendray la covenant.

- Hé, mon tresdoulx maister, je vous cri mercy
et vous en supplie humblement de vostre grace 40
que vous me voillés pardonere vostre
maletalent, quar s'il Dieu pleist, je ne
mesprendray ja plus envers vous.

- Ore va t'en, quar je te pardone.

- Grant mercy, mon seignour.

you do, you'll be beaten so well that if you're
lucky you'll still be thinking about me three 35
weeks from now, believe you me, because I
will definitely keep my word.'

'Oh, my gentle master, I beg mercy of you
and humbly ask that in your grace you might 40
forgive me for angering you because if it
pleases God I will never do anything wrong to
you again.'

'Now go, I forgive you.'

45 'Thank you so much, sir.'

JOANNA MASON

10. *Différentes salutations; demander des nouvelles = Various greetings; asking for news* (Kristol, p. 23)

Autre manere de parler.

Quant un homme encontra ascune a matyne,
il luy dirra tout ainsi:

- Dieu vous doigne bon matyne et bon aventure. 5

Ou si: Sir, Dieu vous doigne bon jour et bon
encontre.

- Mon amy, Dieu vous doigne bon matyne et bon
estrayne.

Et a mydday vous parlerés en ceste manere: 10

- Mon seignour, Dieu vous done bon jour et bon
heures. *Ou si:* Sir, Dieu vous benoit et la
compaign[i]e.

Ou vous dirrés ainsi:

- Dieu vous garde. *Ou si:* Sta bien. *Ou si:* Reposez 15
bien.

Et as overe[r]s et labourers, vous dirrés ainsi:

Another way of speaking.

When you meet someone in the morning, you
say to them, just like this:

'Good morning! Have a lovely day!' Or:
'Hello! I hope everything goes well today!'

'Morning, John! Hope you have a nice day!'

And at lunchtime this is what you say:

'Good afternoon, Mr Smith, how are things?'
Or: 'I hope you're well, Mr Smith. Regards to
the family.'

Or you can say this:

'All the best.' Or: 'Take care now.' Or: 'Have a
nice break.'

And to workmen and labourers this is what
you say:

- Dieu vous aid, mon amy. *Ou si:* Dieu vous avance, compaignone. **20**
- Bien soiés venu, beau sir.
- Dont venés vous? *Ou si:* De quele partie venez vous?
- Mon sir, je veigne a Aurliance.
- Que noveles la? **25**
- Mon sir, y a grant debat entre les escolers, car vraiment ils ne cessent de jour en autre de combatre ensemble.
- Et des queles parties sont ils?
- Ils sont de Picardie et de Champanie, et les **30**
- Picardes vont a mynut tout parmy la ville acust[um]ément bien armés et araez a guys des gens d'armes portans des gelyns, espeies et haches et serchont les Champanoys de rue en rue de les racontrer a cause de la grant hayne et **35**
- annemyté q'ils ont envers eux. Et sitoust qu'ils [les] ont trovés, ils se guerront ensemble si fort que c'est mervail. Et le roy les a maundé par ses letres patens de lesser sa folie sur payne de forfair envers luy tout quanque ils ont en sa **40**
- roialme, et encore ils ne vuillent cesser ne prendre plus de garde a maundement de roy que je ne feroiy de la plus petite paille desoubz mes pees.
- Par Nostre Dame, c'est grant despit. **45**
- Par Dieu, se je fu que le roy, je bateroye tresbien lour orguil.
- Hé, mon amy, j'ay oblié de vous demandre un chose. Dont estes vous? *Ou:* De quele pays esties vous? *Ou* fuistes vous nee? **50**
- Mon sire, je su de Henoude.
- Que dea, vous esties un Englois donques!
- Nonil dea, mais nous aymons bien les Engloys a cause que les plus vaillantz seignours de ceste pais la sont de nostre linage.
- Hé, mon amy, je vous en croy bien. **55**
- 'Alright, mate?' *Or:* 'Have a good one, fella.'
- 'Hello and welcome, my friend.'
- 'Where have you travelled from?' *Or:* 'Whereabouts have you come from?'
- 'Why, I've come from Orleans.'
- 'What's the latest there?'
- 'Well, there's a huge fight among the students. They're constantly at one another's throats.'
- 'Whereabouts are they from?'
- 'They're from Picardy and Champagne. And the Picards roam the streets in the middle of the night, usually well-armed and kitted out like soldiers, brandishing spears, swords and axes. And they go from street to street looking for the Champenois as they're so full of hatred and hostility towards them. And when they find them, you wouldn't believe how fiercely they fight! And the king's publicly commanded them to stop this madness, threatening to confiscate everything they own, but they still won't stop, and they don't seem to give a hoot about the king's commands.'
- 'Crikey, that's a serious act of defiance!'
- 'God, if I were king, I'd crush their pride completely.'
- 'Oh, by the way, there's something I forgot to ask you. Where are you from?' *Or:* 'What country are you from? Where were you born?'
- 'I'm from Hainaut.'
- 'Oh, so you're an Englishman, then!'
- 'No, no, but we're very fond of the English because the best people in this country are descendants of ours.'
- 'I can well believe it, my friend.'

HUW GRANGE

21. Dialogue avec un voyageur français = Dialogue with a French traveller
(Kristol, pp. 32-34)

La manere du parler a un estrange homme qui vient de loigne pais.

- Mon tresgentil sir, Dieu vous benoit.
- Mon tresdoulx amy, je pri a Dieu qu'il vous done bon encontre. *Vel sic:* Sir, Dieu vous benoit et la compaigne.

- Beau sir, dont venez vous, se vous plest? *Vel sic:* De quel part venez vous, mon tresdoulx amy, mes q'il vous ne displese?

- Vraiment, sir, je vien tout droit de Venys.

- Hé, mon amy, c'est un ville de Lumbardie!

- Oil vraiment, beau sir, si est.

- Par mon serment, mon tresgentil sir, j'en ay grant joy de vous que vous estes si bien travaillé, depuis que vous estes si joefnes, quar je pense bien que vous n'avez unquore .xxx. ans.

- Si ay je vraiment et plus, mais pur ce que je su bien sains et joliet au cuer, la mercy Dieu, l'en me dit que je su plus joefnes que je ne su.

- Ore sir, est Venyse une beale citee?

- Oil dea, et le plus noble porte que est en tout le monde, sicom l'en m'a dit en cele pais qu'ont travaillé partout.

- Et de que pais estes vous, beau sir, mes q'il ne vous displese?

- Vraiment, sir, je su de France.

- Et de quelle ville, se vous plest?

- De Parys, sir.

Vel sic:

- En que pais fustez vous nee, beau sir, se vous pleast?

- Vraiment, en le roialme de France.

- Je vous en croi bien. Vous parlez bien et gracieusement doulx franceys, et pur ce il me fait grant bien et esbatement au coer de parler ovesque vous de vostre beal langage, quar est le plus gracios parler que soit en monde et de toutz gentz meulx preisés et amee que nulle

How to talk to a stranger who comes from a far-off country.

'My good sir, may God bless you.'

5 'My dear good friend, I pray God to grant your meetings will be fortunate.' *Or this:* 'Sir, God bless you and your company.'

'Good sir, where do you come from, please?' *Or this:* 'What part are you from, my good friend, if you don't mind my asking?'

10 'In truth, my friend, I've just come from Venice.'

'Oh, my dear fellow, that is a town in Lombardy!'

15 'Yes indeed, sir, it is.'

'Well I must say, good sir, I am delighted for you, that you are so well travelled, since you are so very young. I can't believe you are thirty yet!'

20 'Oh yes I am, and more! But because I am healthy and happy, thank God, people think I'm younger than I really am.'

'Now, friend, is Venice a fine city?'

'Indeed it is! It is the noblest port in all the world; this is what people tell me there, who have travelled everywhere.'

'And what country are you from, sir, if you don't mind my asking?'

'Indeed, sir, I'm from France.'

30 'From which town, please?'

'From Paris, my friend.'

Or this:

'In what country were you born, sir, if you please?'

35 'Indeed, in the kingdom of France.'

'I can well believe you! You speak beautiful French so well and gracefully. This is why I'm so pleased and delighted to talk with you in your lovely language, because it is the most elegant in all the world. It is more beloved and

40

autre. Et coment vous est avys, beau sir, de la tresbeale citee de Parys?

- Veraiment, il m'est avys que je ne vie unques mais jour de ma vie si beal citee com est, toutz chosez acomptez, quar il en y a tant de si beaulx chasteulx, si grantz forteressez et si hautez meisons et fortez et que sount si honestment appareillez que, se vous lez eussez veu, vous en serroiez trestout esbaiez.

- Veraiment, sir, il puit bien estre veritable ce que vous ditez. Hé, plust a Dieu et a la virgyne Marie, mon tresdoulx amy, que je sceusse si bien et gracieusement parler franceys com vous savez, quar veraiment j'en fuisse donques bien aisee au coer.

- Par Nostre Dame de Clery, je voudroy que vous sceussez, mais toutzvois vous parlez bien assez, ce m'est avys, qar je pense bien que vous avez demurré grant piece la, depuis que vous parlez si bien et plainement la langage.

- Par saint Paul, sir, [je] n'y fu unques mais.

- Et coment savez vous parler si bien donques?

- Veraiment, sir, sicom je m'ay coustumé a parler entre lez gentz de ce pays ici.

- Seinte Marie, j'en su bien esbaiez {c}oment vous le(z) purrez apprendre en ce pais{.} Qar vous parlez bien a droit, hardement.

- Save vostre grace, non fais.

- Par Dieu, si faites bien et gentilment come se vous eussiez demurré a Paris ces .xx. ans, qar veraiment je n'oy unques mais Engloys parler franceys si bien a point ne si doucement com vous faites, ce m'est avys toutezvoiez.

- Hé, sir, je vous remerci de ce que vous me preisez plus que je ne su pas digne toutesvoies. Et pur ce je su toutzjours a vostre gentil comandement en quanque je purray faire pur l'amour de vous. Et veraiment, beau sir, vous estes tresbien venuz en ce pais. *Vel sic:* Par m'anme, sir, vous estes tresbien venuz ciens.

- Grant merci, mon sir, de vostre grant gentrise et courtesieie.

- Beau sir, fustez vous unques mes a Rouan en Normandie.

- Nonil, veraiment, je ne fui unques la jour de ma vie, mais j'ay esté autre part en beaucoup dez

prized than any other. And what do you think, my friend, of the fine city of Paris?

'Well, I honestly think I have never in my life seen such a lovely city as that, in every way. For there are so many fine castles, great fortresses, big strong houses which are so bravely done up that if you'd seen them you would be absolutely astonished.'

'I'm sure it's true what you're saying, friend. Oh, if only it would please God and the Virgin Mary, my dear sir, to make me speak French as well and elegantly as you can! I'd be so happy if I could.'

'By Our Lady of Clery, I wish you could. But in fact you speak quite well enough, I think; it's my guess you've spent a long time there, because you speak the language so well and clearly.'

'By Saint Paul! I've never been there!'

'But how can you speak so well, then?'

'To tell the truth, I've made a habit of conversing with the people of this country.'

'By Saint Mary, I am astonished at how well you could learn in this country. You speak accurately and confidently.'

'Excuse me, but really I don't.'

'My God, you do it well and elegantly as if you'd been living in Paris these twenty years! Really, I've never heard an Englishman speaking French so well and so fluently as you do. That's what I think, anyway!'

'Oh, thank you sir! But you praise me far more than I deserve. For this I shall be at your very distinguished service, whatever I might be able to do for the sake of your friendship. Truly, my dear sir, you are very welcome to this country.' *Or this:* 'By my soul, friend, you are very welcome here.'

'Many thanks indeed, sir, for your great kindness and courtesy.'

'Sir, have you ever been to Rouen in Normandy?'

'No, honestly not! Never in my life. But I've been to other parts, and many other places:

lieuz autrez: en Touren j'ay esté, a Bloyez et a Chantres et a Orlions auxi bien.

- Orlions? Seint M[a]rie, c'est bien pres a but de le monde, sicom l'en dit en cest pais icy. 90

- Vraiment, sir, ils sont bien folez que le quident, qar c'est en mylieu du roialme de France.

- Est Orliance une beale ville?

- Oil, sir, si Dieu m'eide, la plus beale que soit en roialme de France après Parys. Et auxi il y a un grant estudie dez lois, qar lez plus vailla[nz] et lez plus gentils clercz que sont en cristiantee y repairent pur estudier en civil et canon. 100

- Mon tresdoux amy, je vous en croy bien, mais toutzvoies, j'oy dire que l'anemy y aprent sez disciples de nigromancie en un teste d'aresme. 105

- Save vostre grace, beau sir, qar vraiment ce n'est pas voire.

- Ore alons boire, sir, se vous plest.

- Grant mercy, beau sir.

- Bevez a moy, je vous en pri.

- Vous comencez, se vous plest.

Et puis dit l'autre, quant il a beu:

- Sir, grant mercy de vous grandez biens et dispensez. *Vel sic:* Grant mercy de vous biens. 115

- Il n'y a de quoy, beau sir.

- Si est, vraiment, qar se je [vous] purroy jamés veoir en mon pais, je vous rendray bien la gentryse qu'ore m'avez fait par la grace de Dieu. Ore je me recomande a vous et je pri a Dieu q'il vous doint sanité et paix. 120

- Mon tresgentil sir, a Dieu vous comande, qi vous doint bone vie et longie. 125

I've been to Touraine, to Blois, to Chartres, and to Orleans too.'

'Orleans! By Saint Mary, that's just about at the end of the world, at least that's what they say around here.'

'Really? They must be mad to believe that, for it's right in the middle of the kingdom of France!'

'Is Orleans a beautiful city?'

'Oh yes, friend, as God's my witness, it's the loveliest in the whole kingdom of France except for Paris. And there is also a great law-school, for the worthiest and noblest clerks in all Christendom go there to study both civil and canon [law].'

'I believe you, my fine friend. But all the same, I do hear tell that the Devil teaches necromancy to his disciples there, from inside a Brazen Head.'

'I beg your pardon, sir, but that really can't be true.'

'Come on now, please let's go have a drink!'

'Oh, thank you, friend!'

'Drink my health, I beg you.'

'Oh no, please, you go first!'

And then the other one says, as soon as they have drunk:

'Sir, I would like to thank you for your great kindness and generosity.' *Or this:* 'Many thanks for your kindness.'

'But not at all, dear friend.'

'Indeed so, because if ever I could meet you in my country, I'd be able to repay the noble kindness you have shown me here, by God's grace. Now I must take my leave of you. May God keep you in health and peace.'

'My very dear friend, I commend you to God, and [may he] give you a good life and a long one.'

JANE BLISS

24. Lettre de l'auteur à son mécène = Letter from the author to his patron
(Kristol, p. 45)

Mon treshonuree et tresgentil sire, ore Dieux en soit regraciez, j'ay achevee cest traitis au reverence et instance de vous, et a mon escient je l'ai traitee et compilee sicomme j'ay entendu et appris es parties dela le mer.

Et ja soit que j'ay parlee en mainte lieu obscurément et nient escienteusement fait cest bosoigne, je vous en suppli de vostre gentrise et tous ceulx qui cest livre enremirent de m'avoir escusee, car combien que je ne sui pas le plus escienteus a parler et escrire doulz françois ou romance, nepourquant je l'ai fait selon cen que Dieux m'a liveree grace, raison, sens et entendement.

Et vrayement, mon tresdoulz amy, s'il est bien a poynt au vostre plaisance, j'en ai grant joye.

Et vous plaist savoir, biau tres doulz amy, que je sui et tous dis serai prest et appareilliez a voz tres gentils comandemens en bien et honneur sanz en{r}aindre heure, s'il Dieu plaist.

Et Dieux me donne grace que je vous pourrai rendre du bien et de l'oneur pour les grans biens, courtoisies et naturesses que vous m'avez fait et moustree sanz le mien desiert et encore ferez, s'il Dieu plaist, comme j'ay esperance de vous.

Et je pri a nostre Seigneur Dieu qu'il vous doint bonne vie et longue et vous en donne santee et paix aus toutz jours mais.

Esript a Bury Saint Esmon en la veille de Pentecost l'an du grace mil trois cenz quatre vinz et sesze.

My noble and honoured lord, now (God be thanked!) I have finished this treatise, out of respect for you and at your instigation. To the best of my knowledge, I have drawn it up and compiled it according to what I have heard and understood in lands beyond the sea.

If there are numerous places where I have expressed something obscurely, or performed this task unskilfully, I pray you in your kindness – and all those who look into my book – to hold me excused. For, even if I am not the most skilful speaker and writer of sweet French or Romance, nevertheless I have done as well as God has granted me grace, reason, sense, and understanding to do.

Indeed, my very dear friend, if it pleases you at all I am overjoyed and glad at heart.

Please understand, my very dear friend, that I am and always shall be ready and waiting, at your kindly command, to do any good and honest business, forever loyal, if it pleases God.

And may God give me grace that I shall be able to recompense you well and honourably for the great goodness, courtesy and kindness you have shown me, in spite of my undeserving, and will show, please God, as I have hopes of you.

And I pray Our Lord God to grant you a long and happy life, giving you health and peace for ever.

Written at Bury St Edmunds on the eve of Pentecost, in the year of grace thirteen hundred and ninety-six.

JANE BLISS

MANIÈRE DE 1399

2.1 Salutations; l'heure; le chemin = Greetings, asking the time; directions (Kristol, p. 53)

- Sire, Dieu vous doint bon jour.		'Sir, God give you good day.'
- Dieu vous doint bon jour et bon estraine. <i>Ou:</i> ... bon santé. <i>Ou:</i> ... bon joie.		'God give you good day and good fortune.' <i>Or:</i> '... good health.' <i>Or:</i> '... happiness.'
- Dame, Dieu vous doint bonnez vespres.		'Madam, God give you a good evening.'
- Sire, vous soiez le bien venu.	5	'Sir, you are welcome.'
- Dieu vous avant, bon amy.		'May God help you, good friend.'
- Dieu vous garde de mal, m'amy.		'May God protect you from harm, my friend.'
- Quelle heure est il de jour?		'What time of day is it?'
- Prime. <i>Ou:</i> Tres. <i>Ou:</i> Middy. <i>Ou:</i> Noun.		'Prime.' <i>Or:</i> 'Tierce.' <i>Or:</i> 'Midday.' <i>Or:</i> 'Nones.'
- Quantez heures est il?	10	'What's the time?'
- Entre six et sept.		'Between six and seven.'
- Combien decy a Paris?		'How far from here is Paris?'
- Douse liaues ou auques.		'Twelve leagues or thereabouts.'
- A il bel chemyn?		'Is the way fair?'
- Si Dieu m'aid, entre deux.	15	'By my faith, average.'
- Le chemyn est il droit?		'Is the road straight?'
- Si Dieu m'aid, deux sire, nemy, est il bien tort.		'By my faith, gentle sir, not at all, it is very twisty.'
- Et ditez, quantez liaues a il decy la?	20	'And tell me, how many leagues from here to there?'
- Je vous di douse ou entour.		'I tell you twelve or thereabouts.'
- Est il assés seur de larons?		'Is it quite safe from bandits?'
- Si m'aid Dieux, sire, nemy. Il y eut des gens robbés maintenant.		'By my faith, sir, no. Some people were robbed just recently.'
- Voire?	25	'Is that true?'
- Voire, sire, vrayement.		'Truly, sir, yes.'

KIERRI PRICE

2.2 *Sur le chemin de Windsor = On the way to Windsor* (Kristol, pp. 53-54)

- Ditez moy le nom de ceste ville.
[- Sire, cest vile est appellé Windessore.]
- Et qui est seigneur d'icelle? Ditez, ou demoure il maintenant? Et la dame, ou demoure elle? Ditez, sa fille est elle mariee? **5**
- [- Nanyl sire, par Dé.]
- Ditez moy, avons nous assés du jour jusques la?
- Sire, il vous fault cheminer – *ou*: chevaucher – fort. **10**
- Le chemyn est il assés seur?
- Voir, sire, vous pouez passer assés bien.
- A il point de peril des larons?
- Certez, sire, nous ne ousyme de nulle. **15**
- Et a quelle main tendrey je?
- Tenez a la droite main, et donques tournés a la pote main, et donques tout fin droit.
- Sire, Dieu ait en sa garde.
- Dame, Dieu vous conduye. **20**
- Sire, Dieu vous avant.
- Sire, bonne aventure aiez vous.
- Alez achater nostre diner.
- Il serra fait maintenant.
- 'Tell me the name of this town.'
'Sir, this town is called Windsor.'
'And who is the lord there? Tell me, where is he staying at the moment? And the lady, where is she staying? Tell me, their daughter, is she married?'
'No sir, by God.'
'Tell me, do we have enough of the day left to get there?'
'Sir, you need to travel – *or*: ride – fast.'
'The road, is it safe enough?'
'Truly, sir, you can travel well enough.'
'Is there any danger from bandits?'
'Certainly, sir, we have not heard of any.'
'And which way would I head?'
'Keep to the right, and then turn to the left, and then it's straight on all the way.'
'Sir, may God keep you in his protection.'
'Lady, may God guide you.'
'Sir, may God assist you.'
'Sir, I wish you good fortune.'
'Now go buy our dinner!'
'It will be done now.'

JAMES STRAWBRIDGE

2.3 *En route pour Canterbury = On the way to Canterbury* (Kristol, p. 54)

- Que est la droite voie vers Canterbers? Ditez, a il point du peril des larrons? Et par ou purrey je passer sauvement?

- Sire, il est assés sauf par jour, mais e[n]contre la nuyt il est perilleus. Pour ce attendez jusques a demain. Et donques nous dejunerons ensemble. Et quant vous choses seront accompliez, donques vous vous despartirez de moy.

- Dieu vous doint bonne chevauché et vous encroisse en voz marchandisez.

- Alez avant en vostre chemyn, que vous puissez venir a vostre herbage, qar il convient que vous vous hastez.

- Sire, Dieu vous doint bonne aventure et vous encroisse es honneurs, et vous doint tielle vie a manier que luy en soit paíé, et sa tresdoulce mere, Dieu pour sa grande grace.

'What is the correct way to Canterbury? Tell me, is there any danger of thieves on the road? And which way can I pass safely?'

'My lord, it is quite safe in the daytime, but towards the nighttime it is perilous. Because of this, wait until tomorrow. And now we will break our fast together, and when you have finished your tasks, then you will depart from me.'

'May God give you a good ride and may He increase your success in your trade.'

'Go straight on your way, so that you may reach your inn, for it is a good idea for you to make haste.'

'My lord, may God grant you good fortune and that you may increase in honour, and may He give you such a life in order that you may please Him by it, and his sweet mother, by His good grace.'

KATHARINE HANDEL

3.1 *Injures et insultes = Insults and invective* (Kristol, p. 54)

- Mauvaise ribaud, vous mentez.

- Alez, ribaud, vous pendre.

- Ribaud, vous estes digne d'estre pendu.

- Alez decy, senglent filz de putaigne.

- Certez, pailard, vous ne eschiverez jamais.

- Garçon, vous le achetez.

- Ribaud, vous baserez mon cuel.

- Va, ribaud, le diable vous confonde.

- Pailard, je serrey bien vengé de vous.

'You're lying, you fucking shit.'

'Go away, fuckwit, get lost.'

'You're in for it now, fuckwit.'

'Fuck off, you bloody son of a bitch.'

'For sure, you wanker, you're not going to get away.'

'You little prick, you'll pay for that.'

'You'll kiss my ass, fuckwit.'

'Go home, fuckwit, Satan's gonna fuck you up.'

'I'll get my own back, wanker.'

EMILY REED

3.2 Conter fleurette à une demoiselle = *Chatting up a girl* (Kristol, p. 55)

- Ditez, damoiselle, parlez a moy. Damoiselle, ou demourez vous? Vouillez estre refete? Je vous ay veu ailleurs. Ditez moy, que est vostre nom? Damoiselle, vuillez vous aler ovesque moy et vous serrez m'amy? Et que vous donneray je pour estre m'amy? Damoiselle, ditez en bonne foy. Certez, vous ne averez plus pour moy.

'Say girl, talk to me. Girl, where are you staying? Want to get some food? I've seen you before. Tell me, what's your name? Girl, do you want to come with me and be mine? What can I give so that you will? Girl, tell me truthfully. For sure, you'll have no more from me.'

EMILY REED

3.3 *Autres insultes* = *Other insults* (Kristol, p. 55)

- Va ribaud, et te pens.
- Tu mens, faulz villein.
- Paillard, vous ne eschiverez ja.
- Garçon, va decy au deable.
- Alez, ribaud, que Dieu vous met en mal an.
- Larron, tu averas male aventure.
- Villein, vous mentez, et vous le achetez.
- Ribaud, tu averas le hault gibet.
- Garçon, tu seras tué de male mort.
- Pailard, alez hors de ma veue.
- Va decy, ville puant paillard.
- Ribaud, vous baserez le cul au deable.
- Larron, vous fuissez digne d'estre pendu.
- Va te en a ta putaigne, de part le diable, quar vous estes bien cuillez ensemble.
- Garçon, de moy tu ne averas ja bien.
- Ribaud, tu me as mal servi et ce te serra bien acquité.
- Pailard, je serrey bien vengé de toy, ville taigneus que tu es.

'Go home and hang yourself, fuckwit.'
'You're lying, you two-faced jizzstain.'
'Wanker, you're not going to get away.'
'You little prick, go to hell.'
'Fuck off, shitbag, I hope God fucks you up.'
'You're fucked, you thieving cunt.'
'You're lying, you cum-smear, and you'll pay.'
'You're gonna get hanged, fuckwit.'
'You little prick, you're gonna get killed.'
'Get out my face, wanker.'
'Fuck off, nasty rotten shitbag.'
'Fuckwit, kiss Satan's ass.'
'Thieving cunt, you're going to get hanged.'
'Go home to your dirty slut; you're good together.'
'Little prick, you'll get nothing from me.'
'You shitbag, you've fucked with me and I'm not done with you yet.'
'Wanker, I'll get my own back on you, you disgusting scab.'

EMILY REED

11.2 *Politique contemporaine; nouvelles de Paris = Contemporary politics; news from Paris* (Kristol, pp. 65-66)

- Dame, vous soiez bien trouvee.
 - Vraiment, sire, vous soiez bien encontré. Et quelles nouvelles, sire?
 - Vraiment, dame, tresmerveilleuses.
 - Et quelles, je vous emprie? **5**
 - Si me ait Dieu, dame, j'ay ouy dire que le roy d'Anglitterre est osté.
 - Quoy, desjoie?
 - Par ma alme, voir.
 - Et les Anglois n'ont ils point de roy donques? **10**
 - Marie, ouy. Et que celuy que fust duc de Lancastre, que est nepveu a celluy que est osté.
 - Voire?
 - Voire vraiment. **15**
 - Et le roygne, que fera elle?
 - Par Dieu, dame, je ne sçay. Je n'ay pas esté en conceille.
 - Et le roy d'Anglitterre, ou fust il coroné? **20**
 - A Westmynstre.
 - Fustez vous la, donques?
 - Marie, oy. Il y avoit tant de presse que par un pou que ne mouru, quar a paine je eschapey a vie. **25**
 - Et ou serra il a Nouuel?
 - Par ma foy, je ne sçay, mais l'en dit q'il serra en Escoce.
 - Que Dieu l'avant de faire bien.
 - Quant venistez vous de l'ostel? A il grand piece que vous ne fustez la? **30**
 - Par saint Jaques, nemy, il n'a guieres. Mais il y a grand piece que je fu a Paris.
 - Voir?
 - Par saint Jaques, oy. Je fu piecea. **35**
 - Et en a il la bonnes escoles?
 - Par ma foy, oy. C'est une grande université, *et cætera*.
- 'Lady, I hope you find yourself well?'
 'Truly, sir, you are well met. And what's the news, sir?'
 'Truly, lady, it is remarkable.'
 'And what is it, I ask you?'
 'If God helps me, lady, I have heard it said that the king of England has been ousted.'¹
 'What, dispossessed?'
 'By my soul, truly.'
 'So the English don't have a king, then?'
 'By Mary, yes. And the one who was duke of Lancaster, who is the nephew of the one who is deposed.'
 'Truly?'
 'Truly, truly.'
 'And the queen, what will she do?'
 'By God, lady, I don't know. I wasn't at the council.'²
 'And the king of England, where was he crowned?'
 'At Westminster.'
 'So you were there?'
 'By Mary, yes. There was such a crowd that I very nearly died, for I scarcely escaped with my life.'
 'And where will he be at Christmas?'
 'By my faith, I don't know, but they say he will be in Scotland.'
 'May God grant that he may do well there.'
 'When did you leave your lodgings? It's been a while since you were there, hasn't it?'
 'By Saint James, no, it's been hardly any time. But it has been ages since I was in Paris.'
 'Really?'
 'By Saint James, yes. I was there some time ago.'
 'And are there good schools there?'
 'By my faith, yes. It's a great university,' *etc.*

KATHARINE HANDEL

¹ A reference to the destitution of Richard II by Henry of Lancaster.

² Probably intended to be sarcastic!

MANIÈRE DE 1415

3. *En route pour Oxford = On the way to Oxford* (Kristol, p. 71)

- Syre, ou pensez vous chivacher anoet?
- Sire, a la prochene ville, si Dieu plest.
- Sire, que l'apellez la prochyin ville?
- Sire, l'apellent Oxone, verement.
- Sire, de celle ville j'ay oie parler graunde bien 5
de moult gentz.
- Sire, come bien longe decy est ycelle ville, je
vous pri?
- Sire, nous avouns biene .x. lewes illoeques
unqore. 10
- Ore, sire, lessomes chivacher ensemble, je vous
pri, quar je pense aler – *ou*: chivacher – a mesme
la ville, mes je ne conis pas bien le chymyn. Et si
me voillez l'enseigner, j'estoise graundement
tenuz a vous, par ma foy. 15
- Sire, volunters. Et je suy treslés de vostre
compaignye, mes je me doute que je ne puisse
mye vous suer, quar je suy en partye malade et
non pas toutz gariz unquore. Et mon chivalx est
laas et cloyé devant et derere. Soun doos auxi de 20
la seel est blessé, et l'un oil est ousté, mes
unquore il n'est pas vougle. Et quant il vient a
un fossé parfounde, moy covyent luy porter, qar
certis il ne poet mye sez jambes hors de le tay
lever. 25
- Donques, sire, alome e[n]semble en noun de
Dieu et nous y vendrouns en bone temps par le
haut solayle, si Dieu plest.
- Ore, sire, ou serromes loggez quaunt nous
voignomes la? 30
- Syre, a le Molyn sur le hope en la rewe de
Northyate est le meillour hostelle d'icelle ville
come je suppose, qar nous y averoumes bo[un]
chier et vitaille assez pur hommez et chivachx et
boun merché. 35
- 'Sir, where do you plan to ride tonight?'
'Sir, to the next town, God willing.'
'Sir, what is the next town called?'
'Sir, it is called Oxford, truly.'
'Sir, I have heard many people speak very
highly of this town.'
'Sir, please tell me, how far is it from here to
that town?'
'Sir, we have a good ten leagues to that place
place still.'
'Therefore, sir, let us ride together, I beg you,
because I want to go – *or*: ride – to the same
town, but I do not know the way. And if you
would be willing to show it to me, I would be
greatly beholden to you, in truth.'
'Sir, gladly. And I am delighted with your
company, but I doubt that I will be at all able
to follow you, as I am somewhat ill and not yet
entirely recovered. And my horse is exhausted
and lame at the front and the back. He also has
a wound on his back from the saddle, and is
missing an eye, but he is not blind yet. And
when he comes to a deep ditch, I have to carry
him, because certainly he cannot at all lift his
legs out of the mud.'
'Then, sir, let's go together and in God's
name, and we will reach there in good time in
daylight, God willing.'
'Now, sir, where will we stay when we arrive
there?'
'Sir, the Mill on the Hoop in Northgate Street
is the best hostel of the town, I think, because
we will receive a warm welcome and enough
food for men and horses and at a good price.'

MYRIAM FRENKEL