

**THE BOOK OF THE KNIGHT OF
LA TOUR-LANDRY: COMPILED
FOR THE INSTRUCTION OF HIS
DAUGHTER**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649079124

The Book of the Knight of La Tour-Landry: Compiled for the Instruction of His Daughter by
Thomas Wright

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

THOMAS WRIGHT

**THE BOOK OF THE KNIGHT OF
LA TOUR-LANDRY: COMPILED
FOR THE INSTRUCTION OF HIS
DAUGHTER**

The Book of the
Knight of La Cour-Landry.

Agents for the sale of the Early English Text Society's Publications.

EDINBURGH: T. G. STEVENSON, 22, South Frederick Street.

GLASGOW: OGLE & Co., 1, Royal Exchange Square.

BERLIN: ASHER & Co., Unter den Linden, 20.

NEW YORK: C. SCRIBNER & Co.

PHILADELPHIA: J. B. LIPPINCOTT & Co.

The Book
of the
Knight of La Tour-Landry,

Compiled for the Instruction of his Daughters;

TRANSLATED FROM THE ORIGINAL FRENCH INTO ENGLISH
IN THE REIGN OF HENRY VI, AND EDITED FOR THE
FIRST TIME FROM THE UNIQUE MANUSCRIPT
IN THE BRITISH MUSEUM, WITH AN
INTRODUCTION AND NOTES,

BY

THOMAS WRIGHT, Esq., M.A., F.S.A., M.R.S.L. &c. &c.

*Corresponding Member of the Imperial Institute of France
(Académie des Inscriptions et Belles Lettres).*

LONDON:

PUBLISHED FOR THE EARLY ENGLISH TEXT SOCIETY,
BY N. TRÜBNER & CO., 60, PATERNOSTER ROW.

MDCCCLXVIII.



21

OXFORD:

BY T. COMBE, M.A., E. B. GARDNER, E. P. HALL, AND H. LATHAM, M.A.,
PRINTERS TO THE UNIVERSITY.

INTRODUCTION.

THE feudal castle of La Tour-Landry, from which the author of the following book received his name, stood between Chollet and Vezins, in the part of the old province of Anjou which lay between Poitou and Britany, where its ruins are still visible, consisting of a great donjon, or keep, said to date from the twelfth century. The family of our Knight appears to have been established there at least as early as that date. In the year 1200, a Landry de la Tour, lord of this place, is found engaged in a lawsuit relating to lands; and the names of different members of the family are met with not unfrequently during the thirteenth century. M. de Montaiglon, the editor of the original text of the Knight's "Book," who has investigated this question with laborious care, considers that the father of our author was Geoffroy de la Tour, spoken of at the beginning of the fourteenth century as lord of La Tour-Landry, Bourmont, La Galonière, Loroux-Bottereau, and Cornouaille, and who, under the banner of the Count of Anjou in 1336, distinguished himself by his courage in the war with the English.

This Geoffroy de la Tour had two sons, our Geoffroy, who was the eldest, and another named Arquade, who is supposed to have been

much younger than his brother. The latter, our Geoffroy de la Tour-Landry, appears from his own account to have been present at the siege of Aguillon in 1346. His name again appears in a military muster in 1363. We know that he married Jeanne de Rougé, younger daughter of Bonabes de Rougé, lord of Erval, vicomte of La Guerche, and chamberlain to the king, but we are unacquainted with the date of this marriage, though in 1371 and 1372, when he composed the following book, he must have been married a sufficient length of time to have sons and daughters of an age to require instruction of this kind.

The name of Geoffroy de la Tour occurs several times between the date of the compilation of his book and the end of the century. In 1378 he sent his contribution of men to the army employed in the siege of Cherbourg, but he did not serve in person on that occasion. In the document recording this fact, he is described as a knight banneret. In 1380 Geoffroy served in the war in Britany, and we find him again in active service in the September of the year 1383. We learn from another document, that at this last date Geoffroy's first wife, Jeanne de Rougé, was still living; but she must have died within a few years afterwards, for at a subsequent date, which M. de Montaignon places in 1389, he contracted a second marriage with Marguerite des Roches, lady of La Mothe de Pendu, the widow of Jean de Clerembaut, knight. This is the latest mention of the name of our Knight which has yet been discovered among contemporary records; the date of his death is quite unknown, but it probably occurred at some period towards the end of the fourteenth century.

The descendants of Geoffroy de la Tour-Landry appear to have been all active in the turbulent times during which they lived, and through one of them the name became again rather curiously connected with literary history. The Knight of La Tour tells us that he had sons (in the plural); for at the beginning of the book now published he tells us in the original that he had compiled two

books, "*l'un pour mes filz, et l'autre pour mes filles*¹;" and in two other passages of the present book, addressing his daughters, he refers to the book he had compiled for their brothers, "*ou livre de vos frères*." Caxton, in his printed translation, has given us at the conclusion a little more precise information on the subject, when he makes the good Knight refer his daughters to the other book in the words, "as hit is rehersed in the booke of my two sonnes²." The passage represented by these words of Caxton is not found in the known manuscripts of the French text; but we may be tolerably certain, from Caxton's known exactness, that it existed in the manuscript of which he made use, and we are justified in assuming that, at the time when Geoffroy de la Tour-Landry compiled this book, that is, in 1371, he had two sons. He has in no instance mentioned the number of his daughters, but the manuscripts of the original text are ornamented with illuminations, and in these the Knight is always represented as attended by three daughters, for which number the illuminators had no doubt satisfactory authority. Of the history of these daughters we know very little. One of them, Marie de la Tour-Landry, married, on the 1st of November, 1391, Gilles Clerembault, the son of her father's second wife by her former husband. Marie de la Tour left no issue, and died before 1400, as in that year Gilles Clerembault married a second wife.

This intermarriage of the two families appears to have been a favourite idea of Geoffroy de la Tour-Landry, and was perhaps

¹ "Et pour ce . . . ay-je fait deux livres, l'un pour mes filz, et l'autre pour mes filles pour aprendre à romancier."—*Le Livre du Chevalier de la Tour*, edited by M. de Montaiglon, p. 4. "And therfor y haue made .ij. bookes, one for my sonnes, another for my doughtres, forto lerne hem to rede."—*The Book of the Knight*, English translation, p. 4 of the present volume.

² "Comme vous le trouverez plus à plain ou livre de vos frères."—*Le Livre du Chev. de la Tour*, chap. lxxxix. p. 175. "Si comme vous le trouverez ou livre que j'ai fait à voz frères." "As ye shal finde it more plainly in the booke of youre bretheren."—*The Book of the Knight*, chap. lxxxix. p. 115 of the present volume.

³ See the present volume, p. 205.