

**PERLESVAUS: HATTON MANUSCRIPT 82,
BRANCH 1. A DISSERTATION SUBMITTED
TO THE FACULTY OF THE
GRADUATE SCHOOL OF ARTS AND
LITERATURE IN CANDIDACY FOR THE
DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY**

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JOHN THOMAS LISTER

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The University of Chicago

PERLESVAUS
Hatton Manuscript 82, Branch 1.

A DISSERTATION

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SUBMITTED TO THE FACULTY
OF THE GRADUATE SCHOOL OF ARTS AND LITERATURE
IN CANDIDACY FOR THE DEGREE OF
DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY
DEPARTMENT OF ROMANCE LANGUAGES

BY

JOHN THOMAS LISTER

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PREFACE

This edition of Branch I of the Oxford manuscript, Hatton 82, of the *Perlesvaus* represents the material furnished by the editor to complete the requirements for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in the department of Romance Languages in the University of Chicago. A few pages have been added to make the notes more nearly complete, but in other respects the material remains the same as when presented and approved as a dissertation.

This subject was suggested by Professors Nitze and Jenkins of the University of Chicago, and the editor takes this occasion to express to them and to Professor Karl Pietsch his sincere gratitude for valuable suggestions and criticisms. He wishes especially to thank Professor Nitze for the loan of photographic copies of all the manuscripts of this romance. Expression of appreciation for courtesies so generously extended to him is due and is hereby offered by the editor to the librarians of the University of Chicago, Newberry Library, and Harvard University.

J. T. L.

*College of Wooster,
Wooster, Ohio, October 1920.*

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. MSS of the Romance

When in 1866 Charles Potvin brought out his edition of the *Perlesvaus*, based on the Brussels MS, he said (pp. 354-356):

"Un seul MS connu ressemble au nôtre; c'est un MS de Berne, signalé depuis long temps par Zinner. Mais il ne contient que deux fragments qui représentent à peine la septième partie du roman, et qui ne suffisent pas à en faire comprendre la portée. . . . Les fragments de Berne prouvent que notre copie ne fut pas unique et, comme ils sont plus lisibles et beaucoup plus corrects, rien ne s'oppose à ce que nous en croyions la note finale de notre manuscrit. . . Ce manuscrit est très fautif, et le copiste semble nous expliquer pourquoi, lorsqu'il dit qu'il peut à peine distinguer la lettre de l'original. Il est à regretter que les feuillets de Berne ne soient pas complets; nous aurions dû les publier de préférence. Si une version plus correcte était découverte, ce roman offre assez d'intérêt pour qu'on en publie une seconde, une meilleure édition."

Since Potvin's time other MSS of the *Perlesvaus* have been discovered, and now it is possible to have the romance in what we may assume is a complete form. A new edition, now in the process of preparation, will be based on the most satisfactory MS of the *Perlesvaus*, known as Hatton 82 of the Bodleian Library at Oxford, and will be supplied with variants of the other MSS and a literary and linguistic study of the romance. The present work may be considered as a preliminary step in that direction.

In performing the difficult but extremely interesting task of transcribing the entire text of the Hatton 82 (O) MS, I have had access not only to a photographic copy of this MS but also to like copies of the Berne (Be) MS, the Chantilly (C) MS, the B. N. f. 1428(P) MS, and the printed text of the Potvin edition of the Brussels (B) MS. As I am practically in control of all the known MS material of the romance, by collating the O MS with the others indicated above I am able to offer for publication a text which, it is hoped, is in the main correct. An effort has been made to preserve the physiognomy of the O MS as far as possible. Whenever the editor for the purpose of emending the text has added any material he has enclosed it in brackets, and whenever he has deemed anything superfluous he has enclosed it in parentheses.

Variants, as found in the other MSS, are given in this excerpt of the O MS, so that it will be possible from the O text and the variants of the other MSS to reconstruct the text of any of the MSS mentioned above.

2. Description of MS O

As all the MSS used in the preparation of this edition of the *Perlesvaus* have already been described by Stengel (Stuttg. litt. Verein cxvi, and *Revista di Filologia Romanza* I, 192), Wechsler (*Zeitschrift für romanische Philologie* XX, 1896, p. 80), and Nitze (*The Old French Grail Romance, Perlesvaus*, Baltimore, 1902, pp. 4-6), the remarks which are here made concerning the Hatton 82 are meant to be merely supplementary.

The MS is in the handwriting of about the middle of the 13th century (Nitze, l.c. p. 4), and is 469 m (10½ in.) by 180 m (7¼ in.). Folio one has two columns, and folio eighty-eight has three and one-fourth, while ff. two to eighty-seven inclusive have each four columns. Of the three hundred forty-nine and one fourth columns of which the MS is composed, one hundred and sixty-two have forty-seven lines each, forty-two have forty-six lines each, and the others vary from thirty-seven to forty-nine lines each—one having thirty-seven, one fifty, and less than ten having as many as forty-nine—the number of lines totalling approximately fifteen thousand eight hundred eighty. The MS is in good condition save that the lower corner of one sheet of the vellum is lacking, a loss which makes defective columns c and d of folio twenty-six and columns a and b of folio twenty-seven. The text for this defective part has been made up entirely from the other MSS. The text of MS O is in most cases legible. Paragraphs are indicated by indentations of the margin, but capital letters at the beginning of the paragraphs are either entirely omitted (as is usually the case), or placed in miniature either in their proper places (rare) or on the margin. The handwriting of several different copyists is to be seen in the manuscript. It is quite probable that in a systematic study of the language of the whole MS it would be found that a change of copyist does not mean a change in dialect. It is evident, however, that to come to any definite conclusions in regard to the language of the text as a whole it would be necessary to study in detail the language of each copyist. As such an undertaking is beyond the scope of the present work and is reserved for the complete edition based on the O MS, the present editor has limited himself to indicating here some of the linguistic peculiarities of the first copyist, making use not only of the nineteen pages which contain the first "branche," but the entire work of the first copyist which covers a little less than one-fifth of the whole romance.