

**HUON OF
BORDEAUX: DONE
INTO ENGLISH**

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Huon of Bordeaux: Done into English by Sir John Bourchier Berners & Robert Steele

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SIR JOHN BOURCHIER BERNERS & ROBERT STEELE

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HUON OF BORDEAUX

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INTO ENGLISH BY SIR JOHN
BOURCHIER, LORD BERNERS : AND
NOW RETOLD BY ROBERT STEELE



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TO
F. J. FURNIVALL
FOUNDER AND DIRECTOR OF
THE EARLY ENGLISH TEXT SOCIETY
THIS BOOK IS RESPECTFULLY
DEDICATED

DEAR DR. FURNIVALL,

If I put your name at the head of this book it is not primarily because its publication is in a manner due to you, nor because of the friendly kindness you have shown me in common with many another beginner in literature: it is to mark my grateful sense of the obligation which the younger men among us owe to those who have opened the stores of Early English Literature to them, and pre-eminently among them all, to you.

No doubt there were brave men before Agamemnon, and there were lovers and printers of our earliest literature before you and your allies; but it was rarely available to those who needed it and enjoyed it most,

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while the Early English Text Society has, on the other hand, given us, practically in its entirety, the literature of our forefathers from the first days when the gleeman's song was written down to the hour when the printing press had firmly established itself in the land. The list of two hundred and more works, printed for the first time or reprinted from unique and inaccessible originals, is a monument to which no words from any of us can add dignity: we can but testify our gratitude to and respect for him who has devoted his life to the task of raising it.

Nor is the book to which I have put your name unworthy of you—except for my part in it, small as it is. One of the finest of the *Chansons de Geste*, it had the good fortune to be put into English by Berners, and save for alterations which have brought the story nearer to its original form, little change has been made, and nothing has been added to it.

I need not, I believe, justify to you my wish to open these stories to a wider public. Among the many kind notices of former work in this direction that I have received, a few critics have regretted that my alterations have taken away the philological value of the work. May I assure these friends that the story is intended to appeal to them as story only, and that I should be jealous on its behalf of anything else, however beautiful or valuable, if it seemed to take the foremost place. Those who wish to subject these stories to scientific study and cold analysis will do well to seek them out in the editions of the Early English Text Society. To that edition of this story, I would refer all those who desire information on the many points of interest raised in it, since Mr. Lee's introduction deals so fully with them that any additional discussion would be entirely beyond the province of a story book.

ROBERT STEELE.

"PRAISE WE THEN
TALES OF OLD TIME, WHEREBY ALONE
THE FAIRNESS OF THE WORLD IS SHOWN."