CAP^M. 22 xxii.—HOW AN HUNTERS HORN SHULD BE DRYVE

Ther byn diuers maners of hornes þat is to say vngles, grete abotes, huntes hornes Ruettis[1] *smale forsters hornes and mene hornes of ii maners. That oo manere is wexed with grene wex and grettere of sum and for þei bene best for good hunters þerof will I devise how and of what fasson þei should be driue. First a good hunters horn shuld be dryve of ii span of lengthe, and nought moche more ne moch lasse, and nought to crokyng neiþer to straught, but the flewe be of iii or iiii fyngres vppermore þan the hede, þat lowde*[2] *hunters callen þe grete eende of the horn, and also þat it be as greet and holow dryven as it may to þe length and þat it be shorter at side to þe ban drike*[3] *ward þat at þe neþer side, and þat þe hede be as wide as it may be and ay ay dryve smallere and smallere to þe flwe and þat it be wel wexed þikker or þinner after as þe hunter þenkeþ þat it wil best soune, and that it be þe lenght of þe horn from þe flewe to þe byndyng and also þat it be not to smal dryven from þick byndyng to þe flue for if it be þe horn wil be to mene of soune. And of hornes for few trees*[4] *and wodemen I speke not of for euery smale horn and oþer mene hornes vnwexid ben good inow for hem.*

CHAP. 22.—HOW A HUNTER'S HORN SHOULD BE DRIVEN

THERE are divers kinds of horns, that is to say bugles, great Abbot's, hunter's horns, Ruets,[1] small Forester's horns and meaner horns of two kinds. That one kind is waxed with green wax and greater of sound, and they be best for good hunters, therefore will I devise how and in what fashion they should be driven. First a good hunter's horn should be driven of two spans in length, and not much more nor much less, and not too crooked neither too straight, but that the flue be three or four fingers uppermore than the head, that unlearned[2] hunters call the great end of the horn. And also that it be as great and hollow driven as it can for the length, and that it be shorter on the side of the baldric[3] than at the nether end. And that the head be as wide as it can be, and always driven smaller and smaller to the flue, and that it be well waxed thicker or thinner according as the hunter thinks that it will sound best. And that it be the length of the horn from the flue to the binding, and also that it be not too small driven from the binding to the flue, for if it be the horn will be too mean of sound. As for horns for fewterers[4] and woodmen, I speak not for every small horn and other mean horn unwaxed be good enough for them.

[1] Ruet, ruwet, trumpet. See Appendix: Horns.
[2] Shirley MS.: "lewed," *i.e.*, laewed or unlearned (Stratmann).
[3] Baldric, the belt on which the horn was carried.
[4] Fewterer, the man who held the hounds in slips or couples. See Appendix: Fewterer.