GASTON PHOEBUS—*continued*

Printed editions appeared :

1. *Phébus (Gaston) de deduiz de la chasse des bestes sauuaiges et des oyseaux de proye.* Imprimé par Antoine Verard. Paris, no date, probably 1507. Small folio, in double cols., ff. 134. It contains at the end Gace de la Buigne's poems without mentioning the authorship. It is a perfect example of early typography, but the text is in places very incorrect, as instanced elsewhere. It is an exceedingly rare edition, the last copy sold fetching, according to Souhart, at the Pichon sale in 1869 as much as 9900 frcs.

2. *Phébus* . . . printed by Jehan Trepperel, Paris, without date (after 1505), fol., double cols., ff. 118, woodcut. Gace's poems occupy half of the volume ; also very rare, a copy in 1870 fetched 5600 frcs.

3. *Le Miroyr de Phebus* . . . printed by Philippe-le-Noir, Paris, without date, probably 1515. Small quarto, double cols., ff. 64 ; (according to Lavallée it has ff. 78).

4. (?) According to frères Lallemant there is another edition by Ph.-le-Noir, dated 1520, but Souhart doubts its existence.

5. *La Chasse de Gaston Phoebus,* edited by Joseph Lavallée. Paris, Bureau du Journal des Chasseurs, 1854. This is the edition constantly referred to in this book.

6. A cheap reprint of the Lavallée text, but without the interesting Preface by Lavallée, was issued 1897 by Pairault of Paris. It was evidently intended to supply the demand caused by the increasing price Lavallée's invaluable work is fetching.

Though it hardly comes under this heading one must not omit to mention a small treatise called :

Le Livre de la Chasse par
Gaston III. Conte de Foix.

Privately printed in 1844 at Daventry by Sir Henry Dryden, Bart. It contains only a few pages, a genealogical table and other useful historical notes. It is very scarce, and the copy I saw sold at the Asburnham sale fetched about £5. Not in the Brit. Mus.

Although it would be incorrect to look upon Gaston de Foix as a plagiarist, he has nevertheless taken a good deal of matter from earlier writings. His strong personality, which shows itself in his whole book, cropping up time and again, gives it convincing individuality, and saves G. de F. from the imputation of being a mere copyist.

It is, however, interesting to note *what* passages he owes to others and what are his own. At this we can arrive only by an arduous comparison of various texts, following in this respect the example of Werth in his study of the sources of G. de F. That G. de F. had the book of Roy Modus before him as well as that of Gace de la Buigne we may assume as certain, for he has in some places copied whole passages out of them, sometimes without any and sometimes with only slight alterations. In some cases he has borrowed an idea only. As for instance that of the seven deadly sins being chiefly occasioned by idleness and the best way to avoid them being to occupy oneself with the chase, is taken from the prologue of the Roy Modus, and can be found also in a verse of G. de la Buigne.

We give below a passage from G. de F. in praise of hounds, in juxtaposition with that of Gace, and with the Duke of York's rendering, to show the similarity between them. It was used by Gaston probably because he liked the description, and not because he himself had nothing to say of hounds, for he continually writes in praise of hounds in different places in his book, and shows that if there was one thing he did understand it was "the nature of running hounds" (*see* Appendix : Hounds).

Gace : *Chien est loyal a son seigneur, Chien est de bonne vraye amour.* Gace, 94.

G. de F. : *Chien est loyal à son seinheur et de bonne amour et de vraye.* P. 84.

M. of G. : A hound is true to his lord and master and of good love and true. P. 44.

Gace : *Chien est de bonne entendement, Chien sage a bien vray jugement.*

G. de F. : *Chien est de bon entendement et a grant connoissance et grant judgement.*

M. of G. : An hound is of great understanding and of great knowledge.

Gace : *Chien a force . . . chien a bonte, Chien saige est beste veritable.*

G. de F. : *Chien a force et bonté ; chien a sagesse et est beste véritable.*

M. of G. : A hound hath great strength and great kindness.

Gace : *Chien a souveraine memoire. Dont je vous parleray encore.*

G. de F. : *Chien a grant mémoire ; Chien a grant sentement.*

M. of G. : An hound hath a great memory and great smelling.

Besides this we have already given another instance in (*see* Appendix : Greyhound) where Gace's description of a greyhound has merely been rendered in prose by G. de F. Werth also suggests another writer whom G. de F. may have had before him as he wrote, Vincentius Bellovacensis (compare G. de F., p. 21, lines 13–27, with V. B., 226b, 52–53 and 226d, 15–16 and 227a).

But more material was taken by G. de F. from *Roy Modus,* than from either Gace or Vinc. Bellovacensis, in all some 58 passages contain more or less exact quotations from *Modus* (*see* comparisons by Werth, 79). The following passage will instance how *Modus* was used :

Modus, fol. viii. r. *Et toutefois le vieil cerf a plus grand tallon et la sole du pied plus large et les os plus gros et plus larges que celuy qui est jeune et qui n'est chaçable. Et voyt-on bien souvent qu'ung grand cerf a bien la sole du pied creuse et l'esponde du pied trenchant. Savez pourquoy? pource qu'il aura tousjours demeuré en pays mol et maresqueux, et n'aura point esté chacé de chiens ne de leups.*

GASTON PHOEBUS—*continued*

G. de F. p. 128, 129. *Et aussi le vieill cerf et grant fet meilleur sole de pié et mielleur talon et meilleurs os et plus gros et plus large que ne fait un jeune cerf ne une bische.* After some lines of original matter G. de F. again borrows :

Et j'ay bien veu grant cerf vieil qui avoit bien creuses trasses, et ce ne peut grever ; mais que les autres signes dessus ditz y soyent ; quar creuses trasses et taillant ongle ne senefie se les signes dessus diz y sont forz que cerf hara hanté molt païs ou il n'ara guères de pierres, ou qu'il n'ara été chassié guères. (M. of G. p. 73.)

LE BON VARLET DE CHIENS, *publié d'après le texte inédit d'un Manuscrit de la Bibliothèque de L'Arsenal avec une notice par Paul Lacroix et de Notes par Ernest Julien.* Paris, 1881.

Under the above title, which we cannot help but call a very misleading one, was published a MS. that in the Catalogue of the Library of the Arsenal is noted as : "*Chasse du cerf et dou Sanglier.*" The MS. actually bears no title, and the one given in the printed edition was chosen as appropriate by MM. Lacroix and Julien. It would have been more enlightening, however, to the public to have added to the heading that the whole of the *Bon Varlet* is a mere excerpt from *Le livre de chasse, de Gaston Phoebus.* Lacroix explains to the reader this fact in his preface, but still leads one to think that the MS. he is editing can lay at least as much claim to originality as can Gaston himself. He says that as Gaston copied from *Roy Modus,* so did the scribe of the *Bon Varlet* copy from *Gaston.* Therefore, one expects at least the impress of individuality, some original passages, some comments at least on the text copied, but one reads through the whole of the 18 chapters without finding a word or sentence that is not absolutely a direct copy from the earlier MS. of G. de F. It is true that only those chapters are copied which refer to stag- and boar-hunting, but this does not make it any the less part of the preceding book of G. de F. He, when he copied, it is true, incorporated some of the chapters of *Roy Modus* in a work of his own, but no one could read the two works, *Roy Modus* and the *Livre de chasse* of G. de F., and call one merely a copy of the other. The scribe of the Arsenal MS. cannot by any means be put in the same relation to G. de F. as the latter stands to *Roy Modus.* The following is the description given by Lacroix of the MS. from which he publishes :

Small in 8° of 70 fols., on vellum, the two last leaves being blank, writing of the end of xv. century; titles of the chapters in red ink ; charming little miniatures heading each chapter ; beautiful binding of xvi. century, wood covered with brown morocco, coat of arms of Moreau de Brosse, in gold with clasps of copper (or brass).

At the beginning of the volume is the *ex libris* of l'abbé Fauvel with his coat of arms ; beneath which the inscription : Bibliotheca D. Abbatis Fauvel.

Inside the binding, one reads this inscription "Morene S. Daureuil, 1614, no. 61, 21 Mars. F."

One of the ancient possessors of the MS. has put his signature on the recto of folio 70. There are four lines of rhyme, in a handwriting of the xvi. century. On the verso of fol. 70 are two rondeaux and a virelay, in the handwriting belonging to the end of the xv. century.

The handwriting of the MS. seems to be about fifty years earlier than the date of the binding. There is internal evidence to show that the MS. was not copied from one of the early and faulty editions of G. de F., but that one of the MSS. of G. de F. lay before the copyist.

The chapters of G. de F. that are given by the *Bon Varlet,* are the 32. 33. 34. 35. 27. 28. 29. 30. 45. 40. 41. 38. 37. 42. 43. 54 ; chapters 30. and 43. are divided into two parts, and of these is made up the 18. chapter. It should, we think, have been reckoned as an incomplete MS. of G. de F., or as a selection from the same, as the only alteration that has been made is in the sequence of the chapters.

MASTER OF GAME.—The oldest treatise on the chase in the English language, written between the years 1406–1413 by Edward, second Duke of York, who fell in the battle of Agincourt (1415).

A.—MSS. IN THE BRITISH MUSEUM

I. Vespasian B XII. A Cotton MS., written about 1420, 4to, on Vellum, ff. 96 (fol. 9–105). It is bound together with the short treatise (ff. 8) of Giffarde and Twety's *Art of Hunting* (*see* Bibliography : Twici), both being transcribed by the same hand. The former treatise, consisting of eight leaves, is illustrated by three roughly executed miniatures of animals, but the latter has no miniatures, but some highly finished borders and initials. On the whole, it is the most correct MS. of the fifteenth-century transcripts of the *Master of Game,* though mistakes of various sort are by no means absent ; even in the table of chapters the chapter, "How an hunter shulde seek and fynde the hare," is omitted.

It is the MS. of which we give the exact text with the addition of stops, and the corrections of obvious clerical mistakes, omissions, and duplications.

II. Additional MS. 16,165, known as the Shirley MS., paper, large 4to, ff. 75 (fol. 115–190b). Bound together with other treatises, but all written by the same hand, which is that of John Shirley, named on the fly-leaf, and was probably copied about the year 1450. Shirley, a well-known collector and transcriber of English prose and verse, especially Chaucer and Lydgate, was born about 1366, and died in 1456 (*Dict. Nat. Bib.*). This MS. is the only one that distinctly states on two occasions who the author was. The passages in question run :

"Here begynneþe þe table of þe chapitres