

FOUNDATIONS

FRENCH LESSONS IN LATE-MEDIEVAL ENGLAND

THE *LIBER DONATI* AND
COMMUNE PARLANCE

Edited and translated from French by
RORY G. CRITTEN

ARC HUMANITIES PRESS



FOUNDATIONS

Further Information and Publications

<https://www.arc-humanities.org/search-results-list/?series=foundations>

FRENCH LESSONS IN LATE-MEDIEVAL ENGLAND

THE *LIBER DONATI* AND *COMMUNE PARLANCE*

Edited and translated
from French by
RORY G. CRITTEN

ARCHUMANITIES PRESS

A grant from the Swiss National Science Foundation has made possible the Open Access publication of this volume

British Library Cataloguing in Publication Data

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library.

© 2023, Arc Humanities Press, Leeds



This work is licensed under Creative Commons licence CC-BY-NC-ND 4.0.

The authors assert their moral right to be identified as the authors of their part of this work.

Permission to use brief excerpts from this work in scholarly and educational works is hereby granted provided that the source is acknowledged. Any use of material in this work that is an exception or limitation covered by Article 5 of the European Union's Copyright Directive (2001/29/EC) or would be determined to be "fair use" under Section 107 of the U.S. Copyright Act September 2010 Page 2 or that satisfies the conditions specified in Section 108 of the U.S. Copyright Act (17 USC §108, as revised by P.L. 94-553) does not require the Publisher's permission.

ISBN (hardback): 9781641894210

ISBN (paperback): 9781802701036

e-ISBN (PDF): 9781802701029

www.arc-humanities.org

Printed and bound in the UK (by CPI Group [UK] Ltd), USA (by Bookmasters), and elsewhere using print-on-demand technology.

CONTENTS

Series Editors' Preface	viii
Acknowledgements	ix
Abbreviations.....	x
Introduction	1
The Teaching and Reference Materials and the Currency of French	2
Teachers and Learners: Identities, Aims, Locations.....	6
Teachers and Learners: Methods and Outcomes	9
The <i>Liber donati</i> and <i>Commune parlance</i> : Topics and Texts.....	13
The <i>Liber donati</i> and <i>Commune parlance</i> : Manuscript Context.....	19
Early Modern Developments.....	23
Further Reading.....	25
Using This Volume	27

LIBER DONATI

PART A: GRAMMAR, PRONUNCIATION AND LEXIS	28
1. Personal and demonstrative pronouns and adjectives	28
2. Pronunciation, spelling, and morphological notes.....	28
3. Conjugated verbs with pronunciation, spelling, and morphological notes... ..	29
4. French infinitives with Latin equivalents.....	37
5. Adverbs, prepositions, and other parts of speech with French equivalents .	39
6. Days of the week and feast days	43
7. Cardinal and ordinal numbers	43

PART B: DIALOGUES

1. Salutations	44
2. News from France.....	46
3. En route to London	46
4. Securing lodging; provisions for horses.....	48
5. A conversation with the lady of the house	50
6. Further provisions for horses.....	52
7. Paying the bill	52
8. The market at Winchester.....	54
9. A mother's request for help	54
10. A would-be apprentice's French	56

COMMUNE PARLANCE

1. Opening prayer.....	60
2. The human body	60
3. Furnishing a house.....	62
4. Going on a journey.....	64
4.1. Preparations	64
4.2. The good-bye meal.....	66
4.3. On the road; asking the way and the time	68
4.4. A love song.....	70
4.5. Janyn at the inn	70
4.6. At the market; fish	72
4.7. Evening at the inn; a story.....	74

5. The digger and the gardener 82

6. The baker and his apprentice 84

7. The draper and his apprentice 86

8. At the dubber’s 90

9. Two stable boys 90

10. Different greetings; news from Orleans 92

11. Consoling a child 94

12. Turning away a beggar 94

13. Two companions at an inn 94

14. Dialogues between traders 96

15. Asking the time and the way 98

16. Asking for lodging; giving a message 98

17. At the scrivener’s 102

18. Asking the way; delivering a present 102

19. Different greetings according to the time of day 104

20. Dialogue with an ill man 106

21. Dialogue with a foreigner 108

22. A tailor and his new master 112

23. Two companions at an inn again 114

Commentary and Notes 118

Textual Notes 170

Bibliography 179

SERIES EDITORS' PREFACE

IN OUR WORK with the French of England we and our students, like many before us, have been fascinated by the materials for the teaching of French in medieval England. We have long hoped to produce a volume for the French of England Translation Series that might introduce England's pioneering French-language pedagogy to a wider audience, and we are therefore especially pleased to see the present volume come to fruition. England produced the earliest known manuals for teaching medieval French (they are also referred to in scholarship as *manières de langage* after the titles in some of their manuscripts), which flourished in the late fourteenth and fifteenth centuries and were consumed by a wide class range of clients. The manuals' lively sample dialogues and grammatical information, in addition to having much in common with good language teaching today, provide intriguing evidence for England and continental Europe's social and linguistic history. The lexical sophistication of the manuals, moreover, testifies to the high level of French already achieved by their users and thus to the continuing vitality of French in England.

In addition to his work on late-medieval English and French literary texts and on the late-medieval household, Dr Rory Critten has published extensively on these language-teaching manuals and their late-medieval career. His fresh and lively translations, presented facing the original texts, are the first translations of whole manuals into modern English. His detailed research and stimulating discussions make clear these works' interest as texts, as documents of late-medieval linguistic and socio-linguistic history, and as an important moment in the history of language teaching in general.

We are grateful to Anna Henderson as commissioning editor and to Arc Humanities Press for the opportunity to publish the volume.

Thelma Fenster
Jocelyn Wogan-Browne

For
Pat Hutchinson,
my first French teacher

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

MY THANKS IN first place go to Prof. Daron Burrows, who in his role as Hon. Secretary and Treasurer of the Anglo-Norman Text Society granted permission to reproduce in an adapted form the French texts of two of the Society's publications: *Liber donati: A Fifteenth-Century Manual of French*, ed. Brian Merrilees and Beata Sitarz-Fitzpatrick, Plain Texts Series 9 (London: Anglo-Norman Text Society, 1993); and *Manières de langage (1396, 1399, 1415)*, ed. Andres M. Kristol, Anglo-Norman Texts 53 (London: Anglo-Norman Text Society, 1995), 1–36. I am grateful to FRETs editors Jocelyn Wogan-Browne and Thelma Fenster for inviting me to contribute this volume to their series and for offering much helpful commentary on my typescript. I would also like to express my thanks to this volume's anonymous reviewer, whose feedback has prompted me to clarify my thinking at some key junctures.

For answering various questions and for discussing my work on French teaching with me, it is a pleasure to thank Raphael Berthele, Ardis Butterfield, Ruth Clarke, Elisabeth Dutton, Ralf Oberndorfer, Julie Orlemanski, Sebastian Sobecki, Marion Uhlig, and Juliette Vuille.

This book is dedicated to my first French teacher, Pat Hutchinson, with gratitude for an inspirational introduction to language learning whose benefits I feel every day.

ABBREVIATIONS

- AND *Anglo-Norman Dictionary* <<https://anglo-norman.net/>>
- BL British Library
- CP *Commune parlance*
- CUL Cambridge, University Library
- DMF *Dictionnaire du Moyen Français* <<http://www.atilf.fr/dmf/>>
- DMLBS *Dictionary of Medieval Latin from British Sources*
<<http://clt.brepolis.net/dmlbs/>>
- FEW *Französisches Etymologisches Wörterbuch*
<<https://apps.atilf.fr/lecteurFEW/index.php/>>
- FRETS French of England Translation Series
- LD *Liber donati*
- MED *Middle English Dictionary* <<http://quod.lib.umich.edu/m/med/>>
- OED *Oxford English Dictionary* <<http://www.oed.com>>
- s.v. or s.vv. *sub verbo/verbis* (under the heading(s))
- STC *A Short-Title Catalogue of Books Printed in England, Scotland and Ireland, and of English Books Printed Abroad 1475–1640*, 2nd ed., W. A. Jackson, F. S. Ferguson, and K. F. Panzer (1976–91).