



On a rondeau in the form of a rebus

Citation

Françon, Marcel. 1977. On a rondeau in the form of a rebus. Harvard Library Bulletin XXV (1), January 1977: 49.

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PLATE I
(SEE FOOTNOTE 1)

On a Rondeau in the Form of a Rebus

Marcel Françon

HERE is a reproduction¹ of a rondeau of which I published the literary text.² What I want to stress is that only the "rentrement" is indicated in MS. 402 of the Bibliothèque Municipale of Lille, which I used, and in the page of rebus. This is to confirm what I wrote about the *genre*³ of the rondeau. At the beginning of the sixteenth century and, perhaps, near the end of the fifteenth, poets did not write the complete refrain after the third stanza, nor the first part of the refrain after the second stanza.

¹ Oct. Thorel, *Les rébus de Picardie, étude historique et philologique* (Amiens: Yvert & Tellier, Imprimeurs; Courtin-Hecquet, Libraire; 1903), plate facing p. 56.

² Marcel Françon, *Poèmes de transition (xv^e-xvi^e siècles), Rondeaux du Ms. 402 de Lille* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press; Paris: E. Droz; 1938), p. 113. The "Explication du Rondeau en Rébus" printed there is as follows:

*Dedens mon cueur j'ay mains travaux couvers
Par les rappors des faulx langars pervers
Qui m'ont bany de celle ou j'ay l'atente,
Mes j'espoyre tourner par bonne entente
Aulx quaquetteurs les armes a l'envers.*

*Et devant eulx porteray yeulx ouvers
Puisqu'on verra qu'a tort et de travers
Ont murmuré; mais point ne m'en contente
Dedens mon cueur.*

*Force pensées par assaulx mont divers
M'ont mys au bas faisant tout a revers
De mon pourchas, dont maintenant lamente.
A, devynés se nouveaulx emmys trente
En ce monde j'ay, etés et yvers,
Dedens mon cueur!*

³ My papers: "Sur la théorie du rondeau littéraire," *Aquila*, II (1973), 244-259; and "On the Rondeaux of Christine de Pisan," *HARVARD LIBRARY BULLETIN*, XXI (1973), 380-381; "La Structure du Rondeau," *Medium Ævum*, XLIV:½ (1975), 54-59. Cf. O. Jodogne, "Le rondeau du XV^e siècle mal compris," in *Mélanges offerts à Pierre le Gentil* (Paris, 1973), and, *per contra*, my note, "Sur le rondeau," *Francia*, terza serie, n. 18 (aprile-giugno 1976), 9-10.

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