

Queen Margaret's Entry into London, 1445

Author(s): Robert Withington

Source: *Modern Philology*, May, 1915, Vol. 13, No. 1 (May, 1915), pp. 53-57

Published by: The University of Chicago Press

Stable URL: <https://www.jstor.org/stable/433190>

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QUEEN MARGARET'S ENTRY INTO LONDON, 1445

Dr. H. N. MacCracken, in 1910, speaking of Stow's ascription of various poems to Lydgate, remarked that certain "verses for pageants at the entry of Queen Margaret" into London in 1445, which the chronicler calls Lydgate's, "have not survived."¹ The verses were afterward found in Harleian MS 3869 by Professor Carleton Brown, who published them in the *Modern Language Review* for April, 1912.² Dr. Brown, however, did not observe the occurrence of a fragmentary copy of this same piece, in Stow's own handwriting, in Harleian MS 542 (fols. 101a-2b).³ It is there entitled, "The Speches in the pagiauntes at y^e cominge of Qwene Margaret wyfe to Henry the syxt of that name, kyng of England, the 28th of Maye 1445, y^e 23^d of his reigne."⁴

Harleian MS 542 was used by Richard Thomson in 1827⁵ to supplement the brief account of Queen Margaret's Entry in Stow's *Annals*. He prints two of the speeches (vss. 1-32). In 1831 J. G. Nichols also described the entry, referring to Fabyan and to "a copy of Lydgate's Speeches in the Pageants, Harl. MSS 542."⁶

Nichols observed that the text of Queen Margaret's Entry in Harleian MS 542 is incomplete. "At Leadenhall," he remarks, "was a speech by Madame Grace, who is styled the 'Chauncelor de

¹ "Minor Poems of Lydgate," *E.E.T.S.*, Part I (1911), p. xl.

² VII, 225-34.

³ This manuscript is described in the *Catalogue of the Harleian Manuscripts* (1808), I, 346, as "a Book in 4to, containing part of the Collections of Mr. John Stowe; almost all written by his own hand." An examination of the manuscript shows that fols. 101 and 102 are in Stow's handwriting.

⁴ Harleian MS 3869 must have contained a very similar title, but most of it has been pared away. "1445. ye 28 of may, . . . the cite of london" (in another hand—not the scribe's) are distinguishable at the top of the first folio, just above "Atte the brigge foot in Suthwerke." Dr. Brown has been able to make out a *Qwene margaret* also.

⁵ *Chronicles of London Bridge*, pp. 275-77. For the show, cf. also Arthur Taylor, *The Glory of Regality*, 1820, p. 268; William Hone, *Ancient Mysteries Described*, 1823, p. 235 (following Taylor, but citing, erroneously, Stephen Jones's *Biographia Dramatica*, 1812); Charles Davidson, *English Mystery Plays*, 1892, p. 87; E. K. Chambers, *The Medieval Stage*, 1903, II, 170. Chambers cites (besides Stow and Fabyan) William Gregory, *Chronicle of London* (ed. by Gairdner, Camden Society, 1876), p. 186, and *Chronicle of London* (ed. by E. Tyrrell, 1827), p. 134. There is a brief account of the entry in Grafton.

⁶ *London Pageants*, p. 21.

Dieu,' and there were doubtless others; but the writer of the MS above mentioned turns off to copy Lydgate's poem of 'London Lickpenny.'¹

What Nichols took for Madame Grace's speech in Harleian MS 542 consists of three stanzas—the first standing at the bottom of fol. 101*b* and the other two at the top of the next page, fol. 102*a*—and *London Lickpenny* follows, beginning on fol. 102*a* immediately below the two stanzas. The stanza on fol. 101*b* is, as Nichols saw, the beginning of Madame Grace's speech. He failed to observe, however, that the first word on fol. 102*a* does not agree with the guide-word at the foot of fol. 101*b*, and that the two stanzas on fol. 102*a* (immediately before *London Lickpenny*) are not a part of the speech of Madam Grace, but the conclusion of the whole piece.² The scribe (Stow) did not "turn off" to copy anything. There is simply a lacuna in the manuscript between fol. 101*b* and fol. 102*a*. Vss. 41–155 are lost.³

One circumstance seems to prove that Stow's text in Harleian MS 542 was not derived from Harleian MS 3869. The seventh verse in Harleian MS 3869 is incomplete, lacking the rhyme.⁴ It reads: "with herte with worde with dede." In Harleian MS 542 the verse runs: "With herte with worde with dede your highnesse to advaunce." This is over measure, to be sure, but the rhyme-word (*advauce*) is what is required.

Neither Harleian MS 542 nor Harleian MS 3869 names the author. Stow, as we have seen, attributes the speeches to Lydgate, and Nichols calls them "Lydgate's speeches."⁵ Chambers echoes Stow.⁶ Professor Brown finds the evidence of style conclusive for Lydgate's authorship.⁷ But President MacCracken,

¹ *Ibid.* MacCracken, p. xlvii, decides against Lydgate's authorship of *London Lickpenny*.

² They were spoken "at Seynt Michaelles in Querne."

³ Vss. 40–154 in Brown's numbering (he does not count the seventh verse of the first stanza). Stow's account of the pageants in his *Annals* proves that his copy was not originally defective to this extent. He had before him as much as is contained in Harleian MS 3869.

⁴ In Harleian MS 3869 this verse is inserted between the sixth and eighth, as if the scribe had forgotten it, and had copied it in later—perhaps from memory. Brown shows it "interlined" (p. 226), but does not count it.

⁵ Nichols, *op. cit.*, p. 21; cf. also Thomson, p. 277.

⁶ Chambers, *op. cit.*, II, p. 170.

⁷ *Modern Language Review*, VII, 225.

who has been consulted on the matter, is strongly of opinion that the language of the piece is quite inconsistent with Lydgate's known habits of speech.

The stanzas from Harleian MS 542 follow:

Harleian MS 542, fols. 101a-2a]

The speches in the pagiantt at y^e cominge
of Qwene margaret, wyfe to henry the
syxt of that name, kyng of england,
the 28. of maye in the yere of our
lorde. 1445 y^e 23. of his reigne.

At the brigge foot in Suthwerke | pees and plente |
Ingredimini et replete terram.¹

moast cristen princesse | by influence of grace
doughter of Jherusalem | oure plesaunce
and ioie | welcome as ever princes was
with hert entier | and hoole affiaunce
Causer of welthe | ioie and aboundaunce 5
youre Citie | your people | your subgets all
with hert | with worde | with dede | your highnesse to advaunce
welcome | welcome | welcome | vnto you call |

At noes shippe vpon the brigge
Jam non vltra irascar super terram. |

so trustethe yowr people | with assuraunce |
thruh yowr grace | and high benignitie 10
twixt the Realmes two | England and fraunce
pees shall approche | Rest and vnite
mars set asyde | with all his crueltye
whiche to longe hathe trowbled the Realmes twayne
bydyng yowr comforte | in this adversitie 15
moost cristen princesse | our lady sovereyne |

moast cristen princesse | owre ladi sovereyne²
Right as whilom | by gods might and grace
noe this ark dyd forge and ordayne

¹ Evidently a "scripture," i.e., a writing or motto on the pageant. The appropriateness of this, as well as that of the other "scripture"—at Noah's ark—is apparent. Thomson points out (pp. 276 and 277) that these are from Genesis (9:1, and 8:21).

² This line is crossed out, as if Stow thought he had made a scribal error. Thomson fails to print this line, as if he, too, considered it a scribal fault. But without it, the stanza has but seven verses; Harleian MS 3869 repeats the line; so we may presume the author intended it to remain—especially as he uses it—or verses much similar to it—later.

where in he and his | might escape and passe 20
 the flud of vengeaunce | caused by trespasse
 conveyed aboute as god list hym to gye
 by means of mercy | found a restinge place
 after the flud | vpon this armonie |

fol. 101b]

vnto the dove | that browght the braunche of pees 25
 resemblinge yowr symplenesse columbyne
 tokyn and signe | the flood shuld cesse
 conduite by grace | and power devyne
 sonne of comfort | gynneth faire to shine
 by yowr presence | whereto we synge & seyne 30
 welcome of ioye | right extendet lyne
 moost cristen princesse | owr lady sovereyne |

now at draught brigge,¹

At leden hall | madam grace Chaunceler de dieu

Oure benigne princesse | and lady sovereyne
 Grace convey you forth | and be your gide
 in good lyfe longe | prosperously to reyne 35
 Truthe and mercye | together bene alied
 Justice and peace | thes susters shall provide
 Twixt Realmes twayne | stedfast love to set
 God and Grace | the parties have applied
 now the susters | have them kist and mett |² 40

fol. 102a]

This storie to your highnes | wolde expresse
 the great Resurection generall
 where of our feithe | berethe pleyne witnesse
 the ferefull sowne | of Trumpe Judiciall
 vppon the people | that sodeynly shall calle 160
 eche man to make acompte | and reconing
 ryght as his conscience | bewreyen shall
 allbe it pope | Emperour | or Kynge |

¹ A space is left in both MSS at this point, as if the scribes expected to insert one, or perhaps two, stanzas later.

² The guide-words at the foot of fol. 101b are "pronostike of p"—the first words of the next stanza ("prenostike of pees") as given in Harleian MS 3869. The fact that the first stanza on fol. 102a begins with other words should have warned Nichols that there is a lacuna here. From Harleian MS 3869 we see that the next verse is not 41 but 156.

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who hath well doon | to lyf predestinate
 what ioie | what blis | how great¹ felicitie 165
 vnto the saved of god | is ordinate
 no tonge can tell | none erthly eis can see
 Joye | laude | Rest | pees | & perfect vnitie
 Trivmphes of eternall victorie
 with fruition | of the Trinitie 170
 by contemplation | of his glorie |
 deo gracias. AMEN.

The first stanza of "london licpenye" follows on fol. 102a.

ROBERT WITHINGTON

INDIANA UNIVERSITY

¹ Stow wrote *greatly*, and then crossed out the *-ly*.