

THE MANCHESTER–OXFORD, BONN AND YALE CODICES AND THEIR PLACE IN THE MSS TRADITION OF THE *QUESTE DEL SAINT GRAAL**

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In a series of remarkable studies Professor Alison Stones, following on after the work of the late R.S. Loomis and Cedric Pickford,¹ has established that the miniatures decorating the early fourteenth-century Manchester University John Rylands Library manuscript of the Vulgate *Lancelot-Grail* cycle (French 1) and MS Douce 215 of the Bodleian Library, Oxford, which together form one unit (*Ryl-Douce*),² originated from the same workshop as the illustrations of a

* I propose to deal with the *Mort Artu* section of the *Manchester-Oxford* manuscripts in a further study. In all folio references to manuscripts, the word 'folio' has been abbreviated to 'f.' in the singular, and to 'ff.' in the plural.

¹ R.S. Loomis, *Arthurian legends in medieval art* (New York and London: O.U.P., 1938, 97–8, 123, including plates 237, 238, 240; C.E. Pickford, 'An Arthurian manuscript in the John Rylands Library', *Bulletin of the John Rylands Library*, 31 (1948), 1–29; M.A. Stones, *The illustration of the French prose Lancelot in Flanders, Belgium and Paris, 1250–1340* (Ph.D. thesis, University of London, 1970), 208–24; 'Short note on manuscripts Rylands French 1 and Douce 215', *Scriptorium*, XXII (1968), 42–5; 'Another Short Note on Rylands French 1', *Romanesque and Gothic: essays for George Zarnecki*, ed. Neil Stratford (Boydell and Brewer, 1987), 185–92; 'Indications érites et modèles picturaux, guides aux peintres de manuscrits enluminés aux environs de 1300', in *Artistes, artisans et production artistique au Moyen Age. Colloque international* (Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique Universelle de Rennes II, Haute Bretagne, 2–6 mai 1983, organisé et édité par Xavier Barral I Altet), vol. III, Fabrication et consommation de l'oeuvre, Picard, 1990, 321–49.

² The Rylands and Douce manuscripts each contain sections of the *Lancelot proper*, the *Queste del Saint Graal* and the *Mort Artu*. Professor Stones was the first to notice that the 45 folios of Douce 215 are a part of the missing sections of the Rylands manuscript (see her article 'Short note'). She noted further that former Phillipps MSS 1045/7 and 3630 *i* and 3630 *ii*, now in the Bibliotheca Philosophica Hermetica in Amsterdam and which contain the first two branches of the Vulgate Cycle (the *Estoire del Saint Graal* and the *Estoire de Merlin*), together with the first portion of the *Lancelot proper*, represent the first three volumes of the Rylands–Douce copy of the *Lancelot-Grail* cycle (see her article 'Another Short Note . . .').

The sections of the *Queste del Saint Graal* preserved by the Rylands–Douce MSS are the following (page reference are to Pauphilet's edition of the *Queste*, CFMA, Paris, 1923 [**P**):

Ryl, ff. 182a–204d = **P**, p. 4.30–95.7. *Beginning*: 'ke on fait par laiens de Bohort et de Lyonel, car grant pierche avoit qu'il ne les avoient veu'. *End*: 'Tout le jour demoura laiens Percheval'.

number of other manuscripts of that cycle, notably British Library Add. MSS 10292–4 (*Som*) and Royal 14 E iii (*Fur*).³ That workshop was probably situated, Professor Stones has suggested, either in western Flanders (Ghent) or in northern Artois (the diocese of Saint-Omer or Théroutanne),⁴ the latter diocese or Cambrai being also the region where, Professor Stones believes,⁵ were very likely

Douce, ff. 9a–21d = *P*, p. 95.7–143.25. *Beginning*: ‘jusc’a eure de nonne’. *End*: ‘Avant ier le jour de Pentecouste present li chelestial et li chevalier terrien .i. tournoient ensamble, ch’est a dire qu’il commenchierent’.

Douce, ff. 22a–25d = *P*, p. 147.5–161.23. *Beginning*: ‘soloient trouver et par che lui anuia plus la Queste’. *End*: ‘Sire, fait mesires Gauvain, se jou eusse loisir’.

Douce, ff. 26a–29d = *P*, p. 175.22–190.10. *Beginning*: ‘Ha! chevaliers, jou te conjur par la foi que tu dois a chelui que tu dois, a chelui qui liges hons tu ies et en qui serviche tu t’ies mis que tu m’aides . . .’ *End*: ‘Quant li preudons voit Lyonnel ki a Bohort voloit’.

Douce, ff. 30a–39d = *P*, p. 204.20–244.20. *Beginning*: ‘qu’il le fendi lui et le cheval jusqu’en terre. Teus fu li premiers caus de cheste espee.’ *End*: ‘Si chierchent amont et aval et dient que moult a chi grant pierre de gent. Quant il vindrent au’.

Ryl, ff. 205a–211d = *P*, p. 244.22–276.22. *Beginning*: ‘maistre palais. Si troverent les murs tous versés, les parois cheues et les chevaliers mors, les uns cha, les autres la.’ *End*: ‘et la merveille du Graal, et le pooir que Diex i ot mis. Et chil ert desloiaus et crueus comme chil ki tous ert estrais de malvais lig’.

Douce, f. 45a–d = *P*, p. 276.22–280.5. *Beginning*: ‘nie de paiiens, si ne crut riens de quan qu’il disent, ains dist qu’il estoient aucun traïteur mauvais’. *End*: ‘Quant il ont mangié, li rois fist venir les clers qui metoient en escrit les aventures de laiens. Et Bohort ot contees les aventures del Graal teles com il le avoit veues, si furent mises en escrit et gardees en l’abeie de Salebieres, dont maistres Gautiers Map traist a faire son livre del Saint Graal pour l’amour del roi Henri son seigneur qui fist l’estoire translater de latin en françois. Si se taist atant li contes ke plus n’en dist des aventures del Saint Graal’.

The final sections of the two manuscripts contain portions of the *Mort Artu* which likewise both belong to the same manuscript:

Ryl, ff. 212a–257d = *La Mort le Roi Artu*, ed. J. Frappier, Droz, 1936, §§ 1–184 line 9. *Beginning*: (Rubric) ‘*Chi commence li livres des mors Artus, Gauvain et tous les autres compaignons de la Taule Reonde et toute la fins*’. (Text) ‘Après che que maistres Gautiers Map ot traité des aventures del Saint Graal assés souffissaument, si comme il fu avis au roi Henri son signour ke che qu’il avoit fait n’en devoit pas souffrir s’il ne racontoit la fin de chiaus dont il avoit devant fait mention comment chil moururent de qui il avoit les proeches ramenteues en son livre . . .’ *End*: ‘il sorent tantost que ch’estoit aucune haute persone’.

Douce, ff. 40a–44d = éd. Frappier, / 186 line 3– / 200 line 22. *Beginning*: ‘[desfend]ent moult bien et ochistrent grant partie des gens le roi Aguisquant . . .’ *End*: ‘Et il descent a l’entree et oste son heaume. Et quant il’.

As the sections of the *Queste–Mort Artu* in the Rylands–Douce manuscripts are thus portions of a single codex, quotations from these manuscripts will be introduced by the siglum *Ryl–Douce* or *Douce–Ryl*, the former being used when the quotations are from the Rylands MS, the latter when they are from the Douce MS.

³ Loomis, *op. cit.*; Pickford, *art. cit.*, 27–9. Cf. also G. von Vitzthum, *Die Pariser Miniaturmalerei von der Zeit des heiligen Ludwig bis zu Philipp von Valois und ihr Verhältnis zur Malerei in Nordwest Europa* (Leipzig, 1907).

⁴ A. Stones, ‘Another short note’, 187–9; A. Stones, ‘Indications écrites et modèles picturaux . . . aux environs de 1300’, 323, n. 10.

⁵ A. Stones, ‘Another short note’, 187–9; A. Stones, *The illustration of the French prose Lancelot in Flanders, Belgium and Paris, 1250–1340* (University of London, 1970, 165–207 (on the Yale MS), 208–24 (on the Bonn MS); ‘Indications écrites et modèles picturaux . . .’, 322–7; A. Stones, ‘Aspects of Arthur’s death in medieval illumination’, in *The passing of Arthur. New essays in Arthurian tradition*, ed. Christopher Basil and William Sharpe (New York and London, Garland Publishing, 1988, 52–101, especially 67–71; 87, 89, 101.

For a detailed description of the Yale codex, see Barbara A. Shailor, *Catalogue of medi-*

illustrated at an earlier date three other *Lancelot-Grail* manuscripts: Paris, B. N. fr. 110, Bonn, University Library MS 526 and former Phillipps MS 130 (now Yale MS 229).

But although the Manchester, Douce, Bonn and Yale manuscripts, all of which include the last three branches of the Vulgate Cycle – the *Lancelot* proper, the *Queste del Saint Graal* and the *Mort Artu* – have been studied extensively from the point of view of their iconography, they have for the greater part received scant attention from the point of view of their textual history, at least as regards the *Queste del Saint Graal*. While Jean Frappier took fully into account the Bonn codex (though not the Yale or *Ryl-Douce* MSS) in his study of the manuscript tradition of the *Mort Artu*⁶ and Alexandre Micha included all of these manuscripts in his study of the *Lancelot* section,⁷ Albert Pauphilet, in contrast, although mentioning the Manchester codex in his list of *Queste* manuscripts,⁸ did not include it or the Bonn-Yale MSS in his classification of the manuscripts of this branch.⁹ Pickford, in his study of the Manchester volume, while stressing that ‘A complete collation of the text with all manuscripts is necessary before any but very general conclusions can be reached’,¹⁰ limits himself to stating that an examination of the text of the *Queste* section ‘shows it to be fairly close to the group β of Pauphilet’s classification, although there are many readings of the α group.’¹¹

The purpose of this paper is to attempt to situate the *Manchester [Ryl]-Douce-Bonn-Yale* group of codices more precisely within the manuscript tradition of the Vulgate *Queste*. Without counting the twenty-three manuscripts of the second version of the prose *Tristan* which have incorporated various sections of the Vulgate *Queste*,¹²

eval and Renaissance manuscripts in the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University, I, MSS 1-250 (Binghamton, N.Y.: Medieval and Renaissance Texts and Studies, 1984), 322-31.

⁶ J. Frappier, éd. *La Mort le Roi Artu*, 1936, xxiv, xxix, xxx (brief descriptions of the Bonn, Manchester and Douce manuscripts; Phillipps MS 130, although mentioned by Frappier (xxx) was inaccessible to him; variants from the Bonn manuscript are given by Frappier in the critical apparatus).

⁷ A. Micha, ‘Les manuscrits du *Lancelot en prose*’, *Romania* 81 (1960), 145-87; 84 (1963), 28-60 and 478-99 (the Bonn, Manchester, Douce and Yale manuscripts are described in vol. 84, pp. 37-40; 479-81; 486). For a classification of the *Lancelot* manuscripts, see A. Micha, ‘La tradition manuscrite du *Lancelot en prose*’, *Romania* 85 (1964), 293-318, 478-517; 86 (1965), 330-59.

⁸ A. Pauphilet, *Études sur la Queste del Saint Graal attribuée à Gautier Map*, Paris, Champion, 1927, x.

⁹ Pauphilet, *Études*, xi-xxxv.

¹⁰ Pickford, ‘An Arthurian manuscript in the John Rylands Library’, 13.

¹¹ Pickford, *ibid.* Eugène Vinaver in his *Malory*, Oxford, 1929 (141-7), as well as Pauphilet, include the Manchester codex in their list of *Queste* manuscripts, but do not classify it.

¹² For a description of the prose *Tristan* manuscripts in question, see *La Version Post-*

there exist today some fifty-eight manuscripts of this romance, thirty-eight of which are listed by Pauphilet.¹³ The latter's division of the manuscripts into two broad groups, α and β , both of which go back to a now lost *archétype* whose scribe was responsible for a

Vulgate de la Queste del Saint Graal et de la Mort Artu, éd. F. Bogdanow, SATF, Paris (1991), I, 137–99.

¹³ The following is a list of the extant manuscripts of the *Queste*. The manuscripts listed but not classified by Pauphilet are preceded by an asterisk (*); those not mentioned by Pauphilet are preceded by two asterisk (**): **Bancroft Library, ms. 73 (formerly Phillipps 4377) [**B'**]; **Bonn, Univ. Library, MS 526 (**Bonn**); *Brussels, Bibl. Royale 9627–8 (**Br**); **Chantilly, Musée Condé, MS 476 (formerly MS 644); **Florence, Biblioteca Laurenzia, MS 48 (formerly Ashburnham 121); **Geneva, Bodmer Library, MS 105 (manuscript formerly in the library of Lucien Graux; *Geneva, Bodmer Library, MS 147 (formerly Phillipps 1046) [**B'**]; **Giessen, Univ. Library, MS 94; **Gironde, Archives Départementales, MS I, pièce 6,F; London, British Library, Royal 14 E iii, Royal 19 C xiii., Royal 20 c vi (**L'**), Add. 10294, Add. 17443 (**L**), **MS Royal 20 A .ii., ff. 155r–169v (description to be published shortly); British Library, **MS Cotton Julius A 1 a, f. 63v (10 lines of *Queste* (= ed. Pauphilet, p. 2.5–10); Lyons, Palais des Arts 77 (**K**); Manchester, John Rylands University Library, Fr. 1 (**Ryl**); Oxford, Bodleian Library, **Add. A 268, *Digby 223 (**O'**), **Douce 199; **Douce 215 (**Douce**); **Douce 379; **Douce SS 454, *Rawlinson D 874, *Rawlinson D 899 (**O'**), **Rawlinson Q. b. 6 (**O'**); Paris, B.N. fr. 98, 110, 111, *112, 116, 120, 122, 123, 339, 342, 343, 344 (**R**), 751, 768, 771, 1423–4, 12573, 12580, 12581, 25520; **n. acq. fr. 934 (fragment to be published shortly), n.a. fr. 1119 (**Z**), **n. acq. fr. 5273; Arsenal 3347 (**Ars**), 3480 3482, 5218; **Ravenna, Bibl. Classense 454; **Turin, National Library, MS L. V. 30; **Udine, Biblioteca Arcivescovile, MS 117; Yale, Beinecke Library, MS 229 (formerly Phillipps 130) [**Yale**].

On Paris, Arsenal 5218, see Albert d'Haenens, 'Pierart dou Tielt, Enlumineur des oeuvres de Gilles li Muisis', *Scriptorium*, 23 (1969), 88–93 and Henri Martin, 'Un caricaturiste au temps du roi Jean: Piérart dou Tielt', *Gazette des Beaux Arts*, 51, (1909), 89–102.

On Paris, n. a. fr. 5237, see Bogdanow, 'Fragments of Arthurian prose romances contained in MS B.N. fr. n. a. 5237', *Bibliographical Bulletin of the International Arthurian Society*, 10 (1958), 1–6.

On Bodleian, Douce 199, see Bogdanow, 'La recherche des antécédents littéraires: un remaniement méconnu de la *Queste del Saint Graal Vulgate*, nouvelle source de la *Post-Vulgate*', in *Perceval-Parzival. Hier et aujourd'hui, pour fêter les 95 ans de Jean Fourquet*, Greifswald: Reineke Verlag (Greifswalder Beiträge zum Mittelalter, eds D. Buschinger and W. Spiewok, vol. 48, Serie 3, vol. 28), 1994, 25–37.

On Bodleian, Add. A 268 and Douce 379, see Bogdanow, 'Deux manuscrits arthuriens et leur importance pour l'histoire textuelle de la *Queste del Saint Graal*', *Romania* 98 (1977), 145–67, 289–305.

On Bodleian, Douce SS 454, see C. Lloyd-Morgan, 'A hitherto unnoticed fragment of *La Queste del Saint Graal*', *Bibliographical Bulletin of the International Arthurian Society*, 31 (1979), 203–15.

On the Florence group of manuscripts, see Bogdanow, 'La tradition manuscrite de la *Queste del Saint Graal*, versions *Vulgate* et *Post-Vulgate*, en Italie' in *Die Kulturellen Beziehungen zwischen Italien und den anderen Ländern Europas im Mittelalter* (Greifswald: Reineke Verlag, Greifswalder Beiträge zum Mittelalter), eds D. Buschinger and W. Spiewok, vol. 28, Serie 4, vol. 4), 1993, 25–45.

On the Giessen codex, see U. Mölk, 'Eine neue *Lancelot-Graal*-Handschrift: Giessen, Universitätsbibliothek, 93 und 94', in *Romanistisches Jahrbuch*, 19 (1968), 67–89.

On the Gironde fragment, see Bogdanow, 'Un nouveau manuscrit de la *Queste du Saint Graal* du cycle de la *Vulgate*', *Romania* 91 (1970), 554–6.

On the Turin codex, see Bogdanow, 'Une Compilation arthurienne méconnue: le ms. L-V-30 de la Bibliothèque Nationale de Turin', in *Europäische Literaturen im Mittelalter. Mélanges en l'honneur de Wolfgang Spiewok à l'occasion de son 65ème anniversaire*, ed. Danièle Buschinger (Greifswald: Reineke Verlag, Greifswalder Beiträge zum Mittelalter), eds D. Buschinger and W. Spiewok, vol. 30, Serie 3, vol. 15), 1994, p. 19–31.

not inconsiderable number of their common errors is still valid. The smaller of the two families is group β to which belong, in addition to the six manuscripts cited by Pauphilet,¹⁴ six others unknown or unavailable to him.¹⁵ The remaining manuscripts, including the three that form the basis of Pauphilet's edition of the *Queste* [**P**] (Lyon, Palais des Arts, MS 77 [**K**], B.N. fr. 344 [**R**] and B.N. fr. n.a. 1119 [**Z**]), as well as MSS B.N. fr. 110, 112, 116, 1423–1424, Bodmer 147 [**B'**], Brussels 9627–9628 [**Br**], British Library Add. MS 10294 and Royal 14 E iii (the latter two used respectively by H. O. Sommer [**Som**] and Furnivall [**Fur**] for their editions,¹⁶ derive from the α family. Now there can be no doubt that the *Ryl–Douce–Bonn–Yale* group of manuscripts belongs to the α family. They share many of the scribal errors and other variants which differentiate the manuscripts of that family from those of the β family. The following are a few examples:¹⁷

(1) **P**, p. 60.16–17.

β (**B'**, f. 18c; **V'**, f. 77b; **V'**, f. 237c): 'Sire, montez, car a buen cheval *et a buen espee* n'avez vos pas failli.'

On the Bancroft manuscript, see Bogdanow, 'A little known codex, Bancroft ms. 73 and its place in the manuscript tradition of the *Vulgate Queste del Saint Graal*', in *Arthuriana*, vol. 6, no. 1 (1996), 1–23.

For a photographic reproduction and transcription of the Udine codex, see *La Grant Queste del Saint Graal, La grande Riccerca del Santo Graal*, Versione inedita della fine del XIII secolo del ms. Udine, Biblioteca Arcivescovile, 177, Udine; Roberto Varrori Editore, 1990 (Presentazione: Gianfranco D'Aronco, Roberto Benedetti, Marco Infurna; Trascrizione: Aldo Rosellini).

For a description of the Bonn MS, see *Codices illuminati medii aevi, Lancelot en prose*, Bonn, Universitätsbibliothek, Handschrift S 526, Farbmikrofiche-Edition. Literarhistorische Einführung von Ulrich MÖLK, Kodikologische Beschreibung von Irmgard FISCHER, Edition Helga Legenfelder, München (1992), 6–30.

¹⁴ MSS B.N. fr. 120 (**V**; Pauphilet **O**), 339 (**V'**; Pauphilet **A**), 342 (**V'**; Pauphilet **D**), 343 (**N**; Pauphilet **B**), 12581 (**V'**; Pauphilet **C**) and Arsenal 3480 (**V'**; Pauphilet **Ac**).

¹⁵ Florence (**V''**); Bodleian, Rawlinson D 874 (**O**), Bodleian, Add. ms A 258 (**O'**), Ravenna (**V'**), Udine (**V'**), Bancroft (**B'**).

It should be added that the Rawlinson codex, like MS B.N. fr. 343, only reproduces the first four fifths of the *Vulgate* version, both manuscripts passing with Lancelot's arrival at the *eau de Marcoise* (**P**, p. 246.7) on to the *Post-Vulgate*. As for MS B.N. fr. 12581, the whole of which according to Pauphilet belongs to family β , this manuscript in fact only follows that family for the first two thirds of the text, presenting after the history of the *Arbre de Vie* (**P**, p. 226.7) the version of the α family.

¹⁶ *The Vulgate Version of the Arthurian Romances edited from manuscripts in the British Museum*, H.O. Sommer, The Carnegie Institution of Washington (1909–13), vol. VI, *Les Aventures ou la Queste del Saint Graal* (repr. Ams Press, New York, 1969) [**Som**]; *La Queste del Saint Graal* (in the French Prose), edited from mss. in the British Museum by Frederick J. Furnivall, printed for the Roxburghe Club, London, 1864 (**Fur**). The folio refs following **Fur** are to British Library, MS Royal 14 E iii; those following **Som** are to British Library MS Add. 10294.

¹⁷ Quotations from the manuscripts of the α family are not limited to those on which are based the three editions of the *Queste*. For the sigla used to designate the manuscripts, where appropriate, see above note 13.

α (*K*, f. 174a; *R*, f. 497b; *Z*, f. 149b; *Br*, f. 16d; *B'*, f. 301a; *L* lacuna; *L'*, f. 121c; *O*², f. 97d; *O*⁵, f. 160b; *O*⁶, f. 324c; 98, f. 646c; 110, f. 412d; 112, IV, f. 16a; 116, f. 621c; 1423, f. 78b; *Ars*, f. 232a; *Fur*, f. 98d [p. 52]; *Som*, f. 12d [p. 43.32–33]: 'Sire, montez, qu'a bon cheval n'avez vos mie (*Som pas*) failli.' (1423 *om.* que . . . failli).

Ryl-Douce, f. 196a; *Bonn*, f. 413e; *Yale*, f. 205d: 'Sire, montés, car a boin cheval n'avés vous mie failli.'

As is clear from the context, the squire gives the knight both Lancelot's sword and horse. The *Ryl-Douce-Bonn-Yale* group like the manuscripts of the α family has omitted the words *et a buen espee* preserved by the β family.

(2) *P*, pp. 79.30–80.1

β (*B*^a, f. 23b–c; *V*, f. 534d): Et cil de leenz metent la table (*V* lez tables), si mangierent de *tel bien come leenz avoit. Cele nuit* demora leenz Perceval, si parlerent *assez del chevalier et d'autres choses*. 'Biax niés, fet la recluse, il est ainsi . . .'

α (*K*, f. 178c; *R*, f. 488d; *Z*, f. 152a; *Br*, f. 21d; *B'*, f. 304c; *L*, f. 13a; *L'*, f. 124b; *O*², f. 104d–105a; *O*⁵, f. 164d; *O*⁶, f. 328a; *Ars*, f. 237c–d; 98, f. 650a): Et cil de laienz metent la table, si mengierent de *ce que la dame avoit fet apareillier. Si* demora laienz Perceval *avec s'antain*, si parlerent *entr'ax .ii. de maintes choses, tant que ele li dist*: 'Biax niés, il est ainsi . . .'

Ryl-Douce, f. 201a; *Bonn*, f. 416c; *Yale*, f. 212a; 110, f. 415a; 112, IV, f. 20b; 116, f. 625b; *Fur*, f. 101f (p. 70); *Som*, f. 16c (p. 58.11–14); Et chil de laiens mistrent (*Bonn adds* tot maintenant) le table, si mangierent de *che que* (*Yale* mangierent de tel viande que) *la dame* (112 *adds* leur) *avoit fait apparillier. Si* (*Som* Ensi) demoura laiens (*Yale* demora la nuit P.) Percheval *avoec* (*Som* od) *s'antain*, et parlerent *ensamble* (*Yale om. e.*) *de maintes choses, (Bonn adds et) tant qu'ele lui dist*: 'Biaus niés, il est ensi . . .'¹⁸

The *Ryl-Douce-Bonn-Yale* group clearly follows the phraseology of the manuscripts of the α family, notably presenting like the latter the readings *ce que la dame avoit fait apareillier. Si* and substituting *parlerent ensamble de maintes choses* for *parlerent assez del chevalier et d'autres choses* which undoubtedly was the original reading as Perceval's main concern was the 'Bon Chevalier' with whom he had wished to fight until enlightened by his aunt as to his identity.

(3) *P*, p. 101.23–28.

β (*B*^a, f. 29a; *V*⁶, f. 91a; *V*, f. 538b): Cele qui sor le lion estoit montee senefie la Novele Loi . . . Et por ce qu'ele fu mireoir et veraie lumiere a toz cels qui metent lor cuer *en la Trinité*. Cele dame . . .

¹⁸ B.N. fr. 1424 (f. 4d) belongs to the *Ryl-Douce* group but abridges the sentence: . . . si tost come vous arés oï messe, vous irés. Et il dist que dont remanra il puis que c'est sa volentiés. Ensi demoura Perceval et *aveuc s'antain*, et parlerent *ensamble de maintes choses, tant k'ele le dist*: 'Biaus dous niés, gardés vostre virginité . . .'

α (**Z**, f. 156b; **K**, f. 184a; **R**, f. 492b; **Br**, f. 27b; **B¹**, f. 308b; **L**, f. 18c; **L¹**, f. 127b; **O²**, f. 112c-d; **O⁵**, f. 169c; **O⁶**, f. 332a; *Ars*, f. 244a-b; 98, f. 653c; 110, f. 418a; 112, IV, f. 25a; 116, f. 630d; *Fur*, f. 105f [p. 88]; *Som*, f. 20c [p. 73.10-14]): Celle (**K** Et cele) qui desus (*Som* sor) le lyon estoit montee (**K** estoit est) senefie la Novele Loi (**L** om. estoit . . . montee) . . . Et por ce que elle fu (*Som* est) mirours et veraie (**Z** veraiere) lumiere (*Som* om. lumiere; 98 om. et veraie l.; **L¹** Et por ce que li mireors est veraie lumiere) a touz cax qui **i** (**RO⁵** *Ars*, 98 om. i) metent lor cuers *et lor entencions*. Et (110, 112, 116, *Fur*, *Som* om. Et) celle dame . . .¹⁹

Douce-Ryl, f. 10c; *Bonn*, f. 419b; *Yale*, f. 218d: Chele qui sus (*Bonn* desus) le lyon estoit montee senefie la Nouvelle Loy . . . Et pour che qu'ele est mireors et vraie lumiere (*Som* om. et lumiere; (*Yale* ele est vraie lumiere et vrais miroirs) a tous chiaus qui **i** metent lor cuers *et lor entencions*. Chele dame . . .

Whereas the β family has the reading *metent lor cuer en la Trinité*, which is undoubtedly the original version, the *Ryl-Douce-Bonn-Yale* group follows the α family in presenting the less acceptable variant *i metent lors cuers et lor entencions*.

(4) **P**, p. 125.13-15.

β (**B^a**, f. 35c-d; **V**, f. 541d): Il vit que tu estoies ordenez a estre serjant **Jesu crist** et fus mis en si haut **degré** que jamés ne te deusses abessier au **servise** de l'enemi.

α (**K**, f. 189d; **Z**, f. 160b-c; **R**, f. 496b; **Br**, f. 33a; **B¹**, f. 312c; **L¹**, f. 130d; **O²**, f. 121b; **O⁵**, f. 174c; *Ars*, f. 251b): Il vit (**O²** vint) que tu estoies ordenez a estre serjanz (*Ars* ordenez au servise) **Nostre Seigneur** (**L¹** Jhesucrist) et fus mis en si haut (**L¹** adds leu et en si haut) **servise** que jamés ne te deusses abessier si que (**Z-Br-Ars** a. jusqu'; **O²** om. si que) au **servise** de (**B¹** om. au s.) l'anemi.²⁰

Douce-Ryl, f. 17a; *Bonn*, f. 422d; *Yale*, f. 226d; *Fur*, f. 110b (p. 110); 110, f. 420d; 112, IV, f. 130c; 116, f. 636c; *Som*, f. 25b (p. 89.35-37); **L**, f. 24c; **O⁶**, f. 336b: Il vit que tu estoies ordenés a estre sergans **Jhesucrist** et fus mis en si haut **serviche** que jamais ne te deusses abaissier jusques (**O⁶** om. jusques) al **serviche** de l'anemi.²¹

The original version is evidently that of the β family (*haut degré*). The *Ryl-Douce-Bonn-Yale* group presents like the α family the erroneous reading *haut service* which was no doubt introduced into the text by contamination with *service* a few words further on in the sentence.

From the above examples it is evident that the *Ryl-Douce-Bonn-Yale* group clearly derives from the α family. But the manuscripts of this family like those of the β family are by no means identical.

¹⁹ B.N. fr. 1424 (f. 9c) omits 'Cele qui sur le lion estoit . . . *et lor entencions*. Chele dame.'

²⁰ B.N. fr. 98 (f. 657c) omits the passage corresponding to **P**, 125.10-16: 'et si covert de toutes partes de bones vertus. Si te douta moult a assailir . . .'

²¹ B.N. fr. 1424 (f. 14c) abridges the passage: ' . . . s'il te puet metre hors d'un de ces poins ou tu estoies ordenés pour estre sergans **Jhesucrist**. Lors s'apensa . . .'

In addition to a small group of manuscripts presenting in parts a revised narrative,²² Pauphilet has distinguished within the α family two major groups:

(I) **Group I**, consisting of MSS B.N. fr. 110, 112, 116, 1423–1424, London, Add. 10293 (*Som*) and Royal 14 E iii (*Fur*).

(II) **Group II**, consisting of **KRZ** (the three manuscripts forming the basis of Pauphilet's edition) to which are related a number of sub-groups: (i) B.N. fr. 771, 12573 and B.N. fr. 12580; (ii) Arsenal 3347 (*Ars*), B.N. fr. 98, 25520, Brit. Libr. Add. 17443 (*L*) and Royal 20.C.VI (*L'*); (iii) B.N. fr. 111, 122 and Ars. 5218.

Of the three manuscripts **KRZ** of **Group II**, the first two as Pauphilet indicated, are more closely related to each other than to **Z**. But Pauphilet failed to note that three of the other manuscripts in **Group II** (**LL'** and Arsenal 3347 [*Ars*]), share many of the characteristics that differentiate **Z** from **KR**. These four manuscripts in fact form a distinct subgroup (**IIz**). They not only have in common certain variants absent from the **KR** group (**IIk**), but frequently when the latter and other manuscripts of **Group I** are deformed by scribal errors, they preserve the correct readings as attested by the β family.

As regards the manuscripts not classified by Pauphilet, of these Bodmer 147 (**B'**) and two of the Oxford codices, Rawlinson D 899 (**O**⁵) and Digby 223 (**O**²)²³ are closely related to the **KR** group, while Brussels 9627–9628 (**Br**), Rawlinson Q. b. 6. (**O**⁶)²⁴ and Turin L-V-30²⁵ belong to the **ZLL'Ars** group. The *Ryl-Douce-Bonn-Yale* MSS, on the other hand, are closely related to those of **Group I**, presenting without exception their textual features.

Groups I and **II** are collateral versions each of which is at times

²² Pauphilet lists two such manuscripts, B.N. fr. 751 and Ars. 3482 (*Études*, xvi). To these can now be added two others neglected by Pauphilet, Chantilly 476 and British Library Royal 19 C XIII. Moreover, contrary to Pauphilet's assumption, the modifications introduced by this group of manuscripts are by no means 'des enjolivements assez maladroits et sans intérêt', but represent a coherent attempt to rewrite the *Queste*. The translator of the Spanish *Demanda* used this Variant Version for the latter part of his text (see F. Bogdanow, 'The Spanish *Demanda del Sancto Grial* and a variant version of the Vulgate *Queste del Saint Graal* (I) The Final Scene at Corbenic', in *Homenagem Manuel Rodrigues Lapa, Boletim de Filologia* (centro da Universidade de Lisboa), t. XXVIII (1983), 45–80; 'The Spanish *Demanda del Sancto Grial* and a variant version of the Vulgate *Queste del Saint Graal*. Part II: A hitherto unnoticed manuscript of the variant version of the Vulgate *Queste del Saint Graal* and Galaad's final adventures in the Spanish *Demanda*', *Boletim de Filologia* (Centro da Universidade de Lisboa), t. XXXI (1986–7), 1990, 79–131,

²³ **O**² at times combines the readings of the **KR** and **Z** groups.

²⁴ Occasionally **O**⁶ presents the readings of group **I** or **IIk**.

²⁵ On the Turin manuscript, see my article cited above n. 13 ('Une compilation arthurienne méconnue . . .'). As regards the other manuscripts not classified by Pauphilet, I shall deal with these in more detail elsewhere.

closer to the *archétype* than the other. For although, as we saw above, manuscripts of both groups share certain errors, nevertheless other errors are common only to the manuscripts of the one or the other group. Now in all these cases the *Ryl–Douce–Bonn–Yale* codices follow the readings of **Group I**. Thus in the following examples where the manuscripts of the two subgroups of **II** (*Iik* and *Iiz*) are both deformed by common errors, the *Ryl–Douce–Bonn–Yale* codices like the other manuscripts of **Group I** not only present a correct reading, but in the case of divergencies between the equally acceptable readings of **Group II** and the common variants of the β family and **Group I**, invariably agree with the latter:

(1) *P*, p. 78.23–26.

β (*V*¹, f. 22b; *V*, f. 534c; *B*^a, f. 23b; *V*⁶, f. 83b): Et ausis comme li huis ou li apostre estoient furent (*V om. f.*) clos (*V*⁶ adds et fermé) en la venue Nostre Seignor, ausis furent les portes de vostre ostel (*B*^a*V*⁶ palés) fermees devant ce qu'*il venist* (*V y vint*; *B*^a *om.* devant . . . v.).

α **Group II**: (*Iik*: *K*, f. 178b; *R*, f. 488c; *B*¹, f. 304b; *O*², f. 104c; *O*⁵, f. 164c; 98, f. 649d); (*Iiz*: *Z*, f. 161b; *L*¹, f. 124b; *Ars*, f. 237b; *Br*, f. 21c; *O*⁶, f. 327d): Et ausi come li huis (*O*⁵ *ArsL*¹ add de la meson) ou li apostre erent (*O*⁵ *L*¹*Ars* estoient) enclos (*ZL*¹*O*⁵*O*⁶*BrArs* clos) en la venue de Nostre Seignor, ausi furent les portes dou palés fermees devant ce que li (*ZArs*, 98 add Seint) *Graax* (*O*⁵*L*¹ chevaliers) *venist* (98 adds la).²⁶

Ryl–Douce, f. 200d; *Bonn*, f. 416b; *Yale*, f. 211c; **Group I** (110, f. 414f; 112, IV, f. 20a; 116, f. 625c; 1424, f. 4c; *Fur*, f. 101e [p. 69]; *Som*, f. 16a [p. 57.15–17]): Et ausi comme li huis (1424 le maisons), u li apostle estoient (*Som* furent) erent clos en (*Som a*) la venue Nostre Signeur, ausi furent (*Bonn*, 110, 112, 1424, *Som*, add les portes) du palais fremees devant que (*Bonn*, 1424 add ce que; *Som* palais closes quant) *li chevaliers entrast en la sale*.

In the context the reading *li Graax* or *li Saint Graax* given by all the manuscripts of **Group II** except *O*⁵ is clearly erroneous. Both the β family and **Group I** present correct readings, the one having *il venist* (β) and the other, *li chevaliers entrast en la sale* (**Group I**). The version of the *Ryl–Douce–Bonn–Yale* codices is clearly the same as that of **Group I**.

(2) *P*, pp. 114.33–115.2.

β (*B*^a, f. 32b–c; *V*, f. 540b): Longuement parla li preudons a Perceval et molt l'amonesta de bien fere et li dist que Jesucriz ne l'oblieroit pas, ainz li envoieoit secors *prochienement*.

α **Group II**: (*Iik*: *K*, f. 187b; *R*, f. 494c; *B*¹, f. 310d; *O*², f. 117c; *O*⁵, f. 172b; 98,

²⁶ *L*, f. 12c (**Group Iik**) has abridged the passage: '... de color a feu senblables formes devant ce qui li Graauz venist, dont il avint que il vint si soudeinement ...' (corresponds to *P*, 78.23–27).

f. 655d); (*Ilz*: *Z*, f. 158d; *L*, f. 21d; *L'*, f. 129b; *Ars*, f. 248a; *Br*, f. 30c; *O⁶*, f. 334b): Longuement parla (*O⁶L'* parle) li preudons a Perceval et moult l'amonesta (*O⁶* l'amoneste) de bien fere et dist (*ZBrL'* dit) que Diex ne l'oublieroit mie, ainz (*R et*) dit (*B¹O²O⁵ZLL'* dist) qu'il (98, *LArs om.* dit qu'il; *O⁶L'* mie atendist qu'il) li envoieiroit secors *novement* (*O⁵* prochainement; *Br om.* ainz . . . secors n.).

Douce-Ryl, f. 14a; *Bonn*, f. 421a; *Yale*, f. 223a; *Group I* (110; f. 419f; 112, IV, f. 28a; 116, f. 634a; *Fur*, f. 108b [p. 100]; *Som*, f. 23a [p. 82.13–15]): Longhement proia (*Yale, Som*, 110 parla) li preudom a (112 *om.* a) Percheval (*Som* Perceval au preudome) et molt l'amonesta de bien faire et (*Som adds* li) dist que Jhesucrist ne l'oublieroit mie, ains (*Bonn, Yale, Som*, 110 *add* li) dist qu'il (*Yale, Som om.*, dist qu'il) lui envoieiroit secours *prochainement* (*Som om.* pr.).²⁷

The reading *novement* given by most of the manuscripts of *Group II* is a misreading of *prochainement* preserved by the β family and the manuscripts of *Group I* including the *Ryl-Douce-Bonn-Yale* codices.

(3) *P*, p. 126.27–30.

β (*B^a*, f. 36b; *V*, f. 542a): Or garde (*V* pense) que tu poisses puis avoir fet se tu eusses cez vertuz sauvees en toi *que Nostre Sires i a mises, des lors que* (*V* tres ce que) *tu estoies en enfance*. Tu n'eusses pas failli a achever les aventures del Saint Graal.

α *Group II*: (*Ilk*: *K*, f. 190a; *R*, f. 496c; *B¹*, f. 312d; *O²*, f. 121d; *O⁵*, f. 174d; 98, f. 657d); *Ilz*: (*Z*, f. 161b; *L*, f. 24d; *L'*, f. 131a; *Ars*, f. 237b; *Br*, f. 21c; *O⁶*, f. 336c): Or gardes que tu peusses puis (*O² om.* puis) avoir fet se tu eusses toutes ces vertuz sauvees en *toi*. Tu n'eusses mie failli a achever les aventures dou Saint Graal.

Douce-Ryl, f. 17b; *Bonn*, f. 422e; *Yale*, f. 227b; *Group I* (110, f. 420e; 112, IV, f. 130d; 116 (f. 637a; 1424, f. 151a; *Fur*, f. 110d [p. 112]; *Som*, f. 25c–d [p. 90.32–35]): Or te (*Bonn odds* te) garde (*Som* or esgarde) que tu peusses (110, *Bonn, Yale, Som*, 1424 *add* puis) avoir fait se tu eusses (1424 *adds* en toi) toutes ches vertus sauvees en toi (1424 *om.* en toi; *Bonn, Som* vertus en toi salvees) *que Nostres Sires i avoit mises* (1424 *adds* si plainement), *ne* (116 mises se) tu n'eusses pas (*Bonn om.* pas) failli a achiever les aventures del Saint Graal.

The passage omitted after *toi* by the manuscripts of *Group II* (*que . . . enfance*) essential in the context and attested by the β family has been preserved for the greater part by *Group I* and the *Ryl-Douce-Bonn-Yale* group.

(4) *P*, p. 128.11–14.

β (*B^a*, f. 36d; *V*, f. 542b; *V⁶*, f. 98c; *V⁵*, f. 245b): Mes cels qe il trovera desgarniz et desnuez de veraie confession et de veraie repentance (*V⁵V aj.* et de boenne oevres; *V⁶ aj.* des bonnes oevres de misericorde) *ne vodra* il mie recevoir, ainz les fera jeter hors (*V⁶ aj.* de son ostel et) de la compaignie *as autres*.

²⁷ B.N. fr. 1424 (f. 12b) has omitted the greater part of the passage: ' . . . des ore en avant t'en garde songneusement, car tu avras secours *procainement*' (corresponds to *P*, 114.30–115.2).

α Group II: (*Ilk*: *K*, f. 190d; *R*, f. 496d; *B*¹, f. 313b; *O*², f. 122b; *O*⁵, f. 175a; 98, f. 658a); (*Ilz*: *Z*, f. 161c; *L*, f. 25b; *L*¹, f. 131b; *Ars*, f. 237b; *Br*, f. 33d; *O*⁶, f. 336d): Mes cels qu'il trovera desgarniz et desnuez (*L*¹ desevez; *O*² *om.* et d.) de veraie confession et de bones oevres ne *fera* il pas recevoir (98, asseoir), ainz les fera il giter (*L om.* ainz . . . giter) de la compaignie *des anges* (*O*² *des autres*; *B*¹ de sa compaignie).

Douce-Ryl, f. 17d; *Bonn*, f. 422f; *Yale*, ff. 227d; **Group I** (110, ff. 420f–421a; 112, IV, f. 131a; 116, f. 637b; 1424, f. 15b; *Fur*, f. 110e [p. 113]; *Som*, f. 25e–f [p. 91.31–34]): Mais ceus qu'il trouvera desgarnis de vraie confession et (1424 *om.* de vraie c. et) de boines oevres, cheus ne *vaudra* il pas rechevoir, ains les fera jeter de la compaignie *as autres*.

The original readings *voldra* and *as autres* have been preserved by the manuscripts of **Group I** and the *Ryl-Douce-Bonn-Yale* codices. **Group II** by contamination with *fera il giter* gives *fera* and in addition substitutes *as autres* for *des anges*.

(5) *P*, p. 133.10–13.

β (*B*², f. 38b; *V*, f. 543a; *V*⁶, f. 100b): Puis prent l'escu et le *glaive* (*V*⁶ la lance) Lancelot, si le porte en son ostel (*V* et le porte a l'ostel). *Et Lancelot ot ja deslacié son hiaume et sa ventaille* (*VV*⁶ add *abatue*), *si oste son hauberc de son dos et se desarme et porte ses armes en l'ostel* (*V* en l'ermitage). Et quant il est toz desarmez . . .

α Group II: (*Ilk*: *K*, f. 191d; *R*, f. 497c; *B*¹, f. 314a; *O*², f. 124a; *O*⁵, f. 176a; 98, f. 659a); (*Ilz*: *Z*, f. 162c; *L*, f. 26c; *L*¹, f. 131d; *Ars*, f. 253d; *Br*, f. 35a; *O*⁶, f. 337c): Puis prent l'escu et le *glaive* (*K* le glaive et l'escu) Lancelot, et (*BKBr* si) le porte en son ostel. Et quant il est toz desarmez . . .

Douce-Ryl, f. 19a; *Bonn*, f. 423d; *Yale*, f. 229c; **Group I** (110, f. 421e; 112, IV, f. 132a–b; 116, f. 638c; *Fur*, f. 111e [p. 118]; *Som*, f. 26f [p. 95.17–19]): Puis prent l'escu et le *lanche* Lancelot et le (116 les) porte en son (*Yale* a l') ostel. *Et Lancelot ot ja deslachié son hiaume et sa ventaille abatue, et oste son* (*Bonn* le) *haubierc* (*Yale* et son hauberc oste) *de son dos et* (*Bonn, Som* add le) *porte en l'ostel*. Et quant il est tous (*Yale om.* t.) desarmés . . .²⁸

The manuscripts of **Group II** as the result of a *saut du même au même* have omitted after *ostel* the passage *Et Lancelot . . . en l'ostel*. The *Ryl-Douce-Bonn-Yale* codices like the β family and **Group I** not only preserve this passage, but present the same wording as **Group I**, having for instance *et porte en l'ostel* whereas the β family has *et se desarme et porte ses armes en l'ostel*.

Similarly, whenever only one of the subgroups of **Group II** (*Ilk*) is deformed by scribal errors, while the other one (*Ilz*) presents like **Group I** and the β family a correct version, the *Ryl-*

²⁸ B.N. fr. 1424 (f. 16c) has rewritten the passage: 'Et puis revint a Lancelot et l'aaisa al mix qu'il pooit et puis apela .i. sien clerk'.

Douce–Bonn–Yale codices again have the same readings as **Group I**, as is apparent from the following examples:

(1) **P**, p. 27.20–21.

β (**V**^s, f. 233d; **B**^a, f. 9a; **V**, f. 526d; **V**^o, f. 66c): Par foi (**VV**^o El non Diu), fet Galaad, vos me contez merveilles (**B**^a**V**^o *aj. et*) se **cist escuz** est tex com vos (**V** *aj. me*) dites.

α IIIk (**K**, f. 166b; **R**, f. 480b; **B**¹, f. 295c; **O**², f. 86c; **O**⁵, f. 153b; 98, f. 641b): . . . vos me contez merveilles se *l'aventure* est tiex come vos me contez et dites (98 *om. et* dites).

IIz (**Z**, f. 143a; **Br**, f. 8a; **L**, f. 7c; **L**¹, f. 117a; **O**⁶, f. 318c; *Ars*, f. 222b): . . . vos me contez merveilles se **cist escuz** est tiex com vos me dites.

Ryl–Douce, f. 187c; **Bonn**, f. 409c; **Yale**, f. 194d–195a; **Group I** (116, f. 613c; 110, f. 408b; 112, IV, f. 8b; 1423, f. 70b; *Fur*, f. 92e [p. 24]; *Som*, f. 6a [p. 21.18–19]): . . . vous me contés merveilles se **chis escus** est tels comme vous dites.

In the context, the reading of **KRB**¹ (*l'aventure*) is clearly erroneous. The *Ryl–Douce–Bonn–Yale* group agrees with the other manuscripts of **Group I** in presenting like **Group IIz** the original reading **cest escus** attested by the **β** family.

(2) **P**, p. 39.12–13.

β (**V**, f. 528c; **V**^s, f. 235a; **B**^a, f. 12c; **V**^o, f. 70b): Or devons veoir comment **ceste semblance** et celle doulour (**B**^a *om. celle d.*; **V**^o *cele dont*) s'entr'acordent . . .

α IIIk (**K**, f. 169a): Or demandez vos coment **ceste assemblee** et ceste dolors s'entr'assemblerent . . .

IIIk (**R**, f. 482a; **B**¹, f. 297a; **O**², f. 90d; **O**⁵, f. 155d; 98, f. 643a): Or devons mostrer (**B**^{1**O**⁵ *savoir*; **O**² *veoir*) coment **ceste assamblee** et cele dolors s'entr'acordent . . .}

IIz (**Z**, f. 145b; **Br**, f. 11b; **L** *lacuna*; **L**¹, f. 118c; **O**⁶, f. 320c; *Ars*, f. 225d): Or devons veoir comment **ceste semblance** et cele de lors s'entr'acordent (**L**¹**O**⁶ *s'entr'acorderent*) . . .

Ryl–Douce, f. 190c–d; **Bonn**, f. 410f; **Yale**, f. 198c; **Group I** (110, f. 409f; 112, IV, f. 11a; 116, f. 616c; 1423, f. 73a; *Fur*, f. 94e [p. 32]; *Som*, f. 8b [p. 29.17–19]): Ore devons (**Bonn**, **Yale**, *Som* 110, 1423 *add nous*) veoir (**Bonn**, **Yale**, 110, 1423 *savoir*) comment cheste dolour (1423 *adds est coumencie*) et (1423 *adds coment*) **ceste samblanche** (*Som* *tristrece*) s'acordent (*Som* *s'acorderent*; **Bonn**, **Yale**, 110 *s'entr'acordent*) . . .

The variant *assemblee* presented by **KRB**¹ is evidently a misreading of *semblance*. Like **Z–Br** and most of the manuscripts of **Group I**, the *Ryl–Douce–Bonn–Yale* group gives the correct version confirmed by the **β** family.

(3) *P*, pp. 116.33–117.5.

β (*B^a*, f. 33a; *V*, f. 540c): ‘Et s’il est de si foible creance (*V adds* et de povre) qu’il quit plus fere par sa proece que par la grace Nostre Seignor, (*V adds* sachiez qu’) il n’en partira (*V* ne s’en repentira) ja *sanz honte, ne au derreein ne fera il rien de la chose por quoi il s’esmut.*’ Einsi parloit li preudoms soventes foiz a Lancelot.

α *Ilk* (*K*, f. 187d; *R*, f. 495a; *B¹*, f. 311a; *O²*, f. 118a–b; *O⁵*, f. 172c; 98, f. 656a): ‘Et s’il est tiex qu’il soit de si foible (*O²* povre) creance et de si povre (*O²* foible) qu’il cuide plus fere par sa chevalerie que par la grace de Nostre Seignor, sachiez qu’il ne s’en partira ja *sanz honte.*’ Einsint parloit li preudons a Lancelot.

Ilz (*Z*, f. 159b; *Br*, f. 31a; *L*, f. 22b; *L¹*, f. 129c; *O⁶*, f. 334c; *Ars*, f. 248c–d): “. . . que il cuit plus fere par sa chevalerie que par la grace (*O⁶L¹* par autre hautesce) de Nostre Seignor, sachiez qu’il ne s’en partira ja *sanz honte, et au darain n’i fera il rien (O⁶L¹ honte ou sanz mort ne ne fera ja riens) de chose qu’il quiere.*’ Einsint parloit li prodons soventes (*O⁶LL¹ om. s.*) a Lancelot.

Douce–Ryl, f. 14c–d; *Bonn*, f. 421c; *Yale*, f. 223d; *Group I* (110 *lacuna*; 112, IV, f. 128c; 116, f. 634c; *Fur*, f. 108e [p. 32]; *Som*, f. 23c [pp. 83.30–84.1]): ‘Et s’il est teus (*Som* ensi) qu’il soit de povre (*Bonn, Yale*, 110 feble) creanche et de si foible (*Bonn, Yale*, 110 povre) foi (*Som om.* et de . . . foi) qu’il quide qu’il puist plus (*Som* qu’il ne le peut) faire par sa proeche que par la grasce Nostre Signeur (*Yale* du Saint Sperit; *Bonn*, 110 del Saint Graal), sachiés qu’il ne partira (*Bonn, Yale* s’en partira) ja *sans honte, et (Som ne) au daerrain* (112 a la fin) *ne (Bonn n’en) fera il (Som adds ja) riens de chose qu’il quierre.*’ Ensi parloit li preudom a Lancelot.²⁹

The words omitted after *honte* by the *Ilk* group, but preserved by *Ilz* and the β family, figure also in the *Ryl–Douce–Bonn–Yale* codices and the other manuscripts of *Group I*.

(4) *P*, p. 131.23–27.

β (*B^a*, f. 38a–b; *V*, f. 542d): Et cil commançoit tantost a voler, (*V adds* et) si devenoient ses eles si granz et si merveilleuses que toz li monz en estoit coverz. *Et quant il avoit tant volé que toz li monz le tenoit a merveille*, si s’en aloit contremont vers les nues . . .

α *Ilk* (*K*, f. 191b; *R*, f. 497b; *B¹*, f. 313d; *O²*, f. 123e; *O⁵*, f. 175d; *O⁶*, f. 337b; *L¹*, f. 131c; 98, f. 658d): Et cil començoit a voler, et devenoient ses eles si granz et si merveilleuses que toz li monz en estoit coverz. Si s’en aloit contremont vers les nues . . .³⁰

Ilz (*Z*, f. 162b; *Br*, f. 34d; *L*, f. 26a; *Ars*, f. 253b): Et cil commençoit a voler, et devenoient ses elles si granz (*L adds* que trop) et si merveilleuses que touz li monz en estoit coverz. *Et quant il avoit tant volé que touz li monz en estoit coverz (L Ars om. que touz . . . coverz)*, si s’en aloit contremont vers les nues . . .

Douce–Ryl, f. 18c; *Bonn*, f. 423c; *Yale*, ff. 228d–229a; *Group I* (110, f. 421d;

²⁹ B.N. fr. 1424 (f. 12c) omits the equivalent of *P*, 116.2–117.4.

³⁰ Here *O⁶* presents the reading of group *Ilk*.

112, IV, f. 131d; 116, f. 638b; 1424, f. 16a–b; *Fur*, f. 111c [p. 116]; *Som*, f. 26d [p. 94.10–12]: Et chil coumenchoit (*Bonn*, *Yale*, *Som*, 110, 1424 comencha) a voler, et devenoient (*Som* devindrent) ses eles si grandes et si merveilleuses (1424 *om.* et si m.) que tous li mondes en estoit couvers. ***Et quant il avoit tant volé que tous li mondes le tenoit a*** (*Yale* adds grant) ***merveille***, si s'en aloit (*Bonn*, *Yale*, *Som*, 110 add tout) contremont vers (*Bonn*, *Yale*, *Som*, 110, 1424 *om.* vers) les nues . . .

Group III and one of the manuscripts of **IIz** (**L¹**) have omitted after ***coverz*** as result of a *saut du même au même* the passage ***Et quant . . . covert*** preserved by the other manuscripts of **IIz** and **Group I**, the latter however giving the more authentic version of the sentence as attested by the **β** family (***Et quant . . . le tenoit a merveille***). The *Ryl–Douce–Bonn–Yale* codices present the same version as **Group I**.

However, what proves perhaps even more decisively the adherence of the *Ryl–Douce–Bonn–Yale* codices to **Group I** is that they agree with the mss. of that group not only when as in the above examples these have preserved the original redaction, but also when conversely they and not **Group II** have scribal errors or other variants unique to them. The following are some examples:

(1) **P**, p. 41.19–23.

β (**B^a**, f. 13b; **V**, f. 529a): . . . il chevaucha jusq'a ***une forest*** ancienne qui duroit (**V** adds bien) ***.ii. jornees*** (**V** adds et) tant qu'il vint l'endemain a midi (**V om.** a m.) en une prairie. Si ***voit en mi lo chemin*** une chaire sooir bele et riche ou il avoit une corone d'or trop bele. Et devant . . .

α Group II: (**K**, f. 169c; **R**, f. 482c; **Z**, f. 145d; **Br**, f. 11d; **B¹**, f. 297d; **L** lacuna; **L¹**, f. 119a; **O²**, f. 91b; **O⁵**, f. 156b; **O⁶**, f. 321a; **Ars**, f. 226c; 98, f. 643c): . . . il chevaucha tant que il vint a ***une forest*** ancienne qui duroit bien ***.ii. jornees*** et tant qu'il vint l'andemain a hore de prime en une prairie. Si ***voit ou mileu dou chemin*** une chaire bele et riche ou il avoit une corone d'or trop bele. Et devant . . .

Ryl–Douce, f. 191b; *Bonn*, f. 411b; *Yale*, f. 199b; **Group I**: (110, f. 410b; 112, IV, f. 11c; 116, f. 617a; 1423, f. 73d; *Fur*, f. 95b [p. 36]; *Som*, f. 8e [p. 31.2–5]): . . . il chevaucha juskes a (*Bonn*, *Yale*, *Som*, 110, 116 jusqu' en) ***la forest*** ancienne qui duroit bien ***.iiii. lieues*** (*Yale*, .iii.) ***lieues*** (*Som om.* qui duroit . . . lieues) et tant qu'il vint (*Yale* vient) l'endemain a eure de prime (*Som*, 1423 *om.* a eure de p.) en une prairie (1423 une grant vallee). Si ***voit*** (116 p. ou il vit) une kaie ou il avoit une courone d'or trop bieles ***et trop riche*** (1423 d'or mout rice). Devant . . .

The original version is that common to the **β** family and **Group II**. The manuscripts of **Group I**, including the *Ryl–Douce–Bonn–Yale* codices, not only present the variants ***la forest*** and ***.iiii. lieues*** which are less satisfactory than the corresponding readings of **β** and **Group II** (***une forest***; ***.ii. jornees***), but they omit after ***voit*** the words ***ou mileu dou chemin***, essential in the context.

(2) *P*, p. 41.23–26.

β (*B^a*, f. 13b; *V*, f. 529a): . . . replenies de biax mangiers. Il regarde *cele aventure*, si ne li prent faim de chose qu'il voie fors de la corone *qui si est bele* que buen seroit nez . . .

α *Group II*: (*K*, f. 169c; *R*, f. 482c; *Z*, f. 145d; *Br*, f. 11d; *B¹*, f. 297d; *L* lacuna; *L¹*, f. 119a; *O²*, f. 91b; *O⁵*, f. 156b; *O⁶*, f. 321a; *Ars*, f. 226c; 98, f. 643c): . . . replenies de biaux mengiers. Il resgarde *ceste aventure*, si ne li prent faim de chose qu'il voie fors de la corone *qui tant est* (*L¹* estoit) *bele* que buer (*L¹O⁶* belle et bon) seroit nez . . .

Ryl-Douce, f. 191b; *Bonn*, f. 411b; *Yale*, f. 199b; *Group I* (110, f. 410b; 112, IV, f. 11d; 116, f. 617a; *Fur*, f. 95b [p. 36]; *Som*, f. 8e [p. 31.6–8]): . . . raemplie de trop (*Bonn*, *Yale*, *Som*, 110 *om.* trop) boins mengiers. Et il voit (116 veoit; *Bonn*, *Yale*, 110 regarde; *Som* Lors regarde) *cheste chose*, si (*Yale* et) ne li prent fains (*Yale* talent) de nule (*Yale om.* nule) chose qu'il voie (116, 110 veoie), fors de la couroune *qu'il li est avis* que boin (110 buer; *Yale* a bon eure) seroit neis . . .³¹

From the agreement of *Group II* with the β family it is evident that the latter have preserved the original readings. *Group I*, including again the *Ryl-Douce-Bonn-Yale* series of manuscripts, has replaced *ceste aventure* by *ceste chose* and has omitted after *courone* the words *qui tant est bele* essential in the context. A second scribe whose copy was to be the ultimate common model of this group attempted to 'correct' the text by adding after *courone* the phrase *qu'il li est avis*.

(3) *P*, p. 140.2–4.

β (*B^a*, f. 41b–c; *V*, f. 544a): Mes por ce qu'il a del tot mise s'esperance en Jesucrist quide il bien encor venir a celui leu dom il est oster et fere compaignie au parenté dom il est *estrez*.

α *Group II*: (*K*, f. 193b; *R*, f. 498c; *Z*, f. 163d; *Br*, f. 36d; *B¹*, f. 315b; *L*, f. 28b; *L¹*, f. 132d; *O²*, f. 126b–c; *O⁵*, f. 177c; *O⁶*, f. 338d; *Ars*, f. 255c; 98, f. 660a): Mes por ce que il a [*ZRBrB¹O²O⁵98* add mise; *L* adds usé] del tout (*L* adds en tot) s'entente (*O² s'e.; *L¹O⁶* a trestote s'entente) en Jesucrist quide il encor venir a cel leu dom il estoit gitez et fere compaignie a cels (*Z om.* dom . . . cels) dom il estoit *estrez* (*L¹O⁶ et fere . . . estrez).**

Douce-Ryl, f. 20d; *Bonn*, f. 424d; *Yale*, f. 231c; *Group I* (110, f. 422e; 112, IV, f. 133c; 116, f. 640b; 1424, f. 18a; *Fur*, f. 113a [p. 124]; *Som*, f. 28b [p. 100.8–10]): Mais de che qu'il (*Yale* mais il) a toute s'entente mise en Jhesucrist (*Yale* adds et) quide il enchore (1424 *adds* avoir pardon et) venir a chelui lieu (*Som* au lieu) dont il estoit (1424 fu; *Bonn* *adds* venus et) jetés et faire compaignie a ceus dont il estoit *departis*.

The original reading is obviously *estrez* as the sentence refers to Lancelot's hope yet to become worthy of his noble ancestry. The

³¹ B.N. fr. 1423 (f. 73d) has somewhat altered the passage: '. . . plusours tables emplies de mout boins et nobles mangiers. Et regarde *tout chou*, si se merveile mout, si ne li siet nule cose fors le corone. Lors le prent maintenant . . .'

variant presented by **Group I** and the *Ryl–Douce–Bonn–Yale* manuscripts (*departiz*) is the result of a misinterpretation of the text and makes no sense in the context.

(4) **P**, p. 141.29–31.

β (**B^a**, f. 42b; **V**, f. 544c): Et maintenant s'assiet *desoz l'arbre*, si s'endort assez *legierement*, come cil qui plus avoit esté traveilliez (**V** car il estoit traveilliez plus) que il n'avoit esté pieça mes.

α Group II: (**K**, f. 193d; **R**, ff. 498d–499a; **Z**, f. 164b; **Br**, f. 37b; **B¹**, f. 315c; **L**, f. 28c; **L¹**, f. 133a; **O²**, f. 127a; **O⁵**, f. 177d; **Ars**, f. 256a; 98, f. 660c): (**L²** adds Et) Maintenant se chouche *sus l'erbe* et s'endort assez *legierement* (**L¹** s'endort moult tost), car il ot le jor esté las et traveilliez plus qu'il n'avoit esté (**L¹** om. esté) pieça mes (**z** om. plus . . . mes).³²

Douce–Ryl, f. 21b–c; *Bonn*, f. 424e; *Yale*, f. 232a–b; **Group I** (110, f. 422f; 112, IV, f. 134a; 116, f. 640d; *Fur*, f. 113c [p. 125]; *Som*, f. 28d [p. 101.21–23]; **O⁶**, f. 339a).³³ Et maintenant se couche *desous* (**O⁶** sous) *l'arbre* et s'endort assés *longement* (**O¹** s'endort molt tost), car il (*Yale* car assés) ot esté (110 il est; 112 il estoit) le jour moult (*Bonn*, *Yale*, 110, 112, *Som* om. le j. m.) lassés (116 om. 1.; *Bonn*, *Yale*, *Som*, 110, 112, **O⁶** las) et moult (*Bonn*, *Som*, **O⁶**, 110, 112 om. m.) travilliés plus qu'il ne fu (**O⁶** qu'il n'avoit esté) piecha mais (*Bonn*, *Yale*, 110, *Som* qu'il n'ot mais pieça esté).

Here neither **Group II** nor **Group I** preserves the original version in all respects: the former has misread *desoz l'arbre* for *sus l'erbe* and the latter *legierement* for *longement*. In each case the original reading is attested by the **β** family. The *Ryl–Douce–Bonn–Yale* codices present the same error as the other manuscripts of **Group I**.

(5) **P**, p. 79.32–33.

β (**B^a**, f. 23c; **V**, f. 534d): . . . si parlerent *assez del chevalier et d'autres* choses . . .'

α Group II: (**K**, f. 178c; **R**, f. 488d; **Z**, f. 152a; **Br**, f. 21d; **B¹**, f. 304c; **L**, f. 13a; **L¹**, f. 124b; **O²**, f. 105a; **O⁵**, f. 164d; **O⁶**, f. 328a; **Ars**, f. 237d; 98, f. 650a): . . . si parlerent *entr'ax .ii. de maintes* choses . . .'

Ryl–Douce, f. 201a; *Bonn*, f. 416c; *Yale*, f. 212a; **Group I**: (110, f. 415a; 112, IV, f. 20b; 116, f. 625b; 1424, f. 4d; *Fur*, f. 101f [p. 70]; *Som*, f. 16c [p. 58.13]): . . . et parlerent *ensamble* (*Yale* om. e.) *de maintes* choses . . .'

Whereas **Group II** has the reading *entr'ax*, the *Ryl–Douce–Bonn–Yale* codices present like **Group I** the equally acceptable variant *ensamble*.

³² Here **O⁶** presents the reading of group I.

³³ B.N. fr. 1424 (f. 18b) though it has abridged the passage, presents the erroneous reading *longement*: 'Puis se couce et s'en dort assés *longement*, car il ot esté moult lassés. Quant . . .'

But although the manuscripts of *Group I* are thus closely linked by numerous common readings and form a distinct entity, they are by no means identical. They can in fact be subdivided in their turn into two main sub-groups. The first of these (*Group Im*) includes, in addition to the *Ryl-Douce* codices, MSS B.N. fr. 112, 116 and MS Royal 14 E. iii. (*Fur*), while the second one (*Group Iy*) comprises the *Bonn* and *Yale* codices and MSS B.N. fr. 110, 1423–1424 and MS Add. 10294 (*Som*). Frequently when the latter (*Iy*) has preserved the correct reading, the *Ryl-Douce* group (*Im*) presents errors and other variants peculiar to the mss. of that group. Here are some examples:

(1) *P*, p. 36.15–17.

β (*B^a*, f. 11d; *V^s*, f. 69b–c; *V^s*, f. 234d): Lors s'en vet Galaaz cele part, si ot une voiz qui jeta .i. cri si *dolereus* que ce fu *merveille* et dist si que tuit l'oïrent (*V^s om.* et dist . . . l'oïrent) . . .

α *Group II* (*K*, f. 168b; *R*, f. 481d; *Z*, f. 144d; *Br*, f. 10c; *B¹*, f. 297c; *L* lacuna; *L¹*, f. 118b; *O²*, f. 89c; *O⁵*, f. 155b; *O⁶*, f. 320a; *Ars*, f. 225a; 98, f. 642d): Atant vet Galaad cele part et ot une voiz qui gita .i. cri si *merveilleux* (*L¹O⁶* grant) que ce fu *merveille* et dist si haut que tuit le porent (*L¹O⁶* add bien) oïr . . .

Group Im: (*Ryl-Douce*, f. 190a; 112, IV, f. 10b; 116, f. 615d; 1423, f. 72b; *Fur*, f. 94a [p. 31]): Lors vait Galaad chele part et ot une voiz qui jeta .i. cri trop (110 si; 1423 molt) *merveilleus*. Et dist si que tuit le porent (112 puent) bien oïr (1423 *om.* si que . . . oïr) . . .

Group Iy: (*Bonn*, f. 410d; *Yale*, f. 197c–d; 110, f. 409d; *Som*, f. 7e [p. 27.19–21]): Lors vait (*Som* vint) Galaad cele part et (110 *add* lors) ot une voiz qui jeta (*Som* jetoit) .i. cri si *merveillous* (*Som* grant) que ce fu (*Som* *adds* une) *merveilles* (*Yale* *adds* et cria un cri trop merveilleux; *Som* *adds* et cria si oriblement). Et (*Som* si) dist si haut que tout le porent oïr . . .

The original adjective describing the *cri* which the voice uttered was clearly *dolereus* as attested by the β family. The reading *merveilleux* of the α family is no doubt due to contamination with *merveille* further on in the sentence. All the manuscripts of *Group I* reproduce this scribal error, but in addition *Group Im*, including *Ryl-Douce*, omits *que ce fu merveille* attested by both *Group II* and family β.

(2) *P*, p. 41.23–24.

β (*B^a*, f. 13b; *V*, f. 529a): Et devant la chaiere (*V* le chevalier) avoit *pluseurs tables par terre* qui totes estoient replenies (*V* raemplies) de biaux mangiers . . .

α *Group II*: (*K*, f. 169c; *R*, f. 482c; *Z*, f. 145d; *Br*, f. 11d; *B¹*, f. 297d; *L* lacuna; *L¹*, f. 119a; *O²*, f. 91b; *O⁵*, f. 156b; *O⁶*, f. 321a; *Ars*, f. 226c; 98, f. 643c): Et devant la chaiere avoit *plusors tables par terre* replenies de biaux mengiers . . .

Group Im: (*Ryl-Douce*, f. 191b; 112, IV, f. 11d; 116, f. 617a; *Fur*, f. 95b [p. 36]): Devant la kaiere avoit *une table* raemplie de trop boins mengiers . . .

Group Iy: (*Bonn*, f. 411b; *Yale*, f. 199b; 110, f. 410b; f. 73d; *Som*, f. 8e [p. 31.5-6]): (*Yale*, *Som* adds Et) Devant la chaiere (*Som* corone) avoit *pluisours tables par terre* (1423 om. par t.; *Yale* adds drechies et) raemplies de (1423 adds mou) bons mengiers . . .

Whereas **Group Iy** here has preserved the original reading *pluisours tables par terre* attested by both **Group II** and family β , **Group Im**, including *Ryl-Douce*, presents the variant *une table*.

(3) **P**, p. 41.26-27.

β (**B^a**, f. 13b; **V**, f. 529a): . . . que buen seroit nez *qui la porteroit en* son chief voiant le pueple.

α **Group II:** (**K**, f. 169c; **R**, f. 482c; **Z**, f. 145d; **Br**, f. 11d; **B¹**, f. 297d; **L** lacuna; **L¹**, f. 119a; **O²**, f. 91b; **O⁵**, f. 156b; **O⁶**, f. 321a; *Ars*, f. 226c; 98, f. 643c): . . . que buer seroit nez *qui la porteroit* (**O²** l'en poroit porter) *en* son chief devant le pueple.

Group Im: (*Ryl-Douce*, f. 191b; 112, IV, f. 11d; 116, f. 617a; *Fur*, f. 95b (p. 36): . . . que boin seroit neis *s'il le pooit porter sour* son chief devant le pule.

Group Iy: (*Bonn*, f. 411b; *Yale*, f. 199b; 110, f. 410b; *Som*, f. 8e [p. 31.8-9]): . . . que bon (110 buer; *Yale* a bon eure) seroit nés *qui le porteroit en* son chief devant le pueple.³⁴

Whereas **Group Iy** has here again preserved the version common to the majority of manuscripts, **Group Im** has replaced *qui la porteroit en* by *s'il le pooit porter sour*.

(4) **P**, p. 59.22-25.

β (**B^a**, f. 18b): Et neporquant ice li avint, ou par ce qu'il estoit *trop pesanz* de travail qu'il avoit eu, ou par pechié dom il estoit surpris, qu'il ne se remua *contre* la venue del Saint *Graal ne ne fist semblant que riens l'en fust*; dom il trova . . .

α **Group II:** (**R**, f. 485b-c; **K**, f. 173d; **Z**, f. 149a-b; **Br**, f. 16c; **B¹**, f. 301a; **L** lacuna; **L¹**, f. 121c; **O²**, f. 97c; **O⁵**, f. 160a-b; **O⁶**, f. 324b; *Ars*, f. 231d; 98, f. 646c): Et neporquant ainsint li avint, ou par ce qu'il ert *trop pesanz* del travail qu'il avoit (**L¹O¹** add trop) eu, ou par pechié dont il ert (**Br** pechié qui l'avoit; **K** estoit trop pesanz et trop chargiez et) surpris, qu'il ne se remua *por* la venue del Saint *Graal ne ne fist samblant qu'a* (**KBrO²Ars98L¹O⁶** que) *riens l'en fust*; dom il trova . . .

Group Im: (*Ryl-Douce*, f. 195d; 112, IV, f. 15d; 116, f. 621b; *Fur*, f. 98c [p.

³⁴ B.N. fr. fr. 1423 (f. 73d) has abridged the passage: ' . . . si ne li siet nule cose fors le corone. Lors le prent maintenant et dist qu'i l'enportera od soi . . . ' (corresponds to **P**, 41.25-27).

51–52]): Et nonpourquant ensi li avint, ou pour chou qu'il ot esté *lassés* du travail qu'il avoit eu, ou par pechiet de quoi il estoit sousprins, qu'il ne se mua (*Fur* remua) *de* la venue du Saint *Vaissiel ne nul semblant n'en fist*; por quoi il trova . . .

Group Iy: (*Bonn*, f. 413d; *Yale*, f. 205c–d; 110, f. 412d; 1423, f. 78a): Et nepourquant il li avint (*Yale* avient) ensi, u par ce qu'il ert *trop pesans* (1423 ert pesans trop) de (110, *Yale* del) travail qu'il ot eu (1423 *om.* qu'il ot eu), u par pechié dont il estoit souspris (1423 *om.* dont . . . s.), qu'il ne se remua *pour* la venue del Saint (*Yale om. S.*) *Graal, ne ne fist* (1423 fait) *semblant que riens l'en fust*; dont il trova (1423 dont on li dist) . . .

Som (f. 12c [p. 43.10–12]): Ainsi li avint, ou por ce qu'il iert *trop pesans* du travail ou par pechié dont il estoit souspris, qu'il ne se remua onques *por* le Saint *Graal* qui la vint '*ne ne fist samblant que riens l'en fust*'; dont il trova . . .

Whereas the manuscripts of **Group Iy** have preserved the readings common to the majority of manuscripts of the α and β families, the model of the manuscripts of **Group Im** has introduced several variants peculiar to them, notably the substitution of *lassés* for *trop pesans*, *Vaissel* for *Graal* and *ne nul semblant n'en fist* for *ne ne fist semblant que riens l'en fust*. In addition, no doubt through inattention, the scribe of that model erroneously wrote *de la venue* instead of *pour la venue*.

(5) **P**, p. 96.8–10.

β (**B^a**, f. 27c; **V**, f. 537b): 'Je sui li buens pastres (*V* sui paistres bons et) li buens pastres met *s'ame* por ses oeilles . . .'

α **Group II**: (**K**, f. 182c; **R**, f. 491c; **Z**, f. 155a; **Br**, f. 25d; **B¹**, f. 307b; **L**, f. 17b; **L¹**, f. 131b; **O⁵**, f. 168b; *Ars*, f. 242c; 98, f. 652c): 'Je sui bons pastres, et li bons pastres *met s'ame por* ses oeilles . . .'³⁵

Group Im (*Douce–Ryl*, f. 9b; 112, IV, f. 24a; 116, f. 629c; *Fur*, f. 104f [p. 126]): 'Je sui li boins paistres qui *met par* (*Fur met paistre*) ses oeilles . . .'

Group Iy: (*Bonn*, f. 418c; *Yale*, f. 217a; 110, f. 417b; 1424, f. 78a; *Som*, p. 69.17–18): 'Jou sui bons paistres. Li bons paistres *met s'ame* (*Som sa vie*) *por* ses oeilles . . .' (1424 *om.* Li bons . . . oeilles).

Most of the manuscripts of **Group Iy** have preserved the original reading attested by family β and **Group II** of family α (*met s'ame por*), but the various manuscripts of **Group Im** have omitted *s'ame*. One of the manuscripts of this group (*Fur*) has attempted to correct this error by substituting *paistre* for *por*.

³⁵ **O²** (f. 91b) abridges the sentence, omitting 'et li bons pastres . . . li marcheanz pastres' = (**P**, 96.8–10). **L¹** (f. 126c) and **O⁶** (f. 331a) have: 'Je sui bons pastres et connois bien mes oeilles, mes cil est mauvés pastres qui let ses oeilles sanz garde . . .' (= **P**, 96.8–10).

(6) *P*, p. 142.18–21.

β (*B^a*, f. 42c): Car la ou il est ore, vint il ersoir de tele hore que il poïst bien estre alez a la chapele tot de soir et avoit demandé conseil *de son estre et de sa vie*. Il torne cele part . . .

α Group II: (*K*, f. 193d; *R*, f. 499a; *Z*, f. 164b; *Br*, f. 37c; *B¹*, f. 315c; *L*, f. 28d; *L¹*, f. 133a; *O²*, f. 127b; *O⁵*, f. 178a; *O⁶*, f. 339b; *Ars*, f. 256b; 98, f. 660c): Car la ou il est ore, vint il ersoir de tele hore que bien poïst estre venuz (*L¹O¹* tret) jusque ça *tout de jorz* et demander (*L¹O⁶* avoir demandé) conseil *de son estre et de sa vie*. Il torne cele part . . .

Group Im (*Douce-Ryl*, f. 21c; 112, IV, f. 134a; f. 640d; *Fur*, f. 113d [p. 126]): Car la ou il est ore, vint il ersoir de tele eure que bien peust estre jusques a chele capiele venus *tous jours* et demander conseil *de sa* (116 la) *vision*. Il torne . . .

Group Iy: (*Bonn*, f. 424f; 110, f. 423a): Car la ou il est ore, vint il ersoir de tele ore que bien peust estre alés jusques a cele chapele *tout de jour* et demande conseil *de sa vie*. Il tourne . . .³⁶

Som, f. 28e (pp. 101.39–102.2): Car la [ou] il est ore [p] eust il bien [estre] venu iersoir (venu) *tot de jor* et eust demandé conseil *de sa vie*. Il torne . . .

Yale (f. 232b): Car bien vient hersoir iluec de tele eure qu'il peust estre *alés* juskes a cele chapele, si torne . . .

The original reading is that of **Group II** attested by the **β** family: *de son estre et de sa vie*. Groups **Iy** and **Im** both omit *de son estre*, but the latter in addition misreads *de sa vie* for *de sa vision* and *tout de jour* for *tous jours*.

(7) *P*, p. 157.8–12.

α Group II: (*K*, f. 197c; *R*, f. 501c; *Z*, f. 167b; *Br*, ff. 40d–41a; *B¹*, f. 318b; *L*, f. 32c; *L¹*, f. 135b; *O²*, f. 132c; *O⁵*, f. 181a; *O⁶*, f. 341d; *Ars*, f. 260c; 98, f. 663a–b; **β** (*B^a*, f. 47b–c): Il ne *s'esmurent* pas en humilité et (*LB^a* ne) en pacience (*L¹O⁶* *om*. Il ne . . . pas) . . . Quant il revenoient, si en *failloient* li plusor, ce est a dire qu'il ne revenoient mie tuit . . .

Group Im: (*Douce-Ryl*, f. 24c–d; 112, IV, f. 137c; 116, f. 644c; *Fur*, f. 116c [p. 140]): Il ne *se misent* pas en humilité ne en pacienche . . . Quant il revenoient, si en *faisoient* li plusor, ch'est est a dire que il ne revendront mie tuit . . .

Group Iy: (*Bonn*, f. 426f; *Yale*, f. 237a; 110, f. 425b; 1424, f. 21c; *Som*, f. 31e [p. 112.26–29]): Il ne *se misent* (*Som* ne se murent; *Yale* ne me sent) pas en humilité ne en pacience (1424 *om*. ne en p.) . . . Quant il revenoient, si en *failloient* li plusour, c'est a dire qu'il ne revenront (*Yale* revenoient) mie tout . . .

Whereas **Group II** reproduces the original reading attested by

³⁶ B.N. fr. 1424 (f. 18c) presents the variant *tout de grant jour*, but has abridged the passage: 'Quant il vit chou, si dist que voirement est il meskeans que bien peust chi estre venus *tout de grant jour*. Il tourne cele part . . .'

the β family, all except one of the manuscripts of the two groups *Im* and *Iy* read *se misent* for *s'esmurent*. But the scribe of the common model of the three manuscripts of *Group Im* in addition has misread *failloient* for *faisoient*.

(8) *P*, pp. 189.29–190.1.

α *Group II*: (*K*, f. 205b; *R*, f. 506d; *Z*, ff. 173d–174a; *Br*, f. 48b; *B'*, f. 324b; [*L*, f. 40c *om. the passage*]; *L'*, f. 138b; *O*², f. 143d; *O*⁵, f. 187d; *O*⁶, f. 345d; *Ars*, f. 269d; 98, f. 669a); β (*V*, f. 552a): De quan que Boort dist ne chaut a Lyon (*V* dist Lionnel ne li chaut), come (*O*² mais) cil que li anemis avoit eschaufé jusqu'a volenté d'ocirre son frere. Et Boort est toutevoies a genolz devant lui et li crie merci jointes mains. Quant Lyon voit qu'il n'i prendra plus et (*Br m.* qu'il . . . plus et) qu'il ne se levera mie (*V* relevera pas; *L'O*⁶ *om.* come cil . . . ne se levera mie), si (*L'* ainçoiz) point outre et fiert Boort dou piz de son cheval . . .

Group Im (*Douce-Ryl*, f. 29d; 112, IV, f. 158d; 116, f. 652c; *Fur*, f. 122e–f [p. 170]): De quan que Bohors dist n'en caut a Lyonnell, come chil ke li anemis avoit escaufé, qu'il avoit volenté d'ochirre son frere. Et Bohors est toutes voies a genous devant Lyonnell son frere et lui crie toutes voies merchi. *Et Lyonnell n'en vaut point oïr, come chil ki avoit l'anemi u cors, car bien estoit clere chose qu'il avoit l'anemi dedens son cors quant il estoit si en* (116 estoit en si) *grant et si entalenté de ochirre son frere germain*. Quant Lyonnell voit (116 veoit) qu'il n'en prendra plus et qu'il ne se (116 s'en) levera mie, si point outre et fiert Bohort del pis del cheval . . .

Group Iy: (*Bonn*, f. 431c; *Yale*, f. 247c; 110, f. 429f; 1424, f. 31c; *Som*, f. 38a [p. 136.9–12]): De quanques Boors dist ne (*Som*, 110 n'en) chaut a Lyonel, comme cil que li anemis avoit eschaufé, (1424 *adds* si) qu'il avoit volenté d'ocirre (*Som* eschaufé de tuer) son frere. Et Boors est toutes voies (*Yale* Et toutes voies estoit il) a jenous devant lui et li crie (*Yale* crioit) merci jointes mains. (*Som adds* et) Quant Lyoniaus voit que il ne (*Yale*, 110 n'i) prendra plus et qu'il ne se levra (*Som* voit qu'il ne se lieve) mie, si point outre et fiert Boort del pis del cheval . . .

Whereas *Group Iy* reproduces here the same version as *Group II* and the β family, *Group Im* has modified the text, adding the italicized passage.

(9) *P*, p. 210.27–29.

α *Group II*: (*Ars*, f. 275b; *K*, f. 210b; *R*, f. 510a; *Z*, f. 178a; *Br*, f. 52d; *B'*, f. 331a; *L*, f. 45d; *L'*, f. 141b; *O*², f. 151a; *O*⁵, f. 192a; *O*⁶, f. 344b; 98, f. 672c). β (*B*^a, f. 61b): . . . por deviser (*Z adds* la matiere et) la maniere (*KB'* les manieres; *O*⁵ des manieres; *B*^a *om.* la maniere) des (*B*^a les) trois fuissiaux qui des trois colors estoient (*Br om.* qui . . . estoient; *L'O*⁶ *add* sanz peinture). Or dit li contes . . .

Group Im (*Douce-Ryl*, f. 31c; 112, IV, f. 166c; 116, f. 657d; *Fur*, f. 126f [p. 189]): . . . por deviser le maniere des .iii. fuisiaus qui des .iii. coulours estoient *naturelment, blans et* (112 *om.* et) *rouges et verdoians*. Ore dist li contes . . .

Group Iy: (*Bonn*, f. 434b; *Yale*, f. 253d; 110, f. 431e; 1424, f. 37b; *Som*, f. 41f [p. 151.9–11]): . . . pour deviser la maniere des .iii. fuisiaus qui de (110, *Som* des) .iii. colours estoient. Ore dist li contes . . .

The *Ryl-Douce* group alone adds after *estoint* the words *naturelement blans et rouges et verdoians*.

(10) *P*, p. 245.7–10.

α Group II: (*K*, f. 218b; *R*, f. 515c; *Z*, f. 184d; *Br*, f. 60b; *B¹*, f. 337c; *L*, f. 53d; *L¹*, f. 145d; *O²*, f. 162a; *O⁵*, f. 199a; *O⁶*, f. 355b; *Ars*, f. 284c; 98, f. 679b); **β** (*B^a*, f. 71d; B.N. fr. 342, f. 138a): . . . si troverent au chief *d'une chapele* .i. cimetiere (*L¹O⁶* cimetiere qui [*O⁶* si] estoit plein; 98 c. moult bel) tout plein d'arbrisiax . . .

Group Im (*Ryl-Douce*, f. 205a; 112, IV, f. 173d; 116, f. 665c; *Fur*, f. 132e [p. 217]): . . . si regarderent au chief *d'une table* une cymetere tout plaine d'arbrissiaus . . .

Group Iy: (*Bonn*, f. 438e; *Yale*, f. 263a; 110, f. 436a; 1424, f. 46a; *Som*, f. 47c [p. 173.27–28]): . . . si troverent au chief *d'une chapele* i. (1424, *Som* une) cimentiere tout plain (1424, *Som* toute plaine) d'arbrissiaus . . .

The manuscripts of **Group Iy** have like those of **Group II** and family **β** the correct reading *au chief d'une chapele*, but the manuscripts of **Group Im** all present the unacceptable variant *au chief d'une table*.

(11) *P*, p. 247.1–3.

β (*B^a*, f. 72b; *V*, f. 560d; B.N. fr. 342, f. 138d): Et si tost com il i (*V* il s'i) est mis (342 entrés), si li est bien avis que il sente totes les bones *odors* del monde et que il est (*V*342 soit) toz raenpliz de totes les bones viandes qui onques fussent gostees par boche d'ome (*V* usees par homme terrien).

α Group II: (*K*, f. 218c; *R*, f. 516b; *Z*, f. 185a; *Br*, f. 60d; *B¹*, f. 337d; *L*, f. 54b; *O²*, f. 162d; *O⁵*, f. 199a; *Ars*, f. 285a; 98, f. 679c); **β** (*B^a*, f. 70d; B.N. fr. 342, f. 138a): Et si tost com il i est, si li est avis qu'il sente toutes les bones *oudors* dou monde et que il soit raempliz (*RBrO⁵* ampliz) de toutes les bones viandes (*O⁵* *adds* del monde) que onques goutast home terrien (*Br* onques hom terrian goutast; *O⁵* *om.* que onques . . . terrien; *LO²* *Ars*, 98 *om.* et que il soit . . . terrien).³⁷

Group Im (*Ryl-Douce*, f. 205b; 112, IV, f. 174b; 116, ff. 665d–666a, *Fur*, f. 133a [p. 220]): Et si tost comme il i est entrés, si li samble que il senche toutes les boines *herbes* du monde et qu'il soit emplis de toutes les boines viandes terriennes.

Group Iy: (*Bonn*, f. 438f; *Yale*, f. 263c; 110, f. 436b; 1424, f. 46c; *Som*, f. 47e [p. 175.4–5]): Et si tost comme il i est entrés, se li samble qu'il sente toutes les bones *odours* (*Yale* toutes les doucheurs) del monde et qu'il soit emplis de toutes les bones viandes del siecle (*Yale*, *Som*, 110 monde; 1424 *om.* et qu'il soit . . . siecle).

Whereas **Group Im** has preserved like family **β** and **Group II** of family **α** the original reading *odours*, *Ryl-Douce* and the other manuscripts of **Group Im** present the unacceptable variant *herbes*.

³⁷ *L¹* (f. 146a) and *O⁶* (f. 355c) have modified the passage: 'Et si tost come il (*O⁶* *adds* i) fu entrez, il li fu avis qu'il fu entré (*O⁶* *adds* en) toutes le bones espieces et les bones *odeurs* du monde dont onques goutast homs terriens'.

Elsewhere, on the other hand, it is the manuscripts of *Group Iy* (*Bonn–Yale–110–1423–1424–Som*) which have distinctive readings indicating that ultimately they too descend from a common model. The following are some examples:

(1) *P*, p. 10.22–26.

α *Group II* (*K*, f. 162b; *R*, f. 477c; *Z*, f. 139d; *Br*, f. 3b; *B¹*, f. 292c; *L*, f. 3b; *L¹*, f. 114c; *O²*, f. 80b; *O⁵*, f. 149c; *O⁶*, f. 315c; *Ars*, ff. 216d–27a; 98, f. 638b): . . . car ele a oï parler de la semblance, si (*L¹O⁶ om.* si) pense (*L¹O⁶ add* elle bien) que ce soit Galaad, que Lancelot avoit engendré en la fille au Riche (*L¹O⁶ om.* Riche) Roi Pecheor, ainsi com *l'en* li avoit conté . . .

β (*B^a*, f. 3c; *V*, f. 524b): . . . car maintenant qu'ele (*V* tantost come ele) a oï parler de la (*V* celle) senblance, pense ele bien que ce soit Galaaz, que Lanceloz (*V* Galaad le filz Lancelot que il) avoit engendré en la fille au Riche Roi Pescheor, ainsi com *l'en* li ot ja conté . . .

Group Im (*Ryl–Douce*, f. 183b; 112, IV, f. 4a; 116, f. 609c; *Fur*, f. 89e [p. 9]): . . . car maintenant qu'[ele] ot parler de la (116 sa) samblanche counoist elle bien que ch'est Galaad que Lancelot avoit engendré en la fille au roy Pelles, ensi comme *on* li avoit conté . . .

Group Iy (*Bonn*, f. 407b; *Yale*, f. 189d; 110, f. 406b; *Som*, f. 5f [p. 9.29–31]): . . . car maintenant (*Som* tantost) qu'ele ot parler de sa (*Yale* la) samblanche counoist ele bien que c'est Galaad que Lancelos avoit engendré en la fille au roi Pelles, ensi come *il* li avoit conté . . .³⁸

Whereas *Ryl–Douce* (*Group Im*) presents like family β and *Group II* of family α the correct reading *com on*, *Group Iy* substitutes for this the variant *come il* which in the context is clearly erroneous.

(2) *P*, p. 26.27–29.

α *Group II* (*K*, f. 166a; *R*, f. 480b; *Z*, ff. 142d–143a *Br*, f. 8a; *B¹*, f. 295b; *L*, f. 7c; *L¹*, f. 117a; *O²*, f. 86a–b; *O⁵*, f. 153a; *O⁶*, f. 318b–c; *Ars*, f. 222a; 98, f. 641a): Et quant il fu la venuz, si hurta (*O⁶ hurte*; *L¹ hucha*) a la porte et li frere de laienz *issirent fors et le descendirent a fine force*, come cil qui bien conurent qu'il estoit chevaliers erranz.

β (*B^a*, f. 8d; *V*, f. 526d): Et quant il fu la venuz, si hurte (*V hurta*) a la porte et li frere de leenz *saillirent hors qui (V et) le descendirent a (V adds moult) grant joie*, com cil qui bien conurent qu'il estoit chevaliers erranz (*V estrange*).

Group Im (*Ryl–Douce*, f. 187c; 112, IV, f. 8a; 116, f. 613b; *Fur*, f. 92d [p. 23]): Et quant il fu la venus, si hurta a la porte et li freire de laiens *vinrent hors et li ouvriront la porte a moult grant joie*, comme chil qui bien connurent qu'il estoit chevaliers erranz.

³⁸ 1423 (f. 66b) abridges the passage corresponding to *P*, 10.12–28: 'Et le roine le desire a veoir assés plus que devant et pense que ce soit Galaad de cui Lancelot fu desceus et c'est le cose par quei ele fu plus courcie'.

Group Iy (*Bonn*, f. 409c; *Yale*, f. 194d; 110, f. 408b; 1423, f. 70a–b; *Som*, f. 5f [pp. 20.34–21.1]): Et quant il (*Yale*, *Som* add i) fu la venus (*Yale* fu venus a la porte), si hurta a la porte (*Yale om.* a la p.) et li frere de laiens *issirent fors et* (*Yale* laiens li ouvrirent; 1423 *om.* issirent fors et) *le rechurent a grant joie*, comme cil qui bien connoissoient qu'il estoit chevaliers errans (1423 *om.* comme . . . errans).

Each of the two groups, *Im* and *Iy*, present variants peculiar to each of them (*Im*: *vinrent hors et li ouvrirent la porte a moult grant joie*; *Iy*: . . . *le rechurent a grant joie*).

(3) *P*, p. 133.21–22.

α **Group II** (*K*, f. 191d; *Z*, f. 162c; *Br*, f. 35b; *B¹*, f. 314a; *L*, f. 26c; *O²*, f. 124b; *O⁵*, f. 176a–b; *Ars*, f. 253d; 98, f. 659a); β (B.N. fr. 342, f. 100b): Quant li preudons ot ceste *aventure*, si li prent grant pitié de Lancelot . . . (*R*, f. 497c, *O⁶*, f. 337c, *L¹*, f. 132a *om.* the passage).

Group Im (*Douce–Ryl*, f. 19a–b; 112, IV, f. 132b; 116, f. 638d; *Fur*, f. 111e [p. 118]): Quant li preudom ot chele *aventure*, si lui prent moult grant pitiés de Lancelot . . .

Group Iy (*Bonn*, f. 423e; *Yale*, f. 229c; 110, f. 421e; 1424, f. 16c; *Som*, f. 26f [p. 95.26]): Quant li prodom ot ceste *parole*, se li (*Yale* adds en) prent moult grant pitiés de Lancelot . . .

The manuscripts of **Group Im** have the same reading as family β and **Group II** of family α (*aventure*), but those of **Group Iy** present the variant *parole*.

(4) *P*, p. 141.21–23.

β (*B^a*, f. 42a–b; *V*, f. 544c): De la force de son (*O* du) corps a il esprové veraie-ment, car il ne fu onques *mes* entre *si poi de* gent com il a esté a cest tornoiement que il i poist onques estre ne las (*V* peust estre las) ne travailliez.

α **Group II**: (*K*, f. 193c–d; *R*, f. 498d; *Z*, f. 164a; *Br*, f. 37b; *B¹*, f. 315c; *L*, f. 29c; *L¹*, f. 133a; *O²*, f. 127b; *O⁵*, f. 177d; *O⁶*, f. 339a; *Ars*, f. 256a; 98, f. 660c): Del poir (98 de la puissance) del cors a il *bien* esté esprové (*B¹* cors est esprové; *L'O⁶* Et le poir del cors a il bien perdu), car il ne fu onques *mes* entre *tant de* gent com il a esté a cest tornoiement qu'il poist estre (*L om.* a cest . . . estre) laissez ne (*Br* et) travailliez.

Group Im (*Douce–Ryl*, f. 21b; 112, IV, f. 134a; 116, f. 640c; *Fur*, f. 113b (p. 125): Del poir del cors a il *chil* (*Fur*, 112 *chi*) esté (*Fur* estei) esprovés, car il ne fu onques *mais* entre *si poi de* gens come il a esté a chest tournoiement qu'il peust estre ne (112 *om.* ne) lassés ne travilliés.

Group Iy: (*Bonn*, f. 424e; 110, f. 422f; *Som*, f. 28d [p. 101.14–16]): Et del poir

del cors a il *ci* esté esprovés, car il ne fu onques *menés* entre (*Som de*) *si poi de* gent com il a esté a cest tournoiement qu'il peust estre lassés ne travailliés.³⁹

Yale (f. 232a): Et du pooir du cors est il a ce *menés* qu'il ne fu onques mais entre *si poi de* gent qu'il n'en venist au desus.

The original reading is that of *Group II* which has 'onques *mes* entre *tant de* gent'. All the manuscripts of *Group I* present like family β the same unacceptable variant *si poi de* in place of *tant de*, but whereas *Group Im* has the correct reading *onques mes*, *Group Iy* has replaced *mes* by *menés*.

(5) *P*, p. 143.1–3.

α *Group II* (*K*, f. 194a; *R*, f. 499a; *Z*, f. 164c; *Br*, f. 37c–d; *B'*, f. 315d; *L*, f. 30a; *L'*, f. 133b; *O'*, f. 127c; *O''*, f. 178a; *O'''*, f. 339b; *Ars*, f. 256b; 98, f. 660c–d; β (*B''*, f. 42c): . . . il li conte (*O''* conta; *L'* connut) l'aventure dou tornoiement ou il avoit ier (*L'O''* om. ier) esté, et coment cil as blanches armes le pristrent et la parole *qui li avoit esté dite*.

Group Im (*Douce-Ryl*, f. 21d; 112, IV, f. 134b; 116, f. 641a, *Fur*, f. 113d [p. 126]): . . . et coment chil as blanches armes le present et la parole *qu'il lui* (112 leur; 116 om. lui) *avoit dite*.

Group Iy (*Bonn*, f. 424f; *Yale*, f. 232c; 110, f. 423a–b; *Som*, f. 28f [p. 102.14–15]): . . . et comment cil as blanches armes le present et la parole *qu'il li avoient dite*.⁴⁰

The original reading is that of *Group II* which like the β family reads *qui li avoit esté dite*. The common model of Groups *Im* and *Iy* has omitted *esté* and taken *qui li* for *qu'il li*. As *qu'il* now refers to *chil as blanches armes*, a plural noun, the reading *avoit dite* is erroneous in the context. But the scribe of the common model of *Group Iy* has attempted to 'correct' this reading by making the verb plural (*avoient*).

The manuscripts making up each of the two groups *Im* and *Iy* are of course not identical either, but they each also subdivide into distinctive groupings. The *Ryl-Douce* manuscript is particularly close to MSS B.N. fr. 112 and 116, while the *Bonn* codex is particularly close to MS B.N. fr. 110. Each of these subgroups has certain errors absent from the other manuscripts. A typical example is the following:

³⁹ B.N. fr. 1424 (f. 18b) has abridged the passage corresponding to *P*, 141.13–24: 'Si pense qu'il li est hui avenu chou que onques mais ne lui avint, c'est chou qu'il est vaincus. Lors pense que chou li est avenu par son pecié, si en est si dolans qu'il ne set qu'il puisse faire ne dire. Ensi dolans cevauc . . .'

⁴⁰ B.N. fr. 1424 (f. 18c) has abridged the passage: '. . . si lui conte l'aventure de le (*sic*) tournoiement. Après lui conta le vision qu'il avoit veu en son dormant' (corresponds to *P*, 143.2–4).

P, p. 142.28–31.

α (**Group II**: *K*, f. 194a; *R*, f. 499a; *Z*, f. 164b; *Br*, f. 37c; *B¹*, f. 315d; *L*, f. 29d; *L¹*, f. 133b; *O²*, f. 127b; *O⁵*, f. 178a; *O⁶*, f. 339b; *Ars*, f. 256b; 98, f. 660c); β (*B^a*, f. 41c): Et quant il l'ot (*V⁶ om.* l') chantee et il fu desvestuz, *la recluse*, qui avoit une petite *voete* par ou ele veoit l'autel, apela Lancelot por ce que chevaliers erranz li sembloit et (*B^a adds* bien quidoit que il eust) mestier avoit (*B^a om.* avoit) de conseil (*L¹O⁶* sembloit et li dist que se il en avoit mestier qu'elle le conseilleroit)

...

Group Im: (*Douce-Ryl*, f. 21d; 112, IV, f. 134b; 116, f. 641a): Et quant il ot chantee *la messe* et il fu desvestus, *la roine*, qui avoit une petite *voiete* par la u ele veoit l'autel, apiela Lancelot por che que chevaliers errans lui sambla et mestier avoit de conseil . . .⁴¹

Fur, f. 113d (p. 126): Et quant il ot chantee *la messe* et il fu devestus, *la rencluse*, qui avoit une petite *voiete* par la u ele veoit l'autel, apiela Lancelot . . .

Group Iy: (*Bonn*, f. 424f; *Yale*, f. 232c; 110, f. 423a: Et quant il l'ot chantee et il fu desvestus fu (fu not in *Yale*) *la rencluse*, qui avoit une petite *voiete* (*Yale* voie) par la u ele veoit a l'autel, ele apela Lancelot pour ce que chevaliers errans li sambloit . . .

Som, f. 28e (p. 102.8–10): Et quant il l'ot chantee et il se fu desvestus, *si vit la rencluse Lancelot*, qu'ele avoit une petite *fenestrete* par ou ele veoit *vers* l'autel. Ele apela Lancelot . . .

B.N. fr. 1424 (f. 18c): 'Et quant il [l'] ot cantee et il fu devestus, *si s'en vint le rencluse* par une voie la u ele venoit oïr messe et parole a Lancelot. Et il vint a lui et ele lui demande dont il estoit et quant il lui ot dit, si lui conte l'aventure de le (*sic*) tournoiement.'

The correct reading *recluse* attested by the β family figures in **Group II**, **Group Iy** and one of the manuscripts of **Group Im**, the *Fur* codex. But the three manuscripts *Douce-Ryl*, 112 and 116 have substituted *roine* for *recluse*. On the other hand, while all the manuscripts of **Group Im** correctly read *fu desvestus*, two of **Group Iy** (*Bonn* and 110) erroneously add a second *fu* after *desvestus* and read *fu desvestus fu*. As for *Som* and B.N. fr. 1423–1424, these two manuscripts, while having the correct reading *recluse*, each modify independently the rest of the passage.

In the light of Professor A. Stones's work on the miniatures of the *Queste* manuscripts, the make up of **Group I** and the subdivi-

⁴¹ Finally, it should be noted that, unless due to a coincidence, *Douce-Ryl* and ms. B.N. fr. 116 share a common error in the passage quoted above (p. 72–73, no. 4 [*P*, p. 141.21–32]). Whereas ms. B.N. fr. 112 presents the correct reading *cy* ("Du pooir du corps ay (*error for a il* *cy* esté esprové"), *Douce-Ryl* and B.N. fr. 116 have the erroneous reading *chil* ("Del pooir del cors a il *chil* esté esprovés" [*Douce*] / "Du povoir du corps a il *cil* esté esprové" [ms. 116]). As for the Furnivall codex, its scribe, who wrote first *chil* (probably independently of his source), subsequently corrected it to *chi* by placing a dot beneath *l* ("Del pooir del cors a il *chil* estei estei esprovés").

sions within this group cannot be due to pure coincidence. Five of the manuscripts, *Ryl-Douce*, the Sommer and Furnivall codices (Add. 10294 and Royal 14 E iii) and the *Yale* codex, as Professor Stones has shown, were all illustrated in workshops of the same region in the North of France. No doubt these manuscripts were also copied if not in the actual workshops where they were illustrated, at least in the same district. Linguistically they all hail from Northern France. Particularly striking is the fact that the two manuscripts *Bonn* and B.N. fr. 110 which form a close group textually were, in the opinion of Professor Stones, most probably illustrated in one and the same workshop. On the other hand the equally close textual relationship between the *Ryl-Douce* codex and MSS B.N. fr. 112 and 116 cannot be explained in the same way. MSS 112 and 116, copied and illustrated a century later in central France were both commissioned by Jacques d'Armagnac for his library. There is no evidence, however, as Professor Stones has indicated, that Jacques d'Armagnac's painters were associated with Artois or Flanders. Here one must suppose that a manuscript, now lost, but very closely related to the *Ryl-Douce* codex was most probably passed to Jacques d'Armagnac's scribes and painters as model.

