

= Guillaume de Dole =

Guillaume de Dole ( also known as ( Le ) Roman ( s ) de la Rose , or Guillaume de Dole ) is an Old French narrative romance by Jean Renart . Composed in the early 13th century , the poem is 5656 lines long and is especially notable for the large number of chansons it contains , and for its active female protagonist . The romance incorporates forty @-@ six chansons ( or parts thereof ) ; it is the first extant example in French literature of a text that combines narrative and lyric . Its form was quickly imitated , by authors such as Gerbert de Montreuil , and by the end of the 13th century had become canonical .

The poem tells of the adventures of the title character and his sister Liénor . Guillaume is accepted at the court of Emperor Conrad who has fallen in love with Liénor despite his earlier aversion to love and marriage . Guillaume becomes one of the emperor 's favorites and marriage negotiations proceed in a positive manner . The emperor 's seneschal , however , discovers an intimate detail about Liénor 's body and uses it to insinuate to the emperor and his court that she is no longer a virgin ; the clever Liénor , with a ruse , proves his accusation false and marries the emperor .

= = Manuscript , date , author = =

= = Manuscript = = =

Guillaume de Dole is extant in a single manuscript in the Vatican library , MS Regina 1725 . Todd dates it in the 14th century , others in the late 13th century . The manuscript contains :  
Lancelot , the Knight of the Cart , by Chrétien de Troyes ( first part missing ) , 1 @-@ 34b ;  
Yvain , the Knight of the Lion , also by Chrétien , 34c @-@ 68b ;  
Guillaume de Dole , 68c @-@ 98c ;  
Meraugis de Portlesguez , by Raoul de Houdenc , 98d @-@ 130d .

The manuscript 's first known owner was 16th @-@ century French historian Claude Fauchet ; it was part of his extensive collection , and it is due to " Fauchet 's zeal as a collector " that the manuscript and therefore the poem are preserved . During the French Wars of Religion , Fauchet fled Paris and his collection was dispersed . The next mention of the manuscript is as part of the library of Paul Pétiau , and in 1650 it was acquired by Christina , Queen of Sweden . The Vatican library acquired the manuscript after 1689 .

= = = Date and title = = =

The opening lines of the poem contain a dedication to Miles de Nanteuil , an early 13th @-@ century churchman who was elected ( but not confirmed ) in 1201 as archbishop of Reims , and later became bishop of Beauvais , in northern France ; he died circa 1235 . According to Todd , the nobleman de Nanteuil may have been too young and wild to be elevated to the archbishopric , but this would have made him a good candidate for Renart 's dedication . This , plus evidence based on other names found in the poem , led Todd to conclude that the poem was composed around the year 1200 . Later critics and researchers , however , date the poem between 1204 and 1228 , and tend toward the earlier date .

In the manuscript , the poem is called Romans de la Rose ( l . 11 ) , and hence Le Roman de la Rose , but it is often referred to as Roman de la Rose , or Guillaume de Dole in order to avoid confusion with Guillaume de Lorris and Jean de Meun 's Roman de la Rose ; Guillaume de Dole is a subtitle added by Fauchet .

= = = Authorship = = =

It wasn 't until the late 19th century that scholars ( including Paul Meyer ) began entertaining the notion that Jean Renart , until then only known as the presumptive author of the Lai de l 'Ombre ,

might also be responsible for either or both of the two contemporary romances L 'Escoufle and Guillaume de Dole . F. M. Warren of Yale University , in a 1908 article , is one of the early proponents of identifying Renart as the author of all three , based on versification , phrasing , and vocabulary , and places the development of his poetic talent between 1195 and 1205 . The next @-@ to @-@ last line of the poem contains an anagram on Renart 's name : " ... qu 'il enTRA EN Religion . "

= = Content = =

= = = Plot = = =

The story begins at the court of Emperor Conrad , who for all of his good qualities has one defect : he refuses to get married , especially since , as he says , people no longer are as valiant and as noble as they used to be . His minstrel , Jouglet , tells him of Guillaume de Dole and his sister Liénor , and quickly the emperor falls in love with her , although he does not actually see her until the story 's denouement . Guillaume is summoned to the court where he excels in chivalric exploits ; the emperor tells him he wishes to marry his sister . Conrad 's jealous seneschal interferes and visits Guillaume 's family , where he gives his mother a valuable ring and gains her confidence ; from her he learns that Liénor has a particular birthmark in the shape of a rose on her thigh . This knowledge is presented as proof that the seneschal has taken her virginity .

As a result of the accusation , both Guillaume and Conrad are distraught , to the point of misogyny . The clever Liénor , however , her reputation slandered , unmaskes the seneschal with a ruse . She has a belt and other gifts sent to the seneschal , supposedly from the Chatelaine of Dijon , whom he had courted , with promises that the Chatelaine is ready to grant him his wishes . The messenger convinces the seneschal to wear the belt under his clothes . Liénor then goes to Conrad 's court , where everyone is struck by her beauty , and pretends to be a maiden who was raped by the seneschal and has thus acquired intimate knowledge of his body and his clothing ; she reveals he has a belt under his clothes . The belt is discovered under his clothes and a trial by ordeal is proposed . The seneschal 's innocence is proven in an ordeal by water : he has never had sex with the maiden . When Liénor reveals that she is in fact Guillaume 's sister , the seneschal 's earlier claim of having deflowered her is proven a lie . The seneschal is shackled and incarcerated , and the wedding is celebrated with great pomp . On the wedding night , Conrad 's happiness is greater than that of Tristan or Lanval ; the next morning , " no one who asked [ Conrad ] for a costly gift was refused . " As for the seneschal , Liénor implores Conrad to be merciful , and he is sent away as a Templar to join a crusade .

= = = Themes = = =

The plot of Guillaume revolves around the common theme of the gageure , a young man who , because of a wager ( in the case of Guillaume , because of jealousy ) needs to find a young woman 's favor . He fails in his enterprise but pretends publicly to have succeeded , causing the ruin of a husband ( if the gageure had claimed to have succeeded with another man 's wife ) or , in this case , the despair of a brother . Usually the young man 's story is believed at first because he reveals an intimate detail about a young woman , who then has to prove her innocence .

Beginning with Michel Zink , whose influential 1979 monograph *Roman rose et rose rouge : Le Roman de la rose ou de Guillaume de Dole* ushered in a new era of criticism , critics have recognized Guillaume de Dole as a work of literature about literature , a self @-@ referential poem that comments on the improbability of some of its own plot elements and on its own fictional status , encouraging a trend in studies of Renart and his work .

= = = Songs = = =

The romance contains some 46 chansons , which can be separated into two groups , according to Hollier and Bloch . The first group contains sixteen " aristocratic " chansons courtoises on the topic of courtly love , attributed to specific trouvères or troubadours ( including Gace Brulé , Le Chastelain de Couci , Vidame de Chartres , Jaufré Rudel , and Bernart de Ventadorn ) . A second group consists of thirty mostly anonymous songs of a more popular nature , such as three chansons de toile and three other ballads , two pastourelles , and twenty chansons à danser ( dance songs ) . Incorporated also is a laisse of the chanson de geste Gerbert de Metz . Different scholars have slightly different counts ; where Holier and Block count three ballads and three chanson de toiles , Maureen Barry McCann Boulton counts six chansons de toile ; in her detailed investigation of the chansons she claims the poem contains forty @-@ six chansons in eight different genres .

In its hybrid form , Guillaume de Dole is " the first extant example of the combined use of narrative and lyric in French . " The mixed form proved to be popular and was soon found in other works , including Aucassin and Nicolette ( early 13th century ) ; Gautier de Coincy 's Les Miracles de Nostre @-@ Dame ( c . 1218 ? 1233 ) ; Gerbert de Montreuil 's Le Roman de la Violette ( c . 1230 ) , which incorporates some forty songs ; and Tibaut 's Roman de la Poire ( c . 1250 ) , which incorporates a series of refrains . By the end of the century the form had become canonical .

= = = Female protagonist = = =

The female protagonist , Liénor , is notable because of her active nature : she herself unmasks the seneschal . She found a quick successor in the active female protagonist of Tibaut 's Roman de la Poire . At least one recent publication states that Liénor might make a justifiable claim to being the romance 's true hero .

= = Editorial and critical history = =

The first mention of Guillaume de Dole after the Middle Ages is found in the work of Claude Fauchet , who is generally considered to have studied the Vatican Regina manuscript ( instead of another , now lost , manuscript ) . In 1844 , Adelbert Keller published extracts of the poem including some of the chansons ; the chansons acquired some fame , and in 1850 Darenberg and Renan traveled to Rome to study the manuscript , publishing a larger number of the chansons in 1855 . It wasn 't until 1870 that all of the chansons had been published . A lengthy analysis , partial edition , and summary in English was published by Henry Alfred Todd of Johns Hopkins University , in 1886 . The poem was finally published in its entirety in 1893 by Gustave Servois for the Société des anciens textes français .

The first comprehensive study of the work of Jean Renart was published in 1935 by Rita Lejeune @-@ Dehousse , who published an edition of the poem in 1935 . Since then , it has been republished regularly . Translations have been published in modern French ( 1979 ) , German ( 1982 ) , and English ( 1993 , 1995 ) .

Between 2001 and 2007 , Joshua Tyra adapted the text into a musical . An early version was read at the University of Chicago .

= = = Modern editions and translations = = =

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Dufournet , Jean ( 2008 ) . Le Roman de la rose ou de Guillaume de Dole . Honoré Champion .  
Lecoy , Félix ( 1971 ) . Le Roman de la rose ou de Guillaume de Dole . Paris .

Terry , Patricia ; Nancy Vine ( 1993 ) . The Romance of the Rose or Guillaume De Dole . U of Pennsylvania P. ISBN 0 @-@ 8122 @-@ 1388 @-@ 2 .

Todd , Henry Alfred ( 1886 ) . " Guillaume de Dole : an unpublished Old French romance " . Transactions of the Modern Language Association of America ( Modern Language Association ) :

= = = Critical studies = = =

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