



"My heart has made a pact with love" | "Mein hertz hat sich mit lieb verpflichtet"

Text Information

Author | Erhard Oeglin

Language | Early New High German

Period | 16th Century

Genre | Lyric Verse/Song

Source | Bayerische Staatsbibliothek München 00082229 Rar.27 Stimme T f.24r

Collection | Love Songs of the Medieval World: Lyrics from Europe and Asia

URL | sourcebook.stanford.edu/text/oeglin_my_heart_pact_love/

Translation by Christopher Hutchinson.

Introduction to the Text

The first printed songbook with songs primarily in German was printed in July 1512 by the Augsburg printer Erhard Oeglin (ca. 1470-1520). The songbook consists of four partbooks – it is also the first German song collection with four voices throughout - and contains 49 songs with a mixture of spiritual and secular content; 43 of which are in German and 6 in Latin. Oeglin was an innovative printer, credited as one of the first printers to print musical notation with movable type and as one of the first printers of "Zeitungen" – news-sheets. Oeglin does not attribute any of the songs to particular composers but some of these songs do appear in other songbooks of this period where they are attributed to various composers active at the Imperial court, including Ludwig Senfl, Paul Hofhaimer and Heinrich Isaac. These songs are collectively known as tenor lieder, as the melody is usually carried by the tenor line. This was the prototypical song type in Germany at the turn of the sixteenth century and enjoyed particular prominence at the court of the Emperor Maximilian.

Introduction to the Source

Digitized copies of these partbooks, from the Bayerische StaatsBibliothek in Munich, are available online [here](#).

Further Reading

Saunders, Steven. "Music in Early Modern Germany." *Early Modern German Literature 1350-1700*, edited by Max Reinhart, Rochester: Camden House, 2007.

Keyl, Stephen. "Tenorlied, Discantlied, Polyphonic lied: Voices and instruments in German secular polyphony of the Renaissance." *Early Music*, vol. 20, no. 3, 1992, pp. 434–445.



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Mein hertz hat sich mit lieb verpflichtet

Mein hertz hat sich mit lieb verpflichtet / zû dir mich
irrt auch nicht / des klaffers dicht / ob jm sein hals
zerpricht / durch falschen has auch bösen neyd /
sein gifftig schneyd / glaub das jch dich darumb nit
meyd / kayn unmût leid / und wer er noch so ges-
cheyd.

Du bist meins gfallens uberal / nach wunsch unnd
rechter wal / frewd one zal / han ich von dir zumal /
an die doch gar kayn mangel ist / falsch red ist mist
/ deshalb nicht schaffft des klaffers list / zû kayner
frist / man ways wol wer er ist.

Was glücks ich im wünsch und gan / das gee den
schwetzter an / sein untrew kann / nit unvergolten
stan / erscheinen wird in kurtzer zeit / wye vast er
schreit / an seinem plerr mir gar nichtz leyt / es felt
im weit / mein hertz sich dir ergeit.

My heart has made a pact with love

My heart has made a pact with love for you. The slanderer's lies
won't lead me astray; even if he broke his neck because of his false
hate and the poisoned blade of his base envy: Believe me, I will not
avoid you because of this and won't tolerate any trouble however
sly he may be.

I've fallen for you above all things following my desire and true
choice. You above all bring me infinite joy. You are completely
flawless, the deceitful talk is garbage, that's why the trickery of
a slanderer never achieves anything; his ways are well known to
everybody.

However much fortune I wish and grant him, the windbag may en-
joy, his faithlessness cannot go unrepaired. We'll find out soon how
loud he screams, none of his blabbering will distract me; he's way
off the mark. I commend my heart to you.