



"Now the depths of my heart" | "Yetz schaydens wee ist worden kund"

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.29r

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

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

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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Yetz schaydens wee ist worden kund

Yetz schaydens wee ist worden kund / meis
hertzen grund / des ich vor nye / dan erst durch
dye / bin worden inn / hertz mut und synn / ward
mir zerstrayt / gantz weit und prayt / ich dacht ich
stürb vor hertyenlayd.

Nun hat sich glück herwider kert / und mich ernert
/ vor schaydens pein / dardurch al mein / plut was
betrübt / glück hat geübt / in disem spil / darin ich
vil / frewd lust und gnad erwerben wil.

Sölch frewd ytz niemer widerfart / ist mir gar hart /
verkert in laid ich wider schayd / macht newes wee
/ noch mer dan ee / mein hertz erkant / recht lieb
befandt / erst thut mir schayden angstlich andt.

Now the depths of my heart

Now the depths of my heart have discovered separation's sorrow,
my heart, spirit and senses, which I have only experienced
because of her, were scattered far and wide: I thought I'd die of a
broken heart.

Now fortune has returned and saved me from separation's pain,
through which all my blood was dulled. Fortune has played its
part in this game, in which I will gain much joy, pleasure and favor.

Now it's very hard for me that such joy is gone forever. Turned
to pain, I leave again; this brings new sorrow, even greater than
before: my heart had come to know and had felt joy: only now
separation brings me to despair.