



"Whoever repays loyalty with falsehood" | "Wer trew mit valsch vergelten wil"

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.46r

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

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

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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Wer trew mit valsh vergelten wil

Wer trew mit valsch vergelten wil / der hat das spil
/ in aller welt mit recht verloren / und kündet er
schiessen noch sovil / er trifft kayn zil / ich wolt es
gult im seine oren / prauch allen fleis / er wird mit
solcher weys / der khegel nit vil scheiben / er hat
kain glückh / weyl er solch tückh thut treyben.

Ich hann zwar lanng auff das gewart / ob er ayn fart
/ trew gütat wurd noch recht erkennen / die mich
mûß ewig rewen hart / hyetz woll erspart / ein nâr-
rin mûß ich mich selbs nennen / will suchen weg /
damit ich füran pfleg / der rue unnd mich verhüte /
vor solchem gwin / das ist mein sin und gmüte.

Will mich wol schicken recht darein / und mer-
cken feyn / wie er sich than hat gen mir halten /
verschlossen ist das hertze mein / recht wye ayn
schreyn / vor im wil mein selbs walten / ob kem
ayn not / das ich nit fall in spot / von im wer ich
verlassen / verstee gantz wol / das ich mich sol /
sein massen.

Whoever repays loyalty with falsehood

Whoever repays loyalty with falsehood, has lost the game for all
to see, and with good reason, and if he could shoot even more,
he still wouldn't hit a target: I'd hope that it costs him his ears. No
matter how hard he tries, he won't hit many pins because he acts
so wickedly.

I've indeed waited a long time for him to someday correctly under-
stand loyalty and integrity, which will pain me sorely forever. Now
spared this I must call myself a foolish woman. I want to find a way
to ensure a quiet life from now on and keep myself away from such
a reward; this is my mind and intention.

I will resign myself to this and remember how he acted towards me;
my heart is closed off from him just like a chest; I'll take care of
myself, in case I risk being ridiculed; [in the case] that people say it
was him who left me! I truly know that I should stay away from him.