



"Our vicar is away" | "Unser pfarrer ist auf der pan"

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.47r

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

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

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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Our vicar is away

Unser pfarrer ist auf der pan / was getz dich an / ich
wais und kan / dy junngen feilel müstern über gan /
es fleügt do her ein weisser schwan / wil kurtzweil
han / er prangt gar schan / do müsst ich armer pûb
gar pald dar von / ich gyeng durch ayn zerrissens
haus / still was dy maus / sy ruckt her aus / ayn
flügel mein gans / gyng gang / gyng gang / also laut
unser gsang / schaubhût der ist fürd sunnen gût /
das pferd ist wild kumbt aus der stût / das pferd ist
will kumpt aus der stût.

Unser pfarrer ist auf der pan

Our vicar is away. What's it to you? I can and know how to
ogle the young violets as I go. A white swan flies by, it wants
to have fun; it shows off nicely: Thus I, poor lad that I am,
soon had to leave. I walked through a tumbled-down house;
the mouse was quiet, my goose spread apart her wings:
gyng gang, gyng gang - so our song goes. A straw hat, it's
good for the sun. The horse is wild, it comes from the mare.
The horse is wild, it comes from the mare.