

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF IRELAND, GALWAY
OLLSCOIL NA hÉIREANN, GAILLIMH

Semester I Examinations, December 2002

German (B.A. Final Year)
Middle High German II (GR 304)

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Time allowed: three hours

Answer questions 1 (35%), 2 (35%) and 3 (30%).

1. Translate the following extract by Stricker (ca. 1250) into English prose.

Diz ist ein selsaene vart

wie ein ritter entnacket wart.

Ein ritter kam an eine vart

sô verre, daz er gast wart
eines wirtes, der in wol enpfienç.

5

ich sage iu, wie daz ergienç:

er hâte in nie mêre gesehen

und hôrte im grôzer wurde jehen.

The guest, cold and wet from his journey, is received with a kiss by the host's wife and daughters, the cook prepares a splendid meal, and a fire is lit. While they are sitting in the heated room it gets so hot that the sweat runs off their heads.

dô tet der wirt als ein man,

der dâ heim gemach wil hân.

10

er hiez einen knecht dar gân

und ziehen sînen roc abe.

„ich enwil niht, daz hie ieman habe

nahtlanc“, sprach er, „ungemach“.

zuo dem gaste er ouch sprach:

15

„lât abeziehen iu den roc!“

ir habet niender einen loc,

si enhangen alle sweizes vol.“

dô sprach der gast: „daz tuot mir wol:

ich wil den roc ane hân.“

20

A polite („hövisch“) argument follows, in which the guest resists repeated hospitable suggestions that he should take off his overgarment. Finally, out of consideration for the guest's comfort, the wirt secretly instructs his servants to take it off for him. When they do this,

dô wart der gast beroubet

durch die grôzen minne

der êren und der sinne.

er sâz, dô er wart âne roc

als ein beschelder stoc

bescheln „peel“

25

âne bruoch und âne hemde;

bruoch „britches, underpants“

diu wâren im beide fremde.

als in dô die vrouwen

sô blôz begunden schouwen,

dô erkômen si vil sêre.

30

der gast erschrac noch mêre,

wan ez hâte der selbe gast

al der hövischeite last
 getragen her vil manigen tac.
 der wirt vor schanden ouch erschrac.
 sus erschrâkens alle sêre.
 der gast entrûwete es, an sîn êre
 niemer wider komen ê.

35

The guest is so offended by this disgrace that he would have killed his host if his horse had been good enough to escape on, which it wasn't – so he hastily pulls on his clothes and leaves.

2. Examine the following three extracts from Hartmann's *Erec* and the corresponding passages translated from the version of Chrestien de Troyes. Extract (a) describes Enite's reaction when Erec's retainers blame her for Erec's *verligen*, extract (b) describes the count's love-smitten reaction to Enite, extract (c) gives Enite's response to him after he has suggested that she should betray Erec and become a countess at his side.

Hartmann expands on Chrestien's version. Compare the two versions, commenting on changes in character portrayal and discussing the extent to which the portrayal of love is different in the two versions. Is the Middle High German version psychologically more differentiated?

a) (Hartmann)

si sprâchen alle „wê der stunt
 daz uns mîn vrouwe ie wart kunt!
 des verdirbet unser herre.“

disiu rede geschach sô verre

daz si die vrouwen ane kam

als si den itewîz vernam,

des wart vil riuwic ir muot,

wan sie was biderbe unde guot,

und gedâhte manegen enden

wie si möhte erwenden

alsô gemeinen haz.

ouch geruochte si erkennen daz

daz ez ir schult waere.

si begunde dise swaere

harte wîplichen tragen.

Êrecke engetorste si ez niht klagen:

si vorhte in dâ verliesen mite.

3000.

3005

3010

manecvaltec wart sîn gedanc,

als in der vrouwen schoene twanc,

wie er si möhte gewinnen.

untriuwe riet sînen sinnen

daz er dar sô kaeme

daz er si im benaeme.

daz was doch wider dem rehte

daz er dem guoten knehte

sîn wîp wolde hân genomen,

dô er in sîn lant was komen,[...]

der muot was im von minnen komen,

wan wir haben vernomen

von dem grâven maere,

daz er benamen waere

beide biderbe unde guot,

an sînen triuwen wol behuot

unz an die selben stunt.

dô tet im untriuwe kunt

diu kreftige minne

und benam im rehte sinne.

3672

3675

3680

3685

3690

(Chrestien)

He was so censured by everyone, knights and men-at-arms, that Enide heard them saying that her lord had changed his way of living and become lost to honour in arms and knighthood. Their talk distressed her, but she dared not show it for fear that were she to speak out, her lord might immediately take it amiss.

Her beauty consumed all his thoughts. He looked at her as much as he could. He coveted her and found her so desirable that her beauty ignited him with love.

(c)	(Hartmann)	3810	(Chrestien)
	„ich entouc ze graevinne niht: ich enhân geburt noch daz guot.		„Alas, I would rather be still unborn or else die in flaming
	swaz ouch mir mîn geselle tuot, daz dulde ich mit rehte.		thorns and my ashes be scattered than be untrue in
	ze wîbe und ze knehte und ze swiu er mich wil hân,		any manner to my lord or wickedly plot some
	des bin ich im alles undertân.	3815	treachery or evil. You were very mistaken to make such
	herre, was mac ich sprechen mê? wan ich wolde erweln ê		a proposal to me. I could never behave in that
	daz ich lebende hie zehant ze pulver würde verbrant		manner.“
	und man den zesaete, ê ich ez immer getaete.“	3820	

3. EITHER

Give an account of the role played by horses in Hartmann's *Erec*.

OR

Examine the *joie de la curt* episode in its relation to the book as a whole, explaining why you think the book would/ would not be better if it had been left out.