



Here beginneth the volume intituled and namede
the recuyell of the hystories of Troye/ composede
and drawen out of dyuerse booke of latyn in
to frenshe by the ryght venerable persone and wor-
shipfull man. Raoul le feure. preest and chapelain
vnto the ryght noble gloriouse and myghty pryncce in
his tyme Phelip duc of Bourgoyne of Brabant 2c
In the yere of the Incarnacion of our lord god a thou-
sand foure hunderd sixty and foure / And translated
and drawen out of frenshe in to englishe by William
Caxton mercer of p^r cyte of London / at the comādemēt
of the right hye myghty and vertuouse Pryncesse hye
redoubtd lady. Margarete by the grace of god. Du-
chesse of Bourgoyne of Lotryk of Brabant 2c /
Whiche sayd translatiō and werke was begonne in
Brugis in the Countre of Flaunders the fyrst day of
marche the yere of the Incarnacion of our said lord god
a thousand foure hunderd sixty and eyght / And ended
and fynished in the holy cyte of Colen the .xix. day of
septembre the yere of our sayd lord god a thousand
foure hunderd sixty and enleuen 2c.

And on that other side of this leef foloweth the prologe

HERE beginneth the volume entitled and named the Recuyell of the Histories of Troy, composed and drawn out of divers books of Latin into French by the right venerable person and worshipful man, Raoul le Feure, priest and chaplain unto the right noble, glorious, and mighty prince in his time, Philip, Duke of Burgundy, of Brabant, etc., in the year of the Incarnation of our Lord God a thousand four hundred sixty and four, and translated and drawn out of French into English by William Caxton, mercer, of the city of London, at the commandment of the right high, mighty, and virtuous Princess, his redoubted Lady, Margaret, by the grace of God Duchess of Burgundy, of Lotrylk, of Brabant, etc.; which said translation and work was begun in Bruges in the County of Flanders, the first day of March, the year of the Incarnation of our said Lord God a thousand four hundred sixty and eight, and ended and finished in the holy city of Cologne the 19th day of September, the year of our said Lord God a thousand four hundred sixty and eleven, etc.

When I remember that every man is bounden by the commandment & counceyll of the wyse man to eschewe slothe and idleness wher the is moder and nourysshar of vices and ought to put my self vnto vertuous ocupacion and besynesse / Then I hauinge no grette charge of ocupacion folowynge the sayd counceyll / toke a frenshe booke and redde therein many strange and meruayllous histories wher in I had grette pleasyr and delyte / as well for the nouelte of the same as for the fayr langage of frenshe whiche was in prose so well and compendiously sette and wretton / whiche me thought I vnderstood the sentence and substance of euery mater / And for so moche as this booke was newe and late made and drawen in to frenshe / and neuer had seen hit in oure englyssh tonge / I thought in my self hit shold be a good besynes to translate hit in to oure englyssh / to the ende that hit myght be had as well in the royaume of Englonde as in other landes / and also for to passe therewith the tyme . and thus concluded in my self to begynne this sayd worke / And forthwith toke penne and ynke and began boldly to runne forth as blinde Bayard in this presente worke whiche is named the recuyell of the troian histories And afterwarde when I remembred my self of my simplenes and vnperfectnes that I had in bothe langages / that is to wete in frenshe & in englyssh for in france was I neuer / and was born & lerned myn englyssh in kente in the weeld where I doubt not is spoken as brode and rude englyssh as is in any place of englonde & haue continued by the space of / xxx . yere for the most parte in the contres of Brabant . flandres . hollande

When I remember that every man is bounden by the commandment and counsel of the wise man to eschew sloth and idleness, which is mother and nourisher of vices, and ought to put myself unto virtuous occupation and business, then I, having no great charge of occupation, following the said counsel took a French book, and read therein many strange and marvellous histories, wherein I had great pleasure and delight, as well for the novelty of the same as for the fair language of French, which was in prose so well and compendiously set and written, which methought I understood the sentence and substance of every matter. and for so much as this book was new and late made and drawn into French, and never had seen it in our English tongue, I thought in myself it should be a good business to translate it into our English, to the end that it might be had as well in the royaume of England as in other lands, and also for to pass therewith the time, and thus concluded in myself to begin this said work. and forthwith took pen and ink, and began boldly to run forth as blind Bayard in this present work, which is named "The Recuyell of the Trojan Histories." and afterward when I remembered myself of my simpleness and unperfectness that I had in both languages, that is to wit in French and in English, for in France was I never, and was born and learned my English in Kent, in the Weald, where I doubt not is spoken as broad and rude English as in any place of England; and have continued by the space of 30 years for the most part in the countries of Brabant, Flanders, Holland,

and? zelandy and? thus whan alle thysse thynges cam
 to fore me aftyr that y had? made and? wretyn a fyve
 or six quayere .y fyll in dyspayr of thys werke and?
 purposed? nomore to haue contynued? therin and? tho
 quayere leyde a part and? in two yere aftyr laboured?
 nomore in thys werke And? was fully in wyll to
 haue left? hys. tyll on a tyme hit fortunede? that the ry
 ght hyght excellent and? right vertuous prynces my
 ryght redoughted? lady my lady Margarete by the
 grace of god? suster vnto p? kynge of englond? and? of
 frace . my souerayn lord? Duchesse of Bourgoine of
 Lotryk. of Brabant. of Lymburgh. and? of Lurenburgh
 Countess of fflādre of artoys ⁊ of Bourgoine Pala
 tynee of Hainawd? of Holand? of zelād? and of namur
 Marquesse of p? holy empire. lady of ffryse of salins
 and of mechlē sent for me to speke wyth her good
 grace of dyuerse maters among p? whych? y lete her
 hyences haue knowleche of p? forsayd begynnynge of
 thys werke whiche anon comāded me to shewe
 the sayd. v. or. vi. quayere to her sayd grace and wh
 an she had seen hem. anon she fonde a defaute in myn
 englyssh whiche sche comāded me to amende and mo
 re ouer comāded me straitly to contynue and make
 an ende of the resydue than not translated . whose dre
 defull comādemēt y durste in no wyse disobey becau
 se y am a seruāt vnto her sayde grace and? resseue of
 her yerly ffee and other many goode and grete benefe
 tes . and? also hope many moo to resseyne of her hye
 nes but forthwyth wente and laboured in the sayde
 translacon aftyr my symple and pour connyng also
 nigh as y can folowynge myn auctour mekely beseching

and Zealand. and thus when all these things came before me, after that I had made and written five or six quires I fell in
 despair of this work, and purposed no more to have continued therein, and those quires laid apart, and in two years after
 laboured no more in this work, and was fully in will to have left it, till on a time it fortunede that the right high, excellent,
 and right virtuous princess, my right redoubted Lady, my Lady Margaret, by the grace of God sister unto the King of
 England and of France, my sovereign lord, Duchess of Burgundy, of Lotryk, of Brabant, of Limburg, and of
 Luxembourg, Countess of Flanders, of Artois, and of Burgundy, Palatine of Hainault, of Holland, of Zealand and of
 Namur, Marquesse of the Holy Empire, Lady of Frisia, of Salins and of Mechlin, sent for me to speak with her good
 Grace of divers matters, among the which I let her Highness have knowledge of the foresaid beginning of this work,
 which anon commanded me to show the said five or six quires to her said Grace; and when she had seen them anon she
 found a default in my English, which she commanded me to amend, and moreover commanded me straitly to continue
 and make an end of the residue then not translated; whose dreadful commandment I durst in no wise disobey, because I
 am a servant unto her said Grace and receive of her yearly fee and other many good and great benefits, (and also hope
 many more to receive of her Highness), but forthwith went and laboured in the said translation after my simple and poor
 cunning, also nigh as I can following my author, meekly beseeching

the bounteous Highness of my said lady that of her beneuolence list to accepte & take in gree this simple & rude werke here folowynge. and if ther be ony thyng wryton or sayd to her playse. I shall thynke my labour well employed; and where as there is default. I she arette hit to the simplenes of my cunnyng which is full small in this behalfe; and require & praye alle them that shall rede this sayd werke to correcte hit & to hold me excusyd of the rude & simple translatioun. And thus I ende my prologue. . .

Here foloweth the prologue of that worshipful man Raoul le feure which was Auctor of this present book in the ffrensh tonge.

the bounteous Highness of my said Lady that of her benevolence list to accept and take in gree this simple and rude work here following; and if there be anything written or said to her pleasure, I shall think my labour well employed, and whereas there is default that she arette it to the simpleness of my cunning which is full small in this behalf; and require and pray all them that shall read this said work to correct it, and to hold me excused of the rude and simple translation.

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And thus I end my prologue.

Here followeth the prologue of that worshipful man Raoul Le Feure which was author of this present book in the French tongue: