The Book of Peace
Pinder, Janice, Mews, Constant J., Green, Karen

Published by Penn State University Press

Pinder, Janice, et al.  
The Book of Peace: By Christine de Pizan.  
Penn State University Press, 2008.  
Project MUSE.  muse.jhu.edu/book/292.
Christine de Pizan’s *Livre de paix* has survived in three manuscripts, two of which are in public collections. The first of these, found in the Bibliothèque royale de Belgique in Brussels (ms 10366), is contemporary with the author and was copied and corrected by Christine some time during the period 1412–14. The second, conserved in a collection of works at the Bibliothèque nationale de France in Paris (ms fr. 1182), is dated by its watermarks to the second half of the fifteenth century.

Apart from these two manuscripts, the *Livre de paix* also exists in a third manuscript, apparently now in a private collection. This volume, which was sold at auction by Druout-Rive-Gauche for the Librairie Giraud-Baudin on May 19, 1976, is known to us only by virtue of the information provided in an article by Charity Cannon Willard. Having noted the presence of the arms of the Créquy family in the initial on the first folio, Willard established that the manuscript must have belonged to Jean V de Créquy, a councilor for Philip the Good. Dated to the second half of the fifteenth century, this manuscript of eighty-two folios was written on paper in two columns of thirty-six lines. Like the Paris manuscript it begins with a miniature representing Christine de Pizan dedicating her work to the young dauphin Louis of Guyenne.

---

The Brussels manuscript is first mentioned in the Burgundian library inventory of 1467, drafted immediately after the death of Philip the Good. Although this posthumous inventory was intended merely to itemize the duke’s estate, and not designed for the bibliophile, elements of the description, such as extracts of the texts and their location, permit the identification of the manuscript B.\(^5\) This is despite what may be an error of transcription of the date, introduced by the copyist: “1445. Ung livre de cuir rouge en parchemin, a deux coulomnes, intitulé ‘Ung livre de la paix faicte en l’an mil \(\text{m}i\text{c xxi,}\) commençant ou second feuillet aprez la table ‘hayne qui de toutes pars’ et ou dernier ‘tousiours en vraye amistié.’”\(^6\) The volume was apparently still to be found in the Burgundian collection in 1487 after the death of Charles the Rash: “1910. Item ung autre volume couvert de cuir rouge, a deux cloans et cincq boutons de leton sur chacun costé, historié et intitulé ‘ung livre de paix faicte en l’an mil \(\text{m}i\text{c \[sic\]}\) et \(\text{xii}\),’ commençant au second feuillet ‘hayne qui de toutes pars’ et finissant ou derrenier ‘qui en toute grace te parface. Amen.’”\(^7\) The emperor Charles V also possessed the volume, and it can be further traced in the inventory drawn up in 1577–79 after the death of Viglius, librarian to Philip II of Spain: “Autre livre en parchemin, escript et illumine comme dessus, couvert de cuyr rouge, garni de dix cloues et deux clouans de leton, intitulé \(\text{Ung livre de la paix faicte en l’an mil m}i\text{c oute, commenchant . . . haine qui de toute part}.\)”\(^8\) Subsequently the volume remained in Brussels until June 1794, date of the entry of French troops into Belgium and their confiscation of a part of the Burgundian library. The manuscript of the \textit{Livre}
de paix was taken and deposited in the Bibliothèque nationale in Paris; one can still see, beneath the black stamp of the Bibliothèque royale, traces of the red stamp of the Bibliothèque nationale, carefully erased, on folios 1r and 108v. Following the treaty of Paris of May 30, 1814, which stipulated the restitution of art works confiscated by the French to their countries of origin, the manuscript (KBR 10366) was returned to Brussels in 1815.

It remains difficult to determine how this manuscript of a French work came into the Burgundian collection, as is equally the case for other manuscripts now in the Brussels library. The evidence of the inventories suggests that it was probably acquired later than the inventory of 1420 but prior to that of 1467, though it is possible that it found its way into the ducal library of John the Fearless before his death in 1419 but was not recorded. It is also plausible

9. The manuscript is, moreover, mentioned in Barrois’s appendix, which pertains to the “ouvrages qui, d’après les Extraits d’Achille Godefroi et les Notices rédigées en 1748 et 1796, ensuite des deux réceptions à Paris, ou suivant leurs textes, faisaient partie des Librairies de Bourgogne, sans néanmoins se retrouver dans les Inventaires” [works which according to the extracts of Achille Godefroi and the Notices drafted in 1748 and 1796 following the two deliveries to Paris, or following their texts, were part of the Burgundian Library, without however being found in the Inventories]. See also Barrois, Bibliothèque protypographique, 316–17: “Le Livre de la paix, relativement aux troubles du règne de Charles VI, adressé au duc de Guyenne, son fils ainé.—In-folio sur velin, ornemens en or” [Le Livre de la paix, relative to the troubles during the reign of Charles VI, addressed to the duke of Guyenne, his oldest son.—In-folio on vellum, decorated in gold].


11. Similarly, certain manuscripts executed for Charles V and first present in his library at the Louvre appear in the library of the dukes of Burgundy from the time of the inventory of 1467. For instance, KBR 10319, which contains the French version of the Liber novem judicum, can be found there. See Tania Van Hemelryck, “Ms. 10319, Liber novem judicum, version française,” in vol. 2 of La Librairie des ducs de Bourgogne, ed. B. Bousmanne, C. Van Hoorebeek, and F. Johan (Turnhout: Brepols, 2003), 170–74.

12. The inventory of 1420, dated July 12, which lists the movable goods inherited by Philip the Good from his father, John the Fearless, does not mention the Livre de paix; see Georges Doutrepont, ed., Inventaire de la “Librerie” de Philippe le Bon (1420) (Brussels: Kiesling, 1906). The only manuscripts by Christine that appear are the Livre des sept psaumes moralisés (no. 8), the Livre de la Mutation de Fortune (no. 98), the Livre de la cité des dames (no. 109), the Livre de l’Advision (no. 117), the Dit de la Pastoure (no. 124), and the Livre du chemin de long estude (nos. 130, 131). We know, however, that John the Fearless had paid for other books. The general accounts of the Burgundian state (1384–1419) mention a number of payments received by Christine de Pizan, paid on behalf of John the Fearless. The last entry that concerns her is dated October 1412:

A damoisele Christine du Castel, pour don a elle fait par mon dit seigneur, la somme de l frans monnoye royal en recompensacion de plusieurs notables livrez qu’elle avoit presenté et donné a mon dit seigneur sans en avoir eu aucune remuneracion ou don. Appert par mandement de mon dit seigneur donné a Paris le ite jour du mois d’octobre mil cccc et xii cy rendu avec quictance. Pour ce l frans.
to ascribe responsibility for the acquisition of Christine’s work to Philip the Good, either as a purchase, confiscation, gift, or even inheritance.\textsuperscript{13}

Nevertheless, the manuscript offers up certain indications as to its origin. First, following the observations of Gilbert Ouy and Christine Reno, which were based on the initial research of Charity Cannon Willard, I agree with their assessment that \textit{B} is an autograph manuscript by Christine de Pizan.\textsuperscript{14}

To be precise, the text and rubrics of the manuscript have been transcribed by hand \textit{X}, which is to say, according to Ouy and Reno’s hypothesis, by Christine. The manuscript includes certain corrections that are characteristic of the author, as well as evidence of her revisions and of the different stages of the copying process.\textsuperscript{15} Beyond the correction of details, which one can call stylistic and syntactic, some specific aspects of the presentation of \textit{B} indicate the significance of the text. One of these concerns the fourth chapter of the third part, beginning “Cy parle du mal qui advient par mauvais homme puissant et qui ait seigneurie” on folios 54\textit{r} to 55\textit{v}. While the beginning of the fourth chapter on folio 54, like the rest of the codex, has twenty-nine lines per column, on the recto of folio 55 (which is to say the second to last leaf of the seventh quire) the number of lines rises suddenly to thirty-three in column \textit{a} and thirty-six in column \textit{b}, the writing is condensed and shrinks markedly.\textsuperscript{16}

The end of the chapter continues on the verso of 55 with

\footnotesize

\begin{quote}
[To damoiselle Christine du Castel, as a gift to her made by my said lord, the sum of fifty francs of royal money in compensation for many notable books which she had presented and given to my said lord without receiving thereby any remuneration or gift. Agreed by the order of my said lord, given at Paris the third day of October one thousand four hundred and twelve, given with receipt. For this fifty francs.]

Cited in Pierre Cockshaw, “Mentions d’auteurs, de copistes, d’enlumineurs et de libraires dans les comptes généraux de l’état Bourguignon (1384–1419),” \textit{Scriptorium} 23 (1969): 142 (no. 81). This was just one month after she commenced writing the \textit{Livre de paix}.

\textsuperscript{13} For example, by way of Marguerite of Burgundy, widow of the dauphin Louis, duke of Guyenne. She had married Charles VI’s son in 1409. Following his death in 1415, on October 3, 1423, she married Arthur, count of Richmond, brother of the duke of Brittany. This marriage resulted from Richmond’s visit to Philip the Good in 1422, a visit intended to promote peace between Philip and Charles VII. See Guillaume Gruel, \textit{Chronique d’Arthur de Richemont Connétable de France, Duc de Bretagne (1393–1438)}, ed. Achille le Vavasseur (Paris: Librairie Renouard, 1890), 25–30. A gift of a copy of Christine’s \textit{Livre de paix} may therefore have occurred at this time.


\textsuperscript{16} It is noteworthy that the verso of folio 54 shows an erasure (apparently of an indication of correction) in the inner margin.
\end{quote}
the same cramped writing, accompanied by a marginal addition introduced with a cross in the text.

Additionally, this passage shows quite different characteristics from those present in P. In her edition Charity Willard added a note signaling the long extra passage present in P, which can be schematized as follows; the divergences appear in italics:

---

**Paris, bnf fr. 1182**

[72v] Et neantmoins de sa puissance se vouldra employer à usurper ou chalengier les droiz d’autruy. Cestuy pour ce que fort se sentira de pais, de gens, ou d’aliéz, ou d’argent en quoy se fiera, fera mainte extorcion à ses voisins ou prendra debat à autres princes particuliers ou a aucun ou aucuns de ses subiectz, à son grant tort vouldra usurper le leur et pour ces choses faire mouvera grant guerre affin de tout espouenter.

ou couvertement par divers agaiz; fera faire divers murtres et detestables maulx. Et neantmoins quelque mauvaisté qui par luy soit perpetré, vouldra par son grant orgueil, oultrecuidance et arrogant presompcion porter et soutenir tort ou mauvais cause et querelle contre celuy ou ceulx qui ara offencé, et par puissance, que d’armes, que d’agaiz et diverses cautelles, s’efforcerà de soutenir son faulx principe, et mesmement par couleur de droit taschera à la destruction

---

**Bruxelles, kbr 10366**

[54d] Et neantmoins de sa puissance se vouldra emploier à usurper ou chalengier les droiz de ses voisins[17] [correction over erasure and evidence of indication of correction in the inner margin]. Cestui pour ce que fort se sentira de pays, de gens, ou d’aliéz, ou d’argent en quoy se fiera, fera mainte extorcion [à ses voisins; barré][18] ou prendra debat à autres princes particuliers ou a aucun ou aucuns de ses subgiéz, à son grant tort vouldra usurper le leur et pour ces choses faire [55a] mouvrà grant guerre afin de tout espouenter.

Si troublera toute sa gent en diverses manieres ne vouldra croire conseil de sages, ains fera de sa teste, à sa grant tort, par vengence ou autrement, grevera un chascun par maintes extorciors en cas particuliers ou universelz, pour lesquelz causes et divers tors fáis à estranges et privéz, et par ses folles emprises, guerres et maulx fáis seront ses nobles hommes mors et

---


18. *Paix* (Willard, 120) includes the two crossed-out words in her text and does not mention this feature of the manuscript.
de la partie ou des parties, pour ce que à cause de son tort sara bien que ilz sont ses ennemys ne amer ne le doivent. Et pour actaindre à ses conclusions trouvera voies obliques [73r], malicieusement, par mauvais moyens de gens pervers comme luy, flateurs à cause de salaire ou divers benefices que de luy recevront pour espandre renommée par tout par ercif ou de bouche que justement et à bonne cause fait ce qu’il fait, et par icerulx moiennant diverses fraudes, c’est assavoir les ungs par paour, autres par promesses, autres par dons pervertira moult de gens, dont grant cedicion sourdra en mains lieux par quoy maulx infiniz vendront à la contrée, tant en occasions comme en diverses destructions. Mais neantmoins le detestable tirant ou detestables tirans qui ce font, ont fait ou pourroient faire par leur tresgrant cruaulté ameroient mieulx que tout le monde fust periz et euxl ceulz demourassent que eulx desister de leurs oultrages ne humilier leurs courages à reconnoistre leur tort, n’à eulx amender ne faire satisfaction à ceulx qu’ilz avoient offencé n’en faire paix. Ains toujours maintendront leur tort de pis en pis. fouléz, leurs terres destruiées et desertes, villes et chastiaulx trebuchiéz par divers ennemis, ne voudra estre repris ne de nul contredit sur peine de mort. Et, à brief dire, ne craindra Dieu ne sa pugnicion pour chose que il face. O! mes de telz et de leur trebuchement parla bien Salemon es Proverbes en la personne de Notre Seigneur quant il dit: Vous avez desprisié conseil et n’avez voulu estre repris; si me riray de votre destruction [55b] et ne tendray compte de vous quant soudaine misere vous vendra. Et ainsi sera cruel en toutes choses le mauvais prince, dont de telz Dieu nous gart, plain de sang et de vengence, pour lesqueles orribles taches mettre à effect sourdront et courront maulx infinis à lui et à sa contrée, mais neantmoins, tant sera obstiné et affichiéz en mal que ses meismes maulx ne les autrui ne pesera. O! comment un tel est bien contraire le sentence de Brutus le Constant qui dist que un prince doit connoistre que la vie est ainsi comme ou millieu du monde, et qu’il n’est pas néz ne ordonné à estre seigneur pour lui, mais est establi pour le bien d’un chacun. Et comme de rechief, dist Saluste, au propos de marins, que homme qui est eslevée en puissance, si que seigneurs sont, se doit par vertu toujours montrer digne de plus gran dignité qu’il n’a, qui est à entendre que les vertus de prince doivent surmonter toute puisance. Mais au propos contre le mauvais prince ou princes, n’est pas doube que ainsi comme [55c] les vertus tiennent le roy aimié ou pais en longue durée
et le corage du seigneur en seureté; les vices, par crainte, portent le cour-
age du mauvais prince, auquel propos dist Orace: Comment pourra mengier
aise les chieres et delicatives viandes à sa table le mauvais à qui le glaive pent
sur la teste à un petit filet, qui est à entendre que la pugnicion de Nos-
tre Seigneur puett venir soudainem-
ment sur le mauvais. [marginal
addition introduced into the text
by a cross; erasure]

Reading these two passages, one can easily sense the difference in tone that results from the two states of the text. While P offers a bitter criticism of a cruel and untrustworthy tyrant, by omitting this long digression B dilutes these reproaches. The personal attack transforms into a universal condemnation of evil princes, upheld by recourse to classical authorities and the threat of divine vengeance.

In the following chapter, which begins “encore de mauvais seigneur, du grief qu’il fait et du mal qu’en vient,” there is another passage that contributes to this same difference in tone. On folio 74v P offers a strong justification for rebelling against and even killing a tyrant, with “je demande si le peuple et toutes gens se rebelloient contre ung tel seigneur et le defficent non pas seulament de sa seigneurie mais du siecle, quel merueille?” In B there is an erasure after “un tel seigneur” and the rest of the passage is replaced with “veu que tant se sentiroient oppresséz et si comme en extreme necessité, se merveilles seroit.”

Unfortunately, this divergence in the manuscripts does not allow us to determine which is closer to the original. In fact, as Gilbert Ouy has underlined, the corrections made to one manuscript were not always registered on the exemplar(s), the base text that was used to copy further examples of the work.19 In the present case Christine could have introduced these alterations

medievali: Problemi paleografici e filologici: Atti del convegno di studio della Fondazione Ezio Franceschini,
Erice, 25 settembre–2 ottobre 1990, ed. P. Chiesa and L. Pinelli (Spoletto: Centro italiano di studi
sull’alto medioevo, 1994), 269–305.
directly into B without importing them into her original copy, which one assumes was kept by authors in their scriptorium. This would explain the absence of the amendment in P.

Despite the fact that we are dealing with an autograph manuscript, no details of the heraldry or binding allow us to identify it with the volume that, according to the dedication of the work, was in all probability offered by Christine to Louis of Guyenne. Not only do we not possess any inventory of the library of this prince, who died prematurely in 1415, and which might attest to the provenance of the Brussels manuscript, the binding provides no clues, contrary to what was thought by Willard.20 The presence of the fleur-de-lys on the binding gives no indication as to the origin of the codex, given that this binding is different from, and hence posterior to, the binding described in the inventory of 1467. Furthermore, a close examination of the outer covers suggests that they have been recovered with an old, cold-stamped binding in brown leather, of a geometrical design, during one of the phases of restoration that intervened in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.21

It is significant, moreover, that Christine offered a copy of the Livre de paix to John of Berry. We find a description of it in the inventory of his library drawn up in 1416: “1239. Item, ung autre livre qui est intitulé: le Livre de la paix, escript en françoys, de lettre de court; et au commancement du second fueillet après la première ystoire a escript: et loisibles; couvert de cuir vermeil empraint, à deux fermoiers de latton, de cinq gros boîl- lons de mesmes sur chacune aiz; lequel livre daïmoiselle Cristine de Pizan donna à mondit Seigneur ausdictes estrainnes mil quatre cens et treize [1414 n. st.].”22 While it is true that, like B, John of Berry’s manuscript begins with a miniature, B’s second page does not begin with “et loisibles” but with “haine qui de toutes pars.” Therefore, B cannot be identified as having belonged to the duke John of Berry.

In general, B shows all the characteristics of the precious volumes conserved in the libraries of nobles of the time and executed for them by Christine de Pizan. To wit, the manuscript is written on parchment, it opens

20. Paix (Willard, 47).
21. The binding could be dated to the beginning of the sixteenth century and approaches the Lille bindings of Gohon. See Marc Gil, “Le métier de relieur à Lille (v. 1400–1550), suivi d’une prosopographie des artisans du livre lillois,” Bulletin du bibliophile (2002): 7–45. We thank Mme Lieve Watteuw, restorer and consultant to the manuscript department of the Bibliothèque royale de Belgique, for her observations on the binding of the manuscript.
with a miniature (fol. 3r) depicting Christine wearing a blue dress, occupied in writing her *Livre de paix* in her study. It is decorated with colored initials, some of which have long marginal extensions decorated with vine leaves; and as well as the rubrics that signal the commencement of the parts and each chapter, the text is also divided by colored and gold parahs. Apart from the decoration and despite the silence of the inventories, the textual alterations outlined above offer some paths for reflection. We know for certain that Christine revised some of her texts in the light of historical events and made modifications that took into account the contemporary reestablishment of alliances and the particular people for whom a copy was destined. In the case of B, her desire to suppress the personal references to tyrannical acts leaves one to suppose that she intended this copy for an influential person involved with the incessant conflicts that punctuated contemporary political life—someone, perhaps, who had in the past committed violent acts, such as the assassination of Louis of Orléans? While the copies destined for Louis of Guyenne and John of Berry could contain a diatribe against the execrable acts of a detestable tyrant, a copy destined for John the Fearless (or for that matter his son) would have to be more evasive and moralistic.

**Paris, Bibliothèque nationale de France, ms fr. 1182 (ff. 3r–128v)**

Unlike the manuscript in Brussels, the text of the *Livre de paix* in the Bibliothèque nationale de France is not contemporary with Christine de Pizan and survives with three other texts with which it probably shares some relationship of provenance and ownership. The three other texts are: ff. 136r–169r: Jacques le Grand, *Livre des bonnes meurs*; ff. 169v–170v: Bernard of

---

23. According to the observations of Millard Meiss, this miniature should in all likelihood be attributed to the “Master of Christine de Pizan” who executed the miniatures in the greater part of the manuscripts offered by Christine to Jean, duke of Berry; see Millard Meiss, “The Exhibition of French Manuscripts of the xiii–xvi Centuries at the Bibliothèque Nationale,” *Art Bulletin* 38 (1956): 193.


25. It goes without saying that the opportunity of examining the copy currently in a private collection would enable us to obtain a better understanding of the development of the text.

Clairvaux, Letter to Raymond of Amboise:27 ff. 173r–254r: Christine de Pizan, 
*Livre de la cité des dames.* It is not, however, copied by the same scribe who 
transcribed the other texts in the Paris codex. Furthermore, these three other 
texts share similar marginal decoration, which is absent in the *Livre de paix.* 
Christine’s text is bare of any decoration other than a small half-page mini-
ture on folio 6r and some plain letters alternating in red and blue.

The four texts found in the manuscript fr. 1182 all carry traces of a coat of 
arms (five lozenges in gules in the shape of a cross on a silver background), 
which tends to imply the same provenance, or at least a desire to unify two 
initially distinct entities under one ownership. It appears indeed that during 
the eighteenth century the two parts—the *Livre de paix* and the three other 
works—were joined together in an artificial unity: the conscious unification 
of the two parts can be corroborated by a number of indicative features. For 
instance, each text (except the letter of St. Bernard) is preceded by a biling-
gual Latin-French introduction.28 These descriptions have been recopied, 
in the same hand, in the detailed table of contents with which the codex 
begins.29 This same hand has also numbered the folios of the manuscript in 
ink from 1 to 254. The coat of arms (five lozenges in gules in the shape of a 
cross on a silver background) is that of the family d’Arletan, originally from 
Arles in the south of France. An analysis of the paper confirms this identi-
fication, for it is attested in the region of Bouches-du-Rhône (Draguignan, 
Perpignan, etc.).

Despite the fact that the coat of arms appears throughout the manuscript 
and is identical each time (fols. 5v, 136r, 163v, 169v, 204v), its history suggests 
that its eighteenth-century owner united two volumes that derived from the 
same library. More specifically, two shelf marks, “‘Codex Colbert 1742’” and 
“‘Regius 7398 2–2’” on folio 2r of the *Livre de paix* suggest that the codex 
was initially acquired by Colbert and became part of the Cabinet des Manu-
scrits at the Bibliothèque Royale in 1732 at the time of the acquisition of his 
library.30 We know that Colbert set out to collect manuscripts from across

27. Letter 456 to Raymond of Amboise, among the letters of Bernard of Clairvaux in the Mabil-
lon edition, reprinted in pl. 182, 647–54, but Jean Leclercq does not include it in *Sancti Bernardi 
Opera,* ed. Jean Leclercq, 8 vols. (Rome: Editiones Cistercienses, 1957–80), claiming it is attributed 
to Bernard Sylvester.

28. For example, for the *Livre de paix:* “Liber de Pace, etc.” (fol. 2r); for the *Livre des bonnes mœurs: 
“Liber des moribus, etc.”* (fol. 135v); for the *Livre de la cité des dames,* the French precedes the Latin: 
“Livre de la cité des dames, etc.” (fol. 172r).

29. Fol. 1r: “Pièces contenus en ce volume, etc.”

30. Léopold Delisle, *Le Cabinet des manuscrits de la Bibliothèque impériale* 
(Paris: Imprimerie impériale, 1868–81), 1:439. The stamps seen at folios 1 and 254v corroborate this dating, given that
France, and it is not improbable that, the works having been acquired as a result of an expedition to the south of France, two volumes from the library of the d’Arletans were united in an artificial collection by Colbert.

It was perhaps the presence of the *Livre de la cité des dames* that encouraged him to conjoin the first three works with the *Livre de paix* by the same author; added to which, as the table of contents specifies, the *Livre des bonnes meurs* was thought to be translated from Latin by Christine de Pizan. Furthermore, it is interesting to note that one of the copyists associated with the workshop of Christine de Pizan, the copyist R, also transcribed a copy of the *Arthiloge Sophie* by the same Jacques Legrand, which is now Paris, BNF fr. 24232. The *Livre de bonne meurs* was, moreover, dedicated to John of Berry.

It is worth adding that in the manuscript London, BL, Royal 17.E.IV, which once belonged to Edward IV, this same letter attributed to St. Bernard is bound with the *Métamorphoses* of Ovid and the *Epistre Othea* by Christine de Pizan. Significantly, in these two manuscripts containing the letter attributed St. Bernard, one in Paris the other in London, intertextualities tie the historico-mythological and ethical works of Christine to the other works collected together with them.

While the Paris manuscript is not contemporary with the author, the divergences between it and the codex in Brussels warrant some explanation. Importantly, while the Brussels manuscript represents Christine at work in her study, the Paris manuscript opens, after the table of contents, with a dedication scene in which one sees Christine offering her work to Louis of Guyenne, as one can judge from the emblematic dolphin on the dais shading the prince. It is interesting to note that, in a similar fashion, the manuscript described by Willard, and now in a private collection, also begins with a miniature of presentation showing the author dedicating her work (fol. 1).

This characteristic seems to me to be fairly important, suggesting a common origin for the two manuscripts, which may both have been derived from the base manuscript offered to the dauphin. That is, if one assumes that

---


33. It should be noted that the manuscript has lost two folios that ought to contain the table of contents for the first part. Willard, “An Unknown Manuscript,” 90.
the coat of arms found in the initial of the first folio of the manuscript in a private collection has not been painted over an original (after the acquisition of the volume by the Créquy family), in which case the manuscript could be that offered to Louis of Guyenne. These questions, unhappily, will not be able to be resolved until it is possible to access the manuscript in a private collection.

In conclusion, it is clear that both the volume preserved in Brussels and the one in a private collection as well as the later copy from the second half of the fifteenth century attest to the importance of Christine de Pizan for both the ideological and literary history of her time. And as Charity Cannon Willard has emphasized: “It was Christine’s hope, expressed on a number of occasions, that after her death her writings would continue to be read and her name remembered through them. This desire, of itself, would be sufficient to mark her as at least a precursor of the Renaissance in the North.” 34