PART B: DIALOGUES

[1. Salutations]

- [fol. 7v] Sir, bon jour.
- Sir, bon jour a vous, ou: Bon jour a vous doigne Dieu.
- Sir, bon matyne.
- Sir, bon matyne a vous.
- Sir, Dieu vous save.
- Et vous auxi.
- Sir, Dieu vous benoie.
- Sir, a Dieu soiez.
- Sir, Dieu vous doigne bon vie et leoine.
- Sir, Dieu vous doigne bon sainté et bon joie.
- Sir, Dieu vous garde.
- Sir, et vous auxi.

Et après manger, vous dirrez ainsi:
- Sir, bonez veprez, ou: Bon seore.
- Sir, bon seore a vous.
- Sir, bon noet.
- Sir, bon noet a vous doigne esti et bon repos.
- Sir, reposez bien.
- Sir, vous estez bien venu.
- Sir, Dieu vous avance.
- Sir, vostre mercie.
- Sir, Dieu vous esployt.
- Sir, Dieu soit ove vous.

- Sir, voilez vous manger ove nous?
- Nony, sir, certez j’ay mangé.
- Sir, bevez.
- Sir, commencez.
- Sir, pernez le hanap.
- Sir, nonpas devant vous, se vous plest.
- Par Dieu, si frez.
- Sir, grand mercye.
- Sir, proue vous face, ou: Si graunde proue le vous face.
PART B: DIALOGUES

I. Salutations

– Sir, good day.
– Sir, good day to you, or: May God give you good day.65
– Sir, good morning.
– Sir, good morning to you.
– Sir, may God save you.
– And you too.
– Sir, may God bless you.
– Sir, be with God.
– Sir, may God give you a good life and a long one.
– Sir, may God give you good health and much joy.
– Sir, may God keep you.
– Sir, and you too.

And after eating, you will say thus:66

– Sir, good vespers, or: Good evening.
– Sir, good evening to you.
– Sir, good night.
– Sir, may He give you good night and good rest.
– Sir, rest well.
– Sir, you are welcome.
– Sir, may God speed you.
– Sir, thank you.
– Sir, may God help you.
– Sir, God be with you.

– Sir, will you eat with us?
– No, sir, really, I've already eaten.
– Sir, drink.
– Sir, begin.
– Sir, raise your cup.
– Sir, not before you, please.
– By God, you shall.
– Sir, many thanks.
– Sir, cheers! Or: Here's to your health!67
[2. News from France]

– Ore, sir, dez queux partiez venez vous?
– Sir, je veigne dez partiez de Fraunce.
– Sir, quellez novelx de par dela?
– Sir, nostre seignour le Roy [est] en bon point,xxii loié soit Dieu, ovesque tout sa company es lez partiez dez Normandye. Et il est en bon point lui mesme, meas plusieurs dez sez gentz sont maladez et bealcope d’eaux sont mortz. Et enoultre, le Roy arriva illeques pres la ville de Harflu et avoit mys un grande seige sur ladit ville ovesque le nombre de xl. mile persons, et ore parmy la grace de Dieu il a conquis ladit ville et il est remené de ladit ville et seige et soy purpose pur aler vers Calis parmy la terre de Fraunce, et adonquez [fol. 8r] de illeques de retorner an Angletere par la grace de Dieu.

Et puis j’ay oie dire qu’ore tarde que lez seignours de Fraunce ovesque le nombre de .l. ou .lx. mile persons armés ont encuentrez le roy par la haut chymyne et le Roy ove le nombre de .x. mile persons a combatu ovesque eux a un lieu appellé Agincourt a quy bataille y sont prisez et tuez. .xi. mile persons dez Frauncez. Et sont tuez des Engloiez forsqe .xvi. persons dont le duk de Wervic estoit un et le count de Suffolke un autre, et le Roy avoit le champe et la victorie, loié soit Dieu, et myst toutz lez autres Fraunceis a fuuer.

Et issint le Roy tient son chymyne vers Calis et soy purpose de returner en Engletere par la grace de Dieu. Et enoultre, sir, je vous dye pur certeyn que lez seignours quy furent prisez a ladit bataille, c’estassavoir le duk d’Orlians, le duk de Burbayn et plusieurs autres countez, chivalers et esquiers vaalantz, si bien d’autres estrangez terrez come de Fraunce, serrent amenez le joefdy procheyn aprés le fest de seint Martyne envers Loundres. Et ils sont arrivez a Dovere et toutz lez gentz de Kent et d’Essex serront sufficiant moustrez en loure meiloure araie par la haute chymyne entre Canturbery et Londrez. Et auxi lez gentz de Londrez bien armez et araiez eux moustrentxxiii sur le Blachethe pur encourtrier lezdzit Fraunceis afyn q’ils purront veier quelle peple [fol. 8v] sont lessez derere le Roy en Engletere pur la savegarde de mesme la royalme.

[3. En route to London]

– Sir, ou pensez vous chivachere a nut?
– Sir, a la procheyne ville, se Dieu plest.
– Sir, qu’est appellé la procheyne ville?
– Sir, ele est appellé Loundrez.
– Verayment, d’ycelle ville j’ay oye parler graund bien et de mult gent. Sir, combien loigne de cy est ycelle ville, je vous prie?
– Sir, nous avons bien .x. leucez illeoquez unquore.
– Ore, sir, lessons chivacher ensemble, je vous prie, quar je pense chivacher ou aler a mesme la ville ove l’eide de Dieu, mez je ne cony pas le chymyne et se me voilez l’enseigner, j’estoie graundment tenus a vous.
2. News from France

- Now, sir, from what parts do you come?
- Sir, I come from French parts.
- Sir, what news from there?
- Sir, our lord the king is in good health—God be praised!—as are all his company in Norman parts. And he is in good health himself, but several of his people are ill and many of them have died. And what’s more, the king arrived there near the town of Harfleur and had laid a great siege on the said town with the number of forty thousand people, and presently with the grace of God he conquered the said town and he turned back from the said town and siege, purposing to go towards Calais through the territory of France, and then from there to return to England by the grace of God.

And then I’ve heard say that before long the lords of France together with armed men to the number of fifty or sixty thousand met the king on the high road and the king together with men to the number of ten thousand fought with them at a place called Agincourt at which battle there were taken and killed eleven thousand men on the French side. And just sixteen men on the English side were killed, of whom the duke of Warwick was one and the count of Suffolk another,70 and the king won the field and the victory—God be praised!—and put all the other Frenchmen to flight.

And so the king is making his way towards Calais, purposing to return to England by the grace of God. And what’s more, sir, I tell you certainly that the lords who were taken at the said battle, that is to say the duke of Orleans, the duke of Bourbon, and several other counts, knights, and worthy squires,71 from other foreign lands as well as from France, will be led next Thursday after the feast of saint Martin towards London. And they have already arrived at Dover and all the people of Kent and Essex will be worthily on show in their best array along the high road between Canterbury and London. And also the people of London, well armed and arrayed, will muster on Blackheath to meet the said Frenchmen so that they can see what people are likewise left behind the king of England for the safekeeping of the kingdom.

3. En route to London

- Sir, where are you planning on riding to tonight?
- Sir, to the next town, God willing.
- Sir, what’s the next town called?
- Sir, it is called London.72
- Indeed, I’ve heard many people speak much good of that town. Sir, how far from here is that town, I beg you?
- Sir, we still have a good ten leagues until we’re there.
- Now then, sir, let’s ride together, I beg you, for I intend to ride or to walk to the same town with God’s help, but I don’t know the route and if you’ll show it to me, I would be most indebted to you.
Sir, par ma fay, volentrez, et je su tres lez de vostre company, mez je me doubte que je ne puisse mye vous suer, quar je su en partie maladie et non pas tout garrie unquore, et mon chyval est laas et cloié devant et derere; son dos auxi de la selle est blessé et l’un oile este ousté, mez unquore il n’est pas avoigle, et quant il vient a un fosse profunde, donque moy covient lui portere, quar il ne poet mye sez jambez hors de la tay lever. 

Donque, sir, alons ensemble en noun de Dieu et nous y viendrons a ladit ville en bon tens par le haut soloile, se Dieu plest.

Ore, sir, ou serrons loggez quant nous veignons la?

Sir, a la Molyn sur le Hope en le haut rieu est le meilour hostelle d’icelle ville, come je suppose, quar nous y arons bon chere et vitaile assez pur hommez et chivalx et de bon merché.

[4. Securing lodging; provisions for horses]

Hostiler, hostiler.

Sir, sir, je su cy.

Purrons nous bien estre loggez ciens?

Oy, certez, mez maistrez, vous estez tres bien venuz trestoutz. Combien estez vous en nombre?

Mon amy, nous ne sumes yci a present forsque sis companons et trois garcions ovesque noef chivalx, mez y sont plousours de nous companons derere.

Sir, vous serrez loggez ciens bien assez toutz se vous eussez centz chivalx.

Sir, ont vous chivalx beu?

Non pas unquor, quar ils sont trop chaudez pur boire pur ce que nous avons chivaché fort de Rouchestre tanque en cea et auxi nous estoins pursuez ove laron yci sur le Blachethe et se nous chivalx n’eussent esté meilours et la grace de Dieu nous eust eídé, nous n’eussons mye eschapez suanz robber. Mez loié soit Dieu que nous ore sumes yci en saveté, quar nous y avoions graund pauore.

Et pur ce lessez nous garcions amener nous chivalx sus et jus en le rieu entanque ils soient enfroidez et puis lez ewar et laver bien profunde issint que lez estruez et lez senglez soient nettéz, savant lez sellez ove lez harneys seccez. Et puis regardez que nous eions un bon estable chaude et bien littré, tanque a le ventre de le chival, quare le tens froide et auxi mettez voaddez de paille seccez desoubz lour senglez et frottez bien lour jambez issint q’ils ne soient mye drachez. Et puis lour donez provendre assez a chescun chival, deux botelx de fyne et un darrayn de payne.

Hostiler!

Sir!

Coment vendez vous de l’aveyn?

Sir, pur quater deners le busshelle.

Verayment, c’est bon merché.
Sir, by my faith, with pleasure, I am very glad of your company, but I’m not sure I can keep up with you, for I’ve been a bit unwell and haven’t quite recovered yet, and my horse is tired and cloyed at the front and the back; also his back has been injured by the saddle and he’s missing an eye—but he’s not blind yet—and when he comes to a deep ditch, then I’m forced to carry him, for he can’t get his legs out of the mud.

In that case, sir, let’s walk together, in the name of God, and we’ll come to the said town in good time while the sun’s up high, God willing.

Now, sir, where will we be lodged when we come there?

Sir, the best inn in that town is at the Molyn sur le Hope in the high street, by my reckoning, for we’ll get a good meal there and food enough for the men and the horses, and at a good price.

4. Securing lodging; provisions for horses

Innkeeper! Innkeeper!

Sir, sir, I’m here!

May we take lodging here?

Yes, certainly, my masters, you are very welcome all of you. How many are you in number?

My friend, we are presently just six companions and three boys, with nine horses, but several of our companions are coming up behind.

Sir, all of you’d be well enough lodged in this house if you had a hundred horses.

Sir, have your horses drunk?

No, not yet, for they’re too hot to drink because we’ve ridden hard from Rochester to here and also we were pursued here by thieves on Blackheath and if our horses hadn’t been of the better sort and the grace of God hadn’t helped us, we wouldn’t have escaped without being robbed. But—God be praised!—we’re here now in safety, for we were very afraid back there.

And so let our boys lead our horses up and down in the street until they’ve cooled down and then water and wash them thoroughly so that the stirrups and the straps are cleaned, keeping the saddles with the harnesses dry on one side. And then see that we have a good, warm stable with a good litter of straw up to the horses’ bellies, for the weather is growing cold, and also put wads of dry straw under their harnesses and rub their legs well so that they don’t become scaly. And then give provender enough to each horse, two small bales of hay, and a crust of bread.

Innkeeper!

Sir!

How much do you sell wheat for?

Sir, four pennies a bushel.

Really, that’s good value.
[5. A conversation with the lady of the house]

– Ore, ou est la dame de ciens?
– Sir, elle viendra tantost. Elle est ovesque [une] commere\textsuperscript{xxx} et ne demurra gueirez.
– Dame, bon seor.
– Sir, vous estez tresbien venuz. Sir, coment a vous est, et coment avez vous valu depuis que vous fuistez darraiment ycy?
– Dame, bien! Et coment valoit vostre marite et tout vostre mesnage?
– Sir, bien, loiez soit Dieu, et le meulx pur vous, graund mercye. Sir, vuillez vous approcher a la sale ou vuillez mounter a la chambur?
– Nonil, dame, nous voilons prendre nostre chambyr par tens. Et voillez vous nous faire avoir un bon feu en le chymney pur nous rechauffer. Et bailez a nous de vostre payne et un hanape de servoise pur nous rehaiter, quar nous sumes moilez et laas et nous avons chivachez a jour de hui .xl. leucez et plus.
– Par ma fay, sir, c’est graund travaile pur vous qu’estez veilez et maladez, mez je vous promitte que vous arez la meilour servoise cyens qu’est en cest ville, et vous beverez de mesme la pot que nostre sir beveroit s’il fuist a l’ostel, quar je luy mettray a broche pur l’amour de vous. Et se vous vuillez boire de vyne, j’envoieray a un taverne joust le quatrefaukezz\textsuperscript{xxxi} lou est un pipe de bon vyne vermaile novelment au broche, et a Corne sur le Hope vous arés de bon malvesey, romeney, osey, tyre, vyne ecreett,\textsuperscript{xxxi} vernage, ypocras, et vyne blanc.
– Ore, beal dame, qu’arons a soper?
– Sir, vous arés a soper viaunde assez. Mez ditez a moy se vous voilez aver vostre viaunde apparaillé ciens ou a la cuez?
– Nony, dame, en vostre cusyn de mesme\textsuperscript{xxxii} ou autrement en le chymeney devant nous.\textsuperscript{f.10r}\textsuperscript{xxxiv}
– Sir, quelle manere de viaunde aymez vous meulx?
– Dame, faitez nous avoir dez meillours vitaillez que vous avez ou que vous purrez [t]rover a vendre.
– Dame, graund mercie de vostre soper, mez de nostre lit lessons parler et de nostre dyner demayn a matyne, e puis nous irrons nostre chymyne.
– Sir, vostre lit serra fait bien tost et bealment pur vous coucher et dormer en ycelle saunz soungez et [to]rment. Dez pilouez ou orilers, dez plumez et lynceux blancz, materaszzez, covrelitez et blankettez; curteynez, testers et cilours vous y arez tout entour.
– Ore, dame, graund mercie de vostre beal chier. Pernez le hanape [et b]evez le vyne clere, quar ove vostre congé nous vaillons\textsuperscript{xxx} dormer. Appellez le hostiler pur ov nous counter\textsuperscript{xxxvi} combien nous paierons pur nous chivalx et nostre soper.
5. A conversation with the lady of the house

- Now, where is the lady of the house?
- Sir, she’ll come right away. She is with a girlfriend and won’t be a moment.
- Madam, good evening.
- Sir, you are most welcome. Sir, how are you, and how have you fared since you were last here?
- Madam, well! And how has your husband been, and all your household?
- Sir, well, God be praised! And the better for seeing you, thanks be! Sir, would you like to come to the hall or would you like to go up to your room?
- No, madam. We’d like to go up to our room shortly. And please provide us with a good fire in the hearth to warm us up. And give us some of your bread and a cup of ale to cheer us up, for we’re wet through and tired and we’ve ridden sixty leagues today and more.
- By my faith, sir, that’s a long journey for you who are old and ill, but I promise that you will have the town’s best ale in this house, and you’ll drink from the same jug that our lord would drink from if he were at the inn, because I’ll tap it just because I like you. And if you want to drink wine, I’ll send to a tavern next to the crossroads where there is a pipe of good red wine just broached, and from the Corne sur le Hope you’ll have good malmsey, romeny, osey, tyr, Cretian wine, vernage, hypocras, and white wine.
- Now, good woman, what will we have for supper?
- Sir, you will have enough food. But tell me if you will have your food prepared here or in the public kitchens?
- No, madam, in your own kitchen or otherwise in the hearth in front of us.
- Sir, what manner of food do you like best?
- Madam, give us the best victuals that you have or that you can find for sale.
- Sir, I have in house good chickens, capons, hens, pigeons, geese, young and fat pigs, partridges, plovers and other birds little and large, herons, pheasants and cocks of the wood or woodcocks, larks and starlings, cranes too and thrushes and other wild birds. I won’t be lacking in anything: swans, mallards, doves, I have plenty of pears and apples, you won’t lack cheese and nuts and then eggs, a good candle, and a beautiful young girl in your bed!
- Madam, many thanks for your supper. But let’s talk about our bed and our breakfast for tomorrow morning and then we’ll be on our way.
- Sir, your bed will be made speedily and beautifully for you to lie down and sleep in it without cares and trouble. Pillows and cushions, feathers and white sheets, mattresses, coverlets and blankets; you’ll have curtains, hangings at the bedhead, and canopies all around.
- Now, madam, many thanks for your fair welcome. Raise your cup and drink this clear wine, for with your leave we’ll go to sleep. Call the innkeeper to reckon up with us how much we’ll pay for our horses and our supper.
[6. Further provisions for horses]
- Hostiler!
- Sir?
- Sont nous chivalx apparailez pur tout la nut?
- Sir; non pas unquore. Mez lessez vostre garcion venir et dire que provendre ils aront.
- Johan!
- Maistre, que vuillez vous?
- As tu sopé?
- Oy, sir!
- Tien le hanape et bevez un fois, mez ne bevez my[e] trop haut [fol.10v] pur doubt que tu soiez iver, et puis va a la stable et oustez lez sellez de lez chivalx et eux corriez et frottez bien lour jambez. Auxi cerchez lour peez et lez stoppez de coyn, et pernez de grece et bon servoise et lez boillez ensemble et lavez ove ycelle toutz lour jambez, et auxi pernez de ceef et lyne et lez friez en un payle veile de fere ou d’erasme et stoppez lez peez de chival gris qu’estoit cloié. Et puis lour donez de provendre assez, cestassavoir a chescun chival un peek d’aveyn et plus de payne se vous veiez que boisoigne soit. Et demayn levez bien matyne et appellez un ferroure, le meilleur que purra estre trové a la ville, et lessez lui ferrer le chival blanc, le chival noir, le chival sore et lez autres hakeneis environ. Et, Johan, je toy promitte verament, se ceste chose ne soit mye fait come je toy ay dit, ou se je trove ascune defaute en ta persone, je toy ffray coruscere issint que tu comparrez grevoisment!

[7. Paying the bill]
- Hostiler!
- Sir!
- Bailez cea dez gettours et lessons counter combien nous avons a la chambre et combien a la stable.
- Sir; j’ay counté ovesque vostre vadlet, Guilliam, en la presence de Sir Huge, vostre chapeloyn.
- Bien, de cella je su content. Tien ta mayne et pernez l’argent. Combien amount trestout a compte?
- Sir; il este amounté [a] 5s et 1d meins. xxxviii
- Ore appelez la dame et emplez le hanape et bailez nous a boire. Et faitez nous avoir lez pomez rostez et mestez de payn tosté a le feu, que fra le beverache plus freske. Dame, [fol. 11r] bevez!
- Sir:
- Commencez, dame, pernez vostre hanape, par Dieu.
- Sir; non pas devant vous, se vous plest.
6. *Further provisions for horses*

- Innkeeper!
- Sir?
- Are our horses ready to see the night through?
- Sir, not yet. But let your boy come and say that they should have provender.
- Johan!
- What do you want, master?
- Have you eaten supper?
- Yes, sir!
- Take a cup and drink a draft but don’t drink too deeply in case you get drunk, and then go to the stable and take the saddles off the horses and curry them and rub their legs well. Check their feet too and plug them with straw, and take grease and good beer and boil them up together and wash their legs from top to bottom with the mixture, and also take suet and flax and rub them together in an old pot of iron or brass and plug the feet of the gray horse who was cloyed. And then give them enough provender, that is to say to each horse a peck of wheat and some bread too if you see that need be. And tomorrow get up early in the morning and call a blacksmith, the best that can be found in the town, and have him shoe the white horse, the black horse, the sorrel horse, and the other hackneys with them. And, Johan, I promise you truly, if this thing isn’t done as I’ve told you, or if there’s any fault to be found in you, I’ll have you punished so hard that you’ll pay it dearly!

7. *Paying the bill*

- Innkeeper!
- Sir!
- Give some counters here and let’s reckon up how much we owe for the room and the stable.
- Sir, I’ve reckoned up with your valet, Guillian, in the presence of Sir Huge, your chaplain.
- Well, that’s good enough for me. Hold out your hand and take the money. How much does the bill come to in total?
- It comes to five shillings less one penny.
- Now, call the lady of the house and fill the cups and give us something to drink. And let us have roasted apples and serve bread toasted at the fire, which will make the beverage all the fresher. Madam, drink!
- Sir.
- Start, madam. Raise your cup, by God.
- Sir, no. Not before you, please.
Qu’arons demayn a nostre dyner?
— Sir, vous arez viaunde assez, coîtez, rostez et pestez. Mez ditez a moy vostre volonté, que vous ameroiez meulx.
— Dame, faitez nous aver braun de sengler ove le musterdé, et bonez joutez ovesque boeï, moton et porke boilez, et ceo sufficera pur homez travailantz.

[8. The market at Winchester]
— Dame, ou est vostre marit?
— Par Dieu, sir, il est alé a la feire d’un ville qu’est x leucez de cy appellé Wynchestre.
— Dame, quelez marchaundez voet il vendre ou acheter illoquez?
— Sir, il a la pur vendre boeïs, vaccez, bovettiez, velez, tourëz eînez et jousnez, porkz, senglers, troież, chivalx, jumettez, pullaynez, berbez, motons et mereberbez, toupez, agnelx, kedeaux, cheverelx, asneis, mules et autrez bestez ou averez.

Et a auxi la pur vendre xx. sakkez, .iii. toddez, .iiii. perez et .v. clovez de layne; .ii. centz peaux lanitz,xxx .xiii. drapez longes et largez, .x. douszeins de melleiez d’Oxonford, .xx. kerseyz d’Abyndon, .x. blanketez de Whitenev, .vi. rougez de Chastelcombe, .iii. russetez de Colchester, scarletz, bloieuz ou perz salestenz, plunketz sanguynz et violettez en greynez raiez, motleiez de Salsubyry, et autres divers colours de plusieurs sortez pur faire lyvereis si bien as seignours, abbees et priours com as autres gentils du pais.

Il a auxi la de layne, toille, canabas ou cambre, cordez, savon, oele, fer, pevre, zingebre et autres espicerye et mercerye a taunt comne lui costa .c. liverez.

[9. A mother’s request for help]
— Sir, je vous prie, ou pensez vous chivacher ore de cy?
— Dame, droit a Loundrez se Dieu plest.
— Sir, d’un chose je vous prioray, se j’osasse, ou fusses si hardy.
— Dame, pur l’amour de vostre maistre et vous auxi je fray ce que je purray, savant mon estate, a vostre plesier.
— Sir, graund mercy et j’ay icy un fitz de l’age de .xii. ans et solonc vostre avise c’est la volonté de mon maistre et moy auxi pur lui estover a un bon homme de mester en Loundrez lou il purroit bien estre enseigné et governé en le manere d’apprentise illoques.
— Dame, appellez l’enfant et lessez me lui veier.
— Mon fitz, avez vous esté a l’escole?
— Oy, sir, pur vostre congé.
— A quele lieu?
— Sir, a l’ostelle de Guilliam Scrivener.
— Beal fitz, qu’avez vous apris la en ycelle terme?
What will we have tomorrow for our dinner?
- Sir, you will have enough meat, cooked, roasted, and ground. But tell me what you want, what you would prefer.
- Madam, let us have a cut of wild boar with mustard, and a good vegetable soup with beef, mutton, and boiled pork, and that will be enough for travelling men.98

8. The market at Winchester
- Madam, where is your husband?
- By God, sir, he has gone to the fair at a town that is ten leagues from here called Winchester.99
- Madam, what merchandise does he want to sell or buy there?
- Sir, he has for sale oxen, cows, bullocks, calves, old and young bulls, pigs, wild boars, sows, horses, mares, foals, sheep, male sheep and mother sheep, rams, lambs, goats, roe-bucks, asses, mules, and other livestock and goods.

And he also has for sale twenty sacks, three toddes, four stones, and five cloves of wool; two hundred fleeces, fourteen bolts of long and large woollen cloth, ten kerseys of Oxford mix, twenty Abingdon kerseys, ten Witney blankets, six bolts of Castlecombe red cloth, four bolts of fine Colchester russet cloth, scarlet, blue, or sky-blue cloth, blood-red and fast-dyed and striped violet plunkets, variegated Salisbury cloth, and cloths in various other colours of many sorts to make livery as well for lords, abbots, and priors as for other nobles in the land.

He also has flax, linen, canvas or cambric, ropes, soap, oil, iron, pepper, ginger, and other spices and wares—so many that they cost him one hundred pounds.

9. A mother’s request for help
- Sir, I beg you, where do you intend to ride now from here?
- Madam, straight to London, god willing.
- Sir, there's something that I would ask of you, if I dared or if I was so bold.
- Madam, for the love of both you and your master I will try to do what I can to please you, as far as my standing permits.
- Sir, many thanks. I have here a twelve-year-old son and if you agree it's both my master's and my own wish to find him a good professional man in London with whom he could be well taught and directed as an apprentice there.
- Madam, call the child and let me see him.
- My son, have you been to school?
- Yes, sir, by your leave.
- In what place?
- Sir, at the house of Guilliam Scrivener.
- Good son, what have you learned in that time?
Sir, mon maistre m’a enseigne pur escrier, enditer, counter et fraunceis parler.

Et que savez vous en fraunceis dire?

Sir, je sçai mon non et mon corps bien descrier.

Donque, ditz a moy qu’avez a noun?

Sir, j’ay a noun Johan, bon enfant, beal et sage et bien parlant englois, fraunceis et bon normandie.

[10. A would-be apprentice’s French]

Benoit soit la virge que chast l’enfant et le bon maistre que moy prist tant. Je prie a Dieu tout puissant nous graunt le joy tout dis durant.

Auxi, sir, j’estoie hier a le fest ovesque: mon chief, ou: mon teste, mes chiveux resersilez, le front devant, le colle derere, lez orelez, les oilez, le veu clere, lez paperez, lez sursilez, le noez, lez narez et le tiendroun, le bouche ove le pallet amont lez dentz, la lange, lez gyngyvez, lez faux qu’enclossen lez dentz enviroun et lez jouez et mentoun, lez liverez desus et desoubz, le hanapele ove lez templez et le cervelle, le fosslet, le gorge devant, le gargelet lou mon aleyne est passant. En my le teste est le grive, le kakenel derere, la visage devant de tout le teste. Je n’ay cure de remanent.

J’ay auxi le pis ove le pestryn, lez espaulez, blaseon et le chyne, ventre, os, doos, mamels, costez, coustez, umbil et le penyle et la peal dehors que covere le vit, lez collons, le cul, le char et tout le corps est en my lieu dencre mez braas, et j’ay lez coubtez sur queux je declyne quaunt je su laas; et parentre le coubte et la coue de ma mayn j’appelle un cubit en longure certeyn. Sur mez mayns j’ay diez, ove lez unglez d’eaux cresçantz, et la poyn que clos la mayn quant j’ay scié un poynon de blee dedeins la paum.

Et auxi dedeins le ventre j’ay le coer ove qy je pense de mon sen d’apprendre et faire bien, bouels, entrels, foy, esplen et renon, estomac, veinz et pulmon, reynez et punel dehors, feel dedeins et vescie. J’ay auxi lez jambez ov la ssure, quisseux et lez genulez, nagez et la forcheure, lez peeoz ov lez kevelez, lez urtils, la plant et le talon dont le fraunceis est comun.

Auxi, sir, j’ay drapez qu’appartinent a mon corps, dez linez et laynez, senglez, furrez et doublez dedeins et dehors, chausez, solers, botez ou hoseux et boteaux, chausemblez, espirons, chemise, brais et brael, cote, purpoint et kyrtil, surcote et mantel, tabarde, cloke, hopelond, chaperon, pilon, chapelet et autre garment ove manches longez, largez et bien tailez. Et, se mestre y soit, j’ay un coiffe, peigne et coverchief de soy, de file et de coton.

Mez je ne vuille mye obluer ma burse, mon aguler – et quant un femme serra enseintez, ele serra seygntee de bon seigntour; et s’il ne soit de soi, il serra de couyre – mon dage et mon cutel bien trenchant, la gayne, beal espeie et bokelere d’acer fyn ov beal forure et l’aniel novel, mez je voile my traire mon espeie hors de la forure saunz graund eie ove cause resonabil, quar l’em dit e seint escription: Cil quy coveite a fereire ovesque le espeie, par le espeie il serra feru.
Sir, my master has taught me to write, compose, calculate, and speak French.110

And what can you say in French?

Sir, I can say my name and describe my body properly.

So then, tell me: what is your name?

Sir my name is Johan. I’m a good child, handsome and well behaved, and I can speak English and French well, and good Norman.111

10. A would-be apprentice’s French

Blessed be the rod that chastises the child and the good master who prizes me so highly. I pray that God almighty grant us everlasting joy.

Also, sir, I was at the festival yesterday with: my head or: my crown112 my curly hair, my forehead at the front, my neck behind, the ears, the eyes, clear vision, the eyelids, the eyebrows, the nose, the nostrils and the septum, the mouth with the pallet above the teeth, the tongue, the gums, the throat113 that the teeth enclose round about and the cheeks and chin, the upper and lower lips, the skull with the temples and the brain, the hollow hole in the neck,114 the throat in front, the windpipe where my breath passes through. The parting is in the middle of my head, the back of the skull behind, the face in the front of the whole head. I don’t care about the rest.

I also have the chest with the breast, the shoulders, shoulder-blade and the spinal column,115 stomach, bones, back, breasts, sides, flanks, navel and the penis and the fore-skin that covers the prick, the balls, the arsehole, the flesh and the whole body is in the middle, behind my arms, and I have the elbows that I lean on when I am tired; and I call the space between the elbow and the tip of my hand a full cubit in length. On my hands I have ten fingers, with the nails that grow out of them, and the fist that closes the hand when I’ve reaped a handful of grain in my palm.

And also inside my body I have the heart with which I think using my capacity to learn and to do good, bowels, entrails, liver, spleen and kidney,116 stomach, veins and lung, kidneys, pubes117 on the outside, gall-bladder inside and bladder. I also have the legs with the calf, thighs and the knees, buttocks and the crotch, the feet with the ankles, the toes, the sole and the heel, for which everyone knows the French.118

Also, sir, I have the clothes that belong to my body, linens and wools, unlined, furred and lined inside and outside, slippers, shoes, boots or hose and boots, footwear, spurs, shirt, breaches and belly-band, coat, pourpoint and kirtle, surcoat and mantle, tabard, cloak, houppelande, chaperon, felt cap, cap, and other garments with sleeves long, wide, and well tailored.119 And, if necessary, I have a hairnet, comb, and kerchiefs of silk, yarn, and cotton.

But I don’t want to forget my purse, my needle-case—and when a woman is pregnant, she will be girded with a good girdle;120 and if it is not of silk it will be of leather—my dagger and my sharp knife, the sheath, good sword and shield of fine steel with a good scabbard and new ring, but I don’t want to draw my sword out of its scabbard without great help, and with reasonable cause, for it is said in holy scripture: he who desires to strike with the sword shall be struck down by the sword.121
Auxi, sir, je toy enseigne de comune language et d’autre maner de parlance et dez diverse chosez, de bestez et de gaynerye issint que de parler droit. Vous ne failerez mye se traiez vous a bon company et guerpez le maweisez et leur folie, mez d’un homme ne d’un femme ne de leur enfant n’est boisoigne pur parler taunt de leur fitz, file ou filette, [fol. 13r] garçon, pusele ou garsette, vadlettez, leur servantz ne leur apprentis, veiciens, maistres, soveraynez, seignours, subgettez, leur amys et bien vuillantz, auxi dez emperours, rois, dukez, countez, barons, chivalers, bachillers et esquiers.

Lessons parler del pape auxi et archevesquez, evesques, archideknys, denez, officials, prestez et clerkez, abbee, moignez et priours, freeres et chanons, noignez et d’autres damez; de la Reigne et de la duchesse et de countesse, de la soer et sorceresse et dez veillez veves, virgynes, des ribaudez ou pailardez, putaynez, putiveils et vilayns, larons, felons et traitours.

Autres fraunceis j’ay apris: un chate, un rate et un sorez, un liver, livere, livre, lever, leverere. Tablez pur la sale, docers, bankers ov quarreux, chaers, aundirez, furchez de fer pur le feu, basyns, ewars et chaufours, pot et pailez d’aresme, coupez d’or, picez ou tassez d’argent endorrez, hanapz de fraxinez ov lez coverclez peintez, launnez de verre, hachez de guerre, coynez pur couper bastons de keyne et cuynnez pur lez bushez fyndre, et l’argent coigne prendre et autre armure, cestassaver basynet ou lumbreire et la ventaile, pisseins, platez, haburgion, vmbras, rerebras, quisseux et gauntez de plate, arcez, settez et cordez pur arcez, vesselez d’argent auxi et d’esteyn, cestassaver .i. douszeins de cuillers d’argent merchez ov le teste de libarde, .iii. douszeins plateaux, .i. douszein esquilez, .iii. douszeins saucers et cetera.

Explicit Liber Donati.
Also, sir, I can teach you everyday language and other manners of speaking and about diverse things in order to speak correctly about animals and husbandry. You won’t falter if you draw to good company and give up the wicked and their folly, but for a man, a woman, and for their child there is no more necessary topic of conversation than their son, daughter or little girl, boy, maiden or maidservant, manservants, their servants or their apprentices, neighbours, masters, sovereigns, lords, subjects, their friends and well-wishers; and also about emperors, kings, dukes, counts, barons, knights, knights bachelor and squires.

Let’s talk about the pope also and about archbishops, bishops, archdeacons, deans, officials, priests and clerks, abbots, monks and priors, friars and canons, nuns and other women; about the queen and about the duchess and the countess, about the sister and sorceress and about the chaste matrons, virgins, about the fuckers, or scumbags, the whores, cheap sluts and bad guys, crooks, felons, and traitors.

Here’s some more French that I’ve learned: a cat, a rat and a mouse, a book, lip, pound, hare, hound for hunting. Tables for the hall, curtains, bench-covers with squares on them, chairs, andirons, iron forks for the fire, basins, ewers and warming-pans, brass pots and pans, golden cups, objects or cups of gilded silver, ash-wood cups with painted covers, shimmering lances, war axes, axes to cut oak sticks and wedges to split logs, and take stamped silver and other armour, that is to say, a light helmet or visor and the ventail, mail collar, breast plates, habergeon, vambrace, rearbrace, plate cuisses and gauntlets, bows, arrows and cords for the bow, silver and tin vessels, that is to say, two dozen spoons of silver hallmarked with a leopard’s head, three dozen platters, one dozen bowls, three dozen saucers et cetera.

Here ends the Liber Donati.