

Jonathan David, *Fantasy on Medieval Carols*

Texts and Translations

1. *Procedenti puero*

Procedenti puero
Eya, novus annus est!
Virginis ex utero
Gloria! Laudis!
Deus homo factus est et immortalis.

*To the Boy proceeding,
Eya, this is the new year,
From the virgin's womb,
Give glory of praise;
God is made man and immortal.*

Sine viri semine
Eya, novus annus est!
Natus est de virgine
Gloria! Laudis!
Deus homo factus est et immortalis.

*Without the seed of a man
Eya, this is the new year,
He is born of a virgin
Give glory of praise;
God is made man and immortal.*

Plene non obnoxia
Eya, novus annus est!
Virgo viri nescia
Gloria! Laudis!
Deus homo factus est et immortalis.

*Wholly without taint
Eya, this is the new year,
Is the virgin not knowing man.
Give glory of praise;
God is made man and immortal.*

2. *Angelus ad virginem*

Angelus ad virginem
Sub intrans in conclave,
Virginis formidinem
Demulcens, inquit: Ave!
Ave regina virginum;
Caeli terraeque Dominum
Concipies
Et paries intacta
Salutem hominum;
Tu porta caeli facta,
Medela criminum.

*When the angel came secretly
to the Virgin in her room,
soothing the maiden's fear,
he said: "Hail!
Hail, Queen of virgins.
While yet untouched by man
you shall conceive and bear
the Lord of heaven and earth,
salvation for mankind.
You have become the gate of heaven,
a remedy for sins."*

Quomodo conciperem
Quae virum non cognovi?
Qualiter infringerem
Quod firma mente vovi?
Spiritus Sancti gratia
Perficiet haec omnia;
Ne timeas,
Sed gaudeas, segura
Quod castimonia
Manebit in te pura
Dei potentia.

*"How can I conceive,
since I have not known a man?
How can I break the vow
I made with firm intent?"
"The grace of the Holy Spirit
shall bring all this to pass.
Fear not,
but rejoice, secure in the
knowledge that pure chastity
shall remain yours
through God's mighty power."*

Ad haec virgo nobilis
Respondens inquit ei:
Ancilla sum humilis
Omnipotentis Dei.
Tibi caelesti nuntio,

*To this the noble Virgin
replied, saying:
"I am the lowly handmaiden
of Almighty God.
I bend my will to you,*

Tanti secreti conscio,
Consentiens,
Et cupiens videre
Factum quod audio;
Parata sum parere,
Dei consilio.

*O celestial messenger,
who share so great a mystery,
and I long to see performed
what I now hear.
I am ready to yield myself
to God's design."*

3. Personent Hodie (Trans. Jane Joseph)

Personent hodie
voces puerulae,
laudantes iucunde
qui nobis est natus,
summo Deo datus,
et de virgineo ventre procreatus.

*On this day earth shall ring
with the song children sing
to the Lord, Christ our King,
born on earth to save us;
him the Father gave us.
For us born on this morn of the virgin Mary*

Magi tres venerunt,
parvulum inquirunt,
parvulum inquirunt,
stellulam sequendo,
ipsum adorando,
aurum, thus, et myrrham ei offerendo.

*God's bright star, o'er his head,
Wise Men three to him led;
kneel they low by his bed,
lay their gifts before him,
praise him and adore him.
Gifts of gold, frankincense, myrrh for their oblation*

Omnes clericuli,
pariter pueri,
cantent ut angeli:
advenisti mundo,
laudes tibi fundo.
ideo gloria in excelsis Deo.

*On this day angels sing;
with their song earth shall ring,
praising Christ, heaven's King,
born on earth to save us;
peace and love he gave us.
Ideo, gloria in excelsis Deo*

4. Ecce quod natura

Ecce quod natura
Mutat sua jura,
Virgo parit pura
Dei Filium.

*Behold how nature has changed her laws;
A pure virgin has borne the son of God.*

Ecce novum gaudium,
Ecce novum mirum,
Virgo parit filium,
Que non novit virum;

*Behold, a new joy.
Behold, a new miracle.
A virgin hath borne a son,
She who hath never known a man.*

Que non novit virum;
Sed ut pirus pirum
Gleba fert saphirum,
Dei Filium.

*She who hath never known a man,
But as a pear tree makes a pear
Or a clod earth produces sapphires,
The rose hath brought forth the lily.*

Ecce quod natura...

Mundum Deus flebilem
Videns in ruina,
Rosam dilectabilem
Produxit de spina,

*God seeing the wretched earth
Falling into ruins,
Hath brought forth the flower bright
From beneath the thorn;*

Produxit de spina,
Que cele regina

*From beneath the thorn
a virgin who became a queen,*

Nostra medicina
Et salus hominum.

*remedy for the world,
health for all the nations.*

Ecce quod natura...

[From Angelus ad virginem:]

Eia mater Domini,
Quae pacem reddidisti
Angelis et homini,
Cum Christum genuisti:

*Ah, mother of the Lord,
who gave back peace
to angels and mankind
when you bore Christ....*

5. Song of the Nuns of Chester

Qui creavit coelum, Lully, lully, lu!
Nascitur in stabulo, By, by, by, by, by,
Rex qui regit seculum, Lully, lully, lu!

*He who made the earth so fair, lully, lully lu,
Slumbers in a stable bare, by by, by by, by,
Warm'd by cattle standing there, lully, lully lu!*

Lactat mater Domini, By, by, by, by, by,
Osculatur parvulum, Lully, lully, lu!
Et adorat Dominum, By, by, by, by, by,

*Jesus sleeps in Mary's arm, lully, lully lu,
Sheltered there from rude alarm, by, by by, by,
None can do Him ill or harm, lully, lully lu!*

Roga mater filium, Lully, lully, lu!
Ut det nobis gaudium, By, by, by, by, by,
In pereni gloria, Lully, lully, lu!

*See his Mother o'er Him bend, lully, lully lu,
Hers the joy to soothe and tend, by, by by, by,
Hers the bliss that knows no end, lully, lully lu!*
(Trans. Irene Gass)

6. Orientis partibus (Song of the Ass)

Orientis partibus
adventavit asinus
pulcher et fortissimus
sarcinis aptissimus

*In eastern lands,
the ass arrived,
pretty and so strong,
fit for burden.*

“Hez, sire asne, Hez”

Hey, Sir Ass, Hey

Salto vincit hinnulos
damas et capreolos
super dromedarios
velox madianeos

*In his leaps he conquers the mules,
the fallow deer and roebucks,
and surpasses the fast
camels of the Medes.*

Hic in collibus Sychen
iam nutritus sub Ruben
transiit per Jordanem
saliit in Bethlehem

*Here in the hills of Sychen,
already suckled below the Ruben,
he crosses the Jordan;
he enters Bethlehem.*

Dum trahit vehicula
multa cum sarcinula
illius mandibula
dura terit pabula

*While he pulls carts,
many with heavy loads,
his jaws
grind tough fodder.*

Cum aristis, hordeum
comedit et carduum
triticum ex palea
segregat in area

*He eats barley, beards and all,
and spiny thistles.
He separates the wheat from the chaff
on the threshing floor.*

Amen dicas, asine

You say "amen", ass,

Iam satur ex gramine
amen, amen itera
aspernare vetera

*all filled with grass,
"amen", "amen" once again,
spurning the past.*

7. Puer nobis nascitur

Puer nobis nascitur
rector angelorum;
in hoc mundo pascitur
Dominus dominorum.

*Unto us a boy is born!
King of all creation,
Came He to a world forlorn,
The Lord of every nation,*

In praesepe ponitur
sub foeno asinorum.
Cognoverunt Dominum Christum
Regem coelorum.

*Cradled in a stall was He
With sleepy cows and asses;
But the very beasts could see
That He all men surpasses,*

Qui natus de virgine
die hodierna
ducat nos cum gratia
ad gaudia superna.

*Now may Mary's Son, who came
So long ago to love us,
Lead us all with hearts aflame
Unto the joys above us,*

[*From Procedenti puero:*]
Sit laus regi glorie,
Eya, novus annus est!

*Let praise be to the king of glory,
Eya, this is the new year!*

[*From "Laetabundus" chant:*]
Laetabundus exsultet fidelis chorus...

Rejoice the happy faithful choir...

O et A et A et O
Cum cantibus in choro,
cum canticis et organo,
benedicamus Domino.

*Alpha and Omega He!
Let the organ thunder,
While the choir with peals of glee
Doth rend the air asunder.
(Trans. Percy Dearmer)*