

Sir John Bouchier (Lord Berners)  
(1467-1533)

*Preface to Chronicles of Sir John Froissart*

(1523-1525)

**PREFACE**

Thus, whan I advertysed and remembred the manyfolde comodyties of hystorie, howe benefyciall it is to mortall folke, and eke howe laudable and merytoryous a dede it is to write hystories, fixed my mynde to do some thyng therin; and ever whan this ymaginacyon came to me, I volved, tourned, and redde many volumes and bokes, conteyning famouse histories. And amonge all other, I redde dilygently the four volumes or bokes of sir Johan Froyssart of the countrey of Heynaulte, written in the Frenche tonge, whiche I judged comodyous, necessarie, and profytable to be hadde in Englysshe, sithe they treat of the famous actes done in our parties ; that is to say, in Englande, Fraunce, Spaygne, Portyngale, Scotlande, Bretayne, Flaunders, and other places adjoyning ; and specially they redounde to the honoure of Englysshemen. What pleasure shall it be to the noble gentylmen of Englande to se, beholde, and rede the highe enterprises, famous actes, and glorious dedes done and atchyved by their valyant aunceytours? Forsothe and God, this hath moved me at the highe comaundement of my moost redouted soverayne lorde kynge Henry the viii. kyng of Englande and of Fraunce, and highe defender of the christen faythe, etc., under his gracyous supportacyon, to do my devoyre to translate out of Frenche into our maternall Englysshe tonge the sayd volumes of sir Johan Froyssart : whiche cronycle begynneth at the raygne of the moost noble and valyant kynge Edwarde the thyrde, the yere of our lorde a thousande thre hundred and sixtene : and contynueth to the begynning of the reigne of king Henry the fourth, the yere of our Lorde God a thousande and foure hundred : the space bytwene is threscore and fourtene yeres ; requyrynge all the redérs and herers therof to take this my rude translacion in gre. And in that I have nat folowed myne authour worde by worde, yet I trust I have ensewed the true reporte of the sentence of the mater ; and as for the true namyng of all maner of personages, countreis, cyties, townes, ryvers, or felde, whereas I coude nat name them properly nor aptely in Egnlysshe, I have written them acordynge as I founde them in Frenche ; and thoughe I have nat gyven every lorde, knyght, or squyer his true addycion,

yet I trust I have nat swarved fro the true sentence of the mater. And there as I have named the dystaunce bytwene places by myles and leages, they must be understande acordyng to the custome of the countreis where as they be named, for in some place they be lengar than in some other ; in Englande a leage or myle is well knowen ; in Fraunce a leage is two myles, and in some place thre: and in other countre is more or lesse ; every nacion hath sondrie customes. And if any faute be in this rude translacyon, I remyt the correctyon therof to them that discretely shall fynde any reasonable defaute ; and in their so doynge, I shall pray God to sende them the blysse of heven. Amen.

Thus endeth the preface of sir Johan Bouchier, knight,  
lorde Berners, translatur of this present cronycle : and  
herafter foloweth the table, with all the chapiters as  
they stande in the boke in order, from one to four  
hundred fyftie and one, whiche be in nombre  
CCCC. and li. chapiters.

