

A Note on Spenser's "Amoretti"

Author(s): H. Littledale

Source: *The Modern Language Review*, Apr., 1911, Vol. 6, No. 2 (Apr., 1911), p. 203

Published by: Modern Humanities Research Association

Stable URL: <https://www.jstor.org/stable/3713394>

JSTOR is a not-for-profit service that helps scholars, researchers, and students discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content in a trusted digital archive. We use information technology and tools to increase productivity and facilitate new forms of scholarship. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

Your use of the JSTOR archive indicates your acceptance of the Terms & Conditions of Use, available at <https://about.jstor.org/terms>



Modern Humanities Research Association is collaborating with JSTOR to digitize, preserve and extend access to *The Modern Language Review*

JSTOR

A NOTE ON SPENSER'S 'AMORETTI.'

In the *Modern Language Review*, July, 1910, p. 273, Mr J. C. Smith rests some part of his argument on Spenser's description of his love's person in 'Ye tradefull merchants, that with weary toile,' etc. (*Amoretti*, xv). Apparently Mr Smith has not noticed this sonnet of Philippe Desportes (*Diane*, I, xxxii):

Marchands, qui recherchez tout le rivage more
 Du froid septentrion, et qui, sans reposer,
 A cent mille dangers vous allez exposer,
 Pour un gain incertain, qui vos esprits devore,
 Venez seulement voir la beauté que j'adore,
 Et par quelle richesse elle a sçeu m'attiser ;
 Et je suis seur qu'apres vous ne pourrez priser
 Le plus rare tresor dont l'Afrique se dore.
 Voyez les filets d'or de ce chef blondissant,
 L'eclat de ces rubis, ce coral rougissant,
 Ce cristal, cet ebene, et ces graces divines,
 Cet argent, cet yvoire ; et ne vous contentez
 Qu'on ne vous montre encor mille autres raretez,
 Mille beaux diamans et mille perles fines.

Barnabe Barnes, *Parthenophil and Parthenophe*, XLVIII, also uses this sonnet. I think it is clear from this that Spenser (if he wrote all the *Amoretti*) is one more of those who 'filch from Portes'!

H. LITTLEDALE.

CARDIFF.

AMBASSADOR LA BODERIE AND THE 'COMPOSITEUR' OF
 THE BYRON PLAYS.

In his interesting article on *Court Performances under James the First*¹ Mr E. K. Chambers gives curious particulars on the incident which nearly cost Chapman his liberty, and on the intervention of the French Ambassador, Antoine Lefèvre de la Boderie, who wanted both the 'compositeur' of the *Conspiracy...of Byron* and the comedians to be committed to jail. Mr Chambers quotes the ambassador's dispatch of 8 April, 1608, from the text printed in the *Ambassades de Monsieur de la Boderie*, 1750, besides referring the reader to the original text in MS. Fr. 15984 at the Bibliothèque Nationale.

Happening recently to be in Paris, I made a copy of the original and, as the printed text is far from faultless (giving for example 'leur

¹ *Modern Language Review*, Vol. iv, p. 158 (Jan. 1909).