

Société François Villon, Bulletin

Issue 39 (February 2024) Robert D. Peckham, Editor

Bibliography: the most recent titles which have not appeared in previous issues of this bulletin.

Abbreviations: BJ = Ballades en Jargon, L = Lais, PV = Poèmes Variés,
SFVB = Société François Villon, Bulletin, T = Testament.

Notes for Issue 39

Volume 38

Société François Villon, Bulletin 38 (February 2023)

The university web host for all of my web sites has eliminated them, along with those of all faculty and retirees. The *Société François Villon*, with all its valuable information about the poet, including 28 volumes of *SFVB* are gone for now. I do have the files, and intend to reconstruct the site when possible. I will try to keep information flowing with email and social media. From this point on, my yearly publication will be labeled “Issue”. *Robert D. Peckham, Ph.D* (editor)

15th-CENTURY MOVIE & TV STAR

Is François Villon really the “best known” of late medieval French poets? Editions of his work generally consist only of about 3000 lines. His contemporary, Charles d’Orléans wrote twice as many lines in his second language, English, and much more in French. Though modern editions (made from multiple mss and print sources) began in 1835, we still don’t have a 100% agreement about canon. What we do have in modern editions is about half of what has been attributed to Villon by contemporary manuscript and print editors. He was referred to by several names during his lifetime: François Villon, François de Montcorbier, and François des Loges. He had a criminal record, but he had the respect of some powerful men.

Why so well known? His work is a multifaceted self-narrational street map, containing many stories of many characters, using authorial self identification, and not the anonymity so common to poets of his time. It draws the attention of different readers in a variety of ways. In one of my bulletin essays, I have already discussed what happens with illustrators (issue 38). From the many YouTube

recordings linked in issues of the bulletin, you can imagine what happens with songwriters. Those who write film and television scripts are very active readers. They must retell the story in a way that attracts, is memorable, has a narrational flow to both those who are readers or not readers of Villon. They must convey this well to all who work on a set, to film editors, etc. Unity of theme or character is important to these writers. The obvious fact that the work bears the image of the poet-narrator through name repetition, rhyme, acrostics, word games, first person pronouns and adjectives, as well as active participation, etc., give film and television writers a comfortable path. Even where a play is part of a film's evolution, Villon's poetry is still the core.

To understand the extent to which the film topic is of interest, consider the general thoroughness of Wikipedia Categories

Category: Films about François Villon (Wikipedia)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:Films_about_Fran%C3%A7ois_Villon

Nine films! That may seem like many, but my research reveals nearly fifty films, television films, and series episodes in seven languages, in a span of nearly 100 years, where Villon or his verse play key roles. Some have been nominated for distinctions like Academy Awards (Oscars), etc.. Real stars of silent movies and talkies, like William Farnum, Errol Flynn, Lon Chaney, Basil Rathbone, and Ronald Colman, were in the casts. This is only part of the extensive reception history, reinforcing the claim that Villon is the best known French poet of the late middle ages.

François Villon has a role in at least 50 films or TV programs (as a character, through his poetry, etc.) I have included relevant URLs, where possible:

FILM SERIES:

“The Adventures of François Villon” from A series of stories about François Villon, originally published in The Century magazine, by George Bronson-

Howard https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:Films_about_Fran%C3%A7ois_Villon

The Higher Law (silent film-1914).

The Oubliette (silent film-1914).

Monsieur Bluebeard (silent film 1914).

The Ninety Black Boxes (silent film 1914).

If I were King (silent film-1920). [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/If_I_Were_King_\(1920_film\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/If_I_Were_King_(1920_film))

If I were King, non-musical film 1938 (... Le Roi des gueux) 4 Oscar nominations. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/If_I_Were_King

The Beloved Rogue (1927) (John Barrymore in the lead role)/ L'Étrange Aventure du vagabond poète (Alan Crosland, 1927). <https://catalog.afi.com/Catalog/MovieDetails/2807>

The Vagabond King (two-color Technicolor film-1930) pre-code musical film, from a Broadway play of 1925 musical, recovered and restored film yyyy

1998. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Vagabond_King_\(1930_film\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Vagabond_King_(1930_film))

The Vagabond King (1956 American musical film). [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Vagabond_King_\(1956_film\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Vagabond_King_(1956_film))

The Petrified Forest (American cinema crime drama film 1936, built around 2 Villon poems) radio adaptation in at least 4 times in a live television adaptation (1955, with Humphry

Bogart). https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Petrified_Forest

If I Were King (film-1938), nominated for 4 academy awards – adapted as a radio play in 1939, and 1946. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/If_I_Were_King

François Villon (French film-1945), Pierre Mac Orlan, Andre Zwobada Les Dés Pipés / François Villon / L'écharpe de Suie (later, 1970). [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fran%C3%A7ois_Villon_\(film\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fran%C3%A7ois_Villon_(film))

A Lodging for the Night (DOUGLAS FAIBANKS JR. PRESENTS [TV series]-season 1, episode 19 (May 13, 1953)

A Lodging for the Night (OMNIBUS [TV series]-season 1, episode 16 (March 8, 1953) – 43min.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YATdLtO8qsc>

François Villon. Teatr Telewiz – Television Theater
(1953). <https://www.ratingraph.com/writers/francois-villon-ratings-128803/>

Si Paris nous était conté (episode in French film-1956). https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/.../Si_Paris_nous_%C3%A9tait...

Vagabond King (film-1956). Titre français: “Le Roi des vagabonds.” Remake of 1938
film. https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Le_Roi_des_vagabonds

The Sword of Villon (1956 Screen Director’s Playhouse TV movie) Errol Flynn played Francois
Villon. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Sword_of_Villon

Television Theater. Wielki testament (Polish TV Episode
1958). <https://www.imdb.com/title/tt10419578/>

The Frenchman. (BONANZA [TV series], Season 3, December 10,1961) Bonanza – The
Frenchman | Episode 78 | Cult Western | Free Western |
English. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oH0a2pkeI4s>

Francois Villon. 1964 Dutch TV film., starring Ramses Shaffy and Kitty
Courbois. https://commons.wikimedia.org/.../File:Kitty_Courbois_and...

Villon vertaald. Dutch 1964 TV movie Director Rob van der
Linden https://www.imdb.com/title/tt1496036/?ref_=nm_flmg_t_8_wr

Villon vervolgd. (Dutch TV movie, 1965). writer: Ernst Van Altena, director: Rob van der
Linden. <https://www.imdb.com/title/tt1496037/>

Winnetou – 2. Klaus Kinski film (1966), where he reads from Villon and other authors. <https://www.flickr.com/photos/truusbobjantoo/52949486893>

Francois Villon – spor o básnika 1967 (Czech film), dir. Igor Ciel. <https://mov.cat/title/francois-villon-spor-o-basnika-1967>

Villon's "Ballade des pendus" is read as an epigraph in Richard Brooks film "In Cold Blood"(1967). based on Truman Capote's novel. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/In_Cold_Blood_\(film\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/In_Cold_Blood_(film))

Martin Held liest François Villon. Balladen aus 'Das große Testament (TV movie 1975). https://www.imdb.com/title/tt3678228/?ref_=nm_filmg_t_4_wr

The Testament of François Villon (TV film musical-1976). <https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0250041/>

"The Testament of François Villon." Here I stand – 45min. TV Drama , History. aired 14 August 1977 (season 1, episode 3). <https://www.imdb.com/title/tt1375924/>

François Villon (TV biographical film-1981) in German 01/01/1981 History, TV Movie 1h 44m. <https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0490590/fullcredits>

"Les balades de Villon" Actors en primer pla – TV Nov 21, 1983 46m. <https://www.imdb.com/title/tt1365680/>

Les Campanes de Villon (1983 TV in Catalan). <https://www.rtve.es/.../arxiu-tve-catalunya-les.../5568691/>

Bailing Out (Kaskade rückwärts) 1984 East German film, beginning with Christian Kožik song,

based on Villon's "Ballade de la belle heaumière aux filles de joie". <https://eastgermancinema.com/2018/05/06/bailing-out/>

François Villon – Poetul vagabond (Rumanian film-1987 and TV minie series) Romanian. <https://www.wikidata.org/wiki/Q12728587>

Gavin Bowd (University of St Andrews): 'Franco-Romanian cinema in late Communism: Sergiu. Cinéma-monde: Film, Borders, Translation Nicolaescu's Francois Villon – Poetul Vagabond (1987)'. <https://symphony-live-new2.s3.amazonaws.com/.../CINEMAMIO...>

Nocny gośc (Polish film [The Night-time Guest [based on Stevenson's story]-1989). <https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0097999/>

Mack the Knife (1989 film) 4 poems of Villon [from Brecht's Die Dreigroschenoper). https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mack_the_Knife

Klaustrophobie (12 min. film, 2002) – Dir. Carlos Dessbesell-Schüler. (Klaus Kinsky, Villon). <https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0330529/>

Galgenfrist – Dutch TV film 7min. Villon escapes. (2008). https://www.imdb.com/title/tt1386928/?ref_=nm_filmg_t_1_wr

Last episode of "Mad Men", "The Benefactor" August 11, 2008,. Don is watching a French film where someone is reciting "Ballade des Dames du Temps Jadis". <https://www.imdb.com/title/tt1118057/trivia/>

Villon no tsuma – ōtō to tanpopo (Villon's Wife), Japanese film dir. Kichitaro Negishi (2009) on TV in 2009. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Villon%27s_Wife

Je, François Villon, voleur, assassin, poète (film 2010) téléfilm. Based on Jean Teulé's

novel. <https://www.imdb.com/title/tt1611868/>

François Busnel, Pr. Poésies complètes – François Villon. Émission culturelle, diffusée par France TV5 le 25/08/2023 à 10h07

MULTI-ARTS INTERPRETATION

The last and largest section of each issue contains, for the most part, links to musical interpretations of Villon’s poetry, or songs inspired by his life. These represent an important part of the poet’s reception history, as well as a very special kind of reader; one whose appreciation and interpretive discourse extends beyond the text. Issue 39 includes what I see as an important link.

Anika Kildegaard sings Agnus Dei and François Villon’s Ballad of the Hanged <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PvsUvrwJLF8>

“Ballade des pendus” is often considered the most popular of Villon’s poems. It has been put into song by Serge Reggiani, Gérard Philipe, Léo Ferré, Louis Arlette, Bruno Daraquy, and several others.

This version is an artistic crossroads in several ways. The beginning screen credits say “AGNUS DEI – Anika Kildegaard”, but we know from the YouTube title that Villon’s Epitaphe is involved. Reading the extended entree notes we find that this is a song from the album “Missa brevis Abbaye de Thélème”, directed, conducted and produced by Jean-François Charles, with Anika Kildegaard as chief vocalist. It is a production of New Flore Music.

The song is connected as one of eleven parts of a whole mass, with traditional Latin section titles: [Missa brevis Abbaye de Thélème](#)

Videography underscores the importance of details like anatomical ex-votos, costume change for the lead vocalist, chorus/dancers, scene changes from church to a barn interior.

This joins a tradition of musical compositions inspired by Villon in larger works (operettas, musical plays, etc.), which we become aware of in the twentieth century:

Claude Debussy, “Trois Ballades de François Villon”, 1910.

Ezra Pound, “Le Testament de Villon” 1923.

Rudolf Friml's operetta, "The Vagabond King", 1925.

Bertolt Brecht, "Dreigroschenoper", 1928.

We see this in revival mode again in the twenty-first century:

Lisa Monde, "I Know All Save Myself Alone – The Play", 2011 (rpt. In 2019).

Lisa Monde, "I Cry You Mercy Everyone, The Musical", 2013.

Murray Mednick. "Villon", presented 2014.

David and Lewis Alpaugh's play, "Yesteryear – The Life and Times of François Villon." [Yesteryear – Three Days in Paris with François Villon]. 2015.

Jean-Pierre Joblin, "François Villon – corps à coeur", 2017.

Michel Abratz "Villon la Vie", 2017.

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Calvo, Sabrina. *Melmoth furieux*. Collection: Folio. Science-fiction ; 727. [Paris]: Gallimard, DL 2023 [Villon is a main character].

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[traductions de Die Dreigroschenoper / Die Beule / Der Dreigroschenprozeß]. Scène ouverte.

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François de Montcorbier – Eric Hollande (2/26/23)

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MARCH

Villon voyage – Albert Lozeau lu par Yvon Jean (3/1/23)

STICK IN THE WHEEL – Villon Song (Endurance Version) – 3/2/23

François Villon « La ballade des pendus » 1489 – 3/6/23

Ballade (Concours de Blois), 3/6/23

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La Ballade Des Pendus (François Villon) – 3/20/23

La Ballade Des Pendus (François Villon) – 3/20/23

Little Nemo – La ballade des pendus (Hérouville Sessions) – 3/27/23

Francois Villon Memory Blues (Guitar Jam) – 3/31/23

APRIL

FRANCOIS VILLON – BALADA (CU ALCHIMII, [in Polish]) – Aleandru Cazan (4/5/23)

François Villon – La ballade des dames du temps jadis – 4/10/23

Ballade Villon – Jean Richepin lu par Yvon Jean (4/17/23)

Villon François · Michel Bessagnet (4/18/23) [NOST'ALGIC, whitewolf?]

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MAY

STICK IN THE WHEEL – Villon Song (Endurance Version) – 5/2/23)

François Villon « La ballade des pendus » 1489 – 5/6/23

François Villon – Balada de los proverbios (5/9/23)

The Prayer of Francois Villon – Little Ghost Films (5/15/23)

Prière de François Villon – Chanson Rauque (5/20/23)

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Gérard Souzay; “TROIS BALLADES DE FRANÇOIS VILLON”; Claude Debussy (5/26/23)

François Villon – Balada de las cosas sin importancia (5/26/23)

Francois Villon Memory Blues (Guitar Jam) – 5/31/23

JUNE

ELECTRONIC MEDITATION – Mamola 1 (François Villon) (feat. Ajell) (6/8/23)

FRANÇOIS VILLON – ELLENTÉTEK BALLADÁJA – Hangoskönyvek gyűjteménye (6/8/23)

“A Lodging for the Night” by Robert Louis Stevenson | New Arabian Nights | Full Audiobook (6/9/23)

François Villon – Balada de las contra-verdades – Poesía Recitada Tomás Galindo (6/17/23)

François Villon – Balada de las contra-verdades (6/18/23)

Testament – Hellfest 2023 – ARTE Concert (6/18/23)

Regina Spektor – The Prayer of François Villon (Molitva) (Rocksmith – With Bass) – 6/19/23

François Villon (1431- 1463) – La ballade des pendus (6/21/23)

François Villon – Ballade des seigneurs du temps jadis (Poème audio en français) – 6/24/23

Balada de los proverbios. Villon.- Nico Loza (6/24/23)

François Villon – Ballade des seigneurs du temps jadis (Poème audio en français) – 6/24/23

Boulat OKOUDJAVA, « Молитва » (« Prière », adaptation de François VILLON) – Chanté

RUSSE + Trad FR – 6/24/23

La Ballade des pendus (6/25/23)

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Le mystère François Villon VF – Office de tourisme du Pays Mellois Otpm. 6/10/23

JULY

IGA – Négysoros vers, melyet Villon halálítélete szélére írt (Riff, 2023.06.09.) – 7/2/23

The Beloved Rogue – 7/4/23

François Villon – Le Petit Testament – M7R (7/5/23)

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François Villon Poète de la transgression – 9/20/23

BALLADE DES FEMMES DE PARIS II François Villon (7/31/23)

AUGUST

The Oubliette 1914 (8/5/23)

Mr PANZERA Ballades de François Villon 1 (8/10/23)

François Villon – Ballade des femmes de Paris. Découverte d'un poète errant du Moyen-Age
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The Prayer of François Villon [Shir Appeal] – 8/29/23

SEPTEMBER

Jolanta Czartoryska czyta LIRYKI: Bulat Okudźawa “Francois Villon” – 9/2/23

Ballada a Vastag Margot-ról – 9/6/23)

BREGENT-Poussière Des Regrets-02-Epitaphe Villon-{1973), 9/12/23

FRANÇOIS VILLON “BALLADE DES MENUS PROPOS” (R.LEE & D.LÉGITIMUS),
9/16/23

BALLAD OF THE GIBBET-A ballad by François Villon on his Execution [France] – 9/26/23

Ballade des dames du temps Jadis – 1954 – musique Georges Brassens et Poème de François Villon – 9/29/23

OCTOBER

François Villon – Simon Arrnold, (10/13/23)

Poème 2023 – by lili- François Villon 10/14/23

If I Were King (1938) – François Villon (10/17/23)

Barry McDaniel sings “Trois ballades de François Villon” (Cologne, 1964) – 10/18/23

chant.tonnant dit – ballade des pendus Villon, 10/21/23

The Beloved Rogue 1927 FULL MOVIE (10/25/23)

A Roundel From the French of Villon by Algernon Charles Swinburne – Poem – 10/29/23

La ballade des dames du temps jadis, Bobby Pâquet (10/31/23)

NOVEMBER

Arbor Amoris – Francois Villon (Nov. 2, 2023)

I Die of Thirst Beside the Fountain – Francois Villon (Nov. 2, 2023)

The Goat Scratches so much it can t Sleep – Francois Villon (11/2/23)

Anika Kildegaard sings Agnus Dei and François Villon’s Ballad of the Hanged (11/7/23)

Claude Debussy (1862-1918) Trois ballades de François Villon 2.Ballade à la requête de sa mère (Nov. 8, 2023)

The Beloved Rogue (Alan Crosland) – 1927 – Full Movie – Color – 4K, 11/16/23

“L’Épitaphe Villon dite Ballade des pendus” par François Villon (français), Nov. 25, 2023

DECEMBER

Sur un poème de François Villon, Filbien – (Dec. 2, 2023)

*The Adventures of François Villon #1: The Oubliette (1914) | The Romaunt of the Rose |
Colorized Ver (Dec 12, 2023)*

Arthur Thomassin Ballade De Francois Villon - Réalisée avec Clipchamp (Dec. 30, 2023)

Arthur Thomassin Ballade De Francois Villon - Réalisée avec Clipchamp – 12/30/23

François Villon Faludy György BALLADA A SENKI FIÁRÓL előadó Répa Ati – 12/30/23

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