

Othere places delitables in two sixteenth-century Scottish texts

M^a Nieves Rodríguez Ledesma

UNIVERSITY OF SEVILLE

1. INTRODUCTION

In late ME, in high-style literary texts and those written under French influence, adjectives of Romance origin may take *-s* as the plural inflection. In most of these cases, the adjective is postpositive, that is, it occurs after the noun it modifies:

- in othere places *delitables*;
- of many wronges *subtiles* and also open oppressions.

Occasionally the adjective with *-s* occurs in attributive or in predicative position:

- *sufficiaunt* ȝ borwes;
- romances that been *roiales*;
- [the Romeins] Til thei become so *vileins*.

This construction is especially frequent in scientific, ecclesiastical and legal registers, as the following examples illustrate: *bestes crepands*, *medicyns mollificatyves*, *clergis seculers*, *mynystris provyncials*, *godes temporeles*, *ȝinges spirituels*, *heires males*, etc. It becomes quite common in the 15th and in the 16th centuries¹, and finally disappears in the course of eModE, although Kisbye (1971: 172) points out that *by these presents* is still current in legal parlance.

Apart from this construction, which is considered a French calque, Mustanoja (1960: 277) mentions the Middle Scots practice of inflecting native adjectives in the plural when used in attributive position (*ȝe saidis lordis*). Aitken (1971: 177) points out that this practice, together with the preference for hypotaxis and for passive and impersonal constructions, the free use of borrowings of Romance origin, the sporadic use of anglicisms etc., is characteristic of literary prose, the principal records and most other official writings. Only the adjectives and past participles (*fore)said*, *vther*, (*vel*)*be*lovit and the relative adjective and pronoun (*the*) *quhilk* commonly take *-is* in the plural.

Of these, the *OED* only mentions (*fore)said*, *loved* and *quhilk*. According to this dictionary, *foresaid* occurs with plural ending in Scottish writings of the 16th century and in legal formulae until the 18th; *saidis* continues until the 17th century, and *loved* often has a plural ending in royal and feudal documents, where it occurs prefixed to personal names or designations, being equivalent to the 'trusty and well-beloved' of the English charters.

The information provided by *DOST* is more complete. In the case of *foresaid*, the following examples illustrate the earliest occurrences of the inflected and uninflected form with plural nouns:

- (1384) Twychand the forsayde materis;
- (1387) The forsaidys Jonne, Jonne, and Jonne, al as ane.

¹ Shakespeare, for example, has: 'and yet my letters *patents* give me leave', 'Lords *appealants*, your differences shall all rest under gage'.

Both the inflected and uninflected past participle are especially frequent in legal registers (charters, burgh records), and both may occur in attributive or postpositive position. In postposition, however, the inflected form is earlier than the uninflected one:

- (1409) The day, yhere ande place foresaidez;
- (1456) The thre kingis foresaid. ²

Lovit, apart from the general use, is, according to *DOST*, “very common in formal epistolary or, chiefly, official or legal style, especially in non-notarial deeds and royal gifts, mandates, warrants, etc.”. In these registers it regularly takes the plural inflection when referring to more than one person, as the following examples illustrate³:

- (1447) Til oure luvidis cosingis;
- (1545) To our louittis cousingis, bailtpeis, counsale and communitie of Abirdene;
- (1677) To my loveitis Johne Lowrimer ... and ilk ane of yow conjunctlie and severallie.⁴

With regard to *other*, the earliest example *DOST* gives of the uninflected adjective with a plural noun is a midfourteenth-century gloss (‘In communi pastura dicte terre vsufructu [gl. gres watir and other profitis] pro suis animalibus’), whereas the inflected adjective first occurs at the beginning of the 15th century: (1408) ‘Of al otheris condicyons’⁵. The use of the plural inflection with the pronoun is earlier:

- (c.1375) With oþteris also in tpe se Rouande;⁶
- (c.1390) To red the dame as othiris that ar thirlit;
- (1405) And mony vtheris.⁷

This inflected form could later on have been extended to the adjective. Sheppard (1936: 461) points out that this may have been the result of a confusion between the pronominal and adjectival function of *other*:

In many cases the plural pronoun *other*, *others* stands in apposition to a following noun. This construction may, with a slight change in sense, be taken as equivalent to an adjective *other* + qualifying substantive; and in many cases the shade of difference in meaning is so slight, that it is difficult to decide whether the pronoun or the adjective is intended,

and she quotes examples such as:

- tpe capitanis of tpe tribis and vþteris tpe wourthiest personis for ttat tyme;

² *Foresaidis* is also a noun in Scots meaning ‘the persons, matters or things previously mentioned’. The first example in *DOST* of this use, which tends to occur in legal registers, belongs to the beginning of the sixteenth century: (1506) ‘I or any of my forsaidis’.

³ According to *DOST*, *lovit* also takes the plural inflection occasionally when referring to a single person, but it does not offer any example of this use. *DOST* has no instance either of the uninflected past participle with a plural noun.

⁴ *Lovitis* may also be a noun in the same kind of registers in Scots. The earliest example of this use in *DOST* occurs in 1459: ‘Til our lovidis the alderman [etc.]’.

⁵ In early ME *other* could also be inflected with plural nouns, but in those cases it took *-e* as in OE, not *-s*: ‘the othere disciplis camen bi boot’ (1388).

⁶ This example occurs in *Legends of the Saints in the Scottish Dialect of the fourteenth century*. *OED* dates this text c.1375, and *DOST* a.1400.

⁷ In ME the pronoun could take *-e* or be left uninflected in the plural, as in: - (1250) Oþtere of ttat kin; - (1460) Lordes, knyghtes, and sqviers, and oþter; - (1581) Other there were of a contrary opinion. The earliest examples of *others* in this function, according to the *OED*, belong to the end of the fourteenth century. The first one occurs in a Scottish text (*Legends of the Saints*), and the second in a Northern author: (c.1380, Wyclif) ‘To oþtis is ttovun ... discrecioun’. The next examples of *others* quoted by *OED* belong to the 16th century. In Scots, however, this pronoun is frequent in the plural also in the 15th, as the following quotations from *DOST* illustrate: - (1446) To red the dame as othiris that ar thirlit; - (1488) To stand in awfald kyndnes .. and help to uthers. *Others* therefore seems to be another instance of a structure or usage which occurred first in Scots and the Northern dialect and extended later on to the Midlands to become part of the future standard.

- The king ... send sindry of πame in πe Ilis with vπeris his seruandis;
- For abone *mony vther his wail*πeand dedis he brynt πe subbarbillis of Carlile.

The case of the relative is similar, since (*the*) *quhilk* may also function as adjective or as pronoun. The use of the plural inflection with the pronoun is earlier and may have been extended to the adjective as in the case of *other*⁸. The following examples illustrate the earliest occurrences of the inflected forms in both functions:

- (c1379) The landys before sayde the qvylkys the forsayde Alayne bocht fra the forsayde Thomas;
- (1391) Of the qwhilkes erledom and lordshipe ... the said Schir Malcoms wyf is verray ... ayre.

According to Caldwell (1974: 36), who studies the relative in the period c.1375 - c.1500,

plural antecedents are not invariably followed by inflected forms of the relative; the non-inflected forms remain the more common, though inflected forms are by no means infrequent. Rarely, one finds that an inflected form has been applied to a singular antecedent by analogy with the plural usage.

She does not offer percentages, however, nor does she distinguish between the adjective and the pronoun.⁹

Adjectives of Romance origin are also inflected in the plural in Middle Scots. This construction, which is explained by Aitken, does not seem to differ from English usage:

Gilbert Hay and John Bellenden and some others writing under the immediate influence of French or Latin originals also occasionally inflect some other adjectives, apparently only of Latin origin, often with the (French or Latin) inverted word-order for the noun-adjective phrases, as *instrumentis subordinatis* (Hay I, 76/30), *all vther thingis necessaris* (Bellenden, *Boece* (M) I, 25). The habit, never invariable in any text, is absent from most verse and some literary prose texts (for example, James VI's *Basilicon Doron*), and from many texts of the 'substandard' type ... No doubt it was indeed an 'artificial, literary' feature. (Aitken 1971: 204)

With regard to the practice followed by Scottish writers, Glenn (1987), commenting on the *Buke of the Ordre of Knychthede* (1456) by Gilbert Haye (one of the authors mentioned by Aitken), points out that of the commonly inflected adjectives, (*fore*)*said* never takes *-is* in that text, *other* only once, as against 47 occurrences of the uninflected plural, and *lovit* does not occur as an adjective in Haye. The relative *quhilk* appears in the plural with *-is* seven times, and without inflection only three times. With respect to the adjectives of Romance origin, Glenn (1987: 95) points out that

the 'immediate influence' of the French original on Haye was in most cases a general one and that Haye is consistent neither in his use of the inflection nor in his employment of the inverted noun-adjective word order usual with this inflection,

and he mentions the following examples, in which the adjective is postpositive in a), in attributive position in b), and in predicative position in c):

- a) influences celestiales; proprietis corporales and personalis as spiritualis; perilis ... bathe corporalis and spiritualis; all Goddis werkis visiblis and inuisiblis; condicions and proprietis personalis of the knyght himself;

⁸ *Quhilk* may also be inflected in the plural when it functions as interrogative pronoun ((1549) 'Quhilkis be tha just causis?'), but not when it is an adjective.

⁹ The *SND* has examples of the relative pronoun inflected in the plural in the 18th century. The plural forms *foresaidis* and *saidis* survived in legal and official usage till that century as well: - (1711) ... the airs male of his body whilks failzieing to the said Margaret ...; - (1701) Item from the forsaidis places at the Shoar to the head of the Gallowgat; - (1736) The said lord provost, magistrats, and council, with the saids deacons of crafts.

- b) commouns glotouns (cf. *commoun tauernouris*); vnworthy cowartis knychtis;¹⁰
 c) to gouerne and kepe passibles the labouraris.

With regard to Bellenden, Sheppard (1936: 268) points out that adjectives inflected for plural, both native and of Romance origin, are common in his *Boece* (1530), that they are used only attributively and tend to precede the noun. The examples she gives confirm this tendency since, besides seven examples of *vtheris* and three of *saidis* in this position, she also cites:

- (e *Romanis* provinces; the two strang cunpanyis of *Romanis* soldiouris; the *Carmellit*is freris; *wlgaris* fabillis; mony *nobillis* erlis and baronis of Scotland.

By contrast, she offers only two instances of an adjective inflected for plural and postpositive:

- with ... all vther thingis *necessairis* for the samyn; thai ... slew all nobillis *Romanis*.

2. INFLECTED ADJECTIVES IN THE COMPLAYNT OF SCOTLAND AND ANE RESONYNG OF ANE SCOTTIS AND INGLIS MERCHAND BETWIX ROWAND AND LIONIS

The Complaynt of Scotland (1549)¹¹ and *Ane Resonyng of ane Scottis and Inglis Merchand betuix Rowand and Lionis* (1549), by William Lamb, are two instances of Scottish argumentative prose written in response to the propaganda campaign undertaken by England to support their war against Scotland (1542-49).¹² *The Complaynt* (61,250 words) is a literary work modelled on a French text, Chartier's *Quadrilog Invecitif*, and containing abundant references to the Bible and to classical sources. *Ane Resonyng* (16,700 words) is a functional text of little literary value, since its message is more important than the way in which it is conveyed. It is written in dialogue form and uses the language and the style typical of a legal debate. These texts have been chosen because of Aitken's claim that adjectives inflected for plural tend to occur in literary prose and official or legal registers.

2.1. THE COMPLAYNT OF SCOTLAND

With regard to the native adjectives that are commonly inflected for plural, *(vel)be)lovit* occurs only three times in *The Complaynt* and always with singular nouns. There are twenty instances of *(foir)said* in attributive position with plural nouns; of these, only one (5%) takes *-is* in the plural: 'of the saidis tounis' (p. 132). The following are some examples of the invariable form: 'the said rausant volfis' (p. 2); 'thir foirsaid fife þrong ladeis' (p. 9); 'the contenu of thir for said cheptours' (p. 24).¹³

In the case of *vthir*, there are four examples of this adjective inflected for plural:

- for euere nations reputis vthers nations (p. 83);
- and vtheris grit captans baitht romans and grecians (p. 85);
- past til vtheris diuerse tounis of nauern (p. 87);
- there is diuerse vthirs exemplis (p. 96).

The number of occurrences of this adjective with plural nouns is, however, quite high in *The Complaynt* (71 instances¹⁴), the percentage of *vthirs* therefore being similar to that of *(foir)saidis* (5.6%). The following examples of the invariable form are particularly revealing:

- ve haue diuerse uthir exemplis (p. 24);
- be vthir nations (p. 24).¹⁵

¹⁰ Glenn (1987: 96) points out that *cowartis* "is probably an attributive noun here, not a true adjective".

¹¹ The four extant copies of the printed edition of this text lack the page with the title and the author's name. Stewart, in the latest edition of this work (1979), attributes it to Robert Wedderburn.

¹² Henceforth *The Complaynt* and *Ane Resonyng* respectively.

¹³ On one occasion the noun is not inflected for plural either: 'the foir said sex thousand þreir'.

¹⁴ In four of these examples, the noun is not inflected for plural.

The relative is the only native term which consistently takes *-is* in the plural in *The Complaynt* when it refers to a plural antecedent.¹⁶ Thus, of the 79 instances of this structure,¹⁷ 64 (81%) select the relative (*the*) *quhilkis* and 15 (18.9%) the form (*the*) *quhilk*. If a distinction is made between the pronoun and the adjective, there are 64 instances of the former with a plural antecedent. Of these, 58 (90%) select the inflected form¹⁸ and only 6 (9%) the uninflected one:¹⁹

- a) desolat affligit pepil, quhilkis ar al mast disparit (p. 1); his actis vald be prolix to reherse, quhilkis hes been laityly exsecutit (p. 4); the messengeiris of the rede aurora, quhilkis throucht the mychtis of titan (p. 30); Aries and Libra quhilkis ar tua singnis equinoctialis (p. 39); thir scheiphyris quhilkis ar callit to name (p. 51), etc.
- b) smythis, & forgearis of yrn ande steil, the quhilkis culd mak ane instrament (p. 8); mony vordis of antiquite, that i hef rehersit in this tracteit, the quhilkis culd nocht be translait (p. 13); tua kyrnellis of nutis & tua feggis and ane lytil quantite of salt, the quhilkis he mixt al to giddeyr (p. 63); philaris, dionysisis, nero callugala or domician, the quhilkis maid ane mischeuous ende (p. 64), etc.
- c) tua sternis quhilk ar callit the tua polis (p. 38); in the begynnyng of Cancer and capricorn quhilk ar tua solstice singnis (p. 39); ptholome auerois aristotel galien ypocrites or Cicero quhilk var expert practicians (p. 49); sergestes and engestes quhilk var tua saxons (p. 67).
- d) mony vthir lycht dancis the quhilk ar ouer prolix to be rehersit (p. 52); thir presoners the quhilk i hef conquest (p. 91).²⁰

The remaining 15 examples are instances of the relative adjective with a plural antecedent; 6 of these (40%) select the plural form, and 9 (60%) the uninflected one:

- a) the quhilkis tua riche kyngis (p. 4); the quhilkz volffis (p. 2); the quhilkis humours nocht beand degeistit (p. 7); the quhilkis prophane prophetis and vaticinaris (p. 65); Augustus Cesar and Anthonius, quhilkis tua contendit for the empire (p. 143); the quhilkis cheptours sais (p. 144);
- b) through the quhilk thre plagis (p. 1); the occasions of the mutabiliteis: quhilk occasions ar ay vigilant (p. 16); the quhilk sex thousand ðeir (p. 28); the quhilk sextene scoir (p. 73); to the quhilk vordis the romans ... (p. 77); the quhilk presoneirs he had (p. 91); the quhilk foliful affectionis (p. 99); considir thir vordis befor rehersit? quhilk vordis suld be (p. 122); the quhilk gracis and propreteis (p. 125).

With regard to the adjectives of Romance origin, these, as Aitken observed, tend to be postpositive when they are inflected for plural. The only exception is *diuerse*, which precedes the noun it modifies in the only instance in which it takes *-is* in plural: 'diuersis passis' (p. 71). In the remaining 71 examples, however, the uninflected form is used, the percentage of the plural adjective being therefore 1.4%²¹.

¹⁵ The four instances of *vthir* inflected for plural occur in chapters 13 and 14. There are no examples in those chapters of the singular form of this adjective or of *said* with plural nouns.

¹⁶ In one case the inflected form of the relative, *quhilkis*, is used with a singular antecedent: 'the remanent of his gryt armye past til athenes quhilkis var redde to be randrit til xerxes' (pp. 61-2). The relative may have been attracted by the *-s* of *athenes*; this noun may be considered, moreover, a collective one, with a plural meaning.

¹⁷ In two of these examples the noun, although plural in meaning, does not take the plural inflection: 'the quhilk sex thousand ðeir' (p. 28) and 'the quhilk sextene scoir' (p. 73).

¹⁸ Twelve of these are preceded by the definite article.

¹⁹ Two of these are preceded by the definite article.

²⁰ As can be seen from the examples, both the inflected and the uninflected forms occur in restrictive and non-restrictive clauses.

²¹ *DOST* only has one example of this adjective inflected for plural: (1598) 'Efter lang ressoning vpoun the qualyficioun of dyuersis and sindrie merchandis'. *Diuerse* may also be a pronoun both in English and Scots, but all the examples in *OED* and *DOST* are of the uninflected form. The four instances of the pronoun in *The Complaynt* are not inflected: 'diuerse of the thre estaitis' (p. 1); 'diuerse of the membrs' (p. 9), etc.

The remaining adjectives which take *- (i)s* in the plural tend to occur in postposition when inflected. Most of them occur in the astronomy dissertation of chapter six and in the description of the different kinds of wars in chapter twenty, that is, in scientific contexts:

the lynis *parallelis* (p. 37); demonstrations *mathematicis* (p. 37); tua singnis *equinoctialis* (p. 39); the parteis *aduersaris* (p. 68); and vtheris grit captans baitht *romans* and *greccians* (p. 85); the fyfteen inuectyuis *philipiques* (p. 109),²² *sciens liberalis* (p. 125); *battellis finityuis* (p. 131); *battellis socialis* ..., *battellis ciuilis* ..., *battellis intestynis* ..., *battellis asephales* (p. 132).

The practice of inflecting adjectives when they modify plural nouns is not, however, consistent in *The Complaynt*, and it is possible to find even in the same sentence adjectives which take *- (i)s* and others which remain uninflected:

- and it sal declair the mouyng eleuatione, and declinatione of the sone mune, and of the sternis fixt and sternis *erratic*. and it sal declair the eleuatione of the polis, and the lynis *parallelis*, and the *meridian* circlis, and diurse vthir documentis and demonstrations *mathematicis* (p. 37);
- ... Aries and Libra quhilkis ar tua singnis *equinoctialis* the tothir circle passis in the begynnyng of Cancer and capricorn quhilk ar tua *solstice* singnis (p. 39)²³.

An especially revealing example is ‘ciuil and intestine veyris’ (p. 137), as against ‘*battellis ciuilis*’ and ‘*battellis intestynis*’ (p. 132) previously mentioned. With *veyr*, a native noun, the adjective follows the native usage and thus remains uninflected and in attributive position; with *battel*, however, a noun of Romance origin, the whole structure is borrowed: the adjective takes *-is* in the plural and is placed after the noun it modifies in imitation of Romance usage.

On one occasion the inflected adjective occurs in predicative position: ‘i and al vthir of my faculte sal be clene and *innocentis* of that foule cryme’ (p. 102).

2.2. ANE RESOYNG

Of the native adjectives mentioned by Aitken as taking *-is* when modifying plural nouns, *(vel)be)lovit* is not used in *Ane Resonyng* and *vthir* is never inflected in this text²⁴. *(Foir)said* occurs with plural nouns in twenty instances; four of these (20%) take *-is* and the remaining sixteen (80%) are uninflected²⁵. The following examples, which illustrate both sets of forms, are particularly revealing, since the past participle is inflected and uninflected with the same nouns:

- a) in π e saidis twa buikis (p. 9); for to reput all π e forsaidis causis of weir (p. 55); the induring of π e forsaidis homagis (p. 119); π e forme and tennour of π e forsaidis compeditouris compromit (p. 143);
- b) without ony of π ir forsaid caussis (p. 51); all π ir forsaid homagis and fealteis (p. 131); π e discussioun of π e forsaid compeditouris titill (p. 143).

With regard to the relative, there are 14 instances of *(the) quhilk (is)* in *Ane Resonyng* with a plural antecedent, three of which (21.4%) take *-is* in the plural²⁶. The results are different, however, if

²² This adjective does not seem to be acclimatized in the language, since it also takes *-s* when it modifies a singular noun: ‘in his inuectyue philipiques’ (p. 146).

²³ Although, as these examples show, the uninflected adjectives tend to occur in attributive position, there are also instances in which they are postpositive: ther is iiii callit vyndis *cardinal* and the tothir iiii, ar callit vyndis *collateral* (p. 48); gart al my spreitis *vital* ande *animal* (p. 53); diurse sciensis *diuynne* ande *humain* (p. 54); faders *conscript* (p. 90).

²⁴ *Vther* is only inflected in the plural in *Ane Resonyng* when it is a pronoun: ‘bot also to vtheris of his awin bluid’ (p. 157).

²⁵ The adjective occurs in attributive position in eighteen of these instances, and is postpositive in only two examples: ‘be his wordis of Latine forsaid’ (p. 73) and ‘groundis and occasionis forsaid’ (p. 151).

²⁶ In one case the inflected form of the relative, *quhilkis*, is used with a singular antecedent, and on another occasion it refers to a whole clause: - π e just ground of π e Balliolis allegit homage, π e quhilkis nedis na impugnatioun becaus it is sa honest (p. 115); - suld a kyng treat and conclud greit materis without his Estatis, quhilkis behuivit bene done gife π e meting at π ork had haldin (p. 39). None of these instances has been taken into account.

a distinction is made between the pronoun and the adjective. There are five instances of the former with a plural antecedent; two of these (40%) select the inflected form and the remaining three (60%) the uninflected one:

- a) jugis of his testament, quhilkis we call executouris (p. 25); ꝑe auld philosophouris opinionis, quhilkis makis me soir addred (p. 171),²⁷
- b) instrumentis, quhilk neuertꝑeles wes eftir recouerit (p. 133); be recordis and registreis, quhilk we haue so formale, so autentical, so seiouslie handillit (p. 139); mony valid improbationis quhilk [I] and my cumpanionis ... can nor will decern (p. 169).

The relative is an adjective in the remaining nine examples; only one of them (11%) selects the inflected form, as against eight (88%) which take uninflected (*the*) *quhilk*:

- a) quhilkis landis was restorit (p. 87);
- b) in ꝑe quhilk twa buikis (pp. 5-7); the quhilk causis maid ws to obtene the Greit Seill (p. 7); quhilk twa thingis (p. 103); quhilk [particulare] spacis (p. 109); ꝑe quhilk procedingis (p. 111); quhilk spacis of homagis collectit (p. 119); of ꝑe quhilk jc xxij. ꝑeir is (p. 153); quhilk xij. ꝑeir is ar past (p. 153).

The remaining adjectives which take *-is* in the plural are of Romance origin and, except *fugitiuis*, occur in attributive position when inflected:

- ane certain Inglis rebellis, *fugitiuis* in Scotland (p. 7); defend continewalie xv. ꝑeir is nobillis *fugitivis* of Scotland (p. 31); ꝑe mantenyng of ꝑe Scottis nobillis *fugitiveis* (p. 33),²⁸
- be twenty *excusatorijs* writtingis (p. 25);²⁹ I traist ꝑat Vallia is vnit to ꝑe Inglis crown as ꝑe vthir *Saxonis* realmes was (p. 59); ꝑe Brittanis childring begouth to leir literatoure and *Romanis* ciuilliteis (p. 63).³⁰

Most adjectives of Romance origin, however, are not inflected for plural in this work, as the following examples show:

- sex *iust* causis (p. 7); ꝑe *principall* parteis (p. 19); ꝑe *riale* branchis (p. 35); v. or sax auld *mendicant* freris (p. 45); *particulare* homagis (p. 67), etc.

3. CONCLUSIONS

This paper has studied the Middle Scots practice of inflecting both adjectives of Romance origin and the native adjectives and past participles (*foir*)*said*, (*vel*)*be*)*lovit*, *vthir* and *quhilk*. The first two native forms have been shown to be especially frequent in legal or official documents; the construction, therefore, may have been borrowed from Latin³¹. *Vthir* and *quhilk*, on the other hand, were commonly inflected for plural as pronouns, and the inflection seems to have then extended to the corresponding adjectives, probably because of confusion between their pronominal and adjectival function.

Of these, (*vel*)*be*)*lovit* is the least usual term (it does not occur in any of the texts analysed), and seems to be restricted to legal registers. At the other end of the scale stands the relative, which often

²⁷ The interrogative pronoun is also inflected in the plural in *Ane Resonyng*: 'Quhilkis be tha just causis?' (p. 7); 'I will nocht 3our lordis and ladyis reherss, quhilkis for ꝑe trewth wes miserable murdreit' (p. 35).

²⁸ The *OED* points out that this adjective occurs sometimes with inflected plural, especially in legal phrases after Anglo-French, and gives the following example: (1527) 'That none should receiue the others subjects fugitiues'.

²⁹ The *OED* does not give any example of this adjective inflected for plural.

³⁰ The double *-s* of the adjectives in '*diuerss* opinionis' (p. 47) and 'as it apperis in *choiss* recordis' (p. 141) does not seem to represent the plural inflection, since it also occurs with singular nouns, such as *adwyiss*, *causs*, *deceiss*. It seems to be, therefore, a mere orthographic convention in *Ane Resonyng* for words ending in <se> or <ce>.

³¹ Latin was the official language in Scotland until 1398, when the Scottish Parliament began to enact its statutes in the vernacular.

takes - (*i*)s when referring to plural antecedents in all kinds of texts. The pronoun is more frequently inflected than the adjective, probably in order to clarify its referent. In the case of the adjective, however, the information provided by the plural inflection is redundant, since the antecedent is repeated after the relative.

With regard to the adjectives of Romance origin that take - (*i*)s in the plural, the usage varies in the different texts: whereas Haye and the author of *The Complaynt* tend to place the inflected adjective in postposition, Bellenden and Lamb prefer the attributive position. In the first case, the construction would be considered as foreign, since both the plural inflection of the adjective and its position are borrowed. For Bellenden and Lamb, however, these inflected adjectives seem to be more established or acclimatized in the language, since these writers follow the native usage and place them in attributive position. On the other hand, there are very few examples in these texts of the inflected adjective in predicative position.

Although the author of *The Complaynt* is writing under the immediate influence of a French original, there are only 15 examples of adjectives of Romance origin inflected for plural in this work of 61,250 words (0.024%)³². As previously mentioned, most of them occur in scientific registers (dissertation on astronomy and on war) and are placed in postposition. In *Ane Resonyng* (16,700 words) there are six instances of adjectives of Romance origin inflected for plural (0.035%), and they occur both attributively and in postposition. This construction therefore seems to be both more frequent and more 'natural' in this text than in *The Complaynt*. It may thus be concluded that the practice of inflecting adjectives of Romance origin in the plural is characteristic of scientific and legal texts rather than literary texts, even when the latter are written under the immediate influence of a French or Latin original.

REFERENCES

- Aitken, A. J. 1971: Variation and Variety in Written Middle Scots. Aitken, McIntosh & Pálsson, eds. *Edinburgh Studies in English and Scots*. London, Longman: 177-209.
- Caldwell, Sarah J. G. 1974: *The Relative Pronoun in Early Scots*. Helsinki, Société Néophilologique.
- Craigie, William & A. J. Aitken, eds. 1931-: *A Dictionary of the Older Scottish Tongue from the Twelfth Century to the End of the Seventeenth, Founded on the Collections of Sir William A. Craigie*. 7 vols. to date. Chicago, U of Chicago P; London, Oxford UP.
- Glenn, Jonathan Alan. 1987: A New Edition of Sir Gilbert Haye's *Buke of the Ordre of Knychthede*. Ph.D. U of Notre Dame.
- Grant, William & David D. Murison, eds. 1929-76: *The Scottish National Dictionary*. Vols. 1-10. Edinburgh, The Scottish National Dictionary Association.
- Kisbye, Torben. 1971: *An Historical Outline of English Syntax*. Part I. Akademisk Boghandel.
- Lass, Roger. 1992: Phonology and Morphology. Blake, ed. *The Cambridge History of the English Language*. Vol. II. 1066-1476. Cambridge, CUP.
- Lyall, Roderick J., ed. 1985: *William Lamb. Ane Resonyng of ane Scottis and Inglis Merchand betuix Rowand and Lionis*. Aberdeen, Aberdeen UP.
- Mustanoja, T. 1960: *A Middle English Syntax*. Part I. *Parts of Speech*. Helsinki, Mémoires de la Société Néophilologique 23.
- Sheppard, E.A. 1936: Studies in the Language of Bellenden's *Boece*. Ph.D. U of London.
- Simpson, J.A. & E.S.C. Weiner, eds. 1989: *The Oxford English Dictionary*. Oxford, Clarendon.

³² Adjectives functioning as head of noun phrases have not been included.

Stewart, A.M., ed. 1979: *The Complaynt of Scotland*. Edinburgh, The Scottish Text Society.

* * *