

La Chanson de Roland

Anonymous Bosch

11th Century

**Read by Jeffrey Boutwell at the Fourth Celebration
Of Boot's 70th Birthday
Inn at Ferry Landing, Deer Isle, Maine
10 August 2018**

To Roland, on this, the day of his birth,
We do fully express our joy and our mirth,
In this, our 70th birthday proclamation decree.
Forever and always, grateful we'll be,
To acknowledge and praise him for all that he's worth.

As a young lad in Winchester,
He could be quite the jester,
Halloween tricks on the neighbors,
Was but one of his capers,
And the girls, my how he would pester!

From his Sheffield Road home,
He would far and wide roam,
Wyman School, camp Robin Hood,
He explored all he could,
Adventure was in his genome!

Off to Middlesex he went,
His inquiring mind in ferment,
Studying history, English, Latin and math,
Boot was pursuing an academic path,
In which Yale College did nobly assent.

In his 20's there spawned,
A love of stream and the pond,
A special friend was John Tulp,
And it is no mea culp(a),
To admit of a tight fishing bond!

Stout comrades he made,
Wherever he strayed,
See! Boot and Lord Buck,
Like Tom and his Huck,
Camping in hill and in glade.

There was also Sir Night,
And a friendship airtight,
With Fran off to Sicily,
Not to mention, and Italy,
To savor Rome at first light.

From Chesterford Road,
And his cute cottage abode,
New England he traveled,
Lakes and rivers were paddled,
Why look! There goes a horned toad!

Shrubs and wildflowers galore,
He felt a rapport,
Boot collected them all,
On all fours he would crawl,
In forest, by lake and by shore.

With McFarlands and Hoods,
Boot would lead tours of the woods,
Great wonders of nature,
Whether forest or glacier,
He'd always deliver the goods.

Sperdutos and Boutwells,
And of course Barbara Strell,
Pond hockey we'd play,
Always quite the mêlée,
Christmas ah, Joyeux Noël.

Now Christmas, it's true,
Makes us think of the Whos,
And who else in a pinch,
Can recite Seuss' Grinch,
I ask you, good friends, who.... Who ?

Boot's other pastimes pursued,
Include cooking and food,
And playing the guitar,
From his vast repertoire,
Would always lighten our mood.

To top it all off,
He joins the world of Chekov,
Boot takes up theater and acting,
And in a superb piece of casting,
His Dr. Bob's friend we salute with a quaff!

Now finally good friends,
You can see how this ends,
We salute with raised glass,
The hero of Roncevaux Pass,
And humbly say our 'Amens'!

Coda:

Here we are, Down East on Deer Isle,
All of us have traveled, many a mile,
To celebrate once more,
Boot's ten years and three score,
But Boot, a fourth birthday party ? Now that does take guile !