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**UNIBOS:**  
**THE EARLIEST FULL-LENGTH FABLIAU**  
**(TEXT AND TRANSLATION)**

**Marc Wolterbeek**

*Unibos* is an early comic tale which has escaped the notice of American and British literary theorists, although Flemish and German scholars have long been aware of this poem's seminal position in the history of medieval comic literature. It is the first extended Latin narrative antedating the vernacular productions of the late twelfth and thirteenth centuries, and it thus deserves full critical attention from admirers of Old French and Chaucerian fabliaux.

The poem is located in a single manuscript, the Bibliothèque Royale's 10,078-95 (fol 38V<sup>o</sup>-42V<sup>o</sup>) in Brussels, which also houses a number of important musical texts. Grimm and Schmeller, following a transcription by Jans-Frans Willems, first published *Unibos* in 1838, but their edition is riddled with faults. Haupt attempted to correct the errors of this text (1853), but he too failed to consult the manuscript directly. Not until Woestijne's edition and Flemish translation (1944) did a reasonably accurate edition appear. Langosch's text, accompanied by a German translation (1956), is indebted to Woestijne's and contains several minor errors.

The story of *Unibos* or "One-ox", the tricky peasant who continually hoodwinks his social superiors, is a widespread tale which has elicited the interest of European folklorists. Clouston (1887) mentions some twenty-seven versions of the legend, and Müller (1934) devotes a dissertation to comparative analyses of these versions. Cosquin (1886) considers the proliferation of the tale in France; Hart (1908), unaware of *Unibos*, traces the legend's development in England; and Meyer (1942) investigates variants in Germany, France, and the Netherlands. These folklorists are most concerned with variations of themes, and they recognize *Unibos* as the first extant version of the tale. However, they do not view the poem from a literary perspective—that is, they do not evaluate *Unibos*' generic context.

Only German theorists have attempted to establish the poem's literary context. Kögel (1894-1897) and Ehrismann (1918-1935) give plot summaries

of the work, and Beyer (1974, 1979) and Suchomski (1975) devote detailed analyses to *Unibos*. Philip Allen is aware of *Unibos* but does not discuss it (1931, 37; 1928, 275, n. 3). Neither Dronke nor Raby mentions the poem.

The Brussels manuscript is generally recognized as an eleventh century compilation, but *Unibos* was probably circulated earlier. Langosch (1953, 634-638) gives 1045 as the *terminus ad quem* for *Unibos*, but he believes, like most scholars, that it was a well-known story in the tenth century. Only Müller (1934, 33) places the poem later, 1050-1070. Very likely *Unibos* was recited and even performed during the hundred or more years preceding its commitment to parchment.

The generic proximity of *Unibos* to several of the Cambridge Songs gives further evidence about its date and generic status. Critics agree that the Cambridge manuscript was compiled c. 1050, but a number of the poems are also located in tenth century manuscripts (Strecker 1926, 17, 41, 97). Seven of the Cambridge Songs are short comic narratives which some critics have called *ridicula* or "funny stories" (Beyer 1969, 64-93; Wolterbeek 1984, 2-13). Two of these stories, *Sacerdos et Lupus* and *De Iohanne abbate*, employ the same hymn strophe as does *Unibos*: Ambrosian rhymed couplets. This eight-syllable, rhythmic verse form differs little from the Old French octosyllabic couplet, the vehicle of the fabliaux.

*Unibos* resembles the short *ridicula* in content, but it excels them in narrative development. Deception, cunning, and stupidity are the basis of comedy in the *ridicula* and in *Unibos*, and the level of diction is appropriately low for the mundane subject matter. The significant difference between *Unibos* and the short *ridicula* is length: the longest story in the Cambridge collection has twenty strophes; *Unibos* consists of 216 strophes.

*Unibos* contains four complex episodes arranged in symmetrical order, and it thus represents an advancement upon the simpler *ridicula* of the Cambridge manuscript. Superficially, the poem appears to consist of six episodes: *Unibos*' discovery of treasure (strophes 4-29); the sale of the ox-skins (strophes 30-67); the murder of the wives (strophes 68-114); the sale of the mare (strophes 115-158); *Unibos*' fake death (strophes 159-196); and the antagonists' actual deaths (strophes 197-215). But in fact there are four episodes in which the three fools imitate the hero's actions with disastrous results. The first two and the last two scenes constitute single, lengthy episodes framing the shorter ones at the poem's center. *Unibos*' sheer bulk and narrative complexity distinguish it from contemporary comic tales.

The likely ancestors of the *ridicula* and *Unibos* are the comic Carolingian rhythms of the ninth century and before, but these early works, similar in strophic structure, lack meaningful narration. The untitled rhythm about the

tipping monk from Angers has no plot; it is merely the amusing description of a monk who drinks immense quantities of wine (Raby 1967, 1:217-218). The longest of these poems is the *Cena Cypriani*, consisting of 324 lines but having the thinnest of story lines: personages from the Old and New Testaments, invited to the wedding of King Johel, get drunk and sing, but they do little else (Strecker 1884, 4:857-900).

The appearance of the Unibos-theme in later comic literature reveals much about the nature of medieval genres. *Rapularius*, a twelfth century Latin *Schwank* written in the elegiac meter that dominates late Latin poetry and provides the form of the *comediae elegiacae*, has two episodes, one of which parallels the final episode of *Unibos* (Langosch 1956, 308-331). But this later work is flavored by a scholasticism foreign to the *ridicula* and fabliaux: the main character does not dupe a swineherd, as does Unibos, but tricks a *scholasticus*, and his appeal is not for worldly power, but for worldly knowledge.

*Unibos* and the *ridicula* are generically closer to less scholarly, more popular forms of literature, such as fabliaux and fairytales. One of the latest versions of *Unibos* is Grimm's *Das Bürle* ("The Little Peasant"), containing the first and last episodes of the Latin *Unibos* and introducing an entirely new scene at a miller's house. The story is a conflation of *Unibos* and the fabliau *Le Povre Clerc*, providing the fairytale's added scene (Hart 1908, 343-360). Although no exact analogue to *Unibos* exists among the extant fabliaux, this story and the *ridicula* share obvious structural and thematic commonplaces with the Old French narratives.

Like several other early rhythmic narratives, *Unibos* begins with an impressive statement about public performance. The poet explains that the story (*fabula*) was first heard at the "table of a great prince," and he then exhorts his audience to sing of "One-ox" while actors perform the story. Numerous allusions to banquets and marketplaces as the locales of theatrical performances by *mimi*, *scurrae*, and *histriones* attest that the prologue of *Unibos* is not pure fiction (Ogilvy 1963). Sextus Amarcus, for instance, writing in the mid-eleventh century, describes a banquet scene in which mimes steal from their diverted listener (Manitius 1888, 15):

Quid loquar astantes ficta ditescere laude  
 Mimos? hi dominis astu per verba iocosa  
 Plurima surripiunt etiam scalpente datore  
 Sinciput; exhausto descrescit copia cornu.

(What should I say about these mimes hanging about and becoming rich with feigned praise? In their cleverness, with play-

ful words, they steal much from the lords, even the ham from the titillated giver; plenty diminishes when the horn is emptied.)

Curiously enough, much of the action in *Unibos* takes place at markets and public squares. The main character himself is quite the actor, as he performs a mock ritual for the onlooking fools (strophes 80-85), as he plays the role of swineherd with gusto (strophes 198-199).

The following edition attempts to produce a faithful rendition of the Brussels' manuscript, with emendations only when absolutely necessary. I have followed the corrections made by a later scribe on the parchment, for they all seem just. Ten of the thirteen emendations correct obvious errors, and Woestijne also makes most of these changes. One line (90, 1) lacks a syllable, and I agree with Woestijne that *hunc* is a logical insertion; I also agree with the Flemish scholar that *sim* is more appropriate than *sum* in 55, 2, and that *nobis arare* is more syntactically correct than *arare nobis* in 39, 2. However, I do not think it necessary to change *donavi* to *donavit* in 139, 4 and 146, 4 — this emendation complicates a perfectly intelligible passage. Woestijne changes the manuscript's *obprobriiis* (63, 1) to *obprobiis* — a simple mistake on his part — and he does not correct the obvious error of *gebulae* (113, 1). All in all, the manuscript offers an easily understood story in a clear, prosaic Latin.

### UNIBOS

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. Rebus conspectis seculi<br>Non satiantur oculi;<br>Aures sunt in hominibus<br>Amicae novitatibus.      | Men's eyes are never filled enough by<br>the remarkable sights of this world.<br>Their ears are ever eager to hear new<br>tales. |
| 2. Ad mensam magni principis<br>Est rumor Uniusbovis;<br>Praesentatur ut fabula<br>Per verba iocularia.   | As a play with witty words, the story<br>of Unibos is presented at the table of a<br>great prince.                               |
| 3. Fiunt cibus convivia,<br>Sed verbis exercitia;<br>In personarum drammate<br>Uno cantemus de bove!      | There are guests at the feast, a<br>bandying of words. Accompanied by<br>performing actors, let us sing of<br>Unibos:            |
| 4. Natis natus ridiculis,<br>Est rusticus de rusticis;<br>Natura fecit hominem,<br>Sed fortuna mirabilem. | Son of ridiculous sons, he is a peasant<br>from peasants. Nature made the man,<br>but fortune produced wonders.                  |

5. *Gravis fati commercio  
Boves emit pauper homo;  
Sub exemplis agricolae  
Terram laborat scindere.* This poor man has bought oxen — they are cruel fate's lot — and imitating farmers, he tries to split the earth.
6. *Eventus per horribiles  
Nunquam ducit duos boves;  
Nec simul pungit stimulo  
Nec uno ponit sub iugo.* But the worst luck prohibits him from leading two oxen. He never strikes two at once, he never puts two under the same yoke.
7. *Frustra fortunam vincere  
Sua certat pauperie;  
Duro fatorum stamine  
Boves perdit assidue.* Vainly he struggles to conquer his destined poverty; he continuously loses oxen, thanks to the coarse thread of the Fates.
8. *Sequax unius fit bovis  
Excoriatis relinquis.  
A vicinis deluditur;  
Unusbos miser dicitur.* Now he follows one ox — the others have been skinned. His neighbors, mocking him, call him wretched "One-ox."
9. *Tristis sors mugientium  
Bovem rapit novissimum;  
Iam res minor fit elegi  
Egestate vocabuli.* Bitter destiny deprives him of his last lowing ox. Now things stand worse than his nickname would indicate.
10. *Exinanito nomine,  
Evacuato bostare,  
Tergus disponit vendere  
Denudato cadavere.* With his good name gone and his stalls emptied, he plans to sell the hide once the corpse has been stripped.
11. *Corpus linquit quadruvio  
Sumpto bovis amphibalo;  
Super iumentum sellulam  
Ponit vitae fiduciam.* He leaves the carcass on the crossroad, takes the ox's hide, and places it, his last hope for survival, upon his mule's saddle.
12. *Ad forum postliminii  
Bovis fert vestem mortui;  
Non tardat se per semitas  
Dum festinat ad nundinas.* He brings the skin of his dead ox to a market beyond the border. Narrow paths do not slow him down as he hurries to the fair.
13. *Sed ut intrat emporium,  
Facit venale corium,  
Quod putat magni precii  
Sicut decorem pallii.* As soon as he enters the marketplace, he offers the skin for sale, thinking it most valuable, like a fine cloak.

14. *Participes commercii  
Capacitatem corii  
Pedem mensurant terminis  
Sutorum testimoniis.* With shoemakers looking on, merchants measure the breadth of the skin to the tips of the hooves.
- 12,2 vestem  
pestem B
15. *Unibovem nullus iuvat;  
Solus pellem magnificat.  
Pro nummis octo tunicam  
Bovis largitur sordidam.* None of the offers satisfies Unibos — he alone values the skin highly. Yet for eight cents he sells the shabby hide of his ox.
16. *Post expletum commercium  
Ascendit iumentum suum,  
Distento ventre turgidus  
Retrorsum vertendo gradum.* After this deal, Unibos fills his belly, climbs his mule, and heads back home.
17. *Omen habens argenteum  
Intrat lucum frondiferum;  
Qui dum ventris purgat  
lacum,  
Nummatum trahit meritum.* Chance smiles upon him as he enters a thick wood: while relieving himself, he discovers a treasure of coins.
18. *Anum dum certat tergere,  
Herbam festinat rumpere,  
Sed herbam vellens reperit  
Quod gens avara diligit.* In fact, as he seeks to wipe himself, tearing handfuls of grass, under a tuft he finds what greedy people love.
19. *De nummis tres sextarios  
Mox offendit absconditos,  
Quos in flaccenti sacco  
Ponit mox facto turgido.* He uncovers three bags of silver coins hidden in the grass and soon his saddlebag bulges with them.
20. *Super iumentum concitus  
Totis imponit viribus  
Casu repertas vir opes;  
Ad paternas redit lares.* Using all his strength, he places his new-found wealth on top of the mule and returns to his father's hearth.
21. *Reversus saccum disligat;  
Infantem stultus advocat,  
Quem mittit pro sextario  
Praepositi iustissimo.* Back home, the fool unloads his bag and calls for his son, whom he sends to the provost for an accurate measuring device.

22. Quærit puer sextarium,  
Præpositus officium;  
Pandit puer negotium  
Nimis simplex argenteum.      The boy goes for the measurer. The provost asks about its purpose, and the simpleton reveals the story about the silver.
23. Largitur vas præpositus  
Infanti donans ocius;  
Unibovem pauperrimum  
Stupet factum ditissimum.      The provost takes out the instrument and gives it to the swift boy. He is amazed that the destitute Unibos is now extremely wealthy.
24. Post tergum vadit pueri  
Ferentis lancem tritici;  
Massam videt argenteam  
Fumosam dum lustrat domam.      The provost, hurrying behind the boy, who carries the wheat-balance, finally perceives a silver mass brightening the smoky cottage.
25. Nummorum visis montibus  
Dicit complosis manibus:  
"Huius egeni gaudium  
Est furtum, non commercium.      Upon seeing mountains of coins, the provost, clapping his hands together, exclaims, "This poor man's joy comes from theft, not business.
26. "Non est in musac cesarum  
Nec corbanan pontificum  
Argenti tantum pretium  
Quantum tegit tugurium."      "Neither the emperor's vault nor the pope's coffer conceals as much silver as this cottage."
27. Irritatus præposito  
Respondet valde livido:  
"Non est hoc furtum noctium,  
Sed corii commercium.      Angry, Unibos replies to the envious provost: "This does not come from stealing in the dark of night, but from the sale of my ox-skin.
28. "Post huius regni terminum  
Sollempne fit emporium;  
Dum data bovis tunica  
Argenti ridet copia.      "Beyond this realm's border is a weekly market. When a seller offers an ox-hide, merchants offer him plenty of silver.
29. "Non est mercatum simile  
Sicut de bovis tergo.  
Exemplum de me paupere  
Si vis tenere, suscipe!"      "There is no business like selling ox-skins. If you wish to follow my example — a poor man's — then do so."
30. Post hæc ministri publico  
Conveniunt in trivio.  
Villae maior, præpositus,  
Templi sacerdos inclitus.      After this the officials — the town mayor, the provost, and the distinguished priest of the church — convene in a public square.



31. *Oeconomus attonitus  
Suis refert comitibus  
Famam novi commercii,  
Unius questum corii.*      The stunned provost, who is treasurer of the church, informs his companions about the news of the recent sale and the enormous profit gained from a single hide.
32. *Tunc gavisus praepositus,  
Fartus tantis rumoribus,  
Profunda dat suspiria,  
Cum pompa dicens talia:*      Filled with joyful tidings and sighing deeply, the provost pompously hails his colleagues:
33. *“Vobis dicam miraculum,  
Revelabo prodigium,  
Aperiam consilium  
Celandum saluberrimum.*      “I’ll tell you about a miracle and reveal a marvel. Indeed, I’ll give you a most useful bit of advice, but you must keep it secret.
34. *“Si vultis esse divites,  
Si fortunati, comites,  
Quae sum facturus, facite,  
Sequenda nunc perpendite!*      “If you want to become wealthy and blessed, my friends, follow my advice and do what I shall do.
35. *“A nostris tabernaculis  
Omnis fortuna sterilis  
Descedet per commercium,  
Commerciorum maximum.*      “All evil fortune will depart our houses through a great business deal — the greatest of all deals.
36. *“Est mercandi felicitas  
Quam transmisit divinitas,  
De vitulorum coriis,  
De vitularum spoliis.*      “The Lord brings us the opportunity of selling the skins of our calves and our cows.
37. *“Hic noster pauper Unibos  
Habet multos denarios,  
Quos non mensurat numero,  
Sed ferrato sextario.*      “Our poor Unibos has so many silver pieces, he can’t measure them without a wheat-measurer.
38. *“Est fortunatus subito  
Unius pellis precio,  
Quam vendidit in proximo  
Eventu felicissimo.*      “He is suddenly enriched by selling a single hide, which by happy chance he sold nearby.
39. *“Non est opus sub imbribus  
Nobis arare amplius,  
Si probatis una die  
Locupletem de paupere.*      “If you agree to become rich instead of poor in a single day, we need no longer plough in the rain.

39,2 nobis arare

arare nobis B

40. "Sed quod narro commercium  
Occultum sit per triduum!  
Si trapezetae saperent,  
Argentum nunquam tunderent.
41. "Est facta demonstratio  
Commercii de commodo;  
Fiat deliberatio,  
Quid nobis sit in animo!"
42. Ad haec suspirans presbiter  
Prior respondet impiger,  
Plenus novae letitiae  
Plusquam possit ostendere.
43. "Si mutaretur in bovem  
Uxor, quam duxi, nobilem,  
Pro tanti lucri spe bona  
Mox careret pellicula."
44. Mox maior villae tertius,  
Habendi cui non est modus,  
Quae concepit ex fabula,  
Eructavit prodigia:
40. "But let's keep this business secret  
for three days, for, if the minters  
should find out, they would never  
strike silver coins.
41. "I have described this business op-  
portunity to you. Let us now decide  
what we shall do."
- At this the priest, sighing deeply, ea-  
gerly responds first; he is full of a  
new-found joy — more than he can  
ever show.
43. "If the woman I have married could  
be turned into a fine ox, she would  
soon lack her little hide in my hope  
for so much gain."
- Then the mayor of the village, whose  
possessions are immeasurable, hav-  
ing heard the provost's tale, belched  
forth oaths:

43,1 in bovem

unibovem B

43,3 bona

boni B

45. "Per istum iuro baculum,  
Per corpus hoc, per  
spiritum,  
Si ruminant diluculo  
Mei bovis in stabulo."
46. Dextras furtivo foedere  
Vicissim certant tangere  
Ut clam boves excerebren  
Interfectos excorrient.
45. "I swear by this staff, by this body, by  
this soul, my oxen won't be chewing  
cud in the stable at dawn."
- They eagerly shake hands to seal their  
secret compact: to behead their oxen  
and skin the dead animals.

47. Firmati per stultitiam  
 Procedunt ad insaniam;  
 Mactant boves crudeliter  
 Excoriantes acriter.                      Confirmed in their stupidity, they  
 rush to madness; they savagely slay  
 their oxen and zealously strip them of  
 their hides.
48. Suspendunt carnes trabibus;  
 Pelles taxant in curribus.  
 Quietate noctis tempore  
 Petunt mercatum transfugae.              They hang the flesh on beams and  
 stack the skins in their carts. In the  
 deep of night, they go to market like  
 traitors seeking an enemy camp.
49. Plaustra pelles vehentia  
 Locant sub arrogancia  
 In mercati confinio  
 Inani pleni somnio.                      Haughty and full of foolish dreams,  
 they place the carts full of skins at the  
 edge of the marketplace.
50. Respectum per silentia  
 Vibrant per fori stadia;  
 Interpretari sub prece  
 Sperant a multitudine.                      They glance rapidly and silently  
 around the confines of the market-  
 place; they expect to do business with  
 an entreating multitude.
51. Vulgus transit, vulgus redit,  
 Nullus sub cura consulit;  
 Non est, qui quaerat cupide  
 commercium de tergo.                      People come, people go, and not one  
 shows any interest in the hides; no  
 one eagerly inquires about the skins.
52. Post intervalla temporum  
 Maior tenendo stimulum  
 Clamat in rauco guttore:  
 "Quis vult has pelles  
 emere?"                      After some time the mayor,  
 brandishing his staff, cries in a hoarse  
 voice, "Who wants to buy these  
 skins?"
53. Assunt sutores sordidi,  
 Quibus sunt septem solidi,  
 Quibus placet coemptio  
 Uno signato corio.                      Lowly shoemakers who have seven  
 cents approach. They are interested in  
 buying only a single intact hide.
54. Dicit sutor: "Quantum dabo  
 Hoc pro bovino corio?"  
 Respondet maior subito:  
 "Tres libras da continuo!"                      One of them asks, "How much do I  
 have to pay for this ox-hide?" The  
 mayor replies quickly, "Three  
 pounds at once!"

55. Sutor inquit: "Es ebrius!"  
Maior ait: "Sim fatuus.  
De tribus libris minimum  
Non dimittam denarium."
- The shoemaker replies, "You must be crazy." "Maybe I am," replies the mayor, "but I will not budge a penny under three pounds."
56. Tunc inquit sutor setifer:  
"Dicis ioculariter."  
Econtra maior somnifer:  
"Tres libras!" clamat firmiter.
- Then the surly shoemaker says, "You're joking," and in reply the mayor, still sleepy, says steadily, "Three pounds."
57. Vulgaris ammiratio  
Sonoro mox fit in foro;  
Est vulgus in spectaculis  
Relictis mercimoniis.
- Filled with surprise, the people in the crowded marketplace soon leave their goods aside to attend the show.
58. Ira commotus presbiter  
Maiori dicit duriter:  
"Insulse, nescis vendere,  
Quod praesentas hic  
publice.
- The priest, moved by anger, says sternly to the mayor: "Fool, you don't know how to drive a bargain with the merchandise you offer these people.
- 55,2 Sim  
sum B 57,3  
in spectaculis  
inspectaculis B
59. "Hac hasta discerno meum  
Trium librorum corium.  
Solve, sutor, marsuppium!  
Audisti fixum numerum."
- "I swear by this staff that my hide is worth three pounds. Open your purse, shoemaker — you have heard the required sum."
60. Quam mensuram commercii  
Profert sensus presbiteri.  
Sutor subinfert: "Stultior  
Non est in terra venditor;
- The priest is endowed with such business know-how that the shoemaker replies, "There is not a stupider salesman on the face of the earth.
61. "De qua sint hi provincia,  
Dicant tres in praesentia,  
Qui putant boum tergora  
Divitiarum maxima!
- "Let these three men, who think ox-hides are the greatest riches, tell us here and now what country they are from.
62. "Decem nummorum corium  
Ad magnum levant precium.  
Nudis plantis incedite  
Huius coloni patriae!"
- "They value ten-cent hides at the highest price. People from that country must walk barefoot!"

63. Alternat ex obprobriis  
Utraque pars sub iurgiis;  
Sutorum congregatio  
Irato crescit animo.
- Each side exchanges reproaches and insults; the group of shoemakers becomes increasingly irritated.
- 59,2 librorum librarum B
64. Ducuntur a lictoribus;  
Praesentantur iudicibus.  
Traduntur exactoribus;  
Corripiuntur legibus.
- Finally, the three fools are led away by bailiffs and presented to judges; they are led before the overseers and rebuked according to the laws.
65. Reddunt per vadimonium  
Conventionem tergorum,  
Quam posuerunt in foro  
Unibovis consilio.
- As a fine they must give up all of the hides which they put on sale with Unibos' advice.
66. Persolvunt legis debita;  
Revertuntur ad propria,  
Exhaustis in marsuppiis,  
Ociosis in curriculis.
- They pay off the legal fines and return home with empty purses and vacant carts.
67. Denudati pecunia,  
Armati tres mestitia  
Conantur interficere  
Unibovem meridie.
- Stripped of money but full of resentment, they decide to kill Unibos at high noon.
68. Infra caeli tentoria  
Non sunt audita talia,  
Quae perpetravit Unibos,  
Ut sedaret stultissimos.
- Never has such a deed as Unibos performed to soothe the stupid threesome been seen under heaven.
69. Versutus mites reddidit,  
Ut tres iratos respicit;  
Insania prudentia  
Respondent per ludibria.
- The sly Unibos is able to render the three angry men mild when he sees them; craftiness counters madness with a trick.
70. Mori dum tremens aestimat,  
Occasionem simulat,  
Mortem pingens in coniuge  
Tincta suillo sanguine.
- Trembling, thinking he is about to die, he devises a plan: he paints his wife deathly red with swine blood.
71. Uxor dolosi sub dolo  
Strata iacet turgurio,  
Quasi sit vere mortua,  
Occisa sponsi dextera.
- The crafty man's wife lies apparently dead in the cottage, as if she had been killed by her husband.

72. *Cadaver foedum sanguine  
Corpus apparet feminae;  
Crudeles mansuescere  
Incipiunt pro crimine.*      The woman's body is like a corpse  
caked with blood; seeing this atrocity,  
the cruel men forget their anger.
73. *Qui venerant occidere,  
Certant percussam plangere,  
Incepantes Unibovem  
Flendo mactatam coniugem.*      Those who came to kill now lament  
the beaten woman, and as they lament  
the slaughtered wife, they reproach  
Unibos.
- 70,4 *tincta, tinctam B*
74. *Simul dicunt ferociter:  
"Heus, insensate compater,  
Qua causa tu durissima  
Perperastis facinora?"*      Together, they shout wildly: "Why,  
unfeeling man, why did you commit  
this dastardly crime?"
75. *"Confusionis trux faber  
Nos seduxisti nequiter;  
Ut mercatum probavimus,  
Mortem tuam tractavimus.*      "Wicked sower of confusion, you  
evilly seduced us; however, just as we  
agreed upon our unfortunate business  
venture, we have agreed upon your  
death.
76. *"Magnum damnum,  
stultissime,  
Adquisisti de coniuge;  
Non est culpa mediocris  
Vitam fugasse coniugis."*      "And because of you wife, fool, you  
shall receive the greatest punishment:  
murdering one's wife is not a venial  
sin."
77. *Inquit securus Unibos  
Magis seducens tres viros:  
"Sanabile flagitium  
Perperavi per gladium.*      Confident, Unibos speaks, and tricks  
the threesome yet more: "This crime,  
which I committed with a sword, is in  
fact curable.
78. *"Si mecum pacem facitis,  
Si cordis iram rumpitis,  
Vivam cito videbitis,  
Interfectam quam cernitis."*      "If you make peace with me, if you  
quell the anger in your hearts, you  
will see this woman, whom you now  
perceive dead, come back to life."
79. *"Fiat fiat!" hilariter  
Dicunt seducti pariter:  
"Repellimus a pectore  
Pestes inimicitiae."*      "So be it! So be it!" the three men,  
equally deceived, exclaim gladly.  
"We shall remove our sworn hatred  
from our breasts."

80. Dum sic perpendit Unibos  
Loqui tres adversarios,  
Ad cistam currit ligineam  
Sumens salignam bucinam.  
After sizing up his three babbling enemies, Unibos runs to a wooden chest and takes out a willow flute.
81. Lustrat cadaver coniugis  
Sub testibus erroneis;  
Bis lustrat, saepe bucinat,  
Horam surgendi praedicat.  
While the fools observe him, he circles his wife's corpse. Twice he circles, and while playing the instrument continuously, he foretells the moment of her resurrection.
82. Lustratione tertia  
Tamquam virtute mistica,  
Dum nomen sponsae nominat,  
Quiescentem resuscitat.  
With the great powers of a magician, on the third pass he revives his wife from her sleep at the exact moment he utters her name.
83. Exurgens uxor impetu  
Astat deformis habitu;  
Iubetur ab Unibove,  
Ut se mundet a sanguine.  
Rising promptly, his wife, horrible in appearance, stands before the three-some; Unibos then orders her to wash off the blood.
84. Confestim lota facie,  
Induta meliuscule,  
Apparet speciosior,  
Vultu mundato pulchrior.  
When her face is washed and she is better clothed, she immediately seems most beautiful, comelier of face and limbs.
85. Seducti per Unibovem  
Mirantur pulchritudinem  
Resuscitatae feminae.  
Stupentes illam plaudere.  
The fools, tricked by Unibos, marvel at the beauty of the revived woman. Astonished, they nonetheless voice their approval.
86. Dicunt suppressis vocibus:  
"Nunquam tam pulchram  
vidimus  
Istius formam feminae,  
Quae surrexit in hac die.  
With hushed voices they say: "We have never seen this woman, who has just now been revived, appear so beautiful.
87. "Ante mortem turpis fuit;  
De morte pulchra rediit.  
Felix mors, quae pulchrificat,  
Quae deformes condecorat!  
"Before her death she was ugly, but from death she returned fair. Blessed is the death which beautifies and improves the unsightly!

88. "Quam felix sonus bucinæ,  
Qua renovantur vetulae!  
Sponsae nostrae decrepitae  
Pro multo fiunt tempore.
- "How sweet the sound of the flute  
which rejuvenates old women! Our  
own wives have also been decrepit for  
a long time.
89. "Si nos divina gratia  
Honoraret hac bucina,  
Occideremus coniuges  
Pro rugis detestabiles.
- "If this flute would bestow some of  
its miraculous power upon us, we  
could also kill our wives and their  
cursed wrinkles.
90. "Precemur hunc Unibovem,  
Ut nobis praestet ad vicem  
Vel ut vendat hanc bucinam,  
Quae turpem tollit maculam!
- "Let us beg Unibos to lend it to each  
one of us, or perhaps he might sell us  
this flute which removes ugly age-  
spots.
91. "Tubam certemus emere,  
Ut sponsas interficere  
Uno possimus tempore  
Ornandas pulchritudine.
- "Let's try purchasing this flute so we  
may kill our wives, and later have  
them adorned with beauty.
92. "Cum resonabit bucina,  
Fugabitur mors aspera,  
Sicut in hac probavimus,  
Exanimem quam vidimus.
- "When we play the flute, cruel death  
will fly away, just as it did with this  
woman whom we saw dead.
93. "Facturi sumus alteras  
De redivivis nuptias.  
Offeramus pecuniam,  
Ut nobis vendat bucinam!"
- "With rejuvenated wives, we shall  
celebrate second nuptials. Let us offer  
Unibos money so he will give us  
his flute."
- 90,1 Precemur hunc Unibovem  
Precemur unibovem B
94. Oblato magno munere  
Tubam merentur emere;  
Post comparatam bucinam  
Vertuntur in insaniam.
- They manage to buy the horn once  
they have offered much money, and  
after their purchase, they turn their  
minds to madness.
95. Duobus dicit presbiter:  
"Oro, precor sollempniter,  
Ut primus interficiam  
Sponsam mihi carissimam.
- The priest says to his companions: "I  
pray, I solemnly beg of you to let me  
be the first to kill my dear wife.



96. "En praestetur gratissima  
Mihi vitalis bucina!  
Minorabo per iugulum  
Presbiterissae senium.
- "Come now, this resuscitating flute should bring me great happiness. First, however, I will end my wife's old age by slitting her throat.
97. "Post me secundus bucinam  
Assumet saluberrimam,  
Qui prior suam feminam  
Occidet sicut vitulam."
- "After me, one of you, having first killed his wife like a heifer, will play this rejuvenating flute."
98. Petitiones annuunt  
Sacerdotis, quem diligunt,  
Ut occidat, ut iugulet,  
Ut occisam resuscitet.
- The other two, who adore the priest, agree to his request that he kill, murder, and resuscitate the dead woman.
99. It sacerdos cum bucina  
Armatus ex insania;  
Moriturae dat basia  
Stricta coma feminea.
- Excited by such foolishness, the priest takes off with the flute. He kisses his wife, who must soon die, and he touches her hair lightly.
100. Cultellum monstrat  
presbiter,  
Ridendo dicit mulier:  
"Quid vultis, care,  
facere?  
Nolite dure facere!"
- When the priest shows his wife the knife, she says to her smiling husband, "What are you planning, dear? Don't do anything wicked."
101. Sacerdos ait loetifer:  
"Te iugulabo dulciter;  
In iuvenili corpore  
Resurges voce bucinæ."
- The murderous priest replies: "I will strangle you gently, and then you will arise in a youthful body when I play this flute."
102. Solum "Vae!" clamat femina,  
Percussa iacet mortua;  
Stultus paterfamilias  
Exclamat: "Deo gratias!"
- The wife emits a single "alas!" before she falls down dead, and the foolish husband cries out his thanks to God.
103. Apponit ori bucinam,  
Sufflat per arrogantiam;  
Dum ter iacentem circuit,  
Obscenis verbis arguit:
- He places the flute to his lips and plays presumptuously, but after circling the prostrate body of his wife three times, he begins to curse her offensively.

104. "O simulatrix callida,  
Surge, dolosa simia!  
Petulca sicut asina  
Leva caput de bucina!"
- "Come on, you sly faker! Get up, you little monkey! Stubborn as a mule, raise your head to the sound of this flute!"
105. Auditis his clamoribus  
Amens suam praepositus  
Festinat interficere  
Sub spe vitalis bucinæ.
- At the moment the priest's shouts are heard, the foolish provost is in the act of killing his wife, hoping to revive her with the life-giving flute.
106. Ad orbatum presbiterum  
Venit post homicidium,  
Ut sibi praestet bucinam,  
Qua suscitet praepositam.
- And after the murder, he visits the newly widowed priest to receive the flute that he believes will resuscitate his own wife.
107. Tandem recepta bucina  
Sacerdotem de femina  
Interrogat hac mortua,  
Si surrexit iuvenula.
- When he finally gets the flute, he asks the priest about his dead wife — did she arise as a young girl?
- 107,3 hac ha B
108. Interroganti dicitur:  
"Haec a te non videbitur,  
Donec limen ecclesiae  
Tua petet cum coniuge."
- The priest replies to the provost: "You will not see my wife until she arrives at the churchdoor with your wife."
109. Sponsaecida praepositus,  
Privatus mentis sensibus  
Ad domum portat propriam  
Seductionis bucinam.
- The wife-killing provost, taking leave of his senses, carries the trickster's flute to his own house.
110. Nunquam sacerdos altius  
Mestis tubae mugitibus  
Bucinavit profundius  
Quam fatuus praepositus.
- Never did a cleric, with sad bellowings of horn, play more clearly, more deeply than the foolish provost.
111. Quantum tubae concavitas,  
Tantum prodest ventositas:  
Ut revixit presbitera,  
Sic surrexit praeposita.
- His playing, however, is as profitable to him as the empty air within the flute. Just as the priest's wife had revived, so arose the provost's.
112. Maior villae non est minor  
In reatu, si tardior,  
Qui sponsae vitam dissipat,  
Qui bucinat, non suscitatur.
- The town's mayor is not the least, although the last, in committing the crime. He takes his wife's life and plays, but she does not arise either.

113. Tres glebulae, tres mortuae  
Praesentantur ecclesiae  
Orto tristi diluculo  
Cum lugubri spectaculo.
- The three dead women, now mere clay, arrive at the church as the sad dawn rises over the mournful procession.
114. Sponsorum sub insania  
Infossantur cadavera;  
Tres occultantur coniuges  
Per threnas lamentabiles.
- After this lunacy, the corpses are buried, lowered into the graves to the tune of mournful dirges.
115. Discedentes a tumulis  
In profundis suspiriis  
Tres susurrant adinvicem:  
"Occidamus Unibovem,
- Leaving the graves, the three lunatics, sighing deeply, whisper to each other, "Let's kill Unibos,
116. "Qui gazas nostras sustulit,  
Suis verbis nos tradidit,  
Dum dixit iuvenescere  
Anus mugitu bucinæ!
- "Who took our money and then tricked us when he said that an old woman could be rejuvenated by the lowing of a flute.
117. "Auctor tanti periculi  
A nobis possit conteri;  
Eius invadat verticem  
Amara mors ignobilem!"
- "We should destroy the author of such mischief — let a cruel death fall upon his peasant head!"
- 113,1 glebulae  
gebulae B
118. Mentis commoti fluctibus  
Ad arma corrunt protinus  
Artificem versutiae  
Occisuri durissime.
- Mentally unbalanced, they rush forth and gather arms to kill the master of strategem.
119. Calliditas Unibovis  
Plena multis ingeniis  
Superavit iactantiam  
Trium virorum fervidam.
- But Unibos' cleverness, brimming ever with new tricks, again overcomes the angry threats of the three men.
120. Ad suos currit Unibos  
Quondam pauper denarios.  
Massam de nummis accipit;  
Armato hostes decipit.
- The once-poor Unibos runs to his coins, grabs a mass of them, and succeeds in tricking the armed host.

121. Equam trahit de stabulo;  
Caudam levat plus solito.  
In naturae foramine  
Nummos certat inmergere.
- He draws his mare from the stable,  
lifts her tail quite high, and plunges  
the coins into nature's opening.
122. In medio tugurio  
Equae firmatur statio;  
Mox iumento candidum  
Expandit unum linteum.
- He makes the mare stand in the mid-  
dle of the cottage, and then spreads a  
white linen cloth over the beast.
123. In foribus tugurii  
Adsunt tres adversarii;  
Dum minantur Unibovem,  
Causam vident mirabilem.
- His three enemies, standing outside  
the hut and threatening Unibos, wit-  
ness a marvellous event.
124. Tres stant in domus limine  
Volentes interficere  
Unibovem, sed non valent,  
De novo facto dum stupent.
- Standing on the threshold, they want  
to kill Unibos, but they are stunned  
into inaction by the new event.
125. Observantes officium  
Unibovis argenteum,  
Qui costas equae dum fricat,  
Partum nummorum provocat.
- They observe Unibos working over  
some silver coins: while rubbing the  
mare's flanks, he seems to produce a  
quantity of coins.
126. Exclamant: "Quid est, Unibos,  
Quod iumentum denarios  
Aperte tibi parturit,  
Miram causam nobis parit?"
- They exclaim, "What is this,  
Unibos? What is this beast that is  
clearly producing coins for you and a  
marvel for us?"
127. Caute respondet Unibos:  
"Videtis hos denarios?  
Fundit nummos huius equae  
Venter pro vili stercore.
- Unibos replies cautiously: "See these  
coins? This mare's belly excretes  
coins instead of worthless dung.
128. "Per noctes equa singulas  
Tales iactat pecunias,  
Obs, regina pecuniae,  
Ani sedet foramine."
- "Every night she pours out such  
wealth that surely Ops, the queen of  
abundance, must sit at this opening."
129. Repente visis talibus  
Auditis his sermonibus,  
Hostes iram reiciunt;  
Unibovi sic inquit:
- Once they see the money and hear the  
story, the anger of Unibos' enemies  
immediately abates, and they say to  
him:

130. "Si de fortuna gaudeas,  
Vende nobis hoc animal!  
Deponemus tres odium  
Si comparamus turgidum."
- "Enjoy your good fortune and sell us this animal! If you do, we three shall end our hatred once we have bought this swollen beast."
131. Vestitus tegnis Unibos  
Ad tres hoc dicit socios:  
"Non est hanc dare facile  
Genitricem pecuniae.
- Unibos, full of tricks, says this to the three friends: "It's not easy just giving away this source of wealth.
132. "Huius sub pelle bestiae  
Arca latet laetitiae;  
Non est hec vilis bestia,  
Quae tanta parit munera."
- "There is a wonderful treasure chest hidden in this beast's hide; surely this animal, which bestows such gifts, is not a cheap one."
133. "Si de tua substantia  
Tua laetetur anima,"  
Illi dicunt, "carissime,  
Ne differas hanc vendere!"
- "If you wish to delight further in your great wealth," they threaten, "my dearest Unibos, no longer delay selling the mare to us."
134. Versipellis mox Unibos  
Ad brutos dicit tres viros:  
"Iumentum vendam nobile,  
Sed non pro parvo munere.
- The crafty Unibos then says to the senseless three: "I'll sell you my noble beast, but not for a small price.
135. "Vos vidistis, quid peperit;  
Cognoscitis, quid hic pluit.  
Si nummorum latibulum  
Vultis, conferte precium!
- "You see what it has produced and you know what it has showered. If you want a coin-laden treasure chest, you must pay the price!
136. "Sed ut sitis benivoli,  
Conferte libras quindecim!  
Plures in brevi tempore  
Libras reddet pro stercore."
- "Give me fifteen pounds — may you be so kind. In a short time my beast will repay your pounds in kind instead of excrement."
137. Tres illi libras quindecim  
Ut persolvunt Unibovi,  
Equam ducunt ligamine  
Custodientes cupide.
- After paying Unibos fifteen pounds, the threesome lead the mare away with a rope, greedily guarding it.
138. Festinus inquit presbiter:  
"Audite me, sicut decet!  
Iumentum volo ducere  
Ad stabulum domus meae.
- The priest speaks eagerly: "Listen to me! You must! I want to be the first to lead the beast to my house-stable.

139. "Qui sum primus ecclesia,  
Sim primus in custodia;  
Diluculo recolligam,  
Quam donavi pecuniam.
- "Since I am the foremost member of our church, I should be the first to keep it. At dawn I shall collect the money I have given Unibos.
140. "Sit prima nox presbiteri;  
Secunda sit praepositi.  
Maioris nox sit tertia  
Sub aequitatis trutina."
- "Let the first night be mine, the second the provost's, and the third the mayor's, according to the scales of equity."
141. "Fiat," dicit praepositus;  
"Sit," dicit maior tertius  
"Haec est nostra concordia  
Sub miti patientia."
- "So be it," says the provost. "Yes," adds the mayor. "This is our agreement. Let us be patient."
142. Equam procurat presbiter  
Dans hordeum celeriter.  
Per nocturnas vigiliis  
Equae praebet auriculas.
- The priest cares for the mare, giving it barley. His ears are cupped towards the mare during his nocturnal vigil.
143. Facto tamen diluculo  
Sacerdos a praesepio  
Communem trahit bestiam,  
Ut deponat pecuniam.
- When morning comes, the priest leads the shared beast from its stall so it may deposit the money.
144. Illa putans ad aratrum  
Deduci sibi cognitum  
Sub cauda laxat squibulas,  
Sicut solet, foedissimas.
- Thinking she's being led to her familiar plough, she lets go a foul apple, as she is wont, from beneath her tail.
145. Dum stercoris quassatio  
Auditur a presbitero,  
Nummos putat procedere  
Ex alvo brutae bestiae.
- When the priest hears the dung's splatter, he believes that coins are coming from the heavy beast's belly.
146. Clamat sacerdos: "Pueri,  
Abscendite, domestici!  
Solus meam recolligam,  
Quam donavi pecuniam."
- The priest cries, "Houseboys, leave! I alone will gather up the money I have given."
147. Cum sacerdos scrutinium  
Per fimum facit foetidum,  
Unum minutum repperit,  
Quod festinanter accipit.
- When the priest has examined the filthy pile, he discovers a tiny coin, which he quickly picks up.

148. Iumentum cum sex mensium  
Olim fuisset parvulum,  
Vulnus suscepit stipite  
Ani tenelli limine.
- Long ago, when the beast was a six-month old filly, it wounded its anus on a tree-stump.
149. Ibi minutum substitit,  
In cicatrice latuit,  
Equa cum nummos reddidit,  
Quos Unibos subintulit.
- In that scar, a small coin hid itself and stood firm while the mare emitted the other coins Unibos had placed there.
150. Illa scrobs alti vulneris  
Inveniendi profuit  
Dum commovit pecuniam  
Inclinus hordeaceam.
- The deep wound profited the prospector as, bending down, he loosened the barley-money.
151. Est vulgare proverbium:  
"Quod non prosit, non est  
malum;"  
Ani lesi molestia  
Presbitero dat gaudia.
- There is a popular proverb: "What is not good is not necessarily bad." The annoying wound gives the priest joy.
152. Praepositus per studium  
Sacerdotis petit domum,  
Ructatricem pecuniae  
Certans mane requirere.
- The provost, meanwhile, joyously seeks the priest's house in the morning, hoping to procure in his turn the belcher of wealth.
153. "Iumentum praesta, presbiter!  
Ex una nocte locuples  
Manebis omni tempore  
Nummorum multitudine."
- "Give me the beast, priest. After this one night you should be forever rich with innumerable coins."
154. "Dedam equam, praeposite,"  
Dicit sacerdos tepide.  
"Intempesive reddere  
Equam me cogis hodie."
- The priest replies lukewarmly, "I'll give you the mare, provost, but you force me to give the mare up prematurely on this day."
- 152.4 certans certam B
155. "Aurorae gallicinio  
Exierunt ab utero  
Male cocti denarii,  
Recentes, hordeacei."
- "At the crack of dawn, only underdone coins, mostly barley, came out of its belly."

156. Cum magnis potentatibus  
Equam ducit praepositus;  
Idem tamen quod presbiter  
Praeter minuta possidet.
- Nevertheless, with much authority  
the provost leads the mare away, but  
he gets the same thing the priest did,  
with the exception of the small coin.
157. Iumentum nocte tertia  
Maior claudit domo sua  
Reperturus diluculo  
Quod fetebat in angulo.
- On the third night the mayor likewise  
stables the beast, and at dawn he also  
finds a stinking pile in a corner.
158. Comedit hordeaceum  
Equa communis pabulum,  
Quae sterus foetoriferum  
Horis concepit noctium.
- The shared mare had eaten a meal of  
barley and engendered only bad-  
smelling dung during the night.
159. Quid sit facturus Unibos  
Contra commotos aemulos  
Meditatur in lectulo  
Frequenti cum suspirio.
- Meanwhile, Unibos, sighing fre-  
quently in his bed, worries about what  
he should do with his enraged and  
envious rivals.
160. Conveniunt cum turbine  
Ferrata tres in acie,  
Post nocturnam caliginem  
Adeuntes Unibovem.
- These three assemble like a whirl-  
wind, assume a proper battle forma-  
tion, and finally approach Unibos'  
house once night's darkness has dissi-  
pated.
161. Viri clamant tres pariter  
"Exi, sceleste fraudifer!  
Occidende crudeliter  
Mactaberis carnaliter."
- All three then call out together:  
"Come out, you filthy liar! We shall  
butcher you most cruelly; shortly,  
we'll cut you to pieces."
162. Respondet adversariis,  
Qui quaeritur sub stipulis:  
"Praesto sum vester Unibos;  
Vos meos dico dominos.
- Hidden under his straw mat, Unibos  
replies to his enemies: "Here I am,  
your Unibos, and I call you my lords.
163. "Si vultis interficere,  
Quem quaeritis durissime,  
Vobis narrabo, quomodo  
Perire velim subito.
- "Before you kill me, whom you seek  
most keenly, let me first tell you how  
I should prefer to die a quick death.



164. "Sunt mortis multa genera,  
Unum finem dant omnia;  
Ut vobis satisfaciam,  
Modum mortis mox eligam.
- "There are many ways of being killed, but all lead to the same end. So, in order to meet your ends and mine, why not let me choose the manner of my death?
165. "Quae mors fiat amarior  
In mundo sive tristior,  
Nunquam probastis, domini,  
Nec probetis, dulcissimi.
- "Surely, my lords, you would not approve, nor indeed should you, my dear friends, that I should undergo too bitter or too cruel a parting from this life.
166. "Dicam tamen pacifice,  
Qua ratione perdere  
Me possitis in hac die  
Aut cras futuro tempore.
- "I, however, will reveal to you peaceably how you should destroy me, either today or at a future time.
167. "Ligate me de funibus  
Aut de contortis restibus;  
In apotheca mittite,  
In qua me missum claudite.
- "Tie me with rope, bind it tightly around me, get a barrel, and shut me up in it.
168. "A doctis carpentariis  
Stringatur tonna circulis;  
Tonnam cum meo corpore  
Ad mare magnum volvite.
- "The barrel should be sealed with bands by skilled coopers; then, with my body inside, throw the barrel into the mighty sea.
169. "Cum tonna me dimergite;  
Ad abyssum transmittite.  
Hac arte me confundite!  
Sic peream me iudice."
- "Carry me out to the deep sea and sink me and the barrel. In this way you destroy me, and I die according to my wishes."
170. "Fiat tibi," tres inquit.  
"Hoc mentes nostrae cupiunt,  
Ut tali morte pereas,  
A nobis ut sic exeat."
- "Let it be as you wish," the three say. "We also desire that you perish by such a death and thus depart from this world."
171. Nectunt loris Unibovem  
In terra detestabilem,  
Qui, postquam tonna clauditur,  
In ripa maris sistitur.
- They bind Unibos, the most detested man on earth, with cords. Afterwards he is enclosed in a barrel and placed on a cliff near the sea.

172. Clausus sic fatur Unibos  
Magis seducens tres viros:  
"Confiteor hic hodie,  
Reclusus sum iustissime.
- From inside, Unibos, deceiving the three men as usual, says the following: "I confess, here and now, that I have been imprisoned most righteously.
173. "In agone iudicii  
Sum constitutus ultimi;  
Propter diem novissimum  
Deponite nunc odium.
- "Indeed, I am now ready to meet my last judgment. My lords, on behalf of this new beginning, please end your hatred now.
174. "Miser manus erigere  
In hoc non possum carcere;  
Heu, lumbos vexant brachia  
Per maledicta vincula.
- "Miserable that I am, I cannot free my hands in this prison. The cursed cords, alas, torment my arms and legs.
175. "Pietatis viatico,  
Apothecae spiraculo  
Mendacium non profero,  
Caritatem pronuntio.
- "As a result of your charity, of these last rites kindly given, I can no longer lie to you as I speak from this barrel — I must demonstrate my love of you.
176. "Bisseni sunt denarii  
In fundo mei loculi,  
Quos bibite, piissimi,  
Ad honorem summi dei!"
- "There are twelve coins at the bottom of my moneybox. Buy drinks, my kind fathers, and toast to the Lord Almighty!"
177. Caritativus presbiter  
Fatetur temporaliter:  
"Donec bibamus dulciter"  
In tonna dormi dulciter.
- The priest, now turned a loving man, speaks in a courteous manner: "While we drink sweet wine, sleep sweetly in this barrel."
178. Tres festinant ad pocula  
Bibituri precamina;  
Sedent, loquuntur nimium,  
Bibunt vinum clarissimum.
- The three hurry to their cups to make holy toasts. They sit and they talk while they drink a fine wine.
179. It cum porcinis gregibus  
Sonoris grunnientium,  
Subulcus transit pervius  
In pharetratis renibus.
- Meanwhile a swineherd passes by the barrel with a herd of swine grunting noisily. With arrows in his quiver, he crosses the road towards it.

180. Dum porcos audit Unibos  
Tonnae fricare circulos,  
Exclamat: "Adversarii,  
Ah, non sunt adhuc ebrii."
- When Unibos hears the pigs rubbing against the barrel's bands, he exclaims, "Oh no! My enemies decided not to get drunk!"
181. Horret subulcus de sono  
Unibovis incognito;  
Vas quernum tangit baculo  
Dicens incluso misero:
- The swineherd shudders at the mysterious sound coming from the barrel. He taps the oaken vessel with his stick and says to the imprisoned Unibos:
182. "Pro quo clausus es crimine  
In apotheca, perditte?"  
Prompte respondet Unibos:  
"Honores nolo maximos.
- "For what crime, oh lost soul, are you enclosed in this barrel?" Unibos replies readily: "I refused the highest honors.
183. "Huius coloni patriae  
Me compellunt cotidie  
Me volentes efficere  
Praepositum potentiae.
- "The people of this country urge me daily to become their leading provost.
184. "Ergo nunquam praepositus  
Ero meis aetatibus,  
Nam sufficit, quod habeo;  
Honores regni renuo."
- "But never in my life will I become their provost, for what I have suffices me, and I reject the honors of this world."
185. Subulcus inquit cupidus:  
"Me decet honor maximus.  
Ego pro te praepositus  
Efficiar ditissimus.
- The greedy swineherd answers, "Great honors, however, well befit me. I, taking your place, could become a wealthy provost.
186. "Compulsus sum fataliter  
Apothecam tuam, miser,  
Hoc fuste meo tangere.  
Certa me tonna ponere!"
- "Indeed, fate must have driven me, you wretch, to tap your barrel with my staff. Now help me put myself in the barrel instead of you!"
187. Subulcus pellit circulos;  
Multum laetatur Unibos.  
Aperitur vas ligneum;  
Fit fortunae commercium.
- The swineherd dislodges the bands while Unibos greatly rejoices. The wooden barrel is finally opened, and the business of Lady Luck is done.
188. Eicitur, dissolvitur,  
Festinanter dimittitur;  
Duris fit liber vinculis,  
Qui iacuit sub circulis.
- Unibos is pulled out, untied, and quickly released. Now he is free of fetters, free of the bands which once held him.

189. Subulcus intrat concavum  
 Vas aptans corpus proprium,  
 Quasi sentiret lectulum  
 De floribus compositum.
- The swineherd enters the hollow barrel in Unibos' place and adjusts his own body as if he were settling upon a little bed of flowers.
190. Trux vas opturat Unibos;  
 Strictim reponit circulos.  
 Per locos transit invios  
 Ducens porcos pinguissimos.
- Unibos seals up the wooden barrel and replaces the bands firmly. Then leading the fat pigs away, he enters a trackless waste.
191. Reversis potatoribus  
 Tres de potationibus,  
 Dum tonnam volvunt in mare,  
 Audet subulcus dicere:
- When the three bibblers return from drinking and begin to roll the barrel seaward, the swineherd boldly says:
192. "Fiam, fiam praepositus  
 Sub vestris voluntatibus;  
 Maris ne iacter fluctibus  
 A vobis iam edomitus."
- "Alright, I'll be your provost. I give in to your wishes. So don't throw me into the sea! I am ruled by your desires!"
193. Plenus vino praepositus  
 In indignationibus  
 Subulco dixit simplici:  
 "Non est haec vox dulcis mihi.
- The provost, full of wine, replies indignantly to the swineherd: "I don't find those words very amusing.
194. "Tonnam certate volvere,  
 O socii, certissime.  
 Fit fluctuum praepositus  
 Hic Unibos nequissimus."
- "Let's roll this barrel, oh comrades, with strong hands. Let this wicked Unibos become provost of the waves."
195. In ponto salso mergitur;  
 Apotheca colliditur.  
 Subulcus. heu, conteritur;  
 A cunctis obliviscitur.
- The barrel is thrown into the salty sea. There it is dashed apart, and the swineherd, alas, is destroyed. He is forgotten by everybody.
196. Fatuitatis divites  
 Tres persolvisse compares  
 Existimant novissimas  
 Unibovis exequias.
- All three men, still rich in foolishness, think they have finally paid their due to the dead Unibos.
197. Post haec in die tertia  
 Sollempni tamen feria  
 Visitaturus fatuos  
 Redit magistros Unibos.
- But three days later, at a weekly fair, Unibos returns to visit his foolish masters.

198. It per villae quadrivium  
Tenens in dextra baculum,  
Porcorum multitudinem  
Deducens ante faciem.  
He enters the center of the town holding a staff in his right hand and leading a multitude of pigs in front of him.
199. Distente prudens bucinat;  
Subulci more sybilat.  
Rufos cum furvis convocat;  
Dente laedentes territat.  
He plays his horn fully and carefully, and whistling like a swineherd, he calls together the red and the dark pigs and prods the alarmed animals with his prong.
- 199,3 furvis fursis B
200. Qui viderant Unibovem,  
Eius dicebant similem,  
De quo fama volaverat,  
Quod mortuus iam fuerat.  
Those who see him say he looks just like Unibos, whose recent death is now a matter of gossip.
201. Nuntiatur praeposito,  
Maiori cum presbitero,  
Quod Unibos revixerit,  
In ponto qui mersus fuit.  
The provost, the mayor, and the priest learn that Unibos, whom they had thrown into the sea, has been resurrected.
202. Tres illi surgunt stupidi  
Famam credentes somnii,  
Suis quassantes genibus  
Subsellia poplitibus.  
Thinking he is a ghost, they spring up stunned, and their knees and hams shake the benches.
203. Formam vident Unibovis  
Porcini ductricem gregis.  
Ipsam sed esse non putant;  
Occidisse putaverant.  
They behold the shape of Unibos leading the drove of swine, but they do not think it is Unibos himself — they were sure they had killed him.
204. Recognoscunt Unibovem;  
Vident porcorum divitem.  
Interrogant, quis dederit  
Tot porcinos aut vendiderit.  
At last they must recognize that it is he, and seeing his wealth in pork, they ask him who had given him or sold him so many animals.
205. Respondet sub prodigio:  
"Maris praecipitatio,  
Ad regnum felicissimum  
Ivi per praecipitium.  
He replies with a miraculous lie: "Tumbling beneath the sea, I travelled to a marvelous realm on the ocean's floor.
206. "Inde nunquam recederem,  
Si non amassem coniugem,  
Quam vidistis resurgere  
Veracis tubae murmure.  
"I would never have returned here from that place if I did not love my wife, who you saw rise again by the sound of the true flute.

207. "Non fuit culpa bucinæ,  
Sed bucinantis pessime,  
Omnes si vestrae feminae  
Modo sternunt sub pulvere.
- "It wasn't the fault of the flute if your wives now snore under dust — it was your bad playing that is to blame.
208. "Heu, cur in pueritia  
Me non iactastis ad loca,  
Unde felix regredior,  
Revertor eruditior?
- "Ah, why didn't you throw me down there when I was a boy? Still, even now I return a happy, a wiser man.
209. "Me iactastis per odium  
Ad propitiatorium,  
Ubi porcorum sunt greges  
Per nullum numerabiles."
- "In your hatred you threw me to my atonement, a place where there are so many pigs they cannot be counted."
210. Sub ammirationibus  
Prius dicit praepositus:  
"Nos pernarum spes optim  
Monet temptare maria.
- Admiring Unibos, the provost speaks first: "The hope of acquiring such pigs drives me to assail the sea also.
211. "Me quisquis erit stultior,  
Parebit," dicit stultior.  
Petunt fluctus aequoreos,  
Post quos incedit Unibos.
- "Anyone less perceptive than I should follow me," says the dolt. So they seek the sea's waves, while Unibos walks behind.
212. Motus marini personant;  
Grunnire porcos estimant.  
Requirunt ab Unibove,  
Qua sint porcinae semitae.
- The sea resounds, and the three men think they hear pigs grunting. They ask Unibos where lies the trail to the pigs.
213. Sed Unibos periculum  
Dicens designat pessimum,  
Ubi litus est altius,  
Ubi mare profundius.
- And Unibos indicates the place where the danger is greatest, where the cliffs are highest, where the sea is deepest.
214. "Illuc festini currite;  
Sine metu vos mergite!  
Miores porci sunt aquis,  
Quam sint in terris aridis."
- "There you should run quickly, and throw yourselves in without fear. You'll find more pigs in these waters than on dry land."
215. Unibovis consiliis  
Tres dant se praecipitiis;  
Sub capitali frenesi  
Per saltum stulte mortui.
- With this advice the three throw themselves off the cliff. In deadly frenzy they die foolishly in the salt sea.

216. *Inimici consilia*                                 As this story reveals, the deceitful  
 Non sunt credenda subdola;                 counsel of the wicked should not be  
 Ostendit ista fabula                                 believed — amen.  
 Per seculorum secula.

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