HERE beginneth the volume entituled and named the Recuyell of the Histories of Troy, composed and drawn out of divers books of Latin into French by the right venerable person and worshipful man, Raoul le Feure, priest and chaplain unto the right noble glorious and mighty prince in his time Philip Duke of Bourgoyne of Brabant, etc.

In the year of the Incarnation of our Lord God a thousand four hundred sixty and four, and translated and drawn out of French into English by William Caxton, mercer, of the city of London, at the commandment of the right high, mighty, and virtuous Princess, his redoubted Lady, Margaret, by the grace of God Duchess of Burgundy, of Lotrylk, of Brabant, etc.; which said translation and work was begun in Bruges in the County of Flanders, the first day of March, the year of the Incarnation of our said Lord God a thousand four hundred sixty and eight, and ended and finished in the holy city of Cologne the 19th day of September, the year of our said Lord God a thousand four hundred sixty and eleven, etc.

And on that other side of this leaf followeth the prologue.
When I remember that every man is bounden by the commandment a counsellor of the wise man to escheue sloth and idleness whereby he is a moder and nourisher of vices and ought to put his self unto vertuous occupation and by sleighte, I haue for no great charge of occupation following the sayde counsell to take a surnowe booke and rede them many strange and meruayllous histories where in I have grete pleasure and delight as well for the nouelle of the same as for the sayde langage of surnowe. Whyche was in prose so well and comprehensively sette and wyten, whiche me thought I understood the sentence and substance of every mater. And forso moche as this booke was newe and late made and drawne in to surnowe and never had been hit in our English tongue. In thought in my self hit should be a good resynce to translate hit in to our English to the ende that hit myght be had as well in the royaume of Englonde as in other lands and also for to passe therewith the time and thus concluded in my self to begynne this sayde worke. And forthwith to keepe penne and penke and began boldly to reme forth as bynde Bayard in the presente worke whyche is named the recuyell of the troian histories. And afterward when I rememberd my self of my simplicity and unperfections that I had moche langage, that is to wete in surnowe a in English for in France was I never and was born a leerned man English in kente in the Weald where I doube not is spoken as brede and rude English as is in any place of Englonde a have continued by the space of yrrr. yere for the most part in the coitres of Brabant, Flandres Island.
and Zealand. and thus when all these things came before me, after that I had made and written five or six quires I fell in despair of this work, and purposed no more to have continued therein, and those quires laid apart, and in two years after laboured no more in this work. And was fully in well to live left byt, till on a time hit forstuned, that the right new and excellent and right vertuous princesse my right wedoughted lady my lady Margarete by the grace of God sister unto the Kyng of england and of France. my Sovereign Lord. Duchess of Bourgoigne. Countess of Holland. of Artois. of Bourgoigne. Palatine of Heinswey. of Holland. of Zelad. and of Namur. Marquesse of this holy empire. Lady of Hertse of Salis. and of Mechlin sente for me to speke with her good grace of divers matters among which is, why she let her hynence have knowleche of her forseapd, begynnynge of this werk. which she anone comanded me to shewe the sayd. v. vii. quapers to her sayd. grace and which she had seen hym. anone she fonde a deuynte in myn englisch which she comandez me to amende ad mo tre comandez me stryghtly to contynue and make an end of the respydue then not translated. Whose dre defunt amandement p. dutste in no wise disobey. Because I am a seruant unto her sayde grace and resuye of her vertu, fre and other many gode and grete benesfes, and also hope many moo to resypne of her hynenes but forthwyt Wente and laboure in the sayd translation adyt my simple and pour connyng alse nigh as p. am folowynge myn auctour mekely become.
the bounteous Highness of my said Lady that of her benevolence list to accept and take in gree this simple and rude work here following; and if there be anything written or said to her pleasure, I shall think my labour well employed, and whereas there is default that she arette it to the simpleness of my cunning which is full small in this behalf; and require and pray all them that shall read this said work to correct it, and to hold me excused of the rude and simple translation.

And thus I end my prologue.

Here followeth the prologue of that worshipful man Raoul Le Feure which was author of this present book in the French tongue: