The Birth Of Popular Culture: Ben Jonson, Maid Marian, And Robin Hood

T. Wilson Hayes

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The Play of Robin and Marion Le jeu de Robin et Marion, Mediaeval Folk. The Birth of Popular Culture: Ben Jonson, Maid Marian, and Robin Hood. by Hayes, Tom. 9780820702414, available at Book Depository with free delivery.
Main Author: Hayes, T. Wilson. Published: Pittsburgh, Pa.
Robin Hood is an archetypal figure in English folklore, whose story originates from medieval times but who remains significant in popular culture where he is painted as a man known for robbing the rich to give to the poor and fighting against injustice and evil. 

Wikipedia. Robin Hood Airport Doncaster Sheffield


2. Pastourelle Marian and Bergerie Robin 

Early French lyric poetry has Marian (often spelt Marion, even Marot or Mariet) in pastourelle as a pasteure, shepherdess, pursued by some intruder, usually lordly. 

When Marian's name appears in early records of popular drama it usually links to a Morris dancer, partnered by a Friar (who is also present in the Kingston records), like the unnamed wench who finally dances with the friar in the short “Robin Hood and the Friar” play of about 1560. 

Jonson's sense of Lady Marian's potential power will take centuries to re-emerge, but the gentrified heroine did cross over into two ballads.