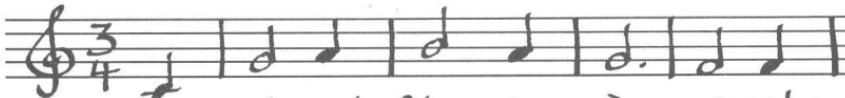


Prince Eugène



Ah! Dis-moi Prince Eu- gène ne quas



fl-eur de lis.

1. Ah! Dis moi, Prince Eugène, qu'as tu fait dans ta vie?
J'ai parcouru les villes **VIVE LE JOUR**
Pour aller à Paris **VIVE LA FLEUR DE LIS**
2. J'ai parcouru les villes pour aller à Paris
Mais quand il fut au large **VIVE LE JOUR**
Regarda derrière lui **VIVE LA FLEUR DE LIS.**

(The last two lines of a verse, excluding the repeating parts, in capitals here, become the first line of the next verse).

3. Il vit venir vingt hommes, ses plus grands ennemis
4. T'en souviens-tu, Eugène, un jour dedans Paris?
5. Devant le roi, la reine, mon fils t'a démenti
6. Arrête ici, Eugène, il faut payer ceci
7. Tira son épée d'or, bravement se battit
8. Il en tua quatorze, mais sans qu'il se lassit
9. Quand ce vint au quinzième, son épée d'or rompit
10. Beau page, mon beau page, viens donc me secourir!
11. Neni, non, non, beau prince, j'ai trop peur d'y mourir!
12. Va-t'en dire à ma femme, qu'elle prenne soin du petit
13. Quand il sera en âge, il vengera ceci!

This ballad recounts the beginning of what probably becomes an ongoing blood feud. Prince Eugène travels through France on his way to Paris when he encounters his twenty worst enemies. One of them reminds the prince of when he defamed his son in front of the king and queen. He challenges Eugène, saying that he must pay for this misdeed. Eugène draws his golden sword and kills fourteen of his enemies, but when he attacks the fifteenth, his sword breaks. He calls on his page to come to his aid, but the page is too afraid, so Eugène tells him to instruct his wife to care well for their son so that when he comes of age he can avenge his father's death.

I originally heard this song on a Folkways record of French-Canadian field recordings, on which, however, were only three verses. I found a fuller version in Marius Barbeau's *Songs of Old Quebec*, and exchanged the three verses for Barbeau's first four.

The song, originally a sixteenth-century French ballad known as "Le Roi Eugène", seems to have been more popular in Acadia, where Barbeau found no less than twenty-seven versions.

Rika Ruebsaat