

Paddy Myles, the Fisherman

As sung by
John Christian
08-27-1940 Coloma, WI

The image shows a musical score for the song 'Paddy Myles, the Fisherman'. It consists of eight staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 6/8 time. The lyrics are written below the notes. There are some handwritten annotations: 'young man, you bet' under 're-spec-ta-ble' and 'a' under 'o-cean'. A red mark is visible on the sixth staff.

Pad-dy Miles was a fish-er-man, young and light-heart-ed,
And a ve-ry re-spec-ta-ble young man, you bet. Ex-
cept on the o-cean where he was a I see all kind of
fish that came in- to his net. Pat-ty want-ed but one thing and
that was a wife, sir, To keep his man-sion in or-dered ar-
ray. I've caught ma-ny things in my life, said Pad-dy
The most di-fi-cult thing is in catch-ing a wife.

Verse 1.

Paddy Miles was a fisherman, young and light
hearted,
And a very respectable man, you bet
Except on the ocean where he was ---
I see all kind of fish that came into his net
Paddy wanted but one thing and that was a wife,
sir
To keep his mansion in ordered array
I've caught many things in my life, said Paddy
The most difficult thing is in catching a wife.

Verse 2.

One morning as Paddy was out on the ocean
And catching red herring and sprats in galore
A sight met his eyes which set him in commotion
Such a sight in his lifetime he had ne'er seen
before.
A pretty young mermaid, as naked as Venus,
Was washing her bobbies and combing her hair
Said Pat, "There is but a few waves between us,
Come out and float up along side of me here."

Verse 3.

Said she, "Mr. Pat I can see you've a notion
You want to be green 'cause you reared on the
land.

How could I be out of my bed in the ocean
It's my only bed, it is made of the sand."

Not, for shame, ---

Put your pipe to mine and a little free motion
And I'll be the soul that will tickle your ---."

Verse 4.

And Pat he kept urging and then started begging.

Said she, "Mr. Pat, I can see you're afloat."

While her little green tail kept urging and wagging

He kept still and slipped her right into the boat.

It hurt Patty's feelings while squeezing her belly

And then he was balked by one scaly swish.

For she was but female down to the belly

But the rest of her body was nothing but fish.

Verse 5.

"Holding you in my arms is a terrible bother
How your daddy got you is a puzzle to me.

I knew you're a maid, you're made like any other
And a maid all your lifetime you're likely to be.

Go back to your cockscomb, your dockscomb,
your daddy,

---- soft your fish bottom I find,

But give me a maid made the right way," said

Patty,

"With a passage before her and a big ass behind."

Transcription and lyrics from the Helene Stratman-Thomas Collection.

Critical Commentary

Transcriptions by Peters, p. 264

Editor's notes:

Some lyrics that were unclear in the handwritten transcription were taken from Peters' published version. However, that too is incomplete.

Sources:

Peters, Harry B., ed. *Folk Songs out of Wisconsin: An Illustrated Compendium of Words and Music*.
Madison, WI: The State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1977.

K.G.