

TRANSCRIPTION

Elizabeth Stewart sings a comic ballad, “The Beggar Man”

ScottishVoicesProj.0490

[This recording was made in August 1988 at a house in St. Andrews, Fife, that John Niles and his research team were renting at the time. Present were Elizabeth Stewart, John Niles, and five or six members of his group. Stewart taps her foot to mark time, and she winds up the song by singing the chorus twice.]

[*Elizabeth Stewart sings:*]

1 There was eence a jolly beggar, and a-beggin he was bound
 And he’s taen up his quarters in some langward toon.

Chorus: An we’ll gang nae mair a-rovin sae late untae the night,
 An we’ll gang nae mair a-rovin, let the meen shine eer sae bright.

2 Oh he wouldnae lie in barns nor he wouldnae lie in byres
 Bit in ahint the haa door or just afore the fire.

Chorus

3 Oh the beggar’s bed wis made at een wi gweed clean strae and hay [gweed: good
 And it’s in ahint the haa door, oh there the beggar lay.

Chorus

4 Oh an up araise the gweed man’s dochter for tae bar the door,
 And it’s there she saw the beggar man wis a-standin on the floor.

Chorus

5 Oh he’s taen the lassie in his airms, intae a neuk he ran,
 “*Oh holy, holy wi me, sir! Ye’ll wauken oor gweed man!*” [holy: quiet, gentle

Chorus

6 Oh he’s taen oot his little knife, let all his duddies faa
 And he stood the brawest gentleman that wis amongst them aa.

Chorus

7 He’s taen a horn fae his side and blawed baith loud and shrill,
 And five and twenty belted knights cam skippin ower the hill.

Chorus: An we'll gang nae more a-rovin sae late untae the night,
An we'll gang nae mair a-rovin, let the meen shine eer sae bricht.

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