

TRANSCRIPTION

Duncan Williamson sings a children's song, "The Mouses's Wedding to the Frog"

ScottishVoicesProj.0380

[This tape was made during a recording session organized by John Niles and his research group at a rented house in Auchtermuchty, Fife, in August of 1986. Much of the event was recorded simultaneously on cassette recorder, reel-to-reel tape recorder, and videotape. The chief aim was to get good-quality recordings of a number of songs in Duncan Williamson's repertory. Present were Williamson, John Niles, and a half dozen visitors from North America, including Howard Diller, who is mentioned at the beginning of this recording in an exchange not included in the present excerpt.]

[JN: I'd love the Froggie. How about the Froggie, for special for Howard?]

DW: Okay. Well, it's special for Howard. You see, Howard, not only traditional songs were beautiful, but the children's songs are beautiful forbyes.]

DW: This song was sung back fifty years ago when I was a child, ye know? [*Clears throat.*] So I hope you like it. [*Sings, tapping his foot:*]

- 1 A froggie would a-wooin ride
 oh-ho, ho
 A froggie would a-wooin ride
 With sword and buckle by his side,
 oh ho.
- 2 Oh first he came to a mouse's den
 oh-ho, ho
 First he came to a mouse's den
 He said, "Miss Mouse, would you let me in?"
 oh ho.
- 3 So he took Miss Mousie on his knee
 oh-ho, ho
 He took Miss Mousie on his knee,
 He said, "Miss Mouse, will you marry me?"
 oh ho.
- 4 She said, "Where will the marriage service be?"
 oh-ho, ho
 "Where will the marriage service be?"
 "Down at the hollow by the old oak tree,"
 oh ho.

5 She said, “What will the marriage supper be?”
 oh-ho, ho
 “What will the marriage supper be?” /'
 “A slice of cake and a cup o tea,”
 oh ho.

6 Then the first to come in was Mrs. Moth,
 oh-ho, ho
 The first came in was Mrs. Moth,
 She come to lay the table cloth,
 oh-ho, ho.

7 Then the next came in was Major Dick,
 oh-ho

 [*Spoken aside:* Major Dick was a grasshopper.]

 The next came in was Majori,
 He et so much that he fell sick,
 oh-ho, ho.

8 So they had to send fir Doctor Fly,
 oh ho
 They had to send for Doctor Fly,
 For fear that Major Deck would die,
 oh ho.

9 The next came in was a squirrel with a curly tail, tail,
 The next came in was a squirrel with a curly tail,
 He tore his head on a rusty nail,
 oh-ho, ho.

10 Next came in was a big red black-brown snake,
 Oh, next came in was a big brown snake,
 He coiled himself roond the weddin cake,
 oh-ho, ho.

11 So they all went down tae the lake,
 oh-ho, ho
 They all went sailin down tae the lake,
 They were gobbled up by a big fat drake,
 oh-ho, ho.

All: [*Laughter.*]

DW: That was “The Mouse's Weddin to the Frog.”