2004

The Uncensured Burns: Two Editions of The Merry Muses of Caledonia

Mary M. Husemann

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The following is a comparison of two versions of *The Merry Muses of Caledonia*: the 1999 type-facsimile edition of the original published version, edited by G. Ross Roy, and the 1904 Manuscript copy. This 1904 edition claims to be one of fifty handwritten manuscript copies annotated by W. Scott Douglas (former owner of the 1799 edition) and W. E. Henley; however, only three copies are known to be in existence: one at the University of South Carolina, one at Dartmouth University and one in the National Library of Scotland. There does not appear to be a copy in the British Library. The presence of only these three copies and the original selling price of the volume (10 guineas) suggest that the volumes were produced only for ready money.

The annotations range from single words to entire paragraphs on the history of a particular poem or song. This comparison pays close attention to changes in spelling, indicated with an asterisk (*) the poems in which the facsimile edition omits quotation marks and with a cross (†) the poems in which the facsimile edition lists first the chorus and not the stanza. Titles are keyed to the 1904 edition; changes beyond capitalization are marked. As regards choruses, the facsimile edition shortens them to the first two or three words of the first line, whereas the manuscript edition either continues with the chorus in its entirety or shortens the chorus to its first line. This has not been indicated below. For ease, changes have been indicated by stanza and then by line (e.g., l.1) and have been keyed to the manuscript edition. I have also indicated any changes in title (T), chorus (C), and tune.

Following the comparison chart are three additional items: a paragraph of “warning” that prefaced “The Patriarch” in the manuscript copy, a second
version of “Ellibanks” included in the manuscript copy, and the entire texts of both versions of “John Anderson, My Jo.” These differed so widely as to make republishing the texts in their entirety more expedient than a line-by-line comparison.

The

Merry Muses

of

Caledonia

a collection of favourite Scots songs
Ancient and Modern
Selected for the use of the Crochallan Fencibles

Say, Sutan, can it be wrong,
To dress plain truth in witty Song?
What honest Nature says, or should do;
What every Lady does,—or would do!

[ circa 1800 ]

From the G. Ross Roy Collection
Courtesy Thomas Cooper Library, University of South Carolina
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>The Fornicator</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>daintless</td>
<td>dauntless</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.6</td>
<td>An’</td>
<td>An[d]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>I rede you beware o’ the ripples</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.4</td>
<td>a--e</td>
<td>arse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>She’s hoyed me out o’ Lauderdale</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>bed-stock</td>
<td>bedstock</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>She said</td>
<td>An’ said</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.7, 2.7, 3.7</td>
<td>hoy’d</td>
<td>hoyd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>came</td>
<td>cam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Anna</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.1, 5.2</td>
<td>Awa</td>
<td>Awa’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.1</td>
<td>right</td>
<td>Night</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.3 (in Postscript)</td>
<td>h---ll</td>
<td>hell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Erroch Brae</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T, 1.1</td>
<td>Errock</td>
<td>Erroch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>And</td>
<td>An’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>tellin’</td>
<td>tellin’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.6, 1.7</td>
<td>An</td>
<td>An’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>telling</td>
<td>telling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C.1, C.2, C.4, 2.1, 3.1</td>
<td>Errock</td>
<td>Erroch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>solemn league and covenant</td>
<td>Solemn League and Covenant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.4</td>
<td>a--se</td>
<td>arse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.1</td>
<td>p-----e</td>
<td>pintle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.2</td>
<td>b-------s</td>
<td>b------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.3</td>
<td>a--e</td>
<td>arse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.4</td>
<td>m-w</td>
<td>maw</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Our gudewife’s sae modest</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.8</td>
<td>c--s</td>
<td>cods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Wad ye do that?</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>an</td>
<td>an’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>stead,</td>
<td>stead, ——</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>f--s</td>
<td>fucks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>For a’ that an a’ that.</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>a--e</td>
<td>arse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>b-------s</td>
<td>balls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>p-----e</td>
<td>pintle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.1</td>
<td>c--t</td>
<td>cunt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Muirland Meg</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>muirlan’</td>
<td>muirland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C.3</td>
<td>morn</td>
<td>man</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
tho'
An
an

Ye hae lien wrang, lassie. *

The Patriarch

Tal de dal & c.
"How lang, she says, ye
f----g
unco
ly
graith
m-w (2x)

bisy
bairn'd
m-w
d--n'd
c--t
ne'er
m-w

How lang," she says, "ye"
fucking
unco'
lie
graith
maw (2x)
brisy
bairned
maw
damn'd
cunt
Ne'er
maw

Will ye na, can ye na, let me be?*

T
T
2.3

The Case of Conscience*

1.4, 2.4, 3.4, 4.4.
5.4, 6.4, 7.4, 8.4
c--t
complaint;

haly
called

The Trogger

say,
do
a--e
stell'd

3.7
c--t

3.7

The reel o' stumpie. *

Godly Girzie

1.1, 1.2, 1.6, 2.3
1.8
2.1
2.6
2.8

haly
Cragie
chiel'
piouslie
p----e

holy
Craige
chiel (2x)
piouslie__
pintle
Green grow the rashes'

O, O?
c--t cunt
labster lobster
Highland highland
ready Ready
m--s maws
finger f--s finger-fucks
p----e pintle
c---e cuntie

Cuddie the Cooper

Cooper
cooper Coopier
cooper,

The jolly gauger

An An'
weel we'll

Nine inch will please a lady*
rede me dame, rede me, dame;
c--t cunt
thumb-bread thumb-breadths
p----e pintle
Charlie-lad! Charlie, lad,
roarin handfu' roarin' handfu's
daud, daud __
nodge nidge
nyvle; nyvle.

Had I the wyte she bade me
fit-man laddie; fit-man, laddie;
wadna' wadna
bad bade
deny denied
lye lie
ca'd ca'ad
a--e arse

Elibanks

Ellibanks Ellibanks
Ellibraes Ellibraes
ay aye
d--n damn
man. man
f--k fuck
loes lo'.es
c--t cunt
Gi'f Gif
a--e arse
The Uncensured Burns: The Merry Muses...

4.5  
glowran  
glowin'  

4.8  
panting  
pantin'  

[This is followed in the MS version on an additional leaf [36a] by "Burns's version." See text at end of collation.]

Comin' o'er the hills o' Coupar\textsuperscript{†}  
1.3  
hand  
wand  
1.4  
Graipit  
Grippet  
C.4  
dirk  
dirk  

Brose and Butter  
C.4  
c--t  
cunt  
2.2  
paetrick  
paetrick  
2.3  
gardiner  
gardener  
4.1  
wi'  
wee  

Comin' through the rye\textsuperscript{†}  
1.3, 2.3, 3.3, 4.3, 5.3  
f--k/f--s  
fuck/fucks  
3.4  
C---s  
Cunt's  

The Bower of Bliss  
1.3  
Or  
Or,  
3.6  
Venus'  
Venus's  
4.2  
wond'rous  
wondrous  
5.1  
embrown'd  
embow'rd  
5.8  
thine.  
thine!  
*7.1  
tender trembling  
tender trembling  
7.3  
sight;  
sight —  

As I cam o'er the cairney mount  
1.3  
dirk  
dirk  
C.4  
plaidie  
plaidie  

Supper isna ready  
T  
is na  
isna  
C  
"Fa lal &c.  
none  

Yon, Yon, Yon, Lassie\textsuperscript{†}  
2.1  
me, o' Meg my wife,  
me o' Meg my wife  
2.2  
favour  
favour. —  
3.3  
c--t  
cunt  

The yellow, yellow yorlin'  
1.4, 2.4, 3.4, 4.4, 5.4  
yellow yellow yorlin'  
yellow, yellow, yorlin'  

The summer morn  
1.1  
f--ks  
fucks  
1.8  
r-ger  
roger  
2.1  
Yon'  
Yon  
2.8  
a--e  
ar  
3.7  
a--e  
ar  
3.8  
f--k'd  
fuck'd  

\textsuperscript{†}[This is followed in the MS version on an additional leaf [36a] by "Burns's version." See text at end of collation.]
"John Anderson, my jo," is printed here. For convenience, a comparison of the two texts in their entirety is printed on pages 467 and 468.
The Uncensured Burns: The Merry Muses... 461

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tune</th>
<th>Daivy</th>
<th>Davie</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>C.2</td>
<td>dear dainty</td>
<td>dear, dainty</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Modiewark

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>T, 1.4, 3.4, 4.1, 4.2, 4.4</th>
<th>Cuttie</th>
<th>cutty</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>a--e</td>
<td>arse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.3</td>
<td>a--elins</td>
<td>arselins</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>T</th>
<th>mill—o</th>
<th>mill—o—</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>years</td>
<td>year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.6</td>
<td>Tald me with</td>
<td>Tauld me, with</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.8</td>
<td>kend</td>
<td>ken’nd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.3</td>
<td>amen’s</td>
<td>amends</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Original Set of The mill, mill—o—*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>T</th>
<th>lo</th>
<th>lo’ed</th>
<th>millars</th>
<th>miller’s</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>was nae</td>
<td>wasna</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>O gat ye me wi’ naething?</th>
<th>cunt</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>c--t</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>far gudewife</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>O can ye labor lee, young man? *</th>
<th>Wi</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>Wi’</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Our John’s brak yestreen

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>T</th>
<th>m-w</th>
<th>mow</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>zealates</td>
<td>zealots</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.6 (2x)</td>
<td>m-w</td>
<td>mow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C.1 (3x)</td>
<td>m-w</td>
<td>mow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C.2, C.4</td>
<td>m-w</td>
<td>mow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.1, 2.4</td>
<td>B---s---k’s</td>
<td>Brunswick’s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.6</td>
<td>prin--ss</td>
<td>princess</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>E-p---r</td>
<td>Emperor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>a row, a row</td>
<td>row, row, row</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.6</td>
<td>m-w (3x)</td>
<td>mow (3x)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4.1 Y--k  York
4.5 p--s--n  Prussian
4.6 an' m-w, a m-w  and a mow, mow, mow
5.2 P--ss-a  Prussia
5.4 F--d---k  Frederick
5.6 m-w (2x)  mow (2x)
6.5 trap.  trap _
6.6 dow.  dow __
7.2 St-----l--s  Stanil's laws
7.4 diel  deil
7.4 a--e  arse
7.5 p--k  prick
7.6 d--n  damn
7.6 h--l  hell
7.6 wi' a m-w  with a mow, a mow

The Cooper o' Cuddy'
2.1 sought  sought
2.2 diel (2x)  deil (2x)

There cam a cadger
C Fal la! &c.  [none]
2.1 lang  long

Ken ye na our lass, Bess?
lass Bess  lass, Bess

Wha the deil can hinder the wind to blaw?*
1.1 new-year  new year
1.2 lang.  lang ___
1.5 "relief!"  "Relief!"
1.7 wan  wa'n't
1.8 gae.  gae
2.3 f-t  fart
2.4 fill'd  filled
2.4 fou:  fu';
2.8 blaw.  blaw?

Nae hair on't
1.3, 2.4 c--t  cunt
2.1 vex'd  vexed

We're a' gaun southie O.
2.3 c--t  cunt
4.3 of  off
5.2 soger  sodger
5.4 Roger  roger
6.2 loe  lo'e
6.2 O',  O;
6.3 p-----s  pricks
The Uncensured Burns: The Merry Muses...

Jockey was a bonny lad*
neat sweet pretty little
neat, sweet, pretty, little
loes
lo’es
diel
deil

My ain kind deary
deary
dearie
lee
lea
gods
gods,

Here's his health in water
brawly's
brawlie's
drees
dree
p-lie
p
But when he gat atween my
legs,
He made an unco’ splatter,
We made an unco splatter;
When ’tweesh my legs he gat

Act sederunt o’ the Court o’ Session
1.1, 1.2
Embrugh
Entreugh
1.3, 1.7
p--ks
pricks
court o’ session
Court o’ Session
1.2, 1.5
1.6
session
Session
2.6, 8
session
Session

Blyth Will an’ Bessie’s wedding
naithing
naething
2.3
Jeamie's
Jamie's
twixt
‘twixt
C2.4, 4.4
Highland
highland
7.3
When e’er
Whene’er
8.2
the gither
thegither

As I look’d o’er yon castle wa**
m-w
mow
2.4
lts
It’s
4.3
a--e
arse
4.3
c--t
cunt
5.2
b------s
balls
5.3
a--e
arse
5.4
c--t
cunt

The rantin’ dog the daddie o’t
faut
fa’ut
3.3
Rab
Rob
3.3
mair
mair__

Jenny Macraw*
taen
ta’en
2.3
quo’
quo
2.4, 3.2, 3.4
c--t
cunt
3.4

There's hair on't
a---e
arse

1.1
O ERE
O, ere

2.1
rase
rose

Sodger laddie
C
Sing, lal de lal, &c.
[none]

2.1
swagg'rin
swagg'rin'

1.4, 2.4, 3.4
sodger
soldier

1.2

O gin I had her

2.6

Whistle o'er the lave o't

2.7

about,
slocken
flocken

C.4, 2.4, 3.4
whistle o'er the lave o't.
about
oursells
oursels

3.2

The Lassie gatherin' nits

T
Gath'ring
gath'ring

1.2

I's
I'se

4.2

The linkin' laddie

1.1, 1.2

Waes
Waes'

2.1

kend
ken'd

Tail Todle'

C.3

a--e
arse

2.1
dead
dead,

2.2
sick
sick,

2.3
weel
weel,

weel,

Johnnie Scot

1.4
mak
make

2.1
c--t-hair (2x)
cunt hair (2x)

2.3
a---e
arse

Duncan Grey

1.3
awa
awa'

1.7
anither
ether

I am a bard

1.2
an
an'

1.3
glowran
glowin'

2.3
an
and
The Uncensored Burns: The Merry Muses... 465

He till’ t and she till’
bor’d
bor’d,

Madgie cam to my bedstock
waukin waukin’
Fal, lal, &c. [none]
Cunt
C---t
C.2
p---e pintle
B----ks Ballocks

Tweedmouth Town*
wagged wagg’d
tale tail
an’ and
when When
again, again?
us’d
again?
wagged wagg’d
play? play?
used
again?
agreed, agreed
wagged
agreed, agreed
3.5
f--k’d fuck’d

Wha is that at my bower door?*
Door. door?
bower door bower-door
nae nay
waukin’ waukin
stay, stay?

Come cow me minnie†
c--t cunt
a--e arse
me minnie, me, minnie,
me; me, (second in line)
a--e arse
me
C.3
c--t cunt
beggit biggit
blinker, blinker?
m-w’d mow’d
Mary, Mary!
fine fine,
c--t cunt

* * *
Preface to "The Patriarch":

A Wicked Song
Author's name unknown
Tune - The waukin' o' a winter's night.

The publisher to the Reader: Courteous Reader -
The following is certainly the production of one of those licentious ungodly (too much abounding in this our day) wretches, who take it as a compliment to be called wicked, provided you allow them to be witty. Pity it is that while so many tar-barrels in the country are empty, and so many gibbets untenanted, some example is not made of these profligates

* * *

Burns Version of "Elibanks":

O Elibanks and Elibraes,
May blessin' aye befa' them;
They mind me o' the sunny days
When first with thee I saw them!
Your succar kisses were sae sweet,
Deil ha'et if I can tell, man,
What gart me lay my legs abreed,
And lift my sark mysel,' man.

I clasp'd my arms about your neck
As I were gawn to speel, jo;
An' cleeked my houghs about your thies,
As souple as an eel, jot
Your manly pintle felt my grip,
And made my senses reel, jo;
And when Jock thiefinclin'd to slip,
I dang him with my heel, jo.

Ow're Elibanks and Elibraes
We wandered at our will, jo;
Till tir'd o'pu'in nits an' slaes,
We drank of love our fill, jo!
My shepherd laddie, bless his breeks!
Kens when a lassie lo'es him,
Deil rive my cunt to candlewicks
Gif ever I refuse him.
Bright be the broom on Elibraes,
And yellow be the gowan!
My wyme it fistles ay like flaes
As I come o'er the knowe, man!
And aye I bless that bonie knowe —
Our bed amang the heather —
Where sic a trip to sic a yowe,
Till then ne'er yoked thegither
The Uncensured Burns: The Merry Muses... 467

* * *

"John Anderson, my jo":

1799 Edition

John Anderson, my jo, John
I wonder what ye mean,
To lie sae long i’ the mornin’
And sit sae late at e’en?
Ye’ll bleer a’ your e’en, John,
And why do ye so?
Come sooner to your bed at e’en,
John Anderson, my jo.

John Anderson, my jo, John,
When first that ye began,
Ye had as good a tail-tree
As ony ither man;
But now its waxen wan, John,
And wrinkles too and fro,
I’ve twa gae-ups for ae gae-down,
John Anderson, my jo.

I’m backit like a salmon,
I’m breastit like a swan:
My wame it is a down-cod,
My middle ye may span:
Frae my tap-knot to my tae, John,
I’m like the new-fa’n snow;
And it’s a’ for your convenience,
John Anderson, my jo.

O it is a fine thing,
To keep out o’er the dyke;
But its a meikle finer thing,
To see your hurdies fyke;
To see your hurdies fyke, John,
And hit the rising blow;
It’s then I like your chanter-pipe,
John Anderson, my jo.

When you come on before, John,
See that ye do your best;
When ye begin to haud me,
See that ye grip me fast;
See that ye grip me fast, John,

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John Anderson, my jo, John,
I wonder what ye mean,
To lie sae long i’ the mornin’,
And sit sae late at e’en?
Ye’ll bleer a’ your e’en, John,
And why do ye so?
Come sooner at your bed at e’en,
John Anderson, my jo.

John Anderson, my jo, John,
When first that ye began,
Ye had as good a tail-tree
As ony ither man;
But now it’s waxen wan, John,
And wrinkles too and fro,
And aft requires my helpin’ hand,
John Anderson, my jo.

When we were young and yauld, John,
We’ve lain out owre the dyke,
And O! it was a fine thing
To see your hurdles fyke —
To see your hurdies fyke, John, —
And strike the risin’ blow;
’Twas then I lik’d your chanter-pipe,
John Anderson, my jo.

John Anderson, my jo, John,
You’re welcome when you please;
It’s either in the warm bed,
Or else aboon the claes.
Do ye part aboon, John,
And trust to me below;
I’ve two gae-ups for your gae-down,
John Anderson, my jo.

When ye come on before, John,
See that ye do your best;
When I begin to haud ye,
See that ye grip me fast;
Se that ye grip me fast John,
Until I cry, "Oh!"
Your back shall crack or I do that,
John Anderson, my jo.

John Anderson, my jo, John,
Ye're welcome when ye please;
It's either in the warm bed,
Or else aboon the claes:
Or ye shall hae the horns, John,
Upon your head to grow:
An' that's the cuckold's mallison,
John Anderson, my jo.

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