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Mary M. Husemann

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

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, Pindar, 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]

<i>Stanza, Line</i>	<i>1799 Edition</i>	<i>1904 Manuscript Edition</i>
	The Fornicator	
1.3	daintless	dauntless
4.6	An'	An[d]
	I rede you beware o' the ripples	
4.4	a--e	arse
	She's hoyed me out o' Lauderdale	
1.5	bed-stock	bedstock
1.6	She said	An' said
1.7, 2.7, 3.7	hoy'd	hojd
3.1	came	cam
	Anna	
5.1, 5.2	Awa	Awa'
6.1	right	Night
7.3 (in Postscript)	h---ll	hell
	Erroch Brae	
T, 1.1	Errock	Erroch
1.5	And	An'
1.5	tillin'	tellin'
1.6, 1.7	An	An'
1.6	tillin'	telling
C.1, C.2, C.4, 2.1, 3.1	Errock	Erroch
3.3	solemn league and covenant	Solemn League and Covenant
3.4	a--se	arse
5.1	p----e	pintle
5.2	b-----s	b-----
5.3	a--e	arse
6.4	m-w	maw
	Our gudewife's sae modest	
1.8	c--s	cods
	Wad ye do that?	
2.1	an	an'
2.5	stead,	stead, ——
2.7	f---s	fucks
	For a' that an a' that.	
1.4	a--e	arse
3.1	b-----s	balls
3.3	p----e	pintle
4.1	c--t	cunt
	Muirland Meg	
1.1	muirlan'	muirland
C.3	mom	man

2.1	thro'	through
3.1	An	Her
4.2	an	an'

Ye hae lien wrang, lassie. †

The Patriarch

C	Tal de dal & c.	[none]
2.1	"How lang, she says, ye	"How lang," she says, "ye"
2.2	f----g	fucking
3.2	unco	unco'
3.3	ly	lie
4.1	graith	graith ___
4.3	m-w (2x)	maw (2x)
4.4	bisy	brisy
5.1	bairn'd	bairned
6.1	m-w	maw
6.3	d--n'd	damn'd
6.4	c--t	cunt
7.3	ne'er	Ne'er
7.4, 8.1	m-w	maw

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

T	Na (2x)	na, (2x)
T	Be.	be?
2.3	sleep	sheep

The Case of Conscience*

1.4, 2.4, 3.4, 4.4.		
5.4, 6.4, 7.4, 8.4	c--t	cunt
2.2	complaint;	complaint ___
3.3	haly	holy
5.1	called	calle'd

The Trogger

2.1	say,	say?
2.1	do	dae?
2.3	a--e	arse
2.5	stell'd	stelled
3.7	c--t	cunt
3.7	synsine	synsine

The reel o' stumpie. †

Godly Girzie

1.1, 1.2, 1.6, 2.3	haly	holy
1.8	Cragie	Craigie
2.1	chiel'	chiel (2x)
2.6	piouslie	piouslie ___
2.8	p----e	pintle

	Green grow the rashes[†]	
1.2, 3.2, 4.2	O,	O?
1.3, 3.3	c--t	cunt
1.4	labster	lobster
2.4	Highland	highland
3.4	ready	Ready
4.3	m--s	maws
4.4	finger f---s	finger-fucks
5.4 (older version)	p----e	pintle
6.4	c---e	cuntie
	Cuddie the Cooper	
T	Cooper	Coopier
1.1	cooper	cooper,
	The jolly gauger	
1.3	An	An'
1.3	weel	we'll
	Nine inch will please a lady*	
1.1	rede me dame,	rede me, dame;
2.1	c--t	cunt
2.3	thumb-bread	thumb-breadths
2.4	p----e	pintle
2.5	Charlie-lad!	Charlie, lad,
2.7	roarin handfu'	roarin' handfu's
2.7	daud,	daud __
3.5	nodge	nidge
3.6	nyvle;	nyvle.
	Had I the wyte she bade me	
1.4	fit-man laddie;	fit-man, laddie;
1.5	wadna'	wadna
1.8, 3.4	bad	bade
2.2	deny	denied
2.4	lye	lie
2.7	ca'd	ca'ad
3.7	a--e	arse
	Elibanks	
T, 1.1	Ellibanks	Elibanks
1.1, 4.1	Ellibraes	Elibraes
1.2	ay	aye
1.6	d--n	damn
1.8	man.	man ____
2.2	f--k	fuck
2.6	loes	lo'es
2.7	c--t	cunt
2.8	Gi'f	Gif
3.3	a--e	arse

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*†

1.3	hand	wand
1.4	Graipit	Grippet
C.4	durk	dirk

Brose and Butter

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

Comin' through the rye†

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	durk	dirk
C.4	plaidie	plaidie

Supper isna ready

T	Is na	isna
C	"Fa lal &c.	none

Yon, Yon, Yon, Lassie†

2.1	me, o' Meg my wife,	me o' Meg my wife —
2.2	favour	flavour. —
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'
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The summer morn

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

	She gripet at the girstest o't^f	
2.3	b----ks	ballocks
	Wha'll maw me now?	
T	Wha'll M-w Me Now.	Wha'll maw me now?
C.1, C.2	m-w	maw
1.1	O'	O
1.3	lown	loon
2.4	c---t's	cunt's
4.2	m-w	maw
4.4	m---n'	mawin'
5.1, 5.3	Alake	Alack
5.3	a--e	arse
6.1	loun	loon
6.3	a--e	arse
"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.		
	Ye'se get a hole to hide it in.	
3.2	rivt	reft
5.1, 5.5	had	haud
	Duncan MacCleerie*	
2.3	cheary	cheery
4.3	c--t	cunt
	Duncan Davidson*	
C	Fal, lal, &c.	[none]
2.2	without	without,
2.3	case	ca'se
2.4	p----e	pintle
3.4	Yerk	Jerk
4.2	Highland	highland
	O saw ye my Maggy	
3.1, 3.2, 3.3	Wry-c----d	Wry-c
3.4	gain'	'gain'
9.1, 9.2, 9.3	loe	lo'd
10.3	Maggie	Maggie,
	They took me to the haly band	
2.2	deel	deil
2.4	m----g	mawing
	The ploughman*	
1.1	bonnie	bonny
2.3	tald	tauld
7.1	sykie	fykie
C.3	O' a the trades that I do ken,	O'a' the trades that I do ken
C.3 final	O a' the trades, and crafts I ken	

	Dainty Davie[†]	
T	Daivy	Davie
1.4	dear dainty	dear, dainty
	The Modiewark	
Tune	O for ane an' twenty Tam	O for ane and twenty, Tam.
C.2	weary wanton	weary, wanton
	Andrew an' his cutty gun[†]	
T, 1.4, 3.4, 4.1, 4.2, 4.4	Cuttie	cutty
3.3	a--e	arse
4.3	a--elins	arselins
	The mill, mill--o--*	
T	mill--o	mill--o--
2.5	years	year
2.6	Tald me with	Tauld me, with
2.8	kend	ken'nd
4.3	amen's	amends
	Original Set of The mill, mill--o--*	
1.4	loed	lo'ed
C.4, 3.2	millars	miller's
2.3	was nae	wasna
	O gat ye me wi' naething?	
1.4	c--t	cunt
1.7	far gudewife	far, gude wife,
	O can ye labor lee, young man?[†]	
1.2	Wi	Wi'
	Our John's brak yestreen	
1.4	c--ks	cocks
3.2	tail;	tail __
	She rose and let me in	
1.3	no more appear'd	appeared no more
	Gie the lass her fairin'	
1.6	taen	ta'en
	Poor bodies do naething but mow	
T	m-w	mow
1.2	zealates	zealots
1.6 (2x)	m-w	mow
C.1 (3x)	m-w	mow
C.2, C.4	m-w	mow
2.1, 2.4	B---s---k's	Brunswick's
2.6	prin--ss	princess
3.1	E-p---r	Emperor
3.3	a row, a row	row, row, row
3.6	m-w (3x)	mow (3x)

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	Stani's laws
7.4	diel	deil
7.4	a---e	arse
7.5	p---k	prick
7.6	d--n	damn
7.6	h-ll	hell
7.6	wi' a m-w	with a mow, a mow
The Cooper o' Cuddy[†]		
2.1	sought	fought
2.2	diel (2x)	deil (2x)
There cam a cadger		
C	Fal lal, &c.	[none]
2.1	lang	long
Ken ye na our lass, Bess?		
T	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

	Jockey was a bonny lad*	
1.3	neat sweet pretty little	neat, sweet, pretty, little
1.8	loes	lo'es
2.8	diel	deil
	My ain kind deary	
T, 1.2, 1.4, 1.8	deary	dearie
1.1, 1.3, 1.7	lee	lea
2.1	gods	gods,
	Here's his health in water	
1.6	brawly's	brawlie's
1.8	drees	dree
2.4	p-liie	p_____
2.5	But when he gat atween my legs,	He made an unco' splatter,
2.6	We made an unco splatter;	When 'tweesh my legs he gat
	Act sederunt o' the Court o' Session	
1.1, 1.2	Embrugh	Edinburgh
1.3, 1.7	p--ks	pricks
1.2, 1.5	court o' session	Court o' Session
1.6	session	Session
2.6, 8	session	Session
	Blyth Will an' Bessie's wedding	
2.2	naething	naething
2.3	Jeamie's	Jamie's
3.2	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'*	
2.2	m-w	mow
2.4	Its	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	
2.1	faut	fa'ut
3.3	Rab	Rob
3.3	mair	mair__
	Jenny Macraw*	
2.2	taen	ta'en
2.3	quo'	quo
2.4, 3.2, 3.4	c--t	cunt

3.4	a---e	arse
	There's hair on't	
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
4.4, 5.4, 6.4	sodger	soldier
	O gin I had her	
1.2	Ae	Yea,
1.7	soud	s'oud
2.3	ee	e'e
2.6	c--k	cock
2.7	slocken	flocken
	Whistle o'er the lave o't	
C.4, 2.4, 3.4	whistle o'er the lave o't.	"Whistle o'er the lave o't."
2.3	about,	about
3.2	oursells	oursels
	The Lassie gatherin' nits	
T	Gath'ring	gatherin'
1.2	gath'ring	gath'rin'
4.2	Is	I'se
	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,
	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

	He till't and she till't	
1.7	bor'd	bor'd,
	Madgie cam to my bedstock	
1.2	waukin	waukin'
C	Fal, lal, &c.	[none]
2.1	C---t	Cunt
2.2	p---e	pintle
2.3	B----ks	Ballocks
	Tweedmouth Town*	
1.4	wagged	wagg'd
1.4	tale	tail
1.5	an'	and
1.7, 1.8	when	When
1.7, 1.8	again,	again?
2.3	used	us'd
2.4	wagged	wagg'd
2.7	play,	play?
2.8	again.	again?
3.5	agreed,	agreed
3.6	f--k'd	fuck'd
	Wha is that at my bower door?*	
T	Door.	door?
1.1	bower door	bower-door
1.3	nae	nay
2.3	waukin'	waukin
2.5	stay,	stay?
	Come cow me minnie[†]	
1.3	c--t	cunt
1.4	a--e	arse
C.1, C.2	me minnie,	me, minnie,
C.1, C.2	me;	me, (second in line)
C.3	a--e	arse
C.3	c--t	cunt
2.4	beggit	biggit
3.1	blinker,	blinker?
3.2	m-w'd	mow'd
4.2	Mary,	Mary!
4.3	fine	fine,
4.4	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, jo!
Your manly pintle felt my grip,
And made my senses reel, jo;
And when Jock thief inclin'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 among the heather —
Where sic a trip to sic a yowe,
Till then ne'er yoked thegither

* * *

“John Anderson, my jo”:

1799 Edition

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

1904 Manuscript 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 een, 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 hurdies 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.

Until that I cry "Oh!"
Your back shall crack or I do that,
John Anderson, my jo.

I'm backit like a salmon,
I'm breastit like a swan;
My wyme is like a down-cod,
My waist ye weel may span;
My skin frae tap to tae, John,
Is like the new fa'n snow,
And it's a' for your conveniency,
John Anderson, my jo.

University of South Carolina