

Ha My Ow Mos—A Three Men's Song

7 Ha my ow mos, ha my ow mos, ha my ow mos yn gun las, My a glow-as, a glow-as, a
 10 glow - as a glow - as, an tros a' tros, a' tros, a' tros a'
 13 tros, a' tros, a' tros, an bus - cas mun - ys mes my a
 19 drouv-yas un pesk_ bras naw y lost_ ow Oll an bob-el yn porth-y - a
 ha Mar'-as Jow - an nef - ra ny wor_____ dh'y gen - syn-jy. Ha my ow...

Literal English Translation:

*As I was going out..... On a blue / green downs
 I heard the sound of little fishes
 But I found one great fish with nine tails
 All the people in St Ives and Marazion
 Never could keep hold of it*

This song was given to Cornish Language scholar called Tonkin in 1698 by a Captain Noel Cater. It is a puzzle song, the blue / green downs are the sea but the fish with nine tails is a mystery.

This song was given to Thomas Tonkin the Cornish Language scholar in 1698 by Captain Noel Cater of St Agnes, (*Robert Morton Nance, "A fisherman's Catch", Old Cornwall, Vol. 1, no.2, St Ives, Federation of Old Cornwall Societies, 1925, page 31*). No music was recorded by Tonkin and Morton Nance arranged it as a three men's song. The words lend themselves to this and in his 'Survey of Cornwall' in 1602 Carew comments that comments that the Cornish were very fond of three men's songs - '*cunningly contrived for the ditty and pleasantly for their note*'. (*Carew, Richard. The Survey of Cornwall, London, Staffor and Iaggard, 1602, p135.*)