

2.12: Little Lise / Little Eyes / Doulagas Vighan

Sources

Archival (Manuscript / Sound)

Bolitho Archive, Federation of Old Cornwall Societies Sound Archive, Courtney Library, Royal Institution of Cornwall, Truro.

Publications (Book / Album)

Deep River Boys, "Deep River", HMV POP 263 -78rpm (1950s),

Deep River Boys "London Harmony", CD Format (2004), re-mastered from original tracks recorded between 1950 -1955 2 CD set. This definitive set contains many of the recordings made in the UK by Harry Douglas and The Deep River Boys.

Brenda Wootton, with John the Fish *Pasties & Cream*, Sentinel Records, SENS 1006, 1971, Vinyl /LP format.

Merv Davey, *Hengan*, (Redruth, Dyllansow Truran, 1983), p.21.

Participatory Action Research

Kanow Tavern: Cornish Pub Song Project, 2007.

Notes

Deep River Boys 1950

Deep River Boys "London Harmony", CD Format (2004), re-mastered from original tracks recorded between 1950 -1955 2 CD set. This definitive set contains many of the recordings made in the UK by Harry Douglas and The Deep River Boys.

Gareth Horner / Newquay Rowing Club 1974

Merv Davey, *Hengan*, Dyllansow Truran, Redruth, 1983.

Radio Cornwall March 1983

Following interview on Radio Cornwall March 1983 Stan Hoskin of camborne contacted the station to say that he and his group, The Joy Boys, had introduced the song to Cornwall Circa 1955. They obtained it from a contemporary 78 record HMV POP 263 by the Deep River Boys, a close Harmony group. It was known as *Honey, Honey*, and was B side to a hit single *Deep River*.

Neil Plummer: St Stythyans, / Falmouth, St Budock / St Keverne 1983

Merv Davey, Hengan, Dyllansow Truran, Redruth, 1983,

Notes :

Informant: Gareth Horner, (b. 1956), August 1974 as sung by fishing fraternity and rowing club sailors Arms Newquay.

Informant: Neil Plummer, verses sung in St Stythyans, 1983 Falmouth, St Budock, and St Keverne.

Little lize is a quite remarkable example of the way in which a song can be adopted into the traditional repertoire of a community. In the form of "Honey, Honey, it was the B side to Deep River a hit single brought out by a close harmony group called the Deep River Boys in the Mid Fifties. (HMV POP 263 - 78 rpm) . A Cornish close harmony group called the Joy boys from the Camborne Redruth area used this song and it was subsequently taken up by the community as a whole. It is interesting that of all the music popularised by the mass media which must have been used by local groups over the last 30 years , this particular song should have been taken up by the Cornish Community . It certainly shows how selective a community can be despite what sometimes seems to be the overpowering influence of Radio and Television. The natural harmony of the song would of course have natural appeal to the Cornishman . The twentieth century Barber shop quartet style of singing much favoured in Cornwall has its roots in the `three mens songs` of Elizabethan times."

Lyrics

Kanow Tavern – Pub Song Project 2007

The o-ther night I had a dream the funniest dream of all, I
 Nans yw unn nos, y'm beu hun-ros, An koynta 'veu a'y oes; Yth
 dreamt that I was kissing you be - hind the gar-den wall, And he said
 esa hi owth am - ma dhymm, En - os a-dryv an fos! Yn-medh hi:
 little eyes I love you (hon - ey), little eyes I love you, I
 Dew - lag - as vy - ghan (meld - er), Dew - lag - as vy - ghan, War
 love you in the spring time and the fall, Little eyes I love you,
 all an nar-vys nyns eus hwath dha bar; Dew - lag - as vy - ghan,
 little eyes I love you, I love you the best of all.
 Dew - lag - as vy - ghan, Bys vyk-ken my a'th kar

The other night I had a dream,
 The funniest dream of all;
 I dreamt that I was kissing you.
 Behind the garden wall!

And she said
 Little eyes I love you (honey)
 Little eyes I love you,
 I love you in the spring time and the fall;
 (honey, honey)
 Little eyes I love you
 Little eyes I love you
 I love you the best of all
 (honey, honey, honey)

Oh tell me honey tell me do,
 Who is your turtle dove?
 Oh tell me honey tell me do,
 Who is the one you love?
 And she said

I took my honey home last night,
 Beneath the spreading pine;
 I placed my arms around her waist,
 And pressed her lips on mine.
 And she said

Nans yw unn nos, y'm beu hunros,
 An koynta 'veu a'y oes;
 Yth esa hi owth amma dhymm,
 Enos a-dryv an fos !
 Yn-medh hi:
 Dewlagas vyghan (melder),
 Dewlagas vyghan,
 War oll an norvys nyns eus hwath dha bar;
 (melder, melder)
 Dewlagas vyghan,
 Dewlagas vyghan,
 Bys vykken my a'th kar
 (melder, melder, melder)

A lavar dhymm, A lavar gwir,
 Piw yw dha durenn deg ?
 A lavar dhymm ha lavar gwir,
 Piw'n moyha dhis a bleg ?
 Yn-medh hi

Nyhewer y's kemmeris tre,
 Yn-dann an spemenn wynn;
 A-dro dh'y kres, 'hworris ow breg'h,
 Ha'y synsi strothys tynn.
 Yn-medh hi....

Appendix 2.12: *Little Lise / Little Eyes / Doulagas Vighan*
(See contents page for links to audio files of this song)

Merv Davey, Hengan, (Redruth, Dyllansow Truran, 1983)

Verse Variations recorded 1974 – 1983

(Newquay and St Keverne- Gareth Horner 1974, Neil Plummer 1983)

The other night I had a dream,
The strangest dream of all;
I dreamt I saw a great big man,
Behind the garden wall.

I went around to her back door,
To see my turtle dove;
Oh tell me honey tell me do,
What is this thing called love?

(North Cornwall- Gareth Horner 1974)

Oh kiss me honey kiss me do,
You are my turtle dove;
Oh kiss me honey kiss me do,
You are the one I love.

It was not you that I did see,
Behind the garden wall;
It was my wife looking at me,
She looked so big and tall.

(St Stythyans /Falmouth/Budock – Neil Plummer 1983)

I took my honey down a shady lane,
Beneath the spreading pine;
I placed my arms around her waist,
And pressed her lips to mine.

The other night I had a dream,
Her bulldog flew at me;
And bit me by the old back door,
Right by the maple tree.

I loved her in the Summer time,
I loved her in the fall;
But my darling between these sheets,
I love you the best of all.