

The mind boggles

The Urth list — 2 messages, 2 voices, 27 Feb 2002

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Nigel Price — 27 Feb 2002, 00:46

I've been *ever* so self-disciplined and managed to hold myself back from entering the who-has-the-best-hymns debate (a bit of everything at

Cirencester Baptist Church, from jazz to early music), but Nutria wrote:
I wrote Wolfe a decade ago a list of questions,
including what kinds of music he likes best...
(I didn't bother to ask about rock; I'd read
enough Wolfe already). He replied that he favors
filk, and that was his hobby music. So, SF all
the way when it comes to old Gene!

Peter Wright told me that when he stayed with GW, he discovered that our favourite author listens to rock music while he exercises on his exercise bike in the morning and that he, Peter, had been introducing him to the delights of Iron Maiden, whose music, he maintained, had made a favourable impression. I just found this all too mind boggling for words. GW is almost my father's age! (I think the only album of popular music my father owns is an Emmylou Harris record, but that's just an aberration and he never actually plays it.)

I was interested in GW's use of the traditional folk song "Flash Company" in the story of that name, though, and wondered which version he had been listening to. The lyrics quoted in the story are slightly different from those I'm familiar with in the version sung by June Tabor. Any ideas, anyone? (I'm assuming that Iron Maiden have never recorded this particular ditty.)

Nigel (bass, guitar, mandolin)

Andy Robertson — 27 Feb 2002, 00:40 · follows Nigel Price

----- Original Message -----

From: "Nigel Price" <nigel.a.price at virgin.net>
I was interested in GW's use of the traditional folk song "Flash Company"

in

the story of that name, though, and wondered which version he had been listening to. The lyrics quoted in the story are slightly different from those I'm familiar with in the version sung by June Tabor. Any ideas, anyone? (I'm assuming that Iron Maiden have never recorded this particular ditty.)

Also known a "The Yellow Handkerchief".

These are the trad words as I hear tell

For once I loved a young girl as I loved my life
And I thought in my heart I would make her my wife.
With her white cotton stockings, and her high ankle shoes And she wears a yellow handkerchief

wherever she goes.

cho:

So take this yellow handkerchief in remembrance of me
And tie it round your neck, my love, in flash companie. Flash companie, my boys, like a good
many more If it hadn't a been for flash companie I should never a been
so poor.

For with fiddling and dancing 'twas all my delight
In keeping such company it ruined me quite.
It has ruined me quite, my boys, like a great many more
If it hadn't a been for flash companie I should never a been
so poor.

cho:

For once I had a color as red as the rose
But now I'm as pale as the lily that grows.
Like a flower in the garden all my color has gone
So you see what I'm coming to from loving that one.

(Note: Supplementary verses reported by Kennedy)

First I loved Thomas and then I loved John
And then I loved William, he's a clever young man
With his white cotton stockings and his low ankle shoes And he wears a blue jacket wherever he
goes.

The rocks shall run to water and the sea shall run dry
If ever I prove false, my love, to the girl that loves I In the middle of the ocean there shall grow a
myrtle tree If ever I prove false, my love, to the girl that loves me.

Come all you pretty flash girls take warning by me
And never build your nest in the top of any tree
For the leaves they will wither and the roots they will decay And the beauty of a young girl will
soon fade away.

Are they the ones Wolfe uses?

Maybe he is a folkie as well as a filkie?

hartshorn (finger in me ear)