

‘Afloat in a dreamboat’: *More Songs in Finnegans Wake*

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Assistance, Notebook VI.B.11 was compiled late in 1923 according to the *James Joyce Archive*. It contains a number of song titles and lines, all on or between pages 131-140. No overall source for these entries has been found. It may have been a song book published in 1923, as most of the songs positively identified below were published between 1920 and 1923 in America. More likely Joyce may have found a collection of sheet music in a shop or library.

The authors of the first major account of Joyce’s use of songs¹ did not have the information from the notebook nor had access to the internet so they were not able to identify the material below, which has been found with the help of both resources. Our glosses come mostly from ‘IN Harmony’² as do the Sheet Music covers (shown for the more definitive notebook entries) but there are other useful websites.^{3,4} Titles of songs are shown in capitals while lines from the songs are given below where relevant. Where doubt remains (because more than one song may contain the notebook word or phrase) the usual “?” is used. Many of the units were crossed out and added mostly in the early drafts of Book 1 and 3. Further material was taken by Joyce from Mme Raphael’s transcriptions of the uncrossed units (Notebook VI.C.1) in the 1930’s. These appeared as handwritten additions to pages of *transition* in which *Finnegans Wake* as ‘Work in Progress’ had appeared. *The James Joyce Digital Archive* can be consulted for details of the progression of these additions.⁵ Where there was the case, for the convenience of our readers, we provided the genetic information immediately after the C reference.

There are certainly more unidentified song references in these notebook pages, which since this article is a work in progress, we have included below. The songs seem to start on page 131(g) of the notebook. No songs have been found on the pages not included. Internet searches may not be

able to locate lyrics embedded in sheet music. Where no song title is shown below, we have been unable to find a song of the correct period.

At this early stage Joyce does not appear to rework the notebook material much (as he increasingly came to do) but one telling alteration comes on page 133(c) (see below), when Joyce, perhaps remembering his own mother, changes the line in the song from ‘I remember the day she taught me to pray’ into ‘I’ve forgotten the way she taught me to pray’!

Finnegans Wake pages are shown in red for convenience.

References:

- 1) Hodgart, Matthew J.C. & Worthington, Mabel P. *Song in the Work of James Joyce*. (New York 1959) – H&W below.
Online at: <https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=mdp.39015004156736&view=1up&seq=9>
- 2) IN Harmony: Sheet Music from Indiana.
Online at: <https://webapp1.dlib.indiana.edu/inharmony/welcome.do>
- 3) Kirk Collection: Popular Songs Index
Online at: <https://library.indstate.edu/about/units/rbsc/kirk/popsong.html#Alabama>
- 4) Folk Songs and Music Hall
Online at: <http://folksongandmusic hall.com>
- 5) Online at: <https://jjda.ie/main/JJDA/JJDAhome.htm>

VI.B.11.131

(g) pals will smile

Note: H&W 160: pals will smile but me (‘Comin’ throught the rye’) seems impossibly remote.

VI.C.1.184(c) **ˆpals will smile**

Note: Transferred via Sheet iii-64(c)

MS 47486a-110, ScrPrBMA: ˆ+Pals will smile but+ˆ | *JJA* 61:081 | 1933-1936 | III§3A.10 | **FW 523.22**

(h) ˆshare good times

MS 47471b-5v, ScrMT: by Sam, and share good times in a happy lovenest | *JJA* 45:152 | Nov 1923 | I.3§2.*0 | **FW 065.08**

(i) ˆall the world was June

MS 47471b-37, ScrLMA: He told me his true opinion to pardon him but that I had got a lovely face and I felt I was back again in paradise lost ˆ+when all the world was June+ˆ | *JJA* 46:263 | Dec 1923 | I.5§2.*1 | ‘The Revered Letter’ **[FW 000.00]**

(j) cradle days

Note: H&W 198: ‘Pal of my Cradle Days’ written 1925 too late for this notebook.

VI.C.1.184(d) **ˆcradledays**

Note: Transferred via Sheet iii-81(m)

MS 47486a-119v, ScrPrRMA: ˆ+since we are talking amnessly of brukasloop crazdledaze+ˆ | *JJA* 61:094 | 1933-1936 | III§4.7 | **FW 562.16**

(k) **land of bye-lo**

?BYE LO (by Ray Perkins) 1919

?THE LAND OF BYE-LO-BYE. (by Mattie-Josephine-Atkins & Alfred Lorando) 1904

?BYE-LO-LAND. (by Jas. C. Macy) 1878

Baby is going to Bye-lo-land

Note: There are several cradle songs about the land of sleep (Bye-lo).

MS 47471b-5v, ScrRMA: by nose of gunplay war in bed wakened up ^+out of the land of byelo+^ |
JJA 45:152 | Nov 1923 | I.3§2.*0 | [FW 064.5-6](#)

VI.B.11.132

(a) **wish I could go**

?I'VE GOT THE YES! WE HAVE NO BANANA BLUES (by Lew Brown & James F. Hanley) 1923:

I wish I could go / To a cabaret or show / Where someone wouldn't come along / And sing that doggone song:

Skit on popular song *Yes, we have no bananas*.

Not located in MS/FW.

(b) **tippy canoe >**

MS 47471b-4v, ScrMT: if they were afloat in a dreamboat, his tippy canoe | JJA 45:153 |
Nov 1923 | I.3§2.*0 | [FW 065.32](#)

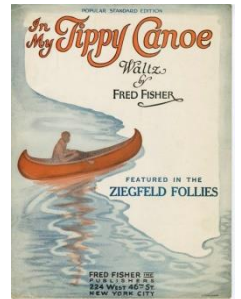
(c) **lovenest**

IN MY TIPPY CANOE (by Fred Fisher) 1921

In my tippy canoe, tippy canoe Lou, You can tippy canoe, tippy canoe too, To our love nest far below ...

Note: H&W 93: incorrectly gloss these.

MS 47471b-5v, ScrMT: and share good times in a happy lovenest when May moon shines |
JJA 45:152 | Nov 1923 | I.3§2.*0 | [FW 065.09](#)



(d) **Notice a fellow who —**

MS 47471b-5v, ScrMT: Notice a fellow who calls on his skirt | JJA 45:152 | Nov 1923 | I.3§2.*0 |
[FW 065.05](#)

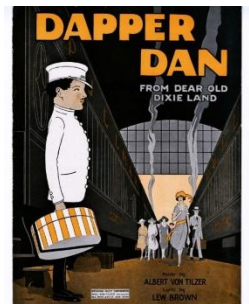
(e) **honey lamb**

?DAPPER-DAN (by Lew Brown & Albert Von Titzer) 1921

If I lose my gal in Tennessee that won't worry me 'cause I've got another honey lamb waitin' for me down in Alabam.

Note: Term used elsewhere e.g., SWEET MAN O' MINE (1921) but H&W find song title Dapper Dan at FW 199, 464, 466. However, they gloss the unit above as from 'Alexander's Ragtime Band' written 1938 too late for this notebook.

MS 47471b-5v, ScrMT: He ~~calls~~ ^+vows+^ her ^+to be a+^ honeylamb | JJA 45:152 |
Nov 1923 | I.3§2.*0 | [FW 065.07](#)



(f) **he done forget**

?MS 47471b-58, ScrBMS: ~~No force could tug~~ ^+Darkies never done tug that fellow out+^ him out to play flesh & blood | JJA 47:347 | Jan 1924 | I.7§1.*1 | [FW 175.31](#)

(g) **so kinky**

MS 47471b-5v, ScrILS: ~~girl~~ ^+a ^+a girl so that is+^ kinky+^ | JJA 45:142 | Nov 1923 | I.3§2.*0 |
[FW 000.00](#)

(h) loves yr style

VI.C.1.184(e) **loves yr. style**

Note: Transferred via Sheet iii-41(i)

MS 47486a-91v, ScrPrBMA: ^+and she loves your style,+^ | *JJA* 61:044 | 1933-1936 | III§2A.13/2B.11/2C.13 | *FW* 459.15

(i) r'dreamboat

?GOLDEN DREAM-BOAT (by Worton David & Horatio Nicholls) 1922

?DREAM BOAT (by Mildred White Wallace) 1923

MS 47471b-4v, ScrMT: if they were afloat in a dreamboat, his tippy canoe | *JJA* 45:153 | Nov 1923 | I.3§2.*0 | *FW* 065.32

(j) boys on the corner were / talking >

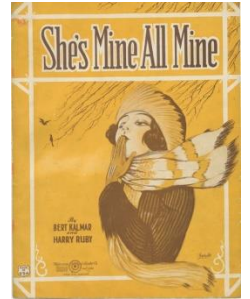
SHE'S MINE ALL MINE (by Bert Kalmar & Harry Ruby) 1921.

The boys on the corner were talking

VI.C.1.184(f) **boys on the corner were / talking**

Note: Transferred via Sheet iii-41(j)

MS 47486a-111, ScrPrBMA: ^+The boys on the corner were talking+^ | *JJA* 61:083 | 1933-1936 | III§3A.10 | *FW* 527.09



(k) r'call on his skirt

SHE'S MINE ALL MINE - Second Verse:

You ought to see Jimmy on Sunday, When he goes to call on his skirt.

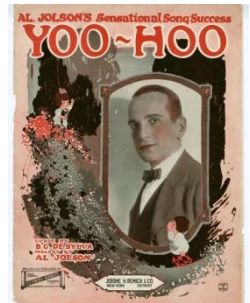
MS 47471b-5v, ScrMT: Notice a fellow who calls on his skirt | *JJA* 45:152 | Nov 1923 | I.3§2.*0 | *FW* 065.05

(l) s'please come out & play

YOO-HOO (by Al Jolson & B.G. De Sylva) 1921

Back in our days of happy childhood, YOO-HOO meant please come out and play.

MS 47471b-58, ScrMT: ~~No force could tug~~ ^+Darkies never done tug that fellow out+^ him out to play flesh & blood | *JJA* 47:347 | Jan 1924 | I.7§1.*1 | *FW* 175.31-2



(m) can't you understand?

?BABY CAN'T YOU UNDERSTAND (by Marion Harrison) 1922

VI.C.1.184(g) **can't you understand**

Note: Transferred via Sheet iii-42(b)

MS 47486a-91v, ScrPrTMA: ^+Can't you understand?+^ | *JJA* 61:044 | 1933-1936 | III§2A.13/2B.11/2C.13 | *FW* 459.22

(n) r'darkies

Note: Found in many songs of this time.

MS 47471b-58, ScrBMS: ~~No force could tug~~ ^+Darkies never done tug that fellow out+^ him out to play flesh & blood | *JJA* 47:347 | Jan 1924 | I.7§1.*1 | *FW* 175.31-2

(o) to forgive is divine

VI.C.1.184(h) **to forgive is divine**

Note: Transferred via Sheet iii-64(d)

MS 47486a-111, ScrPrIMA/LMA: ^+to forgive it's divine+^my lickle wiffey,+^and,+^ | *JJA* 61:083 | 1933-1936 | III§3A.10 | *FW* 527.10

VI.B.11.133

(a) **to morrow (v)**

?TO-MORROW (by Roy Turk & J.Russel Robinson) 1922
VI.C.1.184(i)

(b) **10 little fingers / — — toes**

TEN LITTLE FINGERS AND TEN LITTLE TOES (Down in Tennessee) (by Ed Nelson, Ira Schuster, Harry Pease & John White) 1921

VI.C.1.184(j),(k) **'10 little pigs / — toes**

Note: Transferred via Sheet iii-64(e)

MS 47486a-103, ScrPrLMA&RMA: ^+— All ears did wag, old Eire wake as Piers Aurell was flappergangsted. I have it here to my fingall's ends. This ~~hly~~ leggy piggy wanted to go to the jampot. And this leggy peggy spelt pea. And threese lucky puckers played at pooping ~~toet~~ tooletom. Ma's da. Da's ma. Madas. Sadam.^+ | *JJA* 61:067 | 1933-1936 | III§3A.10 | *FW* 496.18

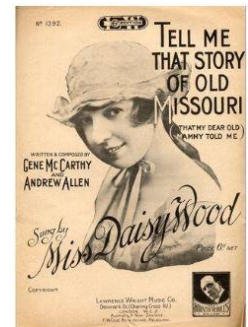


(c) **I've forgotten the way / she taught me to / pray / rolling stone since I / was eleven**

TELL ME THAT STORY OF OLD MISSOURI (by G. McCarthy & Andrew Allen) 1922

I remember the day she taught me to pray / When I was a child at her knees; / I've been a rolling stone / Since I was eleven / And if you want to lead me / Right back to heaven / Tell me that story of old Missouri / That my dear old mammy told me.

VI.C.1.184(l)-185(a)



(e) **'r, lordy,**

?UNCLE BUD (by Bob Miller) 1922

Chorus: Uncle Bud is a man in full, Lordy how he can shoot the Bull

MS 47471b-80v, ScrLPA: ^+Lordy, lordy, Throwing all the girls ^+in the world+^ at him!+^ to any girl of no matter what sex | *JJA* 48:018 | Feb 1924 | I.8§1A.*1/1B.*1 | *FW* 200.28

(f) **Hin dustan**

?HINDU MOON (by Sam Ehrlich & Martin Fried) 1922

In Hindustan a lovesick Hindu man Nightly serenaded a Miss

?MY LITTLE HOTTENTOT TOT (by Bartley Costello & Jack Stanley) 1922

And you'll hear this song in old Hindustan.

Not transferred.

(g) **'let thoughts consist / of the cheery**

NEVER MIND (by Louis Breaux & Nat Sanders) 1922

Be an optimist and let your thoughts consist of the cheery [...]

MS 47471b-7v, ScrBMA: ^+seeing that his thoughts consisted of the cheery,+^ | *JJA* 45:142 | Nov 1923 | I.3§1.*1 | *FW* 052.34

(h) **leave little bag of / gloom behind**

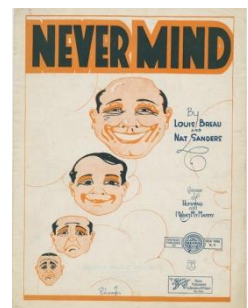
NEVER MIND (as previous)

When you've left your little bag of glooms behind [...]

VI.C.1.185(b) **'leave little bag of / doom behind**

Note: Transferred via Sheet iii-42(c)

MS 47486a-91, ScrPrBMA: ^+. And leave your little bag of doubts behind you.^+ | *JJA* 61:043 | 1933-1936 | III§2A.13/2B.11/2C.13 | *FW* 458.19



(i) **he told her the tale**

VI.C.1.185(c)

VI.B.11.134

(a) **old log cabin**

?INDIAN MAMMY BLUES (by Edward C. McCormick) c1922
See dat old log cabin, See dem corn-fields too [...]
VI.C.1.185(d)

(b) **Cupid never fails [assisted] / by a band**

SAY IT WITH MUSIC (by Irving Berlin) 1921
Cupid never fails assisted by a band [...]
VI.C.1.185(e),(f)

(c) **I treasure it**

VI.C.1.185(g)

(d) **acting cold**

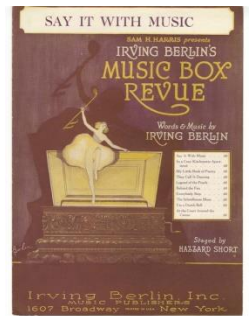
VI.C.1.185(h)

(e) **'flavoured with a smile**

MS 47471b-7v, ScrTMA: In ^+befitting+^ words a bit duskish ^+but flavoured with a smile+^ he aptly described the scene | *JJA* 45:142 | Nov 1923 | I.3§1.*1 | **FW 052.33**

(f) **'the good book says' / a nickel's worth**

HORTENSE (by Joe Young & Walter Donaldson) 1921
He whispered Hez the good book says that you're a lucky creature.
Chorus: Before I kiss Hortense I always buy a nickles (*sic*) worth of peppermints
MS 47482b-100, ScrBMA: ^+what the good book says concerning+^ | *JJA* 58:070 | Dec 1924 | III§3A.*2+/3B.*0+ | **FW 524.11**
VI.C.1.185(i)



VI.B.11.136

(a) **after music exaggerated / talk (our songbird J. Mac)**

Note: John McCormack (tenor).
VI.C.1.187(e)

(b) **'no crim class in Ireland / create it! HCE**

MS 47471b-8v, ScrMT: his ^+most+^ cherished idea being the formation, as in more favoured climes, of a truly criminal class, | *JJA* 46:003 | Nov 1923 | I.4§1A.*0 | **FW 076.05**

(c) **greening**

VI.C.1.187(f)

(d) **'you people here**

MS 47482b-113v, ScrLPS: ^+Let Michael tell you ^+humans ^+people here+^+^ himself ^+as a matter of ^+fine+^ fact+^ how I am+^ | *JJA* 58:094 | Dec 1924 | III§3B.*2 | **FW 533.30**

(e) **'that angel above**

Not located in MS/*FW*.

(f) **'firm with him**

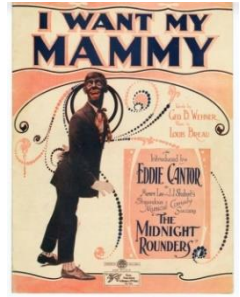
MS 47484a-115, ScrILA: ^+But I was firm with her+^ and I did take the hand of my delights | *JJA* 58:097 | Dec 1924 | III§3B.*2 | **FW 547.13**

(g) **'little oldfashioned mammy / — wonderful mammy**

I WANT MY MAMMY (by Geo.B.Weohner & Louis Breau) 1921

I want my mammy – Little wonderful mammy – Just to rock me to sleep [...] I want my mammy, Little old fashioned mammy [...]

MS 47471b-68, ScrBMA: ^+little oldfashioned mummy, / ” wonderful —+^ | *JJA* 47:381 | Jan-Feb 1924 | I.7§2.*0 | *FW* 194.32-3



(h) **left mammy's knee >**

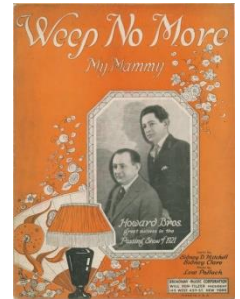
VI.C.1.187(g)

(i) **'for remaining years**

WEEP NO MORE (My Mammy) (by Sidney Clare & Lew Pollack) 1921

Many years ago / When I first left my mammy's knee / I didn't know / How much she really meant to me / But now when mammy cries / I realize / Oh mammy weep no more / Please dry your tears / I'm gonna keep you for remaining years [...]

MS 47471b-9, ScrLMA: ^+for the remaining years+^ | *JJA* 45:160 | Nov 1923 | I.3§3.*0 | *FW* 069.19-20



(j) **to clim**

VI.C.1.187(h)

(k) **chiv (broken)**

VI.C.1.187(i)

VI.B.11.137

(a) **mammy's mammy**

Note: See unit (d) below.

Not transferred.

(b) **'hobo man**

MS 4741b-10, ScrLMS: it came to pass that ~~he~~ ^+this hobo man+^ (who possesses a large amount of the humourous) had removed his habitat to its interior | *JJA* 45:141 | Nov 1923 | I.3§1*1 | *FW* 050.16

(c) **'this great big world**

?THIS GREAT BIG WORLD OWES ME A LOVING (by Andrew Stirling & Harry Von Tilzer) 1916

MS 47471b-67v, ScrLPA: ^+all the news of the ^+greatly+^ world,+^ | *JJA* 47:380 | Jan-Feb 1924 | I.7§2.*0 | *FW* 194.23-4

(d) **Granny, you gave me my mammy / The grandest thing a granny can do**

GRANNY (YOUR'E MY MAMMY'S MAMMY) (by Joe Young & Sam Lewis & Harry Akst) 1921

Granny, you gave me my mammy The gran'est thing a Granny can do.

VI.C.1.187(j),(k)



(e) **§Have no fear!**

Not located in MS/*FW*.

(f) **'a tot of rum**

MS 47471b-6, ScrLMA: ^+blotto after copious tots of rum+^ | *JJA* 45:035 | Oct 1923 | I.2§2.*1 |

FW 039.33

(g) **'this is the life for me**

MS 47471b-88, ScrMT: This is the life for me. | *JJA* 48:033 | Feb 1924 | I.8§1A.*1/1B.*1 | *FW* 213.9-10

(h) happy I hope you'll be

TIRED OF ME (by Walter Donaldson & Grant Clarke) New York 1920
Somebody new looks good to you / Happy I hope you'll be / I love you still, I always
will / Though you grew tired of me.

VI.C.1.187(l) **'happy I'll hope you'll be**

Note: Transferred via Sheet iii-64(j)

MS 47486a-101v, ScrPrLMA: ^+Spare me, do, a copper or two and happy I'll hope
you'll be.+^ | JJA 61:064 | 1933-1936 | III§3A.10 | **FW 489.23-24**



(i) 'chappy

Note: "Chappy" (Chappy O'Donnell) singer in the early 1920's.

MS 47471b-4v, ScrMT: namely, and their mutual chappy (for he is simply shamming dippy) | JJA
45:153 | Oct 1923 | I.3§2.*0 | **FW 065.29**

(k) look at his picture

VI.C.1.188(a)

(l) who's the girl that's getting / all the kisses

WHO'S THE GIRL (that's getting all the kisses) (by W. Stanley, A. Allen & Miss Florrie Forde) 1922.

Note: Lyrics not found.

VI.C.1.188(b)

(m) That used to belong to me

Note: Probably part of the previous song.

VI.C.1.188(c)

VI.B.11.140

(a) 'fair? Tall', Ivy on wall'

VI.C.1.188(j)

(b) Tell her the lies

VI.C.1.188(k)

(c) W[om] cry sympathy

Not transferred.

(d) tell me I'm forgiven >

VI.C.1.189(a)

(e) want you back >

Note: Units (d) and (e) are separated from (f) by a dash.

These are common phrases which may or may not be linked.

VI.C.1.189(b)

(f) 'they want you up in heaven

DON'T LEAVE ME MAMMY. (by Bessy Davis, B.G.De Sylva, Con Conrad &
Henry W. Santly) 1922

Please tell me I'm forgiven [...] They may want you up in Heaven / But I want you
too.

MS 47471b-66v, ScrLPA: ^+, a youth they wanted up in heaven,+^ | JJA 47:378 |

Jan-Feb 1924 | I.7§2.*0 | **FW 191.19-20**



(g) **<the that> what class she shows!**

VI.C.1.189(c) 'what class she shows!

Note: Transferred via Sheet iii-42(d). Not in 1939 text.

MS 47486a-91v, ScrPrRMA: ^+. What class she shows!+^ | *JJA* 61:044 | 1933-1936 | III§2A.13/2B.11/2C.13 | [FW 459.07]

(h) **'wishing is good time wasted**

CAROLINA IN THE MORNING. (by Gus Kahn & Walter Donaldson) 1922

Wishing is good time wasted, still it's a habit they say.

MS 47471b-8v, ScrILA: With deepseeing insight ^+(has not wishing been good time wasted)+^ | *JJA* 46:003 | Nov 1923 | I.4§1A.*0 | FW 075.14



(i) **'dippy**

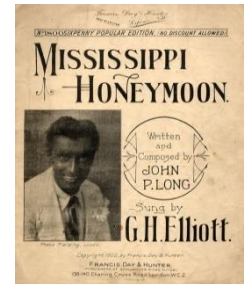
MISSISSIPPI HONEYMOON (by John P.Long) 1922

Then we'll spoon 'neath the moon on the Mississippi

Man in the moon's sure to think we're "dippy"

MS 47471b-5v, ScrOS: but the guy is not so tippy ^+dippy+^ | *JJA* 45:152 | Nov 1923 | I.3§2.*0 | FW 065.20

MS 47471b-4v, ScrMT: all three would be genuinely happy, the two numbers, namely, and their mutual chappy (for he is simply shamming dippy) if they were afloat in a dreamboat, his tippy canoe, his tippy, up and down dippy, tiptoptippy ~~eanoe~~ ^+canoodle canyou!+^ | *JJA* 45:153 | Nov 1923 | I.3§2.*0 | FW 065.29 and FW 065.32



(j) **loveland [RM]**

?LITTLE SUNSHINE (by Frank C.Huston) 1921

There's a quaint old town that's nestled down Where Love-land ought to be [...]

?SAY YOU'LL BE MINE (by Alice Nadine Morrison) 1921

Oh, little girl, you are the Pearl of Love-land [...]

VI.C.1.189(d)

(k) **God made you mine**

THERE'S SILVER IN YOUR HAIR (BUT THERE'S GOLD WITHIN YOUR HEART) (by Worton David & Lawrence Wright) 1921

Long years of joy we've spent together. / We've share. the rain and sunny weather; / But still to me your dear eyes shine, / As on the day God made you mine.

VI.C.1.189(e)

(l) **path divine**

VI.C.1.189(f)

(m) **'I'll lay a bob' that — >**

MS 47471b-12, ScrMT and ScrBMA: I'lay ^+a bob+^ | *JJA* 45:147 | Nov 1923 | I.3§1.*1 | FW 061.21-2
Not transferred.

(n) **Tommy Lipton >>**

Note: Sir Thomas 'Tommy' Lipton (1850-1931) grocer and philanthropist, the founder of the Thomas J. Lipton company.

VI.C.1.189(g)

VI.B.11.141

(a) cdn't lay

OUR LITTLE GARDEN SUBBUB (by Bob Weston & Bert Lee) 1922

Well, I'll lay a bob that Tommy Lipton couldn't lay
The sort of eggs our cocks and hens are laying every day.
VI.C.1.189(h)

(b) 'While I've a barrel full / of Bass

OUR LITTLE GARDEN SUBBUB

But who wants a well, ay? Who the dickens wants a well?

While I've a barrel full of bass the well can go to...

MS 47471b-40v, ScrLPS: to regards for H ^+self & dearest of husbands Papa Earwicker+^ ^+who I'll be true ^+to you as only lawful wife+^ to while ^+unto ^+any+^ life's end as long as+^ he has a barrel full of Bass+^ & self | JJA 46:270 | Dec 1923 | I.5§2.*1 | 'The Revered Letter' [>] MS 47488-118, ScrMT: that direst of housebonds, whool wheel be true unto loves end so long as we has a pockle full of brass. | JJA 63:189 | 1938 | IV§4.*0 | [FW 617.08](#)

