

MUMMING PLAYS IN OXFORDSHIRE
AN INTERIM CHECKLIST

STEPHEN ROUD

TRADITIONAL DRAMA RESEARCH GROUP

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Over the past few years a number of researchers in the British Isles have been informally working together on aspects of Traditional Drama. As a logical extension of this co-operation, the Traditional Drama Research Group has been formed with the express aim of furthering research in this field of study.

The Group's activities include the publication of a newsletter, Roamer, which is published six times a year. This includes short articles, notes and queries, details of relevant publications, out-of-the-way texts and information on work in progress.

In addition, a series of occasional publications has been instigated. Several geographical indexes of traditional plays have previously been published by members of the Group. Updated editions of these are being prepared for publication and further lists are being collated to cover other areas of the country and genres of related traditions. It is also intended to publish out-of-print books, articles and original studies.

In order to handle the enormous backlog of relevant research materials, members of the Group have developed an Indexing Scheme for Traditional Drama and Related Customs. The aim of this is to update and expand the materials listed by E. C. Cawte, A. Helm and N. Peacock in English Ritual Drama (London, 1967). Since the publication of this seminal volume many more references have come to light. Unfortunately the bulk of this material has not yet been made available in a comparable work. In order to resolve this situation, a series of worksheets has been developed as an aid to indexing relevant sources.

During the year the Group holds meetings at various locations throughout the country.

For further information on the Group's activities and publications write to: Traditional Drama Research Group, c/o The Centre for English Cultural Tradition and Language, University of Sheffield, Sheffield.

S10 2TN Tel: 0742-78555 Ext. 6296

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1984

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INTRODUCTION

This checklist includes all references to Traditional Drama in Oxfordshire known to me at present. The county has been reasonably well-served with 'collectors' in the past but, there is no doubt that a great deal of material on the subject remains to be discovered and I hope that this list will stimulate further research by identifying lacunae and future lines of enquiry and by helping to avoid duplication of research effort. I am acutely aware that I have done no personal fieldwork in Oxfordshire and that I subsequently lack the insights which a more local researcher would bring to the subject, but I venture to suggest three main lines of enquiry for further work.

1. It is imperative that attempts be made, as soon as possible, to trace more people with first-hand knowledge of the custom, whether they be ex-participants, their families and friends, or eye-witnesses. The value of the information gained from these sources cannot be over-stressed. The names noted by Carpenter will be of immense help in this area.
2. A great deal of material exists in back-numbers of local newspapers. Searching through back-files is very time-consuming but, with several people working in co-operation, the task would be manageable.
3. Material is also to be found in published works of local history and in manuscript collections in local repositories.

With all three approaches, I believe it is important that some degree of co-ordination be achieved and would suggest that anyone interested in such research might contact the Traditional Drama Research Group which exists to encourage and co-ordinate such research activity. I am sure that there is also a great deal of already-collected material which has not come to my notice and I would be most grateful for any additions or corrections which readers might be able to supply. I hope that a second edition will soon become necessary.

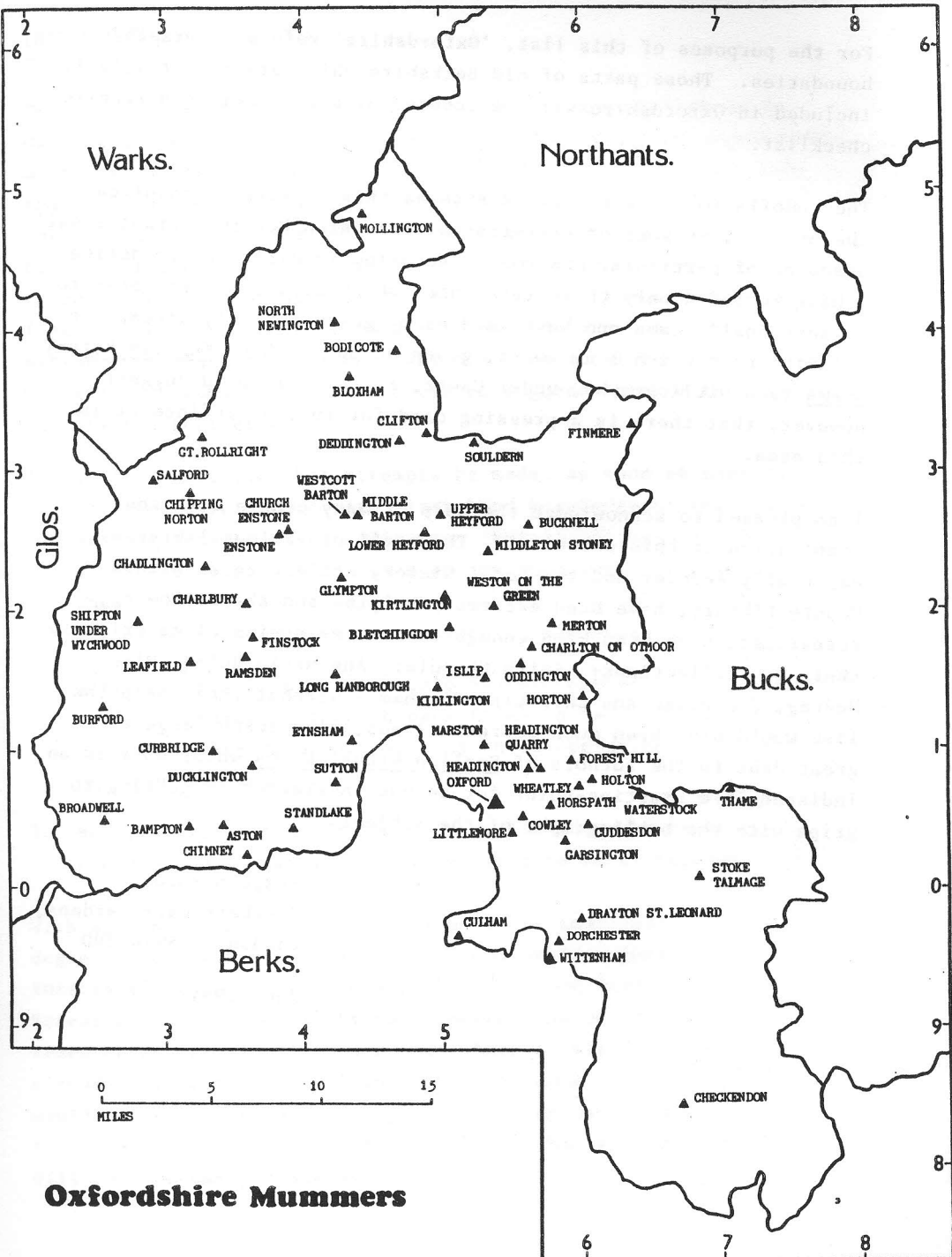
For the purposes of this list, 'Oxfordshire' refers to pre-1974 boundaries. Those parts of old Berkshire which are now officially included in Oxfordshire will be covered by a forthcoming Berkshire checklist.

The compilation of a checklist such as this inevitably involves the use of some sort of criteria for inclusion but the 'traditional' standing of particular customs is notoriously difficult to define. I have included only those references which seem to me to refer to 'traditional' teams and have used as my guide the only attempt at definition of which I am aware, given on pp.15-16 of English Ritual Drama (see bibliography, under Cawte, E. C.). I would suggest, however, that there is a pressing need for further refinement in this area.

I am pleased to acknowledge the help of many people with the compilation of this checklist. The staff of various libraries, especially Andover and the Local history collection at Oxford County Library, have been extremely helpful and the following researchers have been kind enough to send me copies of material in their own collections: Keith Chandler, Ann-Marie Hulme, Mike Heaney, Jon Drake and Christine Bloxham - without their help the list would have been much poorer. I must also acknowledge a great debt to the authors of English Ritual Drama whose work is an indispensable starting-point for anyone interested in getting to grips with the bibliography of the subject.

Stephen Roud,
9 Albert Carr Gardens,
London. SW16 3HD

June 1984



Oxfordshire Mummerys

GEOGRAPHICAL INDEX

ASTON (SP 3302)

- 001 Alfred Williams Collection (Ox 191): Handwritten text, with "Bampton Aston Chimney" written at the top. It is not clear which village the play comes from (if not all three). The same text is published in Williams (1926), where he refers to "Bampton and Aston district".

BAMPTON (SP 3103)

N.B. A Bampton team still performs regularly and there are many tape-recordings and published references of recent performances which I have not attempted to list here.

- 002 Giles (1847): "A third attempt at festivity is made at Christmas, when all the officials of the parish are on the move; bent - as are their betters at all times - upon gain, and with honest and smiling faces claiming their Christmas boxes. A troop of lads, also, as mummers parade the streets during three or four evenings in succession, endeavouring, but, alas with less success than their great-grand-fathers, to gain admission into the houses of the respectable inhabitants for the performance of their knightly deeds of prowess. These are the only vestiges of ancient public customs now remaining..."
- 003 Giles (1848): same paragraph as Giles (1847), but also a text headed "The Christmas Play, a Mummery performed by the Mummers of Bampton on Christmas-Eve, A.D. 1847. N.B. The following verses are principally the author's own composition being written in imitation of what he remembers to have heard in Somersetshire many years ago, when Mumping and many other old customs were still in use. The lines which are enclosed between inverted commas are the only ones which he remembers as thoroughly genuine". This text is reprinted in Oxford Times (1929).
- 004 Ditchfield (1896): "At Bampton, in Oxfordshire, the following play is performed at Christmas..." Gives text.
- 005 Witney Gazette (1914): "On Christmas Eve the mummers and carol singers called at the residence of many inhabitants..."
- 006 Witney Gazette (1925): "A party of mummers called at various houses, performing their old-time play, and met with considerable success".
- 007 Witney Gazette (1926a): "A troupe of mummers performed their well-known act at various homes".
- 008 Witney Gazette (1926b): "The usual festive note was provided by bands of carol singers, and a troupe of mummers".

- 009 Cannon (1937): Description of mummers' visit, including fragments of text and somewhat fanciful illustrations.
- 010 Brody (1970): Photograph of performance in local public house.
- 011 Ward (1972): Text and descriptions of performances, 1971.
- 012 Preston (1972): Chapter Three discusses "Robin Hood in British Folk Play texts", including Bampton, and examines the relationships between texts published by Giles (q.v.) and Ditchfield (q.v.), and another noted by Donald C. Baker in 1966. See also Preston (1976), below.
- 013 Preston (1976): Re-iterates the discussion included in Preston 1972, above.
- 014 Sykes (1977): Two photographs and brief description of recent performances.
- 015 Harrop (1980): Historical survey and description of recent performances.
- 016 Carpenter Collection (1041-1047): Text, headed "Robert Wells, New Road, Bampton learned from village troupe - carried on every Christmas...", plus list of names of participants and brief details of costume.
- 017 Carpenter Collection (1049-1055): Text, headed "E. Tanner, Broadmore, Buckland; learned from George Shepherd, Bampton, 43 years ago - never saw in print".
- 018 T. F. Ordish Collection: Sixteen lines of Behelzibub's speech, from C. Tanner, through T. Carter, July 1894.
- 019 Vaughan Williams Library Collection: Typed text, headed "The Bampton Mummers Play". No details of source given.
- 020 Keith Chandler Collection: Text, as performed circa 1972, plus background information from residents, participants, etc.
- 021 Ann-Marie Hulme Collection: Manuscript text from local family.
See also Ref. No. 001, under ASTON

BLETCHINGDON (SP 5017)

- 022 Carpenter Collection (488-491): Text, headed "The Mummers, Bletchingdon, Station Rd., Mr. Thomas Green, Learned forty years ago, from older mummer, handed down for years in village. Never saw in print - see William Tomlin, Jimmie Tims - (See Frederick Green Sutton, Stanton Harcourt)".
- 023 Carpenter Collection (494-499): Text, headed "The Mummers, Bletchingdon, Mr. William Tomlin, learned at Bletchingdon, when he was about fifteen, now sixty-five to seventy - learned from older mummers, never saw in print".
- 024 See also Ref. No. 153 under WESTON-ON-THE-GREEN, for play learned at Bletchingdon.

BLOXHAM (SP 5235)

- 025 Prior (1904): "Mummers belonging to this parish used to give here, and in neighbouring parishes, the Act of 'Robin Hood and Little John'".
- 026 Huntriss (1978): Article concerning 'Mummers' and 'Nigger Minstrels'.

BODICOTE (SP 4637)

- 027 Oxford County Record Office (Apl/III/iii/13: flr-f3r): Handwritten manuscript of O. V. Aplin, giving description of performance, character-names and some text, referring to the late 1870s. Published in Fearon (1967).

BROADWELL (SP 2503)

- 028 Cawte et al. (1967): Gives Christina Hole Collection as a source of information on a Broadwell play, but I have been unable to inspect this version.

BUCKNELL (SP 5525)

- 029 See Ref. No. 128 (under MIDDLETON STONEY) for a text which might have come from Bucknell.

BURFORD (SP 2512)

- 030 Briggs (1974): Text only
- 031 Carpenter Collection:
- a. (5 II 9, 60-62): Manuscript text headed "Alfred Bartlett, The Mill, Burford".
 - b. (644-647): Typed text, headed "The Mummers, Burford, MS. Alfred Bartlett, Written twenty-four years ago. (Groom for Mr. Jacobs at Mill. Later drowned himself".
- 032 Carpenter Collection (883-887): Text from Minchinhampton, Glos., (SO 8600) "...Learned from Old Shaylor (John) from Burford district..."

CHADLINGTON (SP 3221)

- 033 Vaughan Williams Library Collection: Typed text, headed "The following is an exact transcription from a village M.S. of the year 1893" and ends with "Note by E. Condor Esq...". This text was sent to the Library by Margaret Ampthill on 13th July 1928, who enclosed a letter concerning the play and addressed to her, from Ada Moreton, which states: "The play was taken down by a W. Condor who used to live in the village and he lent it to Moreton who copied it out, being very interested in the subject". Text published in Helm (1971), and Muir (1975 and 1981).

- 034 T. F. Ordish Collection: Text, sent to Ordish in 1913 by R. J. E. Tiddy, but not published in Tiddy (1923). [See sample text pp.30-33].
- 035 Carpenter Collection (975-977): Text, headed "The Mummers, W. Betts, Brook End, Chadlington, learned Lynchburies and Coopers, 60 years ago; never saw in print".
- 036 Carpenter Collection (938-941, 615): Text, headed "The Mummers, Samson Cooper, Green End (81 yrs Chadlington learned in Chadlington, from Old Mummers, 63 years ago; never saw in print" with added handwritten note: "from a Mr. Horney [?] who came for his summer holidays; stopping at Ascot or [unreadable] had handwritten book".
- 037 Carpenter Collection (942-947): Text, headed "The Mummers, Joseph Benfield, Chadlington, (Green End). Learned from old mummers; Alfred Burden, George Burden, Tommie Cooper, Chadlington Church - learned at age 14, now 45. Never saw in print", and ends with "knew Tiddy personally; in his won [sic] regiment; Tiddy used to come down to Ascott and live; take a great interest in Mummers. Wrote it out for him, but he may have lost it. Bill Haggs, Finstock or Hanks, wrote it out for him, about 1912. Tiddy used to give mummers a pound for acting".

CHARLBURY (SP 3519)

- 038 Carpenter Collection (484-487): Text, headed "The Mummers, Charlbury, Thomas Jones, Church St., learned as a boy, sixty-five to seven years ago - (now seventy-seven) at Church Enstone, old mummers, never saw in print..."

CHARLTON ON OTMOOR (SP 5615)

- 039 Prior (1903): "Christmas mummers used to go about till quite recently, and as they entered without warning, and "Molly" began to sweep up vigorously, old people were rather afraid of them. In 1901 a small party came to the Rectory, and stated apologetically that "they had not got a side". They came in however and sang a few songs. Perhaps that was the end in this parish of a custom which had lasted for centuries". Gives text, headed "...we gather that some older form may have been formerly used, and that a printed version was followed, more or less, for the annexed form..."

CHECKENDON (SU 6682)

- 040 Prior (1906): "We find that the Christmas Mummers have for the last two or three years ceased to go their rounds..."

CHIMNEY (SP 3500)

See Ref. No. 001 under ASTON

CHIPPING NORTON (SP 3127)

- 041 Norgrove (1884): "I was born at Chipping Norton, Oxfordshire, and about 1840 the Mummers were all the rage. About a fortnight before and after Christmas they used to visit people's houses and enquire in the daytime, "Mrs. --- will you please to have the Mummers to-night?". And if agreeable, all the neighbours used to come in that particular house to witness their performance. They all wore masks and dressed up very grotesquely; they used to dress at our house, and I have often heard them rehearse the following words..." Gives short text.
- 042 Alex Helm Collection (Vol.56, pp.92-96): Text, headed "MS Miss Christina Hole, from Oxfordshire W.I. Scrap Book, 1955".

CHURCH ENSTONE (SP 3724)

See also ENSTONE

See Ref. No 038 under CHARLBURY for text learned at Church Enstone.

CLIFTON (SP 4931)

- 043 Turner (1933): "Four years ago, on Boxing Day, the mummers were still going round the village [of Deddington]. Those I saw were most of them from Clifton. They collected for local charities and sang, played concertinas and danced. Their songs had nothing more antique than the half-a-century old 'My Grandfather's Clock', and their steps were mostly 'double shuffle', but their get-up had traditional touches lingering. For example, there were old top-hats be-ribboned, and their flannel trousers adorned and tied with ribbons suggested the Morris. Also there was the time-honoured character with blackened face and one dressed up as a comic female..."
- 044 Pickering (1982): Brief references to mumming, collected from the late Fanny Hitchman whose father, Bartholomew Callow, had been one of the Clifton team.
- See also references under DEDDINGTON.

COWLEY (SP 5403)

- 045 Oxford Times (1908): "The old fashioned custom of mummers and morris dancers was well kept up this year. The various bands of youths and children did not commence their calls till a fortnight prior to the 25th December, but after that date the householders were regularly inundated with carol singers and mummers, who seemed to have spared no pains in learning a large selection of seasonal songs and preparing suitable plays".

CUDESODN (SP 5902)

- 046 Tiddy (1923) pp.217-8: Text, headed "Communicated by Leslie Johnston (Magdalen College, Oxford) in January 1914".

- 047 Carpenter Collection (509-511): Text, headed "The Mummers, Cuddesdon, Mr. P. Claydon, learned thirty-eight to forty years ago, from older mummers - William Sawyer, Cuddesdon, Jack Sawyer, Never saw in print".

CULHAM (SU 5095)

- 048 Oxford Times (1902): Report of lecture given by E. H. Binney, "illustrated by lantern-slides of the performers, taken at Culham..."
- 049 Percy J. Manning Collection (326r-327r): Text, headed "Verbatim copy from Tom Partidge version 1901". Collection also has plates for four photographs (353-6). T. F. Ordish Collection has typed text with same heading and manuscript note reading "from E. H. Binney's MS", and the following notes: "Tommy Partridge, his talking wild. T.P. says there is no mumming team at Culham now, but one from Sutton came round last winter to his house, but he didn't take them in, as he knew it all so well himself. Oh yes he used to go round and mum, and could remember it all still and promised to put the words down for me. (N.B. T.P. being I understand no scholar, I suppose he'll get someone else to write it) for which purpose I shall go over in a week or two. Gave directions and example of "Old Grumpy Belzebub", viz. tall hat, black coat, humpback and knobbed stick over shoulder...". A handwritten copy of this text and notes, bears the legend "Manning M.S.S."

CURBRIDGE (SU 5313)

- 050 Carpenter Collection (866-874): Text, from Minchinhampton, Glos. (SO 8600), noted from Jim Cox who "learned at Kirkbridge [sic] Oxfordshire, at age of 14 or 15 (82 years old) Never saw in print - learned from older mummers. (Stone deaf; never did make him understand a word I said)".

DEDDINGTON (SP 4631)

- 051 Turner (1933): Gives a few lines to text and some character-names (see also other references to Turner, below).
- 052 Carpenter Collection:
- a. (608-611): Text, headed "The Mummers, Alfred Sykes, Callicot (Calicot Clifton, near Deddington, learned at age of twelve (now 72) from mummers in Deddington. Went mumming thirteen years. Never saw in print (can't read).
 - b. (640-643): Same text, from same informant.
- 053 Carpenter Collection (726-727): Text headed "The Mummers, Deaddington [sic], Mr. Woodcock, Learned from actors - Mrs. Vane Turner".
- 054 Russell Wortley Collection (m.II.4):
- a. Text, headed "Deddington Mummers Play: copied from handwritten text loaned by Mr. Arthur Bliss, Philcote Street, Deddington, Oxon., June/Aug. 1964" [See sample text pp.27-29].

b. Text, headed "King George and the Turkish Knight (Arranged for the Deddington Mummers 1933). Copy of handwritten text... According to Mr. Bliss this version was written by Mrs. Vane Turner".

See also references under CLIFTON.

DORCHESTER (SU 5794)

055 New Penny Magazine (1900): Description of performance, with fragments of text and three photographs. Specifically mentions Dorchester but refers to it as being in Berkshire.

DRAYTON ST. LEONARD (SU 5996)

056 Ashbee Journals (MS in Kings College Library, Cambridge) Vol.3, fols. 387-389): Description of a visit by mummers on 28th December 1901, with text as supplied by Tom Osborn, participant.

DUCKLINGTON (SP 3507)

057 Prior (1904): "...At Christmas, men, and then latterly boys, came round with the Mummers' play of 'S. George and the Turkish Knight', which Dr. Giles printed from a local version in his 'History of Bampton', but this has greatly fallen off. A few boys attempt it sometimes still, but they have forgotten nearly the whole of it. The custom is practically dead".

058 F. Madan MSS (Bodleian Library, Oxford: MS Eng.Poet.c17 ff40-43): Two texts, headed respectively "The boys mummering" and "The mens mummering", with a 'title page' which reads "Christmas Mummering at Ducklington, Oxon. Written down by Jesse Fisher, son of the parish clerk, at 13" and dated Jan. 1884.

ENSTONE (SP 3724)

See also CHURCH ENSTONE

059 Philos (1884): "Mummers - These were ploughboys, as six theatrical performers, (1) as King George, (2) his antagonist (they have a battle), (3) a doctor, (4) Jack Penny, (5) Beelzebub, (6) musician with hurdy gurdy; and they usually assembled at Christmas Eve". This note is signed "Philos, Enstone", although there is no indication as to whether the writer is referring to mummers there, or elsewhere.

EYNESHAM (SP 4309)

060 Witney Gazette (1901): "Several parties of carol singers were out and the mummers, being conspicuous by their absence, their place was taken by a band of boy morris dancers who led by a mouth organ performed with no small credit".

061 Fletcher (1936): Lists Eynsham as a place with active mummers in 1931.

062 English Dance and Song (1980): Photograph, credited to "R. Brown Coll." and captioned "The Eynsham Mummers prior to 1914", gives names of participants as: Edwin Rusher, Ernest May, Buffalo Russell, Clemmy Hedges, Jumbo Watkins, Feathers Russell, Sam Moulder, Henry Moulder.

063 Carpenter Collection (512-518): Text, headed "The Mummers, Eynsham, Edward Russell ('Feathers') Twelve Acres Road - learned forty years ago, from older mummers; Ben Ayers - Jackie Denton - Sam Hathaway - Fred Humphreys - never saw in print".

FINMERE (SP 6333)

064 Carpenter Collection (505-506): Text, headed "The Mummers, Finmere, Earnest Cole (or Coles) - learned from father, hearing him recite - never saw in print".

065 Cawte et al. (1967): Gives John Bennell and Christopher Wege Collection as a source of information on Finmere - I have not seen this.

FINSTOCK (and RAMSDEN) (SP3516 and SP 3515)

066 Mike Heaney Collection: Fragments of text and background information from local residents.

FOREST HILL (SP 5807)

067 Carpenter Collection (699-703): Text, headed "The Mummers, Arthur Messenger, Forest Hill, Wheatley Road - learned 60 years ago; learned at Holton, from older mummers, James Slaymaker, Jack Tippin, never saw in print - George Knight". Note at end of text reads "Went ten years, started fifth of November up to Christmas - seven weeks, all surrounding villages - Some mummers at Wheatley, Forest Hill".

See Ref. No. 092 under HOLTON and 095b under HORSPATH for other texts which credit Arthur Messenger as source.

GARSINGTON (SP 5802)

068 Carpenter Collection (528-529): Text, headed "The Mummers, Garsington, Mr. Alfred Woodward, Southend, Garsington, learned 75 years ago, at Garsington - never saw in print - old custom when he learned it".

069 Carpenter Collection (41-42): Text, headed "The Mummers, Garsington, near Church, Mr. Edward Clark - went mummering 60 years ago, learned from old mummers - never saw in print. Learned from Thomas Clark - called "Monk"".

GLYMPTON (SP 4221)

- 070 Barnett (1923): Letter to the editor which mentions a play being performed in Glympton "until two years ago".
- 071 Folklore (1961): Text, headed "Published in Folklore by permission of Mr. Ebor Harpwood, of Glympton, Oxfordshire, whose father acted in the play".

GREAT ROLLRIGHT (SP 3231)

- 072 W.H.J. (1938): "I was familiar with the mummers and their play at Great Rollright, a North Oxfordshire village, from the late seventies of the last century. But recent enquiries on the spot led me to conclude that the play had long been given up. No one was interested in it and no MS. of it could be traced". Gives brief description of performances and fragments of text.
- 073 V.R. (1949): Not many now living can have seen the traditional play performed by rustic mummers. I saw it frequently in my young days in the hall of a big Rectory of north Oxfordshire, quite close to Warwick-shire...". Gives brief description of performance. This source gives no exact location, but Cawte et al. list it as referring to Great Rollright.
- 074 Rev. E. Marshall Collection: Note from Henry Rendall (postmark 18.10.1883) "Great Rollright: There is some curious folklore connected with the exhibition of Mummers at Xmas-time. Dramatis personae are (1) Father Christmas (2) King George (3) Soldier, who fights with and wounds him (4) Doctor called in (5) female assistant consulted. Tooth extracted &c.".

HEADINGTON (SP 5407)

N.B. it is not always clear whether writers are referring to Headington or to Headington Quarry (q.v.).

- 075 Prior (1903): "Bull-baiting used to be practised in this parish, and the Mummers went about at Christmas and morrice dancers were usual".
- 076 T. F. Ordish Collection: Letter to Ordish from W. Henry Jewitt, 1902: "I can remember between the years of 1847 and '53 the mummers on Christmas Eve at Headington, near Oxford...". Gives brief description and fragments of text.
- 077 Percy J. Manning Collection (329r-330r): Text, headed "Verbatim copy from autograph account of F. Lee, Crown & Thistle, "Fiteys" [?] (July 2nd 1901)". Typed copy in T. F. Ordish Collection has MS note: "From E. H. Binney MS".
- 078 T. F. Ordish Collection: Text, sent by Percy Manning, "from C. J. Reeves, aged 70, farm labourer, of Headington, through T. J. Carter, April 30th 1898".

HEADINGTON QUARRY (SP 5507)

N.B. It is not always clear whether writers are referring to Headington or to Headington Quarry (q.v.). A team from Headington Quarry still performs regularly, and there are many tape-recordings of recent performances and published references which I have not attempted to list here.

- 079 Oxford Times (1902): report of lecture given by E. H. Binney, "illustrated by lantern-slides of the performers, taken at ... Headington Quarry". Plates for four photographs are in the Percy J. Manning Collection (357-360).
- 080 Coppock and Hill (1933): Text and brief description.
- 081 Kimber (1963): Recording of the late William Kimber reciting the play and talking about it.
- 082 Webb (1967): Text, and short description of recent performances.
- 083 Grant and Heaney (1981): Historical and contemporary survey, including photograph from Manning Collection, and comments on the other texts listed here.
- 084 T. F. Ordish Collection: Letter from A. F. Morkler-Ferryman, 19th April 1904, including short text.
- 085 Carpenter Collection (681-684): Text, headed "The Mummers, Headington Quarries, Nelson Leveridge, learned from older mummers - never saw in print - learned thirty-five years ago - Abraham Smith - William Curtis".
- 086 Carpenter Collection:
- a. (722-723): Text, headed "The Mummers, William Kimber, version learned from father, William Kimber. 55, years ago", with note at foot of text: "Father learned about eighty years ago".
 - b. (724-725): Text, headed "The Mummers, William Kimber ("Merry") learned from older mummers in Headington, 55 years ago - never saw in print".

HEYFORD

See under LOWER HEYFORD and UPPER HEYFORD

HOLTON (SP 6006)

- 087 Hassall (1956): "Miss (Phyllis) Smith's father went mumming (about King George, Jack Finney, Beelzebub and the Doctor) with his brother Jesse, Jim Gomme and Jack Goodin, with their faces blackened. Mr. P. Fonge's Holton team continued mumming at Wheatley until 1954".
- 088 Drake (1979): Details how the Holton text was noted from Percy 'Joe' Fonge, who states that he learnt the play from a book at Worminghall, Bucks. (SP 6408). This Holton team used to visit Wheatley.

- 089 Corlett (1980): Takes issue with some points in Drake (1979).
- 090 Morgan (1980): Adds to the Drake/Corlett correspondence. D. Morgan Collection contains a transcript of a recording of Percy Fonge reciting his text, circa 1973/4.
- 091 Bodleian Library (MS Top.Oxon.b248, folio 58): Text, headed "The Mummings Play, as acted at Holton during the later part of the 19th Century" and signed "A.T.B.". Published in Ponsonby (1968),
- 092 Carpenter Collection (709-714):
- a. Text, headed "The Mummings, Holton, Earnest Cross, Holton, near Wheatley, Oxon. learned 41 or two years ago, from older mummings - Richard Washington, Arthur Messenger, Edward Marlow, John Tippin, John Messenger - never saw in print".
 - b. Text, headed "The Mummings, Holton, Earnest Cross - 'Second Mummings' Play; older people had two plays which they alternated".
- N.B. The name 'Arthur Messenger' has "Forest Hill" handwritten beside it. See also Ref. Nos. 067 under FOREST HILL and 095b under HORSPATH for other texts which have Messenger as a source.

HORSPATH (SP5704)

- 093 Alex Helm Collection (Vol.H56, pp.91-2): Text, headed "MS Miss Christina Hole from Oxfordshire W.I. Scrap Book 1955 - Acted on Boxing Day till 1924".
- 094 Carpenter Collection (692-695): Text, headed "The Mummings, Horspath, Mr. W. Woodley. Learned at Horspath over sixty years ago, never saw in print (learned before Cowley Barracks were built - (incident about "going mummering" - "Arunt you mummer enough?""), with note at foot: "Old Mummings - Bill Juggins, Arthur Crook - Stephen (Stibble) Surman, Kimbers".
- 095 Carpenter Collection
- a. (612-613): Text, headed "The Mummings, Horspath, George Washington (see other sheet)".
 - b. (614): Fragment of text, headed "The Mummings, Horspath, George Washington (Fragment from Arthur Messenger, belonging to this version)".
 - c. (718): Fragment of text, headed "The Mummings, Horspath, George Washington, learned at Wheatley, about thirty years ago - from older Mummings, Will Gould, Jack Gum - never saw in print
- See also Ref Nos. 067 (FOREST HILL) and 092 (HOLTON) for other mentions of Arthur Messenger as informant.
- 096 Rev. E. Marshall Collection (f.63): Note from M. H. Linklater (postmarked 16.8.1883): "Horspath - Christmas Mummings".

HORTON (SP 5912)

- 097 Hobson and Price (1961): "There was also a band of Mummers".
- 098 Carpenter Collection (557-9): Text, headed "The Mummers, Horton, Ben Brisco, learned at Quainton, Bucks [SP 7420] (near Alesbury) learned from older mummers, forty to fifty years ago - never saw in print", and handwritten note reads: "Tom Beckett Quainton".
- 099 Carpenter Collection (564-566): Text, headed "The Mummers, Horton, William Blake, learned at Horton, about forty years ago, from older mummers. Saw in print about twenty one or two years ago, but a different version".
- N.B. These two Carpenter Collection texts are very different. Carpenter does not specify which 'Horton' but, according to the Rev. A. de Vere (May 1981), both Ben Brisco and William Blake are well remembered by residents of the Horton at SP 5912.
- 100 Stephen Roud Collection: Letter from resident (May 1981) who remembers the mummers. Gives short description, last performed about 1920.

ISLIP (SP 5214)

- 101 Oxford Times (1902): Report of lecture given by E. H. Binney, "illustrated by lantern-slides of the performers, taken at... Islip...". Five plates of the Islip mummers are in Percy J. Manning Collection (361-5).
- 102 Prior (1903): "The Christmas mummers go about this and neighbouring villages, and give their play".
- 103 Bicester Advertiser (1904): "Christmas - The amusements of Islip included the performances of no less than three sets of mummers...".
- 104 Oxford Chronicle (1907): "Christmas has been spent quietly in the village. There have been two troupes of mummers, with their time-honoured play of St. George".
- 105 Bicester Advertiser (1909): "Christmas - The festive season was not marked by any special features. There were the usual two bands of mummers, senior and junior, who performed the time-honoured play of "St. George" without the dragon, and whose dresses were this year better than ever...".
- 106 Reading Mercury (1926): "At Islip, the play was performed some twenty years ago, but there we see the 'Duke of Northumberland', 'Beelzebub' and 'Fat Jack'".
- 107 Coppard (1957): Fragments of text and brief description, referring to about 1910/1912 (dated by other contemporary events mentioned).

- 108 Percy J. Manning Collection (ff299r-306r): Copy of a manuscript text, purported to be dated 1780, with covering letter from E. H. Binney. Copy also in T. F. Ordish Collection See Preston (1973) for transcription of text and commentary.
- 109 Percy J. Manning Collection (307r-309r): Text, headed "Islip, Oxon. MS of young Miles, one of the performers; Xmas 1894". Typed copy in T. F. Ordish Collection headed "As performed in 1894 in the presence of Percy Manning Esq. (copied from account lent by P. Manning)". Text published in Ditchfield (1896) and Helm (1981).

KIDLINGTON (SP 4913)

- 110 Carpenter Collection (715-717): Text, headed "The Mummers, Kidlington, Sidney Hale, High Street; Alfred Evans 20 Banbury Road - learned 1904 - here in Kidlington - never saw in print - learned from old mummers - Jim Butler (see Fred Butler, Water Eaton Lane, Kidlington) now in Lancashire".

KIRTLINGTON (SP 4919)

- 111 Manning (1898): Text, "as played some forty years ago" MS copy in Percy J. Manning Collection (ff341-345).
- 112 Carpenter Collection (560-563): Text, headed "The Mummers, Kirtlington, Robert Pearman, learned when a boy, about ten, now seventy-four - from older mummers of village. Never saw in print".
- 113 Keith Chandler Collection: Brief reference from local resident who remembers the mummers, who had blackened faces, coming at Christmas.

LEAFIELD (SP 3115)

- 114 Tiddy (1923): Text, headed "The manuscript, which is very hurriedly pencilled has more than one marginal note as to pronunciation. The writer's knowledge of the play was evidently very confused and uncertain".
- 115 Stephen Roud Collection: Four lines of text from ex-resident.

LITTLEMORE (SP 5302)

- 116 Herschel MSS (Bodleian MS.Top.Oxon.b.248)

The Herschel papers are voluminous, and have not yet been searched thoroughly for mumming material. The following items have, however, been identified by Mike Heaney.

- a. (fol.17r(i)): Watercolour painting of five boys leaning over a table, apparently looking at a book. Caption reads "An Ancient Custom (as observed in Oxfordshire) Us always goes a-mumming at Christmas. Us always does King George

the Thurd: But this Christmas we have got a new mummering about St. George and the Dragon: Us talks it over. 1888". Has been reproduced as a greetings card, printed by Thomas Leach, Abingdon.

- b. (fol.17r(ii): Picture of making a costume, caption reads "Mother makes the toggery. Tea and sugar bags go a long way. Polly cut them up".
- c. (fol.17r(iii): Picture of a dragon's head, with caption "Miss makes us a dragon's head".
- d. (fol.17v): Picture of performance. Caption reads "How us did it last year", plus eight lines of text, commencing "In comes I King George the Thurd".
- e. (fol.58r): Picture of performance (including dragon-headed character). Caption reads "How us did it this year: Christmas 1887". Has been reproduced as a postcard, by One Point Four Graphics Ltd. Maidstone.
- f. (fol.73-82): Typed text, as written by Miss H. D. Herschel.

LONG HANBOROUGH (SP 4114)

- 117 Parker (1913): Short text, headed "I had forgotten part of the words said by them [the mummers], so I obtained this from a native today. it is much altered from what I remember, and several lines are omitted. It is still acted in the different villages...".

LOWER HEYFORD (SP 4824)

- 118 Prior (1903): "The Mummers go round at Christmas and act a play, which celebrates the deeds of "King George, who won the King of Egypt's daughter". In it appear Mr. Pitt, Napoleon, an old woman and a doctor".
- 119 Tiddy (1923) (pp.219-221): Text, as "written out by the boys of an evening school for the Rev. H. Furneaux in 1885...".
- 120 Carpenter Collection (530-535): Text, headed "Mummers, Lower Heyford, Chas. Brock, Dictaphone record".
- 121 Carpenter Collection (536-542): Text, headed "The Mummers, Lower Heyford - (Charles Brock, 79 George Baggett, George Slatter - learned - Mr. Brock went to Furneaux's night school - Mr. Slatter went last as mummer 1892 - learned it seven or eight years before - never saw in print".

MARSTON (SP 5208)

- 122 Grant and Heaney (1981): Points out the connection between Marston and Headington Quarry (q.v.).
- 123 Percy J. Manning Collection (311r-312v): Text, headed "Old Marston Mummers 1832, Black Jack Haynes Foreman".

- 124 Percy J. Manning Collection (313r-314v): Text, headed "Written by a Marston villager, Ca 1899, name forgotten, through T.J.C. 1902". Copy in T. F. Ordish Collection.

MERTON (SP 5717)

- 125 Prior (1903): "The lads used to go through a local version of "S. George" in mumming attire at yuletide, up to 1893 at any rate".

MIDDLE BARTON (SP 4325)

- 126 Carpenter Collection (522-527): Text, headed "The Mummers, Middle Barton, Kiddington, John Carpenter, learned as a boy fifty years ago from older mummers - Never saw in book - older brothers". (5 II 9, 120-3) Handwritten text, headed "Jack Carpenter", presumably original MS for above.
- 127 Gawte et al. (1967): Gives Christina Hole Collection as a source of information on Middle Barton play, but I have been unable to inspect this version.

MIDDLETON STONEY (SP 5323)

- 128 Carpenter Collection (500-504): Text, headed "The Mummers, Benjamin Coles, Middleton Stoney, learned from father, Charles Cole, who recently died at the age of 93 - born at Bucknell - never saw in print - learned at thirteen or fourteen, 45 years ago".

MOLLINGTON (SP 4347)

- 129 Prior (1904): "There used to be mummers, one line of whose Act was "Here be I, with my girt head, and little wit"".

NORTH NEWINGTON (SP 4239)

- 130 C.H. (1956): Text, headed "A version of the Mumming Play was acted at Christmas in North Newington, Oxfordshire, until shortly before the outbreak of the 1914-1918 war. In the early years of this century, the words, or some of them, were written down by a spectator, and this manuscript was given to me in 1955 by Mrs. Osment, who remembers seeing the play performed when she was a child...".
- 131 Pickering (1982): Brief description of mummers visits in the "1910's".

ODDINGTON (SP 5514)

- 132 Carpenter Collection (507-508): Text headed "The Mummers, Oddington, James Joseph Price - learned about sixty-four years

ago - from old hands - from brother Josephus Price, Thomas Brown, John Watson - first heard in the house in which he now lives, showed me the chimney corner where he sat as a boy - a bit afraid of them - wore false faces, Bighead wore bonnet on head".

N.B. Carpenter does not state which Oddington this play comes from - it could thus be from Oddington, Gloucestershire (SP 2325).

OXFORD (SP 5305)

- 133 Daily Graphic (1894): Drawing of performance, with brief description and four lines of text. Drawing reprinted in Folk-Lore (1894)
- 134 Bocardo (1909: Under the heading 'Notes by an Oxford Lady', appears the following paragraph:
- "On Christmas Eve there seemed a new development in regard to Mummers in the North. During the earlier days of the week we had been serenaded by various choirs, the most important being those from St. Margaret's Church and from Summertown, but on Christmas Eve no sound was heard in my household until about ten o'clock, when the front door bell rang. The maids had just gone to bed, and thinking it was the postman, in joyous anticipation of more letters and Christmas cards, I rushed to the door and held out my hand. But I nearly dropped when I found the porch was crowded with small figures in the most eccentric disguise, the principal features which imprinted themselves on my startled vision being muslin curtains and ruddle, while pressing forward with a money-box was a tall figure in a black mask. To my eternal regret, I was so much taken aback by this apparition that I shut the door on the instant. The next moment I laughed, but having shewn the white feather so ignominiously, I shrank from opening the door again, so I have no idea what these silent mummers did for the money they were trying to collect. They made no sound anywhere, so far as I could see and hear, as I watched them to to other houses from the safe vantage of the drawing-room window, which was a pity, for if they had only made a warning noise of some kind, I should have been prepared to enjoy the situation..."
- 135 Oxford Journal Illustrated (1925): Photograph of a 10-man troupe walking down a lane. Caption reads: "The mummers - a link with ancient Yuletide customs - who visited various parts of the City on Christmas Day".
- 136 Percy J. Manning Collection (331-332): Text, headed "Verbatim transcript of MS written by a lad of St. Aldates, Oxford, March 1903". Copy in T. F. Ordish Collection.

RAMSDEN (SP 3515)

See under FINSTOCK

SAINT ALDATE

See under OXFORD

SALFORD (SP 2828)

- 137 Carpenter Collection (916-919): Text, headed "The Mummers, H. Winnett, and W. Wallington, Salford; learned 44 years ago; never saw in print; learned from old mummers".

SHIPTON-UNDER-WYCHWOOD (SP 2717)

- 138 Tiddy (1923) (pp.209-213): Text entitled "Bold Robin Hood", but no details of source given.
- 139 Preston (1972) and (1976): Discusses 'Robin Hood' plays, including Shipton-under-Wychwood.

SOULDERN (SP 5231)

- 140 Gough (1887): "Christmas is still kept up in somewhat of the olden style; carol singers and mummers come round to all houses for more than a week beforehand". Gives brief description and four lines of text.
- 141 Prior (1903): "The Mummers still go about at Christmas, and perform their play. "Beelzebub" was one of the characters here, as in the Westcote Barton play".

STANDLAKE (SP 3902)

- 142 Williams (1926): "I have collected five or six different pieces between Oxford and Cirencester, but near the Thames the best known were the play of "Robin Hood" and another which bore the title of "Father Christmas"/ The piece called "Robin Hood" (given in full in my Round about the Upper Thames) was popular at Standlake, Bampton and Lechlade...".

STOKE TALMAGE (SU 6799)

- 143 T. F. Ordish Collection: Series of seven letters to Ordish from Edith M. Deverell concerning the Stoke Talmage mummers. The first, dated Dec. 31 [1902] being addressed to Mr. Gomme. Deverell explains that the young mummers "are badly in need of encouragement", as they are not well-received at the places they visit. The mummers had also had trouble getting hold of the full script, the surviving older men being suspicious of them, and she requests Ordish to send a complete version. Ordish apparently requested that Ms. Deverell supplied him with the script in use at that time, which is duly done, and a letter from L. Stafford (one of the mummers) dated Dec. 27th 1903 says "I am glad to say it has been a great success this year". There is no indication as to whether Ordish did in fact supply the Stoke team with a complete text, and the script supplied by them seems to have disappeared.

SUTTON (SP 4106)

- 144 See Ref. No. 051 under CULHAM for mention of Sutton team visiting Culham from Percy J. Manning Collection.

THAME (SP 7006)

- 145 Lee (1874): Text, "taken down by myself from the lips of one of the performers in 1853. I first saw it acted in the Hall of the Old Vicarage at Thame, in the year 1839...". Reprinted in Gretton (1914).
- 146 Carpenter Collection (582-584): Text, headed "The Mummings, Thame, Edward Charles Newitt, from father, Chas. Newitt, grandfather Robert Newitt - who would have been seventy years old; grandfather taught grandfather, about fifty two years ago - came from Yorkshire - never saw in print".

N.B. Although Lee states that he recorded the words from one of the performers, the text he gives is so very untypical of mummings from Oxfordshire (or anywhere else for that matter) as to invite suspicion of its authenticity. The text given by Carpenter is much more typical.

UPPER HEYFORD (SP 4926)

- 147 Prior (1903): "The Mummings do not come round now".

WATERSTOCK (SP 6305)

- 148 Tiddy (1923) (pp.206-8): Text, "collected January 1914".
- 149 Carpenter Collection (578-581): Text, headed "The Mummings, Waterstock, Alfred Eborn, learned 70 years ago - from older mummings, never saw in print - went mummering for eight years".
- 150 Carpenter Collection (574-577): Text, headed "The Mummings - Robert Baker, Waterstock, Wheatley, Oxford - learned when eight years old (now 77) from older mummings at Waterstock - version used in village for many years - never saw in print".

WESTCOTT BARTON (SP 4224)

- 151 Prior (1904): Text, "written for the Rev. J. Marshall, 1870".
- 152 Carpenter Collection (519-521): Text, headed "Mummings play - from Oxford Mail, courtesy of reader, formerly performed by villagers of Westcott Barton at Christmas; words given below taken down about 1870".

N.B. These texts are the same. It is possible that Prior submitted it to the Oxford Mail but I have not been able to trace the full reference for this article to verify this.

WESTON-ON-THE-GREEN (SP 5318)

- 153 Carpenter Collection (492-493): Text, headed "The Mummings, Weston on the Green, Frederick Day, learned at Bletchington [Bletchington], thirty years ago - never saw in print - see Thos. Green, James Timms, Bletchington".

WHEATLEY (SP 5905)

- 154 Prior (1905): "There are May Day Garlands here, and there were till a few years ago Christmas Mummings".
- 155 Hassall (1956): "Miss (Phyllis) Smith's father went mumming (about King George, Jack Finney, Beelzebub and the doctor) with his brother Jesse, Jim Gomme and Jack Goodin, with their faces blacked. Mr. P. Fonge's team continued mumming at Wheatley until 1954", and "Mr. Arthur Smith when a parish apprentice he performed with the Wheatley mummings".
- 156 Drake (1979), Morgan (1980), Corlett (1980): see these references for correspondence regarding the Wheatley mummings.
- 157 Jon Drake Collection: Interviews with ex-performers.
- 158 Cawte et al. (1967): Gives Christina Hole Collection as a source of information on a play from Wheatley, but I have been unable to inspect this version.

See also Ref. Nos. 067 (FOREST HILL), 092 (HOLTON), and 095c (HORSPATH), for connections with Wheatley.

WITTENHAM (SU 5693)

- 159 T. F. Ordish Collection: Accompanying the Culham text sent to Ordish by Manning (see Ref. No. 049) is the following typewritten note:

"Copper Clutterbuck has seen no mummings at Culham but says at Wittenham it used to be King William, not King George, and the doctor was called 'Jack Pinny', or Penny, and used to object to the name (as in the Goring version) and say he wasn't Jack Pinny but Doctory Pinny and a person of great importance".

OXFORDSHIRE - UNLOCATED

- 160 Jones (1794). and reprinted by J.B.S. (1885):
"...to convey a more perfect idea of the mummings in England, I shall insert here a traditional sort of thing, which is still acted in Oxfordshire, about Christmas, by the Mummings.

THE MUMMERS

A Knight enters with his sword drawn, and says:

Room, room, make room brave gallants all,
For me and my brave company!
Where's the man, that dares bid me stand;
I'll cut him down with my bold hand?

St. George.

Here's the man, that dares bid you stand,
He defies your couragious hand!

The Knight:

Then mind your eye, to guard your blow,
And shield your face, and heart also.

St. George gets wounded in the combat, and falls.

Doctor, Doctor, come here and see,
St. George is wounded in the knee:
Doctor, Doctor, play well your part,
St. George is wounded in the heart!

The Doctor enters

I am a Doctor, and a Doctor good,
And with my hand I'll stop the blood.

The Knight.

What can you cure, Doctor?

The Doctor

I can cure coughs, colds, fevers, gout,
Both pains within, and pains without:
I will bleed him in the thumb!

St. George.

O! (will you so?) then I'll get up, and run!

Some more Mummings, or Minstrels come in, and they sing
the following stanza, accompanied by the Hurdy Gurdy.

My father he killed a fine fat hog,
And that you may plainly see;
My mother gave me the guts of the hog,
To make a Hurdy-Gurdy.

Then they repeat the song in full chorus, and dance...".

- 161 M.W. (1884): Text, headed "Mummings in Oxfordshire". "On Sundays at Christmas time I used to watch their great ugly and quaint masks, and stand up on a chair behind my mother frightened lest they should come too near with their clod-hopping boots, almost shaking the crokery off the shelves which are to be seen on the sides of the houses in country villages...".
- 162 Rowell (1886): Text - "...I do not remember seeing the mummings perform more than two or three times, and that must have been in 1815 and 1816... The following is from an old written paper from which the performers evidently had to learn their parts, and this is probably from an older and more perfect paper, as the errors of the copyist are obvious".
- 163 Zwn (1898): Text, from local participant, but no clue as to Location.

These particular texts have not been chosen as truly 'representative' of Oxfordshire plays, but rather with regard to taking the opportunity to make available two previously unpublished items.

DEDDINGTON (Ref. No.054a in the Index)

Source: Russell Wortley Collection, The Centre for English Cultural Tradition and Language, Item Number: m.II.4.a-d. Reproduced with kind permission of Mrs. D. Wortley.

"[Deddington Mummers' Play]

[Copied from hand-written text loaned by Mr. Arthur Bliss, Philcote Street, Deddington, Oxon. June/Aug. 1964]

(1)

Good Master & Good Mistress, I hope you are within
For we are come this Xmas time, To amuse you & your kin
A I.O.U. a-down Derry we are come this Xmas time
To see you all are merry. I hope you won't be angry
or take it as offence. For if you are pray tell me
And will quickly go from hence.

In comes I, old Mother Wallopsee
With my black face & good policy
If I'm ever so black, I ain't the blackest old witch
among the lot. A Room, a room a room for me
And all my jolly company
I come to show you merry sports & sights
upon this dark and wintry night.

(2)

- * In comes I Joe Burgomott.
Welcome here or Welcome not:
I hope(s) Joe Burgomott will ne'er be forgot
For in this room there shall be shown
The dreadfull(ist) battle that e'er (ere) was shown
A Room, a room I do declare, step in King George
And (&) show your face like fire.

ENTER King George

(3)

[pencil] K.G.

In comes I a Royal Prussian King
I'm born to conquer & to win
I've been in battles more than one

- * This speech re-written on another sheet. Words etc in brackets are as in original pencilled copy.

One or two, two or 3, And allways won the Victory
I've fought the fiery Dragon, And brought him
to the slaughter,
And gained the King of Egypts daughter
Is there a man dares bid me stand

ENTER TURKISH KNIGHT

I'm the man that dares to bid thee stand
I am a Turkish Knight.
From Turkish lands [looks a bit like 'bands'?] I've come
to fight.
I've come to fight King George the third
That man of courage bold.
And if thy blood be hot, I'll quickly make it cold.

K.G. What ho thou bragging fellow, thou talkest very bold
Just like the young turks, so I've been told, Therefore thou
Turkish Knight, pull out thy purse & pay
For I mean to have satisfaction bfore [sic] thou go'est away.

Turkish Knight

Satisfaction, no satisfaction at all. My head is made of
Iron

(3 & 4)

And (&) my body line with steel.
So you'll guard your (head) nose, mouth & hand. And all
your Mortal soul. I'll cut you up as small (as) flies
& (And) send you to Jamacia, to make mince pies.
Mince pies hot, & Mince pies cold. Mince pies in the Pot
nine days old. A battle, A battle, twixt you & I
To see which on the ground the first shall lie.
So guard your head, (&) And guard your nose. And guard
your body, & down you goes.

King George

Dos't think I've done with thee Turkish Knight
I will arise & show thee my might. So guard your
head, & guard your nose, & guard your body, & down
you (thou) goes. T.K. falls. Mother Wallupsee faints.
Joe Burgamott runs forward and (&) spreads his arms over
prostrate body, saying

Oh for a Doctor do depart. The Knight is wounded through
the heart, likewise 10 times through the knee. We've
no one here that can cure he.

[pencilled
copy]

Father Xmas. 5f for a Dr I will give, If a Dr was
but here.

Dr without. The Dr won't come for 5fs
F. Xmas. 10f F.X. 20f F.X. 50f

ENTER DR.

Yes there is a Dr to be found, that can
raise this man that lies bleeding on the ground
my name is Dr Vane I can fetch the dead to
life again.

F.X. Dr what canst thou cure

Hey Down Derry

Five pound for a Doctor I will give. If a Dr was but here.

Dr without. I won't come for five Pounds

HEY DOWN Derry. Ten pounds will I give.

Dr Without. I won't come for Ten Pounds.

H.D.D. Twenty pounds would I give, if a Dr was but here.

ENTER DR I can raise the dead to life again.

H.D.D. Dr what cans't thou do

DOCTOR I carries a bottle by my side, it has won me fame both far & wide. It will cure the Ipsy Pipsy (hipsy-pipsy), the palsy or the gout. The roaming pains within the roaming pains without. I've travelled here, I've (I) travelled there, In fact I've travelled everywhere, but mostly at home. Show me an old woman, who's been (lain) in the grave 10-15 (20)- or 50 years (dead), & able

to swallow one of my pills, & she's bound to come to life again. I can cure this man if he's not quite dead. Drip Drop on his temples (temple), drip drop on his head. Rise up my old fellow & take your part.

ENTER BE-ELZEBUB In comes I old Be-elzebub, and (&) on my shoulder I carries a Club. And in my hand a dripping pan. Don't you think I'm a grand old man.

(6)

Here (In) comes I as ent (ant) bin (been) yet. with my big head & little wit. My head so big my wit so small, we'll sing you a song to please you all.

Song

In comes me, old Humpy Jack with me (my) wife & family at me (my) back. Money I want(s) & money I'll have. Or I'll sweep you all into (in) the grave together. My family is large, though I be small, & a little money would help us all. So ladies & Gentlemen sit at your ease, and (&) find us what money you can if you please.

(Song & Dance. FINIS)

Note The whole was written originally in pencil on 5 quarto lined sheets. Most of the first sheet and the whole of the 2nd sheet were inked over. All the remainder was re-written in ink (in the same handwriting) on four lined quarto sheets of slightly larger size (Govt issue). Sheets numbered consecutively to give continuous text."

CHADLINGTON (Ref. No.034 in the Index)

Source: T. F. Ordish Collection, Folklore Society, c/o University College London, Gower Street, London WC1.

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There are two copies of this text in the Ordish Collection:

- a) A Handwritten text, bearing no title or indication of provenance, occupying nine sides of paper, approx. 153 x 115 mm.
- b) A typed text which, although containing a few errors, is obviously copied from (a). This text is headed "Chadlington", and bears the note, in Ordish's hand, "Communicated by R. J. E. Tiddy 1913".

The play does not appear in Tiddy's book on the Mummers' Play (see bibliography), presumably because he had leant the manuscript text to Ordish for copying and the latter had failed to return it. The manuscript would thus not have been included in Tiddy's papers when they were edited for publication some years after his death. This rather naughty behaviour on Ordish's part was apparently far from unusual. Several letters from other collectors exist in his papers which repeatedly urge him to return loaned manuscripts.

The text given below is taken from the manuscript version. A colon has been added between the name of a speaker and the words assigned to him/her in several places in the text.

"First

Father Christmas

In comes I old Father Christmas
Christmas comes but once a year
and when it do it brings us all
good cheer roast beef plum pudding and
plenty of good old English beer
I have brought my broom to sweep
the room I have brought my brush to
kick up a dust a room a room for me
and all my jolly company Good
master and good Mistress I hope you
are within for I have come this
Christmas time to please you and kin
I hope you are not angry or other wise
take a fence for if you do then tell to
me and Ill quickly gone your [ense?]
last Christmas time I turned the spit burnt
my little finger and can find on It this the
forks flew over the table the sauspans
beat the ladle I up said the great iorn [sic]
I am the great justice so bring it to me
come in King George and clear the way

(p.2)

Second

I am king George this noble knight I
shedd my blood for englands right
for englands right for englands wrong for
Englands glory Ill maintain I fear no
Spanish French nor Turk I fear
no man can do me hert [??] if there
is a man that thinks he can step
in this gallant solder man.

Father Christmas: come in bull slasher

third

I am a solder stout and bold bull
slasher is my name and from great
dover town I came with sourd
and buckell by my side I mean to
win one game My head is made of
brass my body made of steel I mean to
win one victory before I leave this field
and after this is said and done Ill
fight the champion of england so gard
the head defend the blows mind the
face and poor old soul. a battle
a battle between the and I to see wich
on the ground shall lie

(p.3)

then they fight bull slasher falls first
and then father Christmas says, bull slasher
bull slasher this room is hot see wat a mighty
man thou as got before Id stand at his
command Id loose my life and sourd in hand
rise up old man then bull slasher
sais, help us up then I thinks I can
stand a nother blow or to then they
fight again and king George falls
then father christmas says

fourth

doctor doctor
do thy part king george is wounded through
the heart and like wise through the knee
ten thousands pounds wont cure he

doctor: what give for a nolefade doctor

Father Christms: ten pounds

doctor: No such money

Father: five pounds

doctor: shant come

Father: five farthings

doctor: come and glad of the job

Father: doctor doctor hast away do thou
no longer delay

(p.4) doctor

In comes I one of the seventeen
sons and over doctors lately
traveled from spain qure the dead
to life again just as my little box
of pills pleases the cure the itch the
stich the polsy and the gout pains
within and pains without and pains
all round about if theres an old
woman been in her grave 199 years
if her will rise up and crack one
of my cast iorn pebbles pills Ill
bet two to one it Ill raise her
to life again and if there is are
a young lady outside thinks her
self are abit of a man tell her
to step in

Father: Come in Moll finny

(p.5) Molly

My name is not Moll finny my
names miss finny a lady of great fame
can to more than the ore any other man

doctor: what do you think you can do
then Moll

Moll: cure this man If he aint
quite dead

doctor: what do you thinks the matter
with him then Moll: verry bad
quensequonses in deed

doctor: whats that then Moll: rse up
thy head old fellow

doctor: that is the wrong end for
once Moll: thats my look out

doctor: mind the dusement get the mutton
chops fried twice Moll: that my beef stakes

doctor: well what to you think is the
matter with him

(p.6) Moll: only wants a tuth drawn

doctor: fetch my plyers

Moll: fetch um the self

doctor: wat is that

Moll: just a going to baint I

doctor: well the duesent call them
plyers they be more like blacksmiths
anvils than plyers. fetch my plyers

Moll: fetch um the self
doctor: wats that
Moll: just a going to beant I
doctor: now the ast broke um
wat didst do that for
Moll: coudent help it fell over
that long narrow crucked stile
broke um purpose
doctor: wats that
Moll: coudent help it

(p.7)

doctor: pick um up then
Moll: pick um up the self
doctor: wats that
Moll: just a going to baint I
doctor: just come and help ang on
and get some of them others to
help you
Moll: get um the self
doctor: wats that
Moll: Just agoing to come on
bull slasher and tatermasher
and help ang on
doctor: now then pull well the
dusent call that pulling thats
more like pushing than pulling
Moll: well pull the self
doctor: wats that Moll: just a going to

(p.9)

doctor: now then pull
[year?] yer a tuth more like a
elephants tuth than a christians
Moll: just like the own
doctor: wats that
Moll: just like me own
look at um ils
doctor: I thought the hads
got some goodish uns

Father Chris sais

This is the case that was before
rise up king George and fight
once more come in umping
Jack

(p.10)

In comes I old humping jack
on my back I carries my pack
in my hand a dripping pan dont
you think I am a jolly old
man. My father killed a great
fat hog that you can plainly
see my mother gave me the skin
of the bladder to make a hurdy
gurdy ge poor dogs poor dogs
lie down thy bones and
riggle them through thy shin
and all you lads cock up
your legs and well have
a merry jig jig jig"

KEY TO SELECTED UNPUBLISHED COLLECTIONS

CARPENTER

James Madison Carpenter spent several years in Britain in the early 1930s, collecting traditional songs and tunes as well as Mummung plays. His collection is now held in the Library of Congress (MS Music-3109). Microfilm copies are held in the U.K. at the Vaughan Williams Memorial Library (see below) and The Centre for English Cultural Tradition, University of Sheffield. The Vaughan Williams Library microfilm was indexed by Dr. E. C. Cawte in 1979/80 and the numbers given in brackets after each reference to Carpenter in the geographical listing refer to this index.

(Ref. Nos. 016, 017, 022, 023, 031, 032, 035, 036, 037, 038, 047, 050, 052, 053, 063, 064, 067, 068, 069, 085, 086, 092, 094, 095, 098, 099, 110, 112, 120, 121, 126, 128, 132, 137, 146, 149, 150, 152, 153)

KEITH CHANDLER

The Bungalow, Hill Grove Farm, Minster Lovell, Oxford. OX8 5NA
Keith's researches are primarily concerned with Cotswold Morris Dancing and apart from the two references credited here to his personal collection, he has been responsible for unearthing many of the early local newspaper mentions of mummung included in the present list.

(Ref. Nos. 020, 113)

JON DRAKE

4 High Street, Wheatley, Oxford. OX9 1XX. Jon is researching into 'Ritual Drama of Britain in the Context of Seasonal Ceremonies'.

(Ref. No. 157: see also bibliography)

MIKE HEANEY

c/o Department of Catalogues, Bodleian Library, Oxford. Mike is also primarily concerned with Cotswold Morris Dancing and has very kindly provided details of many of the references to collections in the Bodleian Library.

(Ref. No. 066: see also bibliography)

ALEX HELM

No work devoted to traditional drama in Britain can fail to mention Alex Helm. Until his untimely death in 1970, he was the undisputed authority on the subject and, with his colleagues Dr. Cawte and Dr. Peacock, laid the foundations of all modern research into Mumming plays and related seasonal customs. His papers are now held in the Manuscripts and Rare Books Room, University College London, Gower Street, London WC1.

(Ref. Nos. 042, 093: see also bibliography under Helm, and Cawte)

PERCY J. MANNING

Manning was one of a group of scholars who, around the turn of the present century, collected material on Mumming plays whilst being primarily concerned with Morris dancing. His collection is now held in the Bodleian Library, Oxford (MS Top. Oxon. d.199).

(Ref. Nos. 049, 077, 079, 101, 108, 109, 111, 123, 124, 136, 144: see also bibliography)

REV. E. MARSHALL

Rev. Marshall's papers are held in the Bodleian Library (MS Top. Oxon. c.115, Collections for a History of Oxfordshire, 1886). The references to Mummers listed here are to be found in answers to a questionnaire sent by Marshall to vicars and curates in the county, requesting information on local antiquities, customs, etc.

(Ref. Nos. 074, 096)

T. F. ORDISH

Thomas Fairman Ordish (1854-1924) was the first British scholar to attempt to gather a large amount of material on traditional drama. His main effort in the subject was concentrated around the period 1889 to 1914. Ordish's collection is held by The Folklore Society, c/o University College London, Gower Street, London WC1. (This collection also contains material added after Ordish's time).

(Ref. Nos. 018, 034, 049, 076, 077, 078, 084, 108, 109, 136, 143, 159)

VAUGHAN WILLIAMS MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regents Park Road, London. NW1 7AY. This collection contains material deposited by various people over many years.

(Ref. Nos. 019, 033)

ALFRED WILLIAMS

Alfred Williams (1877-1930) noted a few Mumming plays while searching for traditional songs. His collection is now held at Swindon Public Library, Regents Circus, Swindon, Wilts, SN1 1QG.

(Ref. No. 001: see also bibliography)

RUSSELL WORTLEY

Russell Wortley (1912-1980) was a leading authority on Cotswold Morris dancing and his papers are now held at The Centre for English Cultural Tradition and Language, University of Sheffield, Sheffield, S10 2TN.

(Ref. No. 054)

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