Twa Sisters



There were twa sisters in a bower, (Hey wi the gay and the grinding) And ae king's son has courted them baith. (At the bonny bonny bows o London)

He courted the youngest wi broach and ring, He courted the eldest wi some other thing.

It fell ance upon a day The eldest to the youngest did say,

'Will ye gae to yon Tweed mill-dam, And see our father's ships come to land'?

They baith stood up upon a stane, The eldest dang the youngest in.

She swimmed up, sae did she down, Till she came to the Tweed mill-dam.

The miller's servant he came out, And saw the lady floating about.

'O master, master, set your mill, There is a fish, or a milk-white swan.?

They could not ken her yellow hair, [For] the scales o gowd that were laid there.

They could not ken her fingers sae white, The rings o gowd they were sae bright.

They could not ken her middle sae jimp, The stays o gowd were so well laced. They could not ken her foot sae fair, The shoes o gowd they were so rare.

Her father's fiddler he came by, Upstarted her ghaist before his eye.

'Ye'll take a lock o my yellow hair, Ye'll make a string to your fiddle there.

'Ye'll take a lith o my little finger bane, And ye'll make a pin to your fiddle then.?

He's taen a lock o her yellow hair, And made a string to his fiddle there.

He's taen a lith o her little finger bane, And he's made a pin to his fiddle then.

The firstand spring the fiddle did play, Said, 'Ye'll drown my sister, as she's dune me.?