

Wassail Song – Little Sodbury 1907

Collected by Cecil Sharp 2-Apr-1907

Sung by Isaac Bennett (68) at Little Sodbury, Glos



Was - sail - was - sail - All o - ver the town. Our li - ly is white and our
7 toast is brown. Our bowl it is made of the maple - ing tree. With our
13 was - sail - ing bowl I will drink - to (thee.) Drink to thee,
19 drink to thee, with my was - sail - ing bowl I will drink to thee.

1. Wassail, wassail, all over the town,
Our lily is white and our toast it is brown
Our bowl it is made of the mapleing tree,
With our wassailing bowl I will drink to thee,
Ch. Drink to thee, drink to thee,
With our wassailing bowl I will drink to thee.

2. Here is to broad unto his right eye,
Pray God send our master a good Christmas pie,
And a good Christmas pie as ever I see
With our wassailing bowl I will drink to thee,
Ch. Drink to thee, drink to thee,
With our wassailing bowl I will drink to thee.

3. Here is to broad unto his right arm,
Pray God send our master a good crop of corn,
A good crop of corn as ever I see;
With our wassailing bowl I will drink to thee,
Ch. Drink to thee, drink to thee,
With our wassailing bowl I will drink to thee.

4. Here is to broad unto his right ear,
Pray God send our master a happy New Year,
A happy New Year as ever I see;
With our wassailing bowl I will drink to thee,
Ch. Drink to thee, drink to thee,
With our wassailing bowl I will drink to thee.

5. Here is to broad unto his long tail,
Pray God send our master he never may fail,
A bowl of strong beer I pray you draw near,
And then you shall hear our jolly wassail.
Jolly wassail, jolly wassail
And then you shall hear our jolly wassail.

6. Come butler come fill us a bowl of the best
Then I hope that your soul in heaven may rest,
But if you do draw us a bowl of the small,
Then down falls butler, bowl and all.
Bowl and all, bowl and all
Then down falls butler, bowl and all.

7. Where is the maid with the lily-white smock
That do trip to the door and push back the lock*
And let us all in and seek how do you do,
Saying, Nan if you will we will welcome you too
Welcome you too, welcome you too
Nan if you will we will welcome you too.

*who never lets young men stand on the cold stone

Song for singing prepared by GlosSongs

Source: Sharp manuscript ref FT1268, words from a typed page by Sharp FW1214 & FW1215

Notes:

1. verse 4 interpreted as 'ditto' marks, 'too' = 'to'. Otherwise as transcription words
2. Sharp uses 'etc.' for choruses. We repeat and have repeated similar words in the last three verses.
The asterisked phrase noted by Sharp is left in this copy, omit or use it as you will

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