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58 Billesley Lane

Moseley

Birmingham 13

16 Jan.

Dear Dr Flett,

I am particularly sorry that a suspension I cannot put off will prevent my hearing your talk on Dramatic Songs in Scotland this Wednesday. I am writing, therefore, to explain the sort of question I might put to you if I were there in person.

First - my interest in the subject arises out of a by-product of my own researches into Robin Hood in Scotland, with all the evidence for a lively popular theatre in Aberdeen, Edinburgh, & presumably other places, before the Reformation put a stop to Robin Hood plays, Abbots of Bon Accord & all the rest. During my reading I came across the three 'popular' songs in the Fabes cantos & loose psalter, & have been puzzling over the Trip and Goe medley ever since. It's clearly related to the Morris dance in its pantomimic form; - it is also 'farce' in the strictest sense (Trip & Goe, how; why should we

so, ho? - Here to stuff our jolly dance, etc etc) -
It also concludes in a thoroughly bawdy manner,
surprisingly like the May play of Robin Hood &
the Friar, when the 'jig' occurs at the very
end between the Friar and the Lady (or
Maid Marian).

I imagine that you deal with this particular
medley in your book, & I should be very deeply
indebted to you if you could let me know what
your views are? Also, if you relate this
medley to the Durham medley, 'Alone & of
walking' which concludes with 'The maidens
came when I was in my mother's bower' -
All these obviously 'dramatic' medleys include
references to Robin in some form or other,
not necessarily Robin Hood but more probably
to Sweet Robin, or Jolly Robin, & I have won-
dered many times whether they are not ex-
amples of those Chansons de Robin described
in Cotgrave as 'merry & extemporall songs' etc.
I ought to add that I have laid before the
joint EFDSS & FLS the fruits of my
Robin Hood researches (at least, up to 1954),

I am now trying to sort out the problems of
 the 15th & 16th century Monks. I imagine
 you will also have a lot to say on the con-
 nection between the Monks & the Jig, via the
 Poets' Jig. How I wish I could get up
 to London on Wednesday! If any of my
 queries seems relevant during the meeting I
 should be most grateful if you could answer
 them as though I were present -

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,
 (Mrs) Barbara Lowe (MA-)

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