

Bedlam Boys

England

earliest date: 1720 (Ballad Index)

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1. For to see mad Tom of Bed-lam ten__ thou - sand miles I'll tra - vel, mad
Maud - lin goes with dir - ty toes for to save her shoes from gra - vel. 2. I__
now re - pent that ev - er poor__ Tom was so dis - dained,__ my
wits are lost since him I crossed which__ makes me thus go chained. Yet__
still I sing bon-ny boys, bon-ny mad boys, Bed - lam boys are bon - ny, for they
still go bare and live by the air, and they want no drink or mo - ney.

3. I went down to Satan's kitchen for to get me food one morning,
and there I got souls piping hot all on the spit a-turning.
4. There I took up a caldron where boiled ten thousand harlots,
though full of flame I drank the same to the health of all such varlets.
Yet still I sing bonny boys...
5. My staff has murdered giants, my bag a long knife carries
for to cut mince pies from children's thighs and feed them to the fairies.
6. The spirits white as lightening would on me travels guide me,
the stars would shake and the moon would quake whenever they espied me.
Yet still I sing bonny boys...
7. No gypsy, slut or doxy shall win my mad Tom from me,
I'll weep all night, with stars I'll fight the fray shall well become me.
8. And when that I'll be murdering the Man in the Moon to the powder,
his staff I'll break, his dog I'll shake and there'll howl no demon louder.
Yet still I sing bonny boys...
9. So drink to Tom of Bedlam, go fill the seas in barrels,
I'll drink it all, well brewed with gall, and maudlin drunk I'll quarrel.
10. For to see mad Tom of Bedlam ten thousand years I have traveled,
mad Maudlin goes on dirty toes for to save her shoes from gravel.
Yet still I sing bonny boys...