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Millington, Peter (Completed: 2009) Mapping the uncharted territory of folk drama. In: Sites of Performance: Mapping/Theatre/History, 2-4 April 2009, University of Nottingham. (Unpublished)

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“Don't you think I'm a jolly old man?”

A Folk Play Scripts Explorer Case Study

<http://www.mastermummers.org/scripts/explorer.htm>

Investigating a line from Beelzebub's speech

In comes our old Belzebub

Over my shoulder I carry a club

In my hand a dripping pan

Don't you think I'm a jolly old man?

If you don't, I do.

Guysers' play from Underwood, Notts.

Folk Play Scripts Explorer - Search Results

Master Home | Scripts Intro | County Index | Class Index | Characters | Explorer

Master Home >> Scripts Explorer >> Search Results

Result 1 of 1 for lines containing 'don t you think i m a jolly old man'. Results Page: << Previous 1 Next >>

Click on an Std.ID to view related line types, on a count number to see the corresponding lines, or on 'Map' to plot their outline distribution or on the symbols for the Google Maps equivalent.

Std.ID	Sample Result	Plays with Fragment	Plays Without	All Variants
2490	don t you think i m a jolly old man	12 (Map)	34 (Map)	46 (Map)

Results Page: << Previous 1 Next >>

Map - No lines currently mapped

Search for Lines

Line Contains Submit Query

Do not use abbreviations or punctuation, and give numbers in words - except for Std.IDs.

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Searching for a whole line tends to find relatively few or no matches, because of variations in wording.

Standard Line ID: 2490 [where the line does not contain "don t you think i m a jolly old man"] [View All Variants of this Line](#)

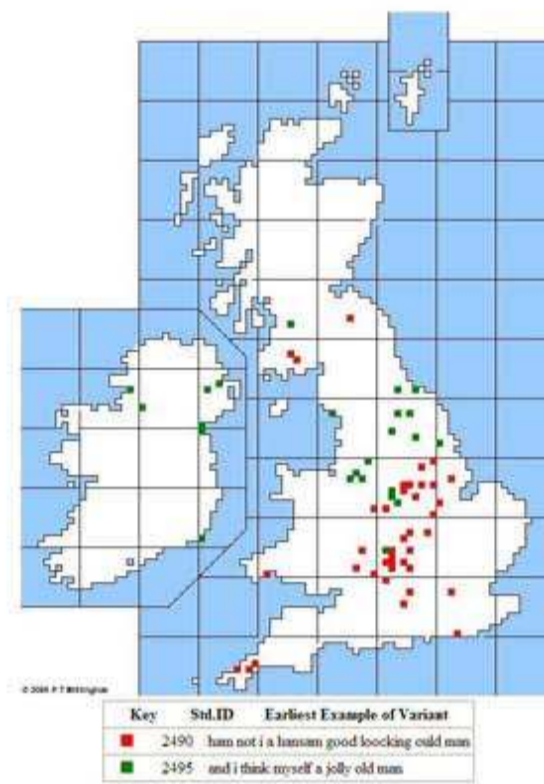
Click on number of Previous or Next Std.ID to view adjacent lines, on a play title to view the full script, or number of Line in Play to see it in context.

Previous Std.ID	Next Std.ID	Line	Play Title	Character	Line in Play
2480	1970	ham not i a hansam good loocking oud man	Truro [Formerly Mylor]: "A Play for Christmas", 1780s	j roe 12 [belzey bob] [note 2]	330
2480	[End]	don t you think me a jolly old man	Mummers' Play from Kirtlington? - 1815-1816	beelzebub	840
2480	38020	don t you think i m a jolly young man	Gaithersburg from the Abbotsford, 1812-1832		130
2480	1310	sae don t ye think i m a jolly auld man	Christmas, Yule-Boys play from Worcestershire - 1821	beelzebub	40
2480	3350	so am not i a valiant man	Cornish Christmas Play - 1827	hub bub	500
2480	1910	don t i look a nice young man	Tenby Guysers' Play - 1857	no 2	640
2480	1310	don t you think i m jolly old man	Mummers' Play from Upper & Lower Howsell, Worcs. - 1856-1857	beelzebub	960
80	37840	don t you think he s a funny old man	Mumming [Then Northamptonshire] - 1854		40
80	17620	dwant ye think he s a jolly old mon			40
80	[End]	now don t you think i a handsome man	Chiswick Mummers' play, 1860	[lord grubb]	340
80	136	and don t you think i am a handsome young man	Ovingdean, Sussex play - 1870	[father bellie bub]	170
80	29800	don t you think me a merry old lady	Mummers' Play from Hamstead Ridware (Staffs.) 1884	beelzebub	620
2480	27780	don t you think i m a jolly good man	King George Play from Kirkby Woodhouse, Notts. - 1887	7th boy	190
33890	17190	don t you think me a good old damman	The Mummers' Performance, Lower Heyford - 1885	[man]	80
2480	17620	bent e now a jolly awld man	Mid-Berkshire Mummers 1888	molly	1200
2480	12460	don t you think me a funny old man	Lincolnshire Plough Jags play - 1890	beelzebub	180
2480	12460	don t you think i m a funny old man	Cropwell, Notts. Ploughboys' Play - 1890	beelzebub	1030

Displaying non-matching variants of the line type shows many near misses as well as some radically different variations.

It is generally more helpful to search using single words, short phrases, or strings of characters.

Std.ID	Sample Result	Plays with Fragment	Plays Without	All Variants
164	and tis a jolly old christmas time	1 (Map)	35 (Map)	36 (Map)
1310	as jolly as i am christmas comes but once a year	1 (Map)	32 (Map)	33 (Map)
2440	an i beat the jolly dutchman till i made their hearts to ache	5 (Map)	4 (Map)	9 (Map)
2490	don t you think me a jolly old man	28 (Map)	18 (Map)	46 (Map)
2495	and i think myself a jolly old man	26 (Map)	2 (Map)	28 (Map)
4920	come all you jolly mummers	2 (Map)	-	2 (Map)



A quick outline distribution map of the two line types shows discrete zoning which suggests that the variation is significant.

Here, searching for “jolly” reveals two related line types with subtly different meanings.

Some non-matching variants still remain

Building the map more carefully...

Apart from the two “jolly” variants, substituting “funny” finds a new cluster. There are also a few “handsome men”.

Key: Earliest Example of Variant

Red: don t you think i m a jolly young man [where line contains "jolly"]

Red: don t you think i m a golly old man [where line contains "golly"]

Blue: don t you think he s a feawy old man [where line contains "feawy"]

Black: ham not i a hansam good loocking oud man [where line contains "han"]

Map Title: Don't you think I am I think myself a handsome/jolly/funny old young man

Key: Earliest Example of Variant

Red: don t you think i m a jolly young man [where line contains "jolly"]

Red: don t you think i am a golly old man [where line contains "golly"]

Blue: don t you think he s a feawy old man [where line contains "feawy"]

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Map Title: Don't you think I am I think myself a handsome/jolly/funny old young man

In the Google Maps view, clicking on a marker shows the local variant of the line and its context.

Points with question marks indicate the location is imprecise, or may not represent a place of performance

The key to the final printable map includes dates for the earliest line in each result set.

The dates may help in determining the genealogical sequence and geographical transmission routes of the variants.

Key	Std.ID	Earliest Example of Variant	Approx.Date
Red	2490	don t you think i m a jolly young man [where line contains "jolly"]	1812-1832
Red	2490	don t you think i am a golly old man [where line contains "golly"]	1913-1916
Green	2495	and i think myself a jolly old man [where line contains "jolly"]	1803-1818
Blue	2490	don t you think he s a funny old man [where line contains "funny"]	1854
Black	2490	ham not i a hansam good loocking oud man [where line contains "han"]	1785-1789