

18th Century Material Culture

Sheep



Shepherds & Shepherdesses



Portrait of a Young Lady as a Shepherdess
by John Verderbank
(Lewis Walpole Library)



Shepherdess
by John Faber
(Yale Center for British Art)

The Beautiful Shepherdess of Arcadia.



There was a shepherd's daughter.
Came tripping on the way,
And there she met a courteous Knight,
Which caused her to stay.
Sing trang dildo dee.

Good-morrow to you courteous maid,
These words pronounced he;
O I shall die this day he said,
If I have not my will of thee.

The Lord forbid, the maid reply'd,
That such a thing should be,
That ever such a courteous Knight
Should die for love of me.

He took her round the middle so small,
And laid her on the plain;
And after he had got his will,
He took her up again.

Now you have had your will, kind sir,
And put my body to open shame,
Now if you are a courteous Knight,
Tell me what is your name.



Some do call me Jack, sweetheart,
And some do call me John;
But when I come to the King's fair court,
They call me Sweet William.

He set his foot in the stirrup,
And away then he did ride;
She tuck'd her girdle about her middle,
And ran close by his side.

But when she came to the broad water,
She lay on her breast and swam,
And when she was got out again,
She took to her heels and ran.

He never was the courteous Knight,
To say Fair maid will you ride?
Nor she was never so loving a nymph,
To say, Sir Knight abide.

When she came to the King's fair court,
She knocked at the ring;
So ready was the King himself
To let this fair maid in.
Sing trang dildo dee.

Christ save you, my gracious Liege,
Your Body Christ save and see,
You have a Knight within your court,
This day hath robbed me.

What hath he robbed thee of, sweetheart?
Of purple or of pall;
Or hath he took thy gay gold ring,
From off thy finger small?

He hath not robbed me, my Liege,
Or purple or of pall;
But he hath got my maidenhead,
Which grieves me worst of all.

Now if he be a batchelor,
His body I'll give to thee;
But if he be a Married man,
High hanged he shall be.

He called down his merry men all,
By one, by two, and by three;
Sweet William us'd to be the first,
But now the last comes he.

He brought her down full forty pounds,
Tied up within a glove:
Fair Maid, I give the same to thee,
And seek another love.

O I'll have none of your gold, she said,
Nor I'll have none of your fee;
But I must have your fair Body,
Which the King hath given me.

Sweet William ran and fetch'd her then,
Five hundred pounds in gold,
Saying, Fair Maid, take this to thee,
Thy fault shall ne'er be told.

'Tis not thy gold that shall me tempt,
These words then answer'd she;
But I must have your own body,
So the King hath granted me.
Sing trang dildo dee.

Would I had drank the fair Water,
When I did drink the wine;
That ever any Shepherds daughter,
Should be a fair Lady of mine.

Would I had drank the puddle water,
What I did drink the ale;
That if ever any Shepherd's daughter,
Should have told me such a tale.

A Shepherd's Daughter as I was,
You might have let me be;
I ne'er had come to the Kings fair court,
To crave any love of thee.

He set her on a milk-white steed,
And himself upon a grey;
He hung a bugle about his neck,
And so they rode away.

But when they came unto the place,
Where marriage rites were done,
She prov'd herself a Duke's daughter,
And he but a Squires son,

Now you have marry'd me, Sir Knight,
Your pleasure shall be free;
If you make me a Lady of one good town,
I'll make the Lord of Three.

Ah! cursed be the gold, he said,
If thou hadst not been true,
That should have parted thee from me,
To have chang'd thee for a new.

There hearts being so linked fast,
And joined hand in hand;
He hath both purse and person too,
And all at his command.
Sing trang dildo dee.

Printed and Sold in Aldermay Church-
Yard, Bow-Lane, London.



Shepherd & Shepherdess
Boston c. 1700 - 1730
(Metropolitan Museum of Art)



THE FAIR SHEPHERDESS
by Sayer & Bennett 1782



"THE FAIR SHEPHERDESS"
by Sayer & Bennett 1782
(Lewis Walpole Library)



THE FAIR SHEPHERDESS.

London, Printed for R. Sayer and J. Bennett, Map & Printers, in Pall Mall, at the Sign of the Lion, 25, March, 1782.

“THE FAIR SHEPHERDESS”
by Sayer & Bennett 1782
(The British Museum)

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