

RARE OUL' TIMES

(Pete St. John)

RAISED ON SONG AND STORY
AND HEROES OF RENOWN
THE PASSING TALES AND GLORIES
THAT ONCE WERE DUBLIN TOWN
THE HALLOWED HALLS AND HOUSES
THE HAUNTING CHILDREN'S RHYMES
THAT ONCE WAS DUBLIN CITY
IN THE RARE OULD TIMES

*RING-A-RING-A-ROSIE, AS THE LIGHT DECLINES
I REMEMBER DUBLIN CITY IN THE RARE OULD TIMES*

MY NAME IT IS SEAN DEMPSEY
AS DUBLIN AS CAN BE
BORN HARD AND LATE IN PIMLICO
IN A HOUSE THAT CEASED TO BE
BY TRADE I WAS A COOPER
LOST OUT TO REDUNDANCY
LIKE MY HOUSE THAT FELL TO PROGRESS
MY TRADE'S A MEMORY

AND I COURTED PEGGY DIGNAN
AS PRETTY AS YOU PLEASE
A ROGUE AND A CHILD OF MARY
FROM THE REBEL LIBERTIES
I LOST HER TO A STUDENT CHAP
WITH SKIN AS BLACK AS COAL
WHEN HE TOOK HER OFF TO BIRMINGHAM,
SHE TOOK AWAY MY SOUL

THE YEARS HAVE MADE ME BITTER,
THE GARGLE DIMS MY BRAIN,
THE CITY KEEPS ON CHANGING,
AND NOTHING SEEMS THE SAME
THE PILLAR AND THE MET HAVE GONE
THE ROYAL LONG SINCE PULLED DOWN
AS THE GREAT UNYIELDING CONCRETE
MAKES A CITY OF MY TOWN

FARE THEE WELL SWEET ANNA LIFFEY
I CAN NO LONGER STAY
AND WATCH THE NEW GLASS CAGES
THAT SPRING UP ALONG THE QUAY -
MY MIND'S TOO FULL OF MEMORIES
TOO OLD TO HEAR NEW CHIMES
I'M PART OF WHAT WAS DUBLIN
IN THE RARE OULD TIMES!