

“Auld Lang Syne”

These three simple words—meaning “old,” “long,” and “since” in Scots—combine to form a phrase that translates loosely as “time gone by,” “old time’s sake,” or, in some contexts, “once upon a time.”

The Burns version, from the Morgan manuscript

*Should auld acquaintance be forgot,
And never brought to mind?
Should auld acquaintance be forgot,
And days o’ lang syne!*

*For auld lang syne, my Dear,
For auld lang syne,
We’ll tak a cup o’ kindness yet,
For auld lang syne.*

*We twa hae run about the braes,
And pu’t the gowans fine;
But we’ve wander’d mony a weary foot,
Sin auld lang syne.*

*We twa hae paidlet i’ the burn,
Frae mornin’ sun till dine:
But seas between us braid hae roar’d,
Sin auld lang syne.*

*And there’s a hand, my trusty feire,
And gie’s a hand o’ thine;
And we’ll tak a right gude-willie waught,
For auld lang syne.*

*And surely ye’ll be your pint-stowp,
And surely I’ll be mine;
And we’ll tak a cup o’ kindness yet,
For auld lang syne.*

The Burns version, with Scots words translated

Should *auld* acquaintance be forgot,
And never brought to mind?
Should *auld* acquaintance be forgot,
And days o’ *lang syne*!

For *auld lang syne*, my Dear,
For *auld lang syne*,
We’ll take a cup o’ kindness yet,
For *auld lang syne*.

We two have run about the hills,
And pulled the daisies fine;
But we’ve wander’d many a weary foot,
Since *auld lang syne*.

We two have paddled in the brook,
From mornin’ sun till dinnertime:
But seas between us broad have roar’d,
Since *auld lang syne*.

And there’s a hand, my trusty friend,
And give us a hand o’ thine;
And we’ll take a right goodwill draft,
For *auld lang syne*.

And surely ye’ll buy your pint-cup,
And surely I’ll buy mine;
And we’ll take a cup o’ kindness yet,
For *auld lang syne*.

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