

YULE TEXT 2/4

Yöl Tradeetions

by Margaret Sinclair for *Shetland Life* (an extract)

Da Christmas caird, a British invention, appeared about 1843 bit no mony wir sent till chaep postal rates cam on da go ida 1870s. Cairds wirna datn common in maist Shetland hames till about da 1920s an dan fock only sent an got twartree.

Crackers appeared fur da first time ida 1840s. A Londoner, Tom Smith, got da idea efter veesitin France an seein bonbons rowed up in waxed paper. He added a Fortune Cookie type motto ta his version an dan da strip at goes wi a crack. His son added da gift an hat later on.

Early on Yöl moarnin in Quarff, a loka o hooses hed candles lighted in ivvry window an dey wir slookit whin daylight cam up an lighted agen ida mirknin. Dis kerried on till electricity cam ta da district in 1950.

A early moarnin tune on da fiddle, usually da 'Day Dawn,' welcomed in Yöl lang ago an dan twartree fireworks wir set aff, wi some mair efter dayset.

We canna forget aboot da rant. In da days afore country halls, da rant wis edder in someen's hoose or a muckle oothoose, an aabody fae aroond da parish guid. Da fiddler leeshed at an fock danced da hale night. Cordials an biscuits wis served bit da men laekly hed sometheen stronger!

dayset	nightfall
leeshed at	played very energetically
mirknin	evening twilight
rant	dance
slookit	extinguished
twartree	a few
Yöl	Christmas