

THEY WORDS, THEY WORDS, THEY 'ORRIBLE WORDS

An Anthology of Caving Songs

Compiled and Edited by Nick Cornwell-Smith

The title of this anthology is taken from one of the songs written by 'Alfie' Collins. It was written to honour the words spoken by Ben Dors, the Landlord of the Hunters Lodge on the Mendips in the UK at the time, when the singing in the pub got too bawdy for him.

This is a collection of some of those songs sung by the cavers. It started off as all types of songs :- caving songs, vulgar songs or traditional folk songs sung in the local pub, campsite or caving hut. Since the number of songs would have been enormous I decided to restrict the collection to songs just about caving, either caves, cavers, huts or some of the other activities cavers get involved in as long as caving is somehow mentioned, from all over the United Kingdom.

Many have been written down following singing sessions whilst others have been transcribed from various sources. Some have been given by other cavers.

Each song includes the authors name, tune to which it is sung and the source where known.

Some of the 'songs' may actually be poems but it has been difficult at times to distinguish between the two. I hope that I may be forgiven for any such errors.

As you will realise the 'hobby' of singing is a continuing process and new songs or different versions of old ones are always being created. I hope that this book has started a process whereby all such songs will be written down and I will be happy to continue to collect them and provide a national collection of such. There may well be a volume 2, or even more of this book.

Cavers, being cavers, some of the songs contain words or phrases which some readers may find offensive. I do not intend to cause offense, but **YOU HAVE BEEN WARNED.**

The collection is based around the United Kingdom though there are some songs about foreign, mainly European, caves and trips. I am however interested in collecting songs from all around the world.