

## THE MERMAID OF PORT ISAAC

Out in the bay, up Tintagel way,  
Jim May and Brian were trawling,  
In a bit of a fog, fishing for dog,  
When they heard this young female a'calling.

"Heller", said Jim, "Pull the nets in,  
I think we have netted a lady."  
She was topless and dark, with the tail of a shark,  
A proper Port Isaac mermaid.

They sent out the news, to the rest of the crews,  
They came at a fair rate of knots,  
The coastguard on duty, said "My, what a beauty,  
Call out the lifeboats and yachts."

The maroons they were fired, and though they were tired  
The crew hurried down to the cellars,  
Andy, and Barry, and red-bearded Harry,  
Crammed the boat with 24 fellers.

She was landed all right and then Dennis Knight,  
Said "I'll buy her for three quid a stone",  
The Jones, dressing crabs, said "You pay that for dabs,  
The top half's worth twice that alone."

The crowds gathered round, at what they had found,  
The men left their video nasties,  
Muriel and Jack, opened up to sell snacks,  
And Molly baked two hundred pasties.

Said Jack Rowe to Peter, "Are they going to eat her?"  
Ed Fletcher to young Wendy Cotton  
Said "She ought to pay dues like the rest of the crews,  
And have two coats of tar on her bottom."

Mark Townsend said "Pete, that tail's fit to eat,  
I'll take a bit home to the wife."  
The crowd on the beach, said that little speech  
Was the longest he'd made in his life.

The news got around and Julian Brown  
Said "Notify the E.E.C. Fish Bureau."  
Mark Prout and Ian Honey said "Let's make some money  
Running coaches from Plymouth and Truro."

Graham Woods to his wife, said "Get me a knife,  
I'll sell her with chips to the trippers."  
Bernard Baker said "Lou, I know what I'll do.  
I'd smoke her down and make kippers."

The crowds filled the place, and Sparshop and Mace,  
Reported a boom in their trade,  
While Robby and Ruth, made a pile-that's the truth-  
Selling prints of this fishy young maid.

The Port Isaac Singers, and local bell ringers,  
Sang songs and rang bells "Con brio",  
And Robin said "Fred, the idea's in my head,  
She could make page three of the *Trio*."

Said Carole to Mark, "I think it's a shark,  
Look at that tail made for splashing."  
Said Mark, with a laugh, "I see the top half  
And that bit certainly looks smashing."

The end of this tale is, she went up for sale  
In two lots, and the result is quite daffy,  
The top half that's rude, wed a farmer at Bude,  
The tail went to Dave's Cornish Cafe.