

"**The Merry Month of May**" is a poem by Thomas Dekker (c. 1572–1632), an English Elizabethan dramatist and pamphleteer. "The Merry Month of May" is a part of Dekker's play, *The Shoemaker's Holiday*, first performed in 1599.

O the month of May, the merry month of May,  
So frolic, so gay, and so green, so green, so green!  
O, and then did I unto my true love say:  
"Sweet Peg, thou shalt be my summer's queen!"

Now the nightingale, the pretty nightingale,  
The sweetest singer in all the forest's choir,  
Entreats thee, sweet Peggy, to hear thy true love's tale;  
Lo, yonder she sitteth, her breast against a brier.

But O, I spy the cuckoo, the cuckoo, the cuckoo;  
See where she sitteth: come away, my joy;  
Come away, I prithee: I do not like the cuckoo  
Should sing where my Peggy and I kiss and toy."

O the month of May, the merry month of May,  
So frolic, so gay, and so green, so green, so green!  
And then did I unto my true love say:  
"Sweet Peg, thou shalt be my summer's queen!"





**Maypoles** were erected "simply" as "signs that the happy season of warmth and comfort had returned." Their shape allowed for garlands to be hung from them and were first seen, at least in the British Isles, between AD 1350 and 1400 within the context of medieval Christian European culture.

In Canada, maypole dances are sometimes done as part of Victoria Day celebrations which occur in May. In New Westminster, British Columbia, dancing around the may pole and May Day celebrations have been held for 149 years.

