

GEORDIE – A Commentary

In the Middle Ages the most popular form of poetry was the *ballad*. Minstrels told their stories using rhymes and repetitions: musicality made easier and more memorable their tales.

Ballads were originally meant for singing and dancing and were rediscovered and translated into English in the 19th century, when the interest in the past was revived.

Geordie is the story of a pretty girl who goes to London on her white pony to ask pardon for her lover. Her man, Geordie, is accused of stealing sixteen deer from the king's forest - a story similar to Robin Hood's. In that period, the Normans established the *forest laws* that punished with death who poached in the royal woods.

Unfortunately she is too late, Geordie is condemned and she is desperate: the hangman will hang Geordie from a golden chain because he is of royal blood.

There are many different versions of Geordie's ballad and it still circulates in Great Britain for the implicit criticism towards the privileges of ruling classes.

It shows the typical figure of a wife's behaviour and her strong bond with a man she considers superior to her. Of course she is also a mother of more than one child, according to the mentality of the times when women were not expected to be autonomous and independent but they generally lived subdued to men.