

I have been a foster

Edited by Jason Smart

Robert Cooper (d.1539/40)

I

II

III

4

7

11

I have bene a fos - ter Long and ma - ny
I have bene a fos - ter Long and
I have bene a fos - ter Long and

a day; Fos - - - ter wyl I be no
ma - ny a day; Fos - ter wil I be no
ma - ny a day; Fos - ter wil I be no more, No

more, No len - ger shote I may; Yet have
more, No len - ger shote I may; Yet have
len - ger shote I may; Yet have I

I bene a fost - - - - - er.
I bene a fost - - - - - er.
bene a fost - - - - - er.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>2. Hange I wyl my nobyl bow
upon the grenewod bough,
For I can notte shote in playne
nor yett in rough;
Yet have I bene a foster.</p> | <p>5. My berd ys so hard, God wot,
when I shulde maydyns kysse,
Thay stand abak and make it strange.
Lo, age ys cause of this.
Yet have I bene a foster.</p> |
| <p>3. Every bowe for me ys to bygge;
myne arow ny worne ys;
The glew ys slypt frome the nyk;
when I shuld shoote I myse;
Yet have I bene a foster.</p> | <p>6. Now will I take to me my bedes
for and my sauter booke,
And pray I wyll for them that may,
for [I] may nowght but loke.
Yet have I bene a foster.</p> |
| <p>4. Lady Venus hath commaundyd me
owt of her courte to go.
Ryght playnly she shewith me
that beawtye ys my foo.
Yet have I bene a foster.</p> | |

Editorial Conventions

The original clef, staff signature and first note of each part are shown on the prefatory staves.

The original staff signatures have been retained in the score.

Editorial accidentals are placed above the notes concerned.

The sign denotes a ligature.

The spelling of the text is that of the source with abbreviations expanded and punctuation and capitalisation added.

Inconsistencies of spelling between the voices have been retained.

Source

London, British Library Add. MS 31922 (the 'Henry VIII Manuscript', c.1510–13).

f.65^v (voices in *cantus collateralis* format) After the verses: .D. Cooper. [= Doctor Cooper]

Notes

The signa congruentiae in bar 5 presumably indicate a repeat of bars 5–9.

Verses 2–6 are not underlaid to the music, but are given on the facing page. Since all the verses end with the same refrain as verse 1 they are presumably to be sung to the same music, although some shoehorning is required.

There is little or no attempt in the manuscript source to align the underlay with the notation, although some attempt was made to space syllables in the Bass part. There is little problem with bars 1–6, but thereafter the intentions become more conjectural and the solutions in the edition are largely editorial. The readings of the source are not listed here, but they can be assessed online via the digital images of the source on the British Library's Digitised Manuscripts webpages: https://www.bl.uk/manuscripts/FullDisplay.aspx?ref=Add_MS_31922 and at www.diamm.ac.uk.