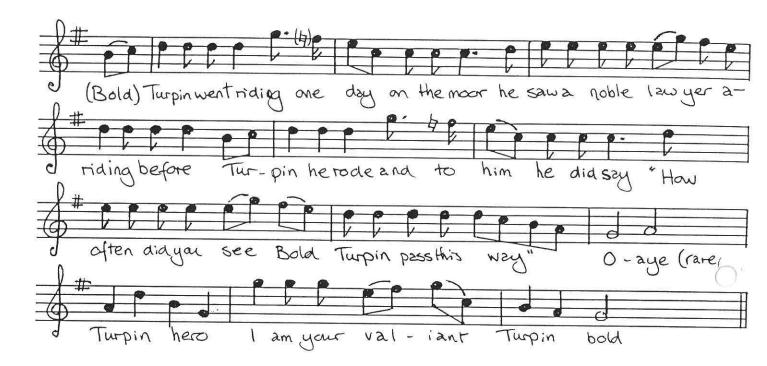
Bold Turpin



BOLD TURPIN

The broadside ballad text has been quoted in full as it seems that all oral versions stem from it though they are much shorter in content. The last verse of the oral ballads is slightly different but this is probably due to the longer ballad being reprinted in the late 19th C. on the big broadside presses. I like Mr Punt's refrain to this song, it sounds very countrified and a much bolder statement than the broadside version.

Bold Turpin was riding one day on the moor He saw a noble lawyer a riding before Turpin he rode and to him did say How often did you see bold Turpin ride this way

O aye Turpin hero I am your valiant Turpin bold

Now say Turpin for to be after (artful) My money I have hid in my boot And now says the lawyer a man cannot find I have hid my money in my cape coat behind

0 aye etc

And they rode together and came to a mill Turpin bid the lawyer to stand still Take off your coat sir it must come off My horse is in want of a saddle cloth

0 aye etc

Now Turpin has robbed him of all his store And when that has gone he knows where to get more And the very first town that you come in Tell him you've been robbed by bold Turpin

O aye etc

Now Turpin is caught
And for a game cock he was hung at last
A hundred pounds there he laid aside
All for Jack Ketch his legacy

0 aye etc

O RARE TURPIN HERO

On Hounslow heath as I rode o'er I spied a lawyer riding before Kind sir said I aren't you afraid Of Turpin that mischievous blade

0 rare Turpin hero 0 rare Turpin 0

Says Turpin he'd ne'er find me out
I've hid my money in my boot
O says the lawyer there's none can find
My gold for it's stitched in my cape behind

As they rode down by the powder mill Turpin commands him to stand still Said he your cape I must cut off For my mare she wants a saddle cloth

This caus'd the lawyer much to fret To think he was so fairly bit And Turpin robb'd him of his store Because he knew he'd lie for more

As Turpin rode in search of prey He met an exciseman on the way Then boldly he did bid him stand Your gold said he I do demand

To that the exciseman did reply Your proud demands I must deny Before my money you receive One of us two shall cease to live

Turpin then without remorse Soon knocked him quite from off his horse And left him on the ground to sprawl So off he rode with his gold and all

As he rode over Salisbury Plain
He met Lord Judge with all his train
Then hero like he did approach
And robb'd the judge as he sat in his coach

An usurer as I am told Who had in charge a sum of gold With a cloak was clouted from side to side Just like a palmer he did ride

And as he jogg'd along the way He met with Turpin that same day With hat in hand most courteously He asked for charity

If that be true thou tell'st to me I'll freely give thee charity
But I made a row and that I'll keep
To search all palmers I may meet

He searched his bags wherein he found Upwards of eight hundred pound I've ready gold and white money Which made him to laugh heartily

This begging is a curious trade For in thy way thou hast well sped This prize I count as money found Because thou tolds't me an arrant lie

For shooting of a dunghill cock Poor Turpin now at last is took And carried straight unto a jail Where his ill luck he does bewail

Now some do say that he will hang Turpin the last of all the gang I wish this cock had ne'er been hatch'd For like a fish in a net he's catch'd

But if he had his liberty And were upon you mountains high There's not a man in England Dare bid bold Turpin for to stand

He ventur'd bold at young and old And fairly fought them for their gold Of no man he was e'er afraid But now alas he is betray'd

Now Turpin is condemn'd to die To hang upon yon gallows high His legacy is a strong rope For stealing a poor dunghill cock

Chappell notes - The Dunghill Cock or Turpin's valiant exploit a pamphlet entered according to order at Stationers Hall but undated. The above song called Turpin's Valour to its own proper tune.