

Poeta Atlantiae Competition Entry

For

Deirdre O'Bardon

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Attached are my entries for the Poeta Atlantiae competition. In accordance with the theme of the competition, I have attached a poem about home and a poem about the journey home together with documentation. The two poems are: Atlantian Home (a quintilla) and A Bard's Journey (a ballad).

If chosen as Poeta Atlantiae, I will happily be available to serve Their Majesties. I will teach classes on poetry at both the beginner and more advanced levels. Additionally, I will sponsor poetry competitions and otherwise encourage poetry in local groups.

Atlantian Home

My heart is lifting in the spring
Rejoice! The plague is fading fast
People of Atlantia sing!
We pray this year will bounty bring
That death and pain will never last.

Bountiful Atlantian lands
Verdant vision in summer sun
All gladly do as King commands
From her mountains to her sea strands
Great joy is known by everyone.

Again we gather with our friends
To fight and play and sing our songs.
Our eager hugs a message sends,
Together we can make amends
For times alone that were long!

Rich fruits harvest as leaves turn gold
From land and sea a harvest fair
From sea strand to upland wold
Atlantia's bounty is manifold
And all partake of her bounty rare

Atlantia, so fair and bright
Bright jewel nestled by the sea
Majestic in her winter white
On this, our home, there shines a light
Atlantia I gladly see!

By Deirdre O'Bardon

Documentation for Atlantian Home

Atlantian Home is a quintanilla, a specifically Spanish form of the quintain. It is believed that the quintilla was originally formed in the sixteenth century by separating the 9 or 10 line *copla de arte menor* into two verses. The quintain is also called a quintet or cinquain and consists of five-line verses. Meter and rhyme schemes vary.

Each verse of the quintilla has five octosyllabic lines. The quintilla requires that there be only two rhymes per stanza and no more than two consecutive lines may rhyme. Additionally, no verse may end with a couplet. Given these restrictions, the rhyme schemes available are ababa, abbab, abaab, aabab and aabba. (See *The New Princeton Encyclopedia of Poetry and Poetics*, pp. 1012-1013.) I chose to write Atlantian Home using the abbaab rhyme scheme.

Atlantian Home	
My heart is lifting in the spring	a
Rejoice! The plague is fading fast	b
People of Atlantia sing!	a
We pray this year will bounty bring	a
That death and pain will never last.	b
Bountiful Atlantian lands	a
Verdant vision in summer sun	b
All gladly do as King commands	a
From her mountains to her sea strands	a
Great joy is known by everyone.	b
Again we gather with our friends	a
To fight and play and sing our songs.	b
Our eager hugs a message sends,	a
Together we can make amends	a
For times alone that were long!	b
Rich fruits harvest as leaves turn gold	a
From land and sea a harvest fair	b
From sea strand to upland wold	a
Atlantia's bounty is manifold	a
And all partake of her bounty rare	b
Atlantia, so fair and bright	a
Bright jewel nestled by the sea	b
Majestic in her winter white	a
On this, our home, there shines a light	a
Atlantia I gladly see!	b

The Bard's Journey

Many the miles that I have walked
Since last I saw my home
To many people I have talked
As through the world I roam.

Singing a song and wearing a smile
In sunshine or in rain
For a bard must his host beguile
And never show his pain.

I felt alive and full of song
Eager to sing and play
But years grew long. So did my step
More weary grew my way

Soon I thought upon my friends
And land I left behind.
I learned that the road never ends.
Could my own hearth I find?

I turned around and found my way
Back to my kindred land
Now with my friends and hearth I stay
This is my life so grand.

Deirdre O'Bardon

Documentation for A Bard's Journey

The concept of a journey poem is appealing to me, but what type of journey should I describe? I started in the Society as a bard and poet more than 30 years ago. Although I have done many things since then, bard craft and poetry are in my soul. It seemed very appropriate to write a poem about a bard's journey. How would a bard write about his own journey? In a song, of course! So, I chose the traditional ballad form.

According to *The New Princeton Encyclopedia of Poetry and Poetics*, the ballad meter is based on "the ballads collected by F.J. Child in the later 19th c., though probably they date from medieval times, probably the 14th-15th cs., and quite possibly from considerably earlier; the oldest extant ballad, *Judas*, is in a 13th-c. ms." I have the five volume set of Child's ballads and know that the form varies considerably.

According to *The New Princeton Encyclopedia of Poetry and Poetics*, the form of the ballad called common meter has 4 accents in the odd lines and 3 in the even lines. The ballad meter can use either an abcb or an abab rhyme scheme. I chose the more difficult abab scheme.