

Ode to Thanksgiving in Exeter (with apologies to Clement Moore)

The following poem was written by Terry Joyce, Kenyon '83, who is currently studying (among other things) at Exeter:

(note: Gerrit and Janet
Roelofs live at 13 C Howell)

'Twas the day of Thanksgiving
throughout the U.S.
But in the U.K.,
these blokes couldn't care less.

Yet at 13 C Howell
there was no despair
For Mom and Dad Roelofs
knew we'd be there

The Brits were all home
knowing not our delight
Of roast turkey and stuffing
they'd taste not a bite

Janet in her apron
assured "Dad" would be back
Bid us all to sit down,
hung our coats on the rack

All seemed quite content
with the sociable chatter
But secretly dreamed
of a Turkey much fatter

As our thoughts of the States
gave a tear to each lash
We all were quite startled
by a deafening crash!

Concern, fear, and worry
enveloped us all
We gave no more thoughts
to Middle Path and Peirce Hall.

When what to our saucer-like
eyes should appear
But a pretty big tray
holding fine English beer

Our kind host's impish face
with a bright smile was lit,
We each knew in a moment
it must be Ger-rit!

Our attention was captured
we all watched him with zeal
Distribute the most essential
part of our meal:

"Now Lager, now Bitter, how 'bout
Guinness's stout?
There's two kinds of cider,
so either drink or get out!"

At such pitiless orders
one hesitates not
In fact every one of us
drank like an old sot!

For a time we discussed
favorite holidays past
But all who were homesick
got over it fast

We guessed, for a moment
how Gambier was faring—
Did they think of us much,
was anyone caring?

Our conjectures were halted,
the feast was brought on

Thanks were given for all our
friends back at Kenyon

As we sat by the tea hearth
with post-repast glasses
There could not have been
happier lads and lasses

Among our twenty we
most certainly agreed
There existed a message
for all you to read:

In this season of goodwill
toward women and men
We send love and best wishes
to all of Kenyon

These warmest of sentiments
perhaps aren't enough
But we're too far away
to send more, so that's tough!

Merry Christmas everyone—cheerio!

Love, (the Kenyon Exeter group)

Terry Joyce	Anne Brenner
Lauren Tribby	Jennifer Pierson
Betsy Bacon	Sarah Corey
Ralph Smith	Mike Gee
Kevin Williams	Mike Rapaport
Lisa Harpring	Warren Pemsler
Margot Maffei	Julia Bohin
Kelly Doyle	Anne Jay
Lucy Hitchcock	Jennifer Schanupp

& the Roelofs