



JIM C'S QUIZ OF THE WEEK MONDAY - 12/31/2007

← **Robert Burns, national poet of Scotland, by Alexander Reid**

At this time of the year we need to think back on all that has happened and then sing "*auld lang syne*."

HOW DID THE PHRASE "*AULD LANG SYNE*" ORIGINATE?

This is a simple five-verse Scottish song or poem meaning literally 'long time since.' In spite of the popularity of "*auld lang syne*," it has aptly been described as 'the song that nobody knows'. Even in Scotland, hardly a gathering sings it correctly.

"*Auld lang syne*" was reportedly written in 1788 by Robert Burns, who is considered to be "the Bard" of Scotland. Some think that the song can best be summed up in one single verse, which is usually sung in the famous shortened version of the piece.

Imagine these words being spoken by one solid friend to another and forget the song!

Verse

**And there's a hand my trusty fiere,
And gie's a hand o thine
And we'll tak a right guid-willie waught,
For auld lang sine**

Translation

**And there is a hand my trusted friend
And give me a hand of yours
And we will take of a good drink/toast
For old long ago**

Moment of Zen: Whoever wrote these simple lines surely expressed what many of us, all too often, fail to say.