



Agnes Elphinston



Name: Agnes Elphinston

Once women were 'put to the prines' (running pins all over their body to find the Devil's mark), it was unusual for them to be found innocent - the prickers could usually come up with something.

So for Christian, Mareon and Agnes all to be found innocent in this test, is quite remarkable. And even more so, when we remember that they themselves requested to undergo this painful treatment.

Could it be that they knew the pricker and the commissioner personally, and knew that they would be treated kindly? Or perhaps the women had powerful connections, and money for a bribe.



*Ah am Agnes Elphinston,
caught in another's tale.
He swore we danced wi' napkins round a fire.
We said we warmed cloths
We asked the pricker;
his pins proved us women,
not witches.
Still, I washed my hands, but couldnae rid the
smell o' tallow and fear.
Mind me,
for quiet courage,
and the truth I held*

