

Bagpuss¹ 1800-1904²
by Pol Hodge

And when The Language goes to sleep,
all her friends do as well.
The place-names were
only meaningless words on a map,
dialects east and west were
only decayed English.
And the Cornish Literature
only a guide book for the furthest English county.
And The Language herself,
once asleep,
was just an old, dead, academic language
- dusty and a bit loose in the pages;
but the people loved her.

¹ Bagpuss was a BBC childrens' television programme broadcast during the 1980s.

² Kernewek (the Cornish language) was a dead language between 1880 and 1904 i.e. nobody spoke, or knew how to speak it.