

## Ode to the Toad

A silly expression,  
Made just for a lark,  
'You look like a toad!'  
My best friend remarked,  
And the gauntlet was down, the challenge was on  
To seek out the toad, here and there, from now on.  
Too easy, the plastic,                      the printed, the drawn  
The sticker, the badge,                      the jar of frogspawn.  
The rivalry grew as did our collections  
Of all things toad and, of course, our affection  
For this unlovely beast, warty, dry to the touch.  
Though, for sure, not a 'looker', its presence is such  
That it pops up in unlikely places. I wager  
That no-one else owns a toad toilet roll holder.  
(My friend struck gold                      with this wedding gift winner;  
An expanding toad                      flannel returned the favour.)  
A toad-head pot holder,                      a pen top, a brooch,  
A shower cap, ornaments,                      cards in the post,  
So a hand-knitted dishcloth's                      my new contribution  
Watch this space, or join in                      our amphibian tradition...

*"Poetry is the art of creating imaginary gardens with real toads."*

*-- Marianne Moore*