

Jim Jones in Botany Bay - a grisly picture of the punishment for what was often a crime of no more than petty theft. In 1788, eleven ships, known today as the "First Fleet," left Portsmouth, loaded with convicts for the penal colony in New South Wales. Transportation ended in 1868, and the convicts became Australia's first white settlers. The tune is by an Australian singer, Mick Slocum.

All My Sailors - (Publisher - Timberhead) - a Gordon Bok song that speaks of the strength drawn from friends and good company. Learned, with a couple of mistakes, from Gordon's lovely recording, Schooners.

Normandy Orchards - (Publisher - Fellside Music) - by the late Keith Marsden. As an evacuee from London during the second world war, I remember the build up of troops for the Normandy invasion. Keith has caught the mood of those times remarkably well. Learned from English singer, Dave Webber.

The Gallant Frigate Amphitrite - found in the Penguin Book of English Folk Songs, gives a vivid description of the terrors of rounding Cape Horn, and the pleasures to be had that might have made the ordeal all worthwhile, at least, in the rosy reflections of an old sailor.

Poor Fellows - is sung in Peter Bellamy's folk opera, The Transports. by the father of Henry Cabel, the poor fellow being shipped as a convict to Australia in the "First Fleet". Henry married his true love and fellow convict, Susannah, and after fourteen years of hard labor, became something of an entrepreneur.

Just as the Tide was a'flowin' - this tale of a pleasure-seeking young sailor taking advantage of a trusting young lady, can be found in Marrow Bones, a collection of English folk songs. Morris dancers know this tune as "The Blue Eyed Stranger".

Young Edwin in the Lowlands - The Penguin Book of English Folk Songs, tells us that the tune is sometimes used for the carol, "Come all you worthy Christians", quite a switch. Emma, Edwin's love is true, but her parents are another story.

Spring Song - (Publisher - Tamlyn Music) - from the pen of English singer and songwriter, Alan Bell, inspired by a walk he took on a spring day in the Lake District. The song is printed in Sing Out, Vol. 39, No.1, and is on an Alan Bell recording, The Band in the Park.

Treat Me Daughter Decent - more or less from the Frank and Anne Warner Collection, Traditional American Folk Songs, and sometimes known as " a song to a prospective son-in-law". It was a favorite of the author, Jack London, back in the 1890's.

We Have Fed Our Sea - part of a Rudyard Kipling poem, "Song of the Dead," that speaks of Britain's maritime heritage, and the lot of the sailor who did "pay the price of admiralty." The "Ducies" and the "Swin", are sand banks in the North sea. The musical setting is by the late Peter Bellamy.

Bogie's Bonny Belle - learned from a recording of Davy Stewart. I cannot match the intensity of his rendition, or attempt the dialect, hence, a more laid back approach. The expression "for to fee", means, in this case, going to a hiring fair to get a job.

The Glendy Burk - a Stephen Foster "nonsense song". There is record of a steamboat named the Glendy Burk that plied the Ohio and Mississippi rivers in the 1850's, so Foster did not make the name up.

The Flying Cloud - although this ballad is widely known, there is no record of there ever being a pirate ship of this name. Bill Doerflinger, in his book Songs of the Sailor and Lumberman, tells us that it is probably from the 1830's, and may have been inspired by the "Dying Declaration of Nicholas Fernandez", who was executed for piracy in Cadiz in 1829.

Cape Ann - (Publisher - Timberhead) - by Gordon Bok, a warning on the perils of sailing with a drunken sea captain. Gordon sings it on his Folk Legacy Recording, Peter Kagen and the Wind.

Henry VIII - from the singing of turn of the century music hall singer, Harry Champion. I think I read somewhere that King Henry VIII founded the British Navy, however, the relationship of Henry in the song to the rather large king, is unclear.

Notes By David Jones

JD-213: From England's Shore

The Performers:

David Jones is originally from South East London, but, for the past thirty odd years, has been living in various parts of the USA finally settling, with his wife Louise, in Leonia NJ, gateway to the golden west. He has been singing songs such as the ones on this album, for a very long time and thanks those from whom he learned them, and those who have helped him out in singing them. Since about 1994, he has been part of an a capella group "Poor Old Horse", with Heather Wood and Tom Gibney.

Heather Wood is the only surviving member of the "Young Tradition" (— "that most notable of English folk groups," — The Stage, UK). Her songs have been recorded by many folk luminaries, and the YT recordings have been reissued on CD. Born in Yorkshire, she now lives in New York City.

Tom Gibney's parents moved from Ireland to New York just in time for him to be born in the Bronx. He is known for his stylish singing and fiddle playing and lives in Princeton, New Jersey, with his wife Patty and sons Michael and David.

Jerry (Dr. Jerome) Epstein has sung with David for many years, in Music Hall, and in a group known as the "Bermuda Quadrangle". Jerry did the musical notation for Traditional American Folk Songs , mentioned in the notes, and his CD, "Time Has Made a Change", is on Minstrel Records. Here he plays piano and concertina.

Bill Shute in his young days was a member of a rock group, "The Fifth Estate" whose hit song was the unforgettable "Ding Dong, the Wicked Witch is Dead". Bill and David recorded an album of songs for young audiences, "Widdecombe Fair", which won a Parents Choice Magazine Gold Award in 1991. Bill plays guitar and banjo on this recording, and lives in Connecticut with his wife Jackie and son Toby.