

# TRANSLATING SEA SHANTIES

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## RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. WHAT ARE SEA SHANTIES?
2. ARE THERE SEA SHANTIES IN CZECH?
3. WHAT LEAD TO THE TRANSFER OF SEA SHANTIES?
4. WHO ADOPTED SEA SHANTIES?
5. WHICH SONGS WERE ADOPTED?
6. WHAT CHANGED WHEN THEY WERE TRANSFERRED FROM A MARITIME CULTURE TO A LANDLOCKED ONE?

## WHAT ARE SEA SHANTIES?

19TH CENTURY WORK SONGS OF MERCHANT SEAMEN WORKING ON SAILING SHIPS

## ARE THERE SEA SHANTIES IN CZECH?

WHAT SHALL WE DO WITH THE DRUNKEN SAILOR  
BLOW THE MAN DOWN  
BLOW, BOYS, BLOW  
SANTA ANNA  
COAST OF HIGH BARBAREE  
SHENANDOAH  
SOUTH AUSTRALIA  
RIO GRANDE  
THE BANKS OF SACRAMENTO  
TEN THOUSAND MILES AWAY  
STORMALONG  
BLOW, WE WINDS

	INDEPENDENT	FOLK
	3	3
	2	
	1	
	2	
	1	
	3	
	2	
	1	
	3	1
	1	
	2	

## 24 INDEPENDENT VERSIONS, 4 FOLK VERSIONS

MAJORITY CREATED BETWEEN 1960 – 1970

## WHICH SONGS WERE ADOPTED?

- AMERICAN SHANTIES OR SHANTIES POPULAR IN AMERICA AND MADE INTO FOLK SONGS
- THE ODD ONES – OLDEST AND MOST POPULAR SHANTIES, MAINLY MUSICALLY INTERESTING, LESS REPETITIVE, MORE STORY DRIVEN SONGS
- SONGS FROM NON-SPECIALISED COLLECTIONS

## WHAT LEAD TO THE ADOPTION OF SEA SHANTIES?

- BOATING AND SAILING
- LOVE OF ADVENTURE, COWBOYS AND PIRATES
- FOLK REVIVAL
- INTEREST IN AMERICAN MUSIC
- CZECH COLLECTIONS OF AMERICAN FOLK SONGS
- TRIVIAL TEXTS EASY TO REMEMBER
- CATCHY TUNES
- INOFFENSIVE FOR THE REGIME

## WHO ADOPTED SEA SHANTIES?

- SEA SCOUTS – VODNÍ PĚTKA (NOVÁK)
- TRAMPS, BOATERS, YACHTERS (VILDA DUBSKÝ)
- TRAMP, COUNTRY AND FOLK BANDS – RANGERS, GREENHORNS, FEŠÁCI, ASONANCE
- POPULAR SINGERS – MATUŠKA (BOROVEC, FISCHER), ZAGOROVÁ, RADŮZA
- COLLECTORS – TAM, KDE TEČE MISSISSIPPI (MAREŠ), AMERICKÁ LIDOVÁ POEZIE (HIRŠAL, MAREŠ), OHEŇ Z DŘÍVÍ EUKALYPTU (ULBERT)

## POSSIBLE ORAL TRANSMISSION FROM ENGLISH SEA SCOUTS

*Sacramento*  
Stan Hugill (coll.)  
1996 [1961]

Oh, as I was walkin' on the quay,  
Hoodah! Hoodah!  
A charmin' gal I chanct to see.  
Hoodah, hoodah, day!

**Blow boys, blow!**  
**For Califon-eye-O!**  
There's plenty o' gold so I've bin told,  
On the banks o' the Sacramento.

### VOCABLES

### COLLOQUIAL

### PRONUNCIATION

*Když toulal jsem se*  
Jaroslav Novák (Bratčka)  
? [1913 – 1950]

Když toulal jsem se nábřežím  
a hůdědej a hůdědej,  
tu náhle krásnou dívku zrím  
a hůde, hůdědej.

*Vpřed kluci, vpřed*  
do Kalifornie,  
kde plno zlata čeká nás,  
na břehu Sacramenta.

## COUNTRY VERSION

*Ví to každej ví*  
Rangers  
1993

Zůstat doma snít,  
zůstat doma spát,  
kdo tohle po nás bude chtít,  
tomu se budem smát. (2x)

Kolikrát jsem chtěl už mít  
lady, svou lady,  
na ranči s ní hezky žít,  
ví to každej, ví.

### DOMESTICATED

### TRANSLATED VOCABLES

### COUNTRY THEMES

## TRANSLATED FROM A COLLECTION NOT FOR SINGING

*California*  
Carl Sandburg (coll.)  
1927

When formed our band, we are all well manned  
To journey a-far to the promised land;  
The golden ore is rich in store  
On the banks of the Sacramento shore.

**Then ho, boys, ho**  
To California go,  
There's plenty of gold in the world, I'm told,  
On the banks of the Sacramento shore.

### NO VOCABLES

*Kalifornie*  
Josef Hiršal  
1961

My s partou svou měli v mžiku fit,  
do zaslíbené země vyrazit.  
Zlaté rudy má celý cent  
říční břeh, kudy teče Sacrament.

### NON-COLLOQUIAL

*Hej, hoši, já!*  
Do Kalifonie!  
Zlata tají metrák, jak říkají,  
říční břeh kudy teče Sacrament.

## EVOLVED INTO FOLK VERSION FOR SINGING

*Kalifornie*  
folk version / Josef Hiršal  
? [AFTER 1961]

My partu měli v mžiku fit, tjudá tjudá,  
a tak jsme mohli vyrazit, tjudá tjudá dej.  
Tam, kde je zlata celej cent, tjudá tjudá,  
na březích řeky Sakrament, tjudá tjudá dej.

### VOCABLES

### COLLOQUIAL