

A Hundred Years on the Eastern Shore

A short haul shanty collected from John Short of Watchet by Cecil Sharp in 1914. Short was, by then 75 years old – he had served as sailor, shantymen, mate and captain around the world in the hey-day of commercial sailing. Most of the words are Short's with a couple added from an A L Lloyd version.

The shanty arrangement is unusual in that, in the original, verse and chorus are hugely overlapped. But this may have been typical of short-haul shanties.

Well a hundred years on the eastern shore

Oh yes, Oh

Oh, a hundred years on the eastern shore

A Hundred years ago

Well its Bully John from Baltimore

Well I knew him well on the eastern shore

Well it's Bully John's the boy for me

He's a bucko on land and a bully at sea

Oh, Bully John, I knew him well

But now he's dead and gone to hell.

A hundred years have passed an' gone,

'Tis a hundred years since I wrote this song.

Around Cape Stiff where the wild winds blow

Around Cape Stiff through sleet and snow.

Around Cape Horn with frozen sails,

Around Cape Horn to fish for whales.

Well it's been a long time and a very long time

Well it's been a long time since I made this rhyme

Well I thought I heard the old man say

Well it's one more pull and then belay.