

## Maid of Amsterdam

*Traditional shanty originally used when working pump brakes and windlass levers. As ship technology changed and regular pumping was no longer needed the rhythm of this song was adapted for use as a capstan shanty. Should not be sung too fast - 'A roving, a roving' should be timed to fit the downward movement of a four foot diameter flywheel pump. Roud 649.*

In Amsterdam there lived a maid  
<In unison> *Mark well what I do say!*  
In Amsterdam there lived a maid  
And she was mistress of her trade  
<In unison> *I'll go no more a-roving with you fair maid!*

### Chorus

*A-roving a-roving  
Since roving's been my ru-i-in  
I'll go no more a roving  
With you fair maid!*

I asked this maid to take a walk <x2>  
That we might have some private talk

I put my arm around her waist <x2>  
Sez she 'Young man, yer in great haste!'

I put my hand upon her knee <x2>  
Sez she 'Young man, yer rather free!'

I put my hand upon her thigh <x2>  
Sez she 'Young man, yer rather high!'

Then a great big Dutchman rammed my bow <x2>  
And said 'Young man, dees ees meine frau!'

So take fair warning boys from me <x2>  
With other men's wives don't make too free