

The Transports' Shanty

From "The Transports" a ballad opera written in 1973 by Peter Bellamy about transport of the first convicts from England to Australia.

Sweet ladies of Plymouth we're saying "Goodbye"

Ro-o-oll down

But we'll rock you and roll you again bye and bye

Walk around m' brave boys and roll down

Chorus

We will Ro-o-oll down

Walk around m' brave boys and roll down

Our anchor's a-weigh and the sails are unfurled

And we're bound for to take her half way round the world

In the wide Bay of Biscay the seas will run high

And those poor seasick Transports will wish they could die

When the Cape of Good Hope it is rounded at last

The poor homesick Transports will long for the past

And when we arrive off Australia's strand

The poor weary Transports will long for the land

And when we set sail for old England's shore

Those poor stranded Transports we'll see then no more

Then sweet ladies of Plymouth we'll pay all your rent

And go roving no more 'til our money's all spent