Shantyman

Arranged Martin Jones by permission of the composer.



Bob Watson.



Now modern ships carry mighty funny gear, Ain't seen a halyard in many's a year, Slick new fittings is all you'll sight, All very clever, but it just ain't right;

Now dials and buttons is all they'll need And yer real live sailor he's a vanishing breed It's pushing on the buttons and pulling on the levers And they got no use for horny-handed heavers.

Old-time ways are forgotten and gone, And nobody listens to a shantyman's song. Things no longer like they used to be; It's the knacker's yard for the likes of me.

Cargo comes stowed in a polythene pack All raised and lowered by a dry bollocks jack; Floating computer dressed like a ship, Skippered and crewed by a micro chip. Ships'll soon be sailing by remote control An' that'll be pleasing to the owners' souls; They'll send their ships from dock to dock, Safe and sound in an office block.

New-fangled gear's no use to you When you're off Cape Horn with your fuses blew; Then's the time for to rue the day You sent your shantyman away.

Listen at night and you might hear A ghostly sound on the quiet air; Is it a voice from the distant past, Or just the wind a-whistling round the radar mast?