

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.

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
That we might have some private talk

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

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

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

Then a great big Dutchman rammed my bow,
And said "Young man, dees ees meine frau!"

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