Haul Away Joe

This is is a 'tack and sheet' shanty collected by Stan Hugill from maritime veteran Paddy Griffiths.



I sailed the seas for many a year not knowin' what i was missin'. Then I sets me sails afore the gales an' started in a-kissin'.

First I met a Yankee girl and she was fat and lazy, Then I met a Spanish girl and she nearly drove me crazy,

Then I got meself an Irish gal an' her name was Molly Flannigan. She stole me boots, she stole me clothes, she pinched me plate an' pannikin.

Louis was the King of France afore the revolution, Then he had his head cut off which spoilt his constitution.

The cook is in the galley boys makin' duff so handy. The captain's in his cabin lads drinkin' wine and brandy.

Saint Patrick was a gentleman. He came from decent people. He built a church in Dublin Town and on it put a steeple.

Once I was in Ireland a'diggin' turf and taties. But now I'm on a Yankee ship a haulin' on the braces.

Ye call yeself a second mate an' cannot tie a bowline, Ye cannot even stand up straight when the packet she's a-rollin'.