

Spanish Ladies

1. Farewell and adieu to you fair Spanish ladies
Farewell and adieu, you ladies of Spain
For we've received orders for to sail for old
England
But we hope in a short time to see you again.

**We'll rant and we'll roar like true British
sailors
We'll rant and we'll roar across the salt
sea;
Until we strike soundings in the Channel
of Old Eng-I-and.
From Ushant to Scilly is thirty-four
leagues.**

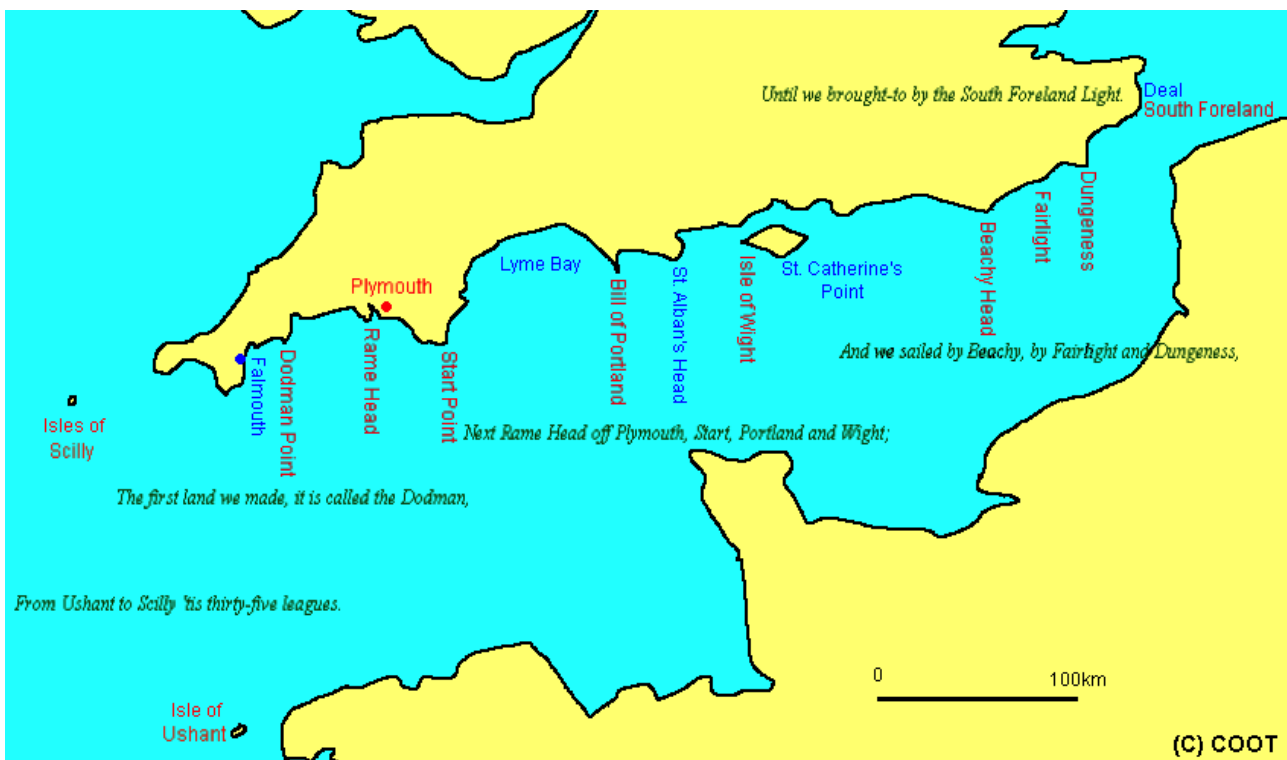
2. We hove our ship to with the wind at the
sou'west,
We hove our ship to, to take soundings clear.
In forty-five fathoms on a fine sandy bottom
We clewed our main tops'ls and up channel did
steer.

3. Now the first land we made was a point
called the Deadman,
Next Ram Head, past Plymouth, Start,
Portland and Wight
We sailed then by Beachy, by Fairlight, and
Dungeness, [or Dover]
Then wholly cracked on for the South Foreland
Light.

4. Then the signal was made for the grand
fleet to anchor,
All in the Downs that night for to lie.
Then it's stand by your stoppers, see clear
your shank-painters,
Haul all your clew garnets, let tacks and sheets
fly.

5. Now let every man toss off a full bumper
And let every man drink off a full glass
And we'll drink and be merry and drown
melancholy
Singing, here's a good health to each true-
hearted lass.

You can see where the song's landmarks in this map:



Coot, Stan : A Map of English Channel

From the web pages of **Oda Akio** (ARC Sea Shanty Club, Japan),
"Ransome Songs," www.geocities.jp/coot2tm/songs/
Thank you [Stan](#).

Notes:

A **Capstan** shanty - **homeward**, from 1769 or earlier.

Alternative Titles: Spanish Ladies, Farewell and Adieu

This version: Jones, Hughie **Seascape** CD

Notes on the Place Names

Ushant - island off the westernmost point of Brittany.

Ushant to Scilly - usually sung as 35 leagues but sometimes it's 34 or 45.

It's actually 38.732 leagues (187.0 KM)... But the distance from Ushant to Scilly had been used as an instrument of maritime law to determine the official length of the league, with the number increased or decreased depending whether the Crown wanted the league shorter or longer. Hence the song may correct, only outdated.

[from strangewords.wordpress.com/2015/11/17/from-ushant-to-scilly/]

Deadman - Dodman Point, headland near Mevagissey, Cornwall. Dodman means snail.

Ram Head - Rame Head, Cornwall, is a prominent hill west of the entrance to Plymouth Sound. (8 miles south of Rame are the Eddystone rocks, along with the Eddystone Light.)

Start - Start Point promontory in Devon, by Start Bay, where the Dart emerges

Portland - Portland Bill, promontory on the Isle of Portland, Dorset

Wight - St Catherine's Point, the southernmost tip of the Isle of Wight

Beachy - Beachy Head (Jones puts Fairlight first!)

Fairlight - East Sussex, about halfway between Hastings and Winchelsea (I'm not sure if it is Fairlight Hill or Fairlight Cove)

Dungeness - shingle headland, Kent. There have been seven lighthouses recorded here.

South Foreland - chalk headland five miles west of Dover, just before the Kent coast turns northward

The Downs - a roadstead, or sheltered area of sea, between Deal and the Goodwin Sands, between North and South Foreland - a very useful anchorage

Notes on other Words

league - the distance a person could walk in an hour, being 3 miles on land but at sea 3 nautical miles, which is about three and a half land miles. [wikipedia]

fathom - six feet

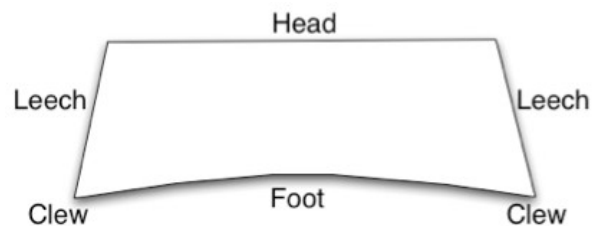
sandy bottom - sandy sea floor

clew - a lower corner of a square sail, to which **clew lines** are attached,

stoppers - to fasten the anchor onto the cathead

Shank painter - a short rope or chain by which the shank of an anchor is held fast to a ship's side when not in use

Clew garnet - the tackle attached to the clew line.



tacks - ropes attached to sails and leading forward

sheets - ropes attached to the sails and leading aft



Jon Such, *Bird's eye view of The Dodman* from nationaltrust.org.uk



Kevin Walsh, *Beachy Head Lighthouse* from commons.wikimedia.org