U3A Shanties

1. Whoa, haulee aye oh!

Cheer'ly, man!

Walk him up oh!

Cheer'ly, man!

Haulee, aye yeo!

Haulee, aye yeo!

Cheer'ly, man!

Oh to the cathead, aye oh!
 Cheer'ly, man!
 Oh ship for dead,
 Cheer'ly, man!
 Heavy as lead,
 heavy as lead,
 Cheer'ly, man!

3. Whoa, forty cocks
Cheer'ly, man!
Oh split her blocks
Cheer'ly, man!
Oh on the rocks,
Oh on the rocks
Cheer'ly, man!

Whoa, rouse an' shake 'er,
 Cheer'ly, man!
 Oh shake an' wake 'er
 Cheer'ly, man!
 Or we will make 'er,
 Or we will make 'er

Cheer'ly, man!

Barbara Brown sings this on CD Short Sharp Shanties: Sea songs of a Watchet sailor Vol 1, available from Wildgoose.co.uk. Not on YouTube.

Notes

Other titles: Cheer'ly Man, Cheerly Man, Cheerly Man

Stan Hugill:

[this] halyard shanty is only just faintly removed from singin' out. It is probably the most primitive and one of the oldest of these heaving and hauling songs of the sea.

Notes on the words

Cheer'ly - lively.

Used as an exhortation when work was to be done at speed. Its opposite is **handsomely**.

Cheer'ly Man

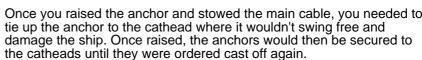
Cathead - a projecting piece of timber near the bow which served as crane booms for hoisting the anchors to the rail (see image above).

This lovely cathead picture is from

www.globalsecurity.org

Catting the Anchor:

Globalsecurity says:



The anchor ring is catted by the large hook attached to the projecting cathead.

The "Cat" here is the tackle is used to raise the anchor from the waterline to the catheads. The cat tackle has a multiple block to aid in lifting the anchor up to the cathead.

Catheads may derive their name from the carvings or cast iron caps in the form of cats or lions. These decorative heads were often plated in gold, and were one of the few ornaments found on a warship.

Ring

Shaft

Fluke

Fluke

Crown

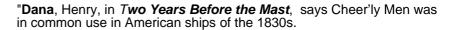
For more information about the age of sail, see the excellent site: www.globalsecurity.org/military/systems/ship/sail.htm

See also my illustrated page: Glossary of Anchors and Anchoring.

Notes from the <u>Short</u> <u>Sharp Shanties</u> project

"A widespread and widely published shanty. **Short** told [Cecil] **Sharp** this was "One of the first chanties once invented and one I learned first" – this would have been on his first

learned first" – this would have been on his first deep-sea voyage on the Promise to Quebec in 1857.



"Hugill says "Never once does [Dana] mention the hoisting of a topsail or a t'gallants'l, or of catting the anchor, without referring to the fact that Cheerily Man was the shanty with which they did the job."

... "Short gave Sharp only one verse... [Short's version] gives an interesting version with only three solos and refrains." The remaining verses come from Hugill's 'catting the anchor' version of the shanty - conceptual rather than narrative.

