

China Sea

by Janie Meneely

In the town of Old Baltimore,
There stands a ship chandlery store
You can buy up old gear or a neat souvenir,
Rig your boat out from aft to the fore

CHORUS:

And they call it the old China Sea
Set your sails for the old China Sea
Well, it wasn't half bad, that ride that we had
When we sailed down the old China Sea

Now ladies, I'll you the truth
Twas back in my unblemished youth
I decided to seek a sailing antique
Authentic beyond all reproof
Ships were a mystery to me
When I sought out a ship chandlery
And decided to stop in that seafaring shop
The one called the old China Sea

CHORUS

Well up steps this old buccaneer,
Sez, "How can I help ya, m'dear?"
"Well, I'd like to invest in a sea captain's chest,
And I thought that I might find one here."
Oh that pirate, he winked his good eye,
Said, "I've got a chest you can buy.
Though its hinges are blown, it can still hold its own—
You'd think it was still in its prime."

CHORUS

Oh, the chest that he showed me was rare
Twas a real seagoing affair
It reeked of old booze and sported tattoos
Twas one-of-a-kind standing there.
But it wasn't your standard antique, oh no
Its braces and drawers were unique
But then even more so, I loved the whole torso
It was as they say, "Magnifique!"

CHORUS

Well we voyaged from here to Bangkok
We sailed round Gibraltar's great rock
And sure as you're born, we went round the Horn

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Without ever leaving the dock
If you've longed for adventure at sea
But you tend to get seasick like me
Just steer by the compass and keep up a rumpass
When you sail down the old China Sea

CHORUS +

And they call it the old China Sea
Set your sails for the old China Sea
Well, it curled up my toes when he yelled, "Thar she blows!"
We came and we went till his rudder got bent
I peeled off my panties when he sang those sea chanteys
Well it wasn't half bad that ride that we had
When we sailed down the old China Sea
My crusty old pirate and me