



Information and Release Sheet

LP – THE ENGLISH CANALS – JOHN KIRKPATRICK : SUE HARRIS : JON RAVEN  
BRO 118 ( £2.85 inc. )

The artists on this latest Broadside release are all widely known and respected in the folk music world and all have produced a large number of other recordings during the last decade. This recording was first issued as a series of three programmes on BBC radio's 'Folkweave' and is now available as a record and cassette (the cassette was released in early 1976 under the title 'Canal Navigation').

The idea for the programmes was first conceived when Jon Raven was working on a canals' documentary for Birmingham Repertory Theatre. The research for this documentary also provided the material for this record, a book of canal songs, and an lp of canal songs by the same performers on the Tradition label (The Bold Navigators, TSR 019). The programmes were written by Jon Raven and are sung and narrated by John Kirkpatrick, Sue Harris and Jon Raven.

Programme 1, side one, deals with the navvies, craftsmen and engineers who built the canals and gives some insight into the daily lives of these 'itinerants'. It ends with the songs and ceremonies once used to celebrate the opening of completed canals.

Programme 2, sides one and two, explores the nature of the canal companies that managed the 'cuts' and the people who worked the boats carrying coal, limestone, sugar, etc., etc. It illustrates the rise and eventual decline of the canals and canal people in the face of competition from the railways, from the time of the great canal era, which started in the 18th century, to the end of the 19th century.

Programme 3, side two, examined the problems that beset canal navigation in the late 19th and early 20th century. It ends with a brief look at present day conditions and possibilities.

The record should be entertaining and easy listening for folk and canal enthusiasts and should prove very useful to educationalists in schools, colleges and adult education.



# Broadside

RECORDS



## THE ENGLISH CANALS

BRO.118 (MONO - Playable Stereo)

The story of the English canals told from contemporary extracts, historical documents and songs.

Researched and written	:	Jon Raven
Narration	:	Jon Raven
Readings	:	John Kirkpatrick and Jon Raven
Songs	:	Jon Raven, John Kirkpatrick and Sue Harris
Oboe	:	Sue Harris
Guitar and dulcimer	:	Jon Raven
Accordion, concertina and melodion	:	John Kirkpatrick

### Useful reference material

#### BOOKS

- Canal Songs, Jon and Kate Raven, Broadside Records, 1974
- Canal Builders, The, Anthony Burton, Eyre and Methuen, 1972
- Canal Adventures by Moonlight, George Smith, 1881
- Canal Age, The, Charles Hadfield, David and Charles, 1968. Pan, 1971
- Government White Paper on Canals, 1967
- Historical Account of the Navigable Rivers, Canals and Railways of Great Britain, Priestley, 1831
- Inland Waterways of Great Britain, L.T.C. Rolt, Allen and Unwin, 1950
- Lives of the Engineers, S. Smiles, various volumes, 1862 etc.
- Navigable Waterways, L.T.C. Rolt, Longmans, 1969
- Royal Commission on Canals and Inland Waterways, 7 volumes, 1906 - 11, copies at Birmingham University Library
- Select Committee on Canals, 1878 and 1883

#### RECORDS (L.P.'s)

- The Bold Navigators, Tradition Records, TSR 019, featuring Jon Raven, John Kirkpatrick and Sue Harris. Also available on cassette
- Narrow Boats, BBC Publications. Conversations with boatmen plus some songs — mainly composed in recent years. Now on Argo Records 2TR 142
- Songs of the Inland Waterways, SFA Recordings Ltd., SFA 018

#### PLACES AND ORGANISATIONS

- British Transport Historical Records, 60 Porchester Road, London W.2
- British Waterways Canal Museum, Stoke Bruerne, Northamptonshire
- British Waterways Board, Canal Shop/Information Centre, 2 Kingston Row, Birmingham
- Inland Waterways Association, 114 Regents Park Road, London NW1

This record (also released as a cassette, BRO CAS 1, 'Canal Navigation'), contains three programmes originally broadcast on 'Folkweave', BBC Radio 1 and 2, in the summer of 1974. The programmes, each lasting approximately 22 minutes, tell the story of the construction, use and decline of the English canal system during the period from the mid 18th century to the present day : narration, contemporary readings and songs are employed to tell the tale.

Programme 1 (side 1) deals with the navvies, craftsmen and engineers who made the canals and gives some insight into the daily lives of these 'itinerants'. It ends with the songs and ceremonies once used to celebrate the opening of completed canals.

Programme 2 (side 1/2) explores the nature of the canal companies that managed the 'cuts' and people who worked on the boats carrying coal, limestone, sugar, etc., etc. It illustrates the rise and eventual decline of the canals and canal people in the face of competition from the railways from the time of the great canal era, which started in the 18th century, to the end of the 19th century.

Programme 3 (side 2) examines the problems that beset canal navigation in the late 19th and early 20th century and the great decline in canal usage that took place in the mid 20th century. It ends with a brief look at present day possibilities.

BROADSIDE RECORDS is a specialist company issuing books and records connected with folk music and urban/industrial material.

*N.B. Each programme has been edited to approximately 20 minutes.*