

## Stan Rogers "Northwest Passage"

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Northwest Passage

(Stan Rogers)

Cho: Ah, for just one time I would take the Northwest  
Passage

To find the hand of Franklin reaching for the Beaufort  
Sea;

Tracing one warm line through a land so wild and  
savage

And make a Northwest Passage to the sea.

Westward from the Davis Strait 'tis there 'twas said to  
lie

The sea route to the Orient for which so many died;  
Seeking gold and glory, leaving weathered, broken  
bones

And a long-forgotten lonely cairn of stones.

Three centuries thereafter, I take passage overland  
In the footsteps of brave Kelso, where his "sea of  
flowers" began

Watching cities rise before me, then behind me sink  
again

This tardiest explorer, driving hard across the plain.  
And through the night, behind the wheel, the mileage  
clicking west

I think upon Mackenzie, David Thompson and the rest  
Who cracked the mountain ramparts and did show a  
path for me

To race the roaring Fraser to the sea.

How then am I so different from the first men through  
this way?

Like them, I left a settled life, I threw it all away.

To seek a Northwest Passage at the call of many men  
To find there but the road back home again.

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See also JUSTDIME, NEPASSAGE

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