

When I Was a Lad I Served a Term

Sir Joseph's song with chorus from *H.M.S. Pinafore* (baritone)

Text by *Sir William Schwenck Gilbert* (1839-1911) [Br]

Set by *Sir Arthur Seymour Sullivan* (1842-1900) [Br]

Sir Joseph

When I was a lad I served a term
[ˌwɛn aɪ wəz ʌ læd aɪ sɜvd ʌ tɜm]

As office boy to an Attorney's firm.
[æz ˈɒfɪs bɔɪ tu ən əˈtɔːnɪz fɜm]

I cleaned the windows and I swept the floor,
And I polished up the handle of the big front door.
I polished up that handle so carefuller
That now I am the Ruler of the Queen's Navee!

Chorus

He polished up that handle so carefuller
That now he is the Ruler of the Queen's Navee!

Sir Joseph

As office boy I made such a mark
That they gave me the post of a junior clerk.
I served the writs with a smile so bland,
And I copied all the letters in a big round hand—
I copied all the letters in a hand so free,
That now I am the Ruler of the Queen's Navee!

Chorus

He copied all the letters in a hand so free,
That now he is the Ruler of the Queen's Navee!...

The entire text to this title with the complete
IPA transcription is available for download.

Thank you!

