I'd like to get you on a slow boat to China" was a well-known phrase among poker players, referring to a person who lost steadily. The idea being that a "slow boat to China" was the longest trip one could imagine. In this song Loesser moved IN A SLOW BOAT TO CHINAthe phrase to a more romantic setting. Of course, was that traveling by boat to China was about as long and slow a trip as one could imagine and most enjoyable with the one you love..1947.



