

11 January, 1993

Dear TARSUS,

I hope this reaches everyone in time to wish you a Happy Arthur Ransome's Birthday (the 18th). Coincidentally, I can enclose Nancy Bowman's piece about herself, definitely a gift, as have been all the ones so far received and distributed among us. I've also just received a wonderful gift for us all from Rod Welch, TARS Regional Co-ordinator, which I'll soon describe.

But first, Welcome to new members, Nancy Bowman and David Graves! You are included in the enclosed updated Membership List.

Also first, let's get boring business out of the way: DUES for 1993. I look at this list and don't know whether some of you still are members. I have received word and payment from many of you and sent all info. and monies to England. What about the rest of you? Some of you pay independently, and when TARSUK before long reports to me on such renewals, I'll know whether or not to keep you on our list. That still, however, leaves several of you unaccounted for. If you want to renew, do send a \$40 check made out to me right away! If you have any question about your status, write or phone me (802-658-4189). Please, let's get this all cleared up by the end of January. Thanks a lot.

Rod's gift? It's a cassette (for tape recorder) and 50 of his slides, mostly of the Lake District and a few of East Anglia. Side A of the cassette is a commentary by Rod that synchronizes with the pictures. Side B is a copyrighted BBC Radio "Bookshelf" program(me) called "Captain Flint's Trunk and Exploring Arthur Ransome's Lakeland", with host Hunter Davis and guest Christina Hardyment. You will agree with me that this is all Treasure. I have only a little handhold slide viewer, but the magic and excitement of the Ransome-related scenery and boats, plus the commentary and then the "Bookshelf", had me so entranced I was longing for us all to be seeing and hearing this gift together. Three cheers for Rod Welch and THANKS from TARSUS!

How do you borrow this gift? I suggest this procedure: let me know by February 1 that you want to be on the list. By the 2nd or 3rd I'll have it ready, with enclosed instructions, to start on its rounds.

A long time ago, right after my last letter to you, a gift came from Kurt Cylke, which can now be included in our celebratory mood. He sent nine one-page copies of a brief article from "Omni", the November issue, about how to walk on water. A photo reveals hi-tech splatters. I'll keep one copy for future reference. The rest will go to eight members. Which ones? I don't yet know. I plan to place all the addressed envelopes face-down on the floor and give them a stir. The first eight I turn up will be the recipients. If you're not one and want a copy, send the usual 10 cents, stamps o.k.

Peter Roche has sent another "East Anglia's Ebb 'n' Flow". (He's the Chair of that region). You may well want a copy of the page that describes the delightful goings-on at their Annual General Meeting. He lists future events: Jan.16 celebration of AR's birthday at Butt & Oyster. Feb.13 visit to a Wildfowl Refuge. Mar.24 a repeat of Slide Show & Social in Cambridge. Apr.17 walk around Mersea Island, see wildlife & AR haunts. May 8 visit to British Waterways Museum. June 5 Annual Walk to commemorate AR's death, in Secret Water territory. 27th a sail on "Peter Duck", thanks to owner Greg Palmer. A possible Aug. bird-watching expedition. Early Oct. sailing on the Broads. Nov.27 the area's AGM. If interested in attending any, let P. Roche know--21 Kestrel Dr., Pinefields, Brandon IP27 0UA. Groan Dept., but maybe future tapes?: 2 BBC radio programs in Jan. on Ransome and TARS.

Best wishes to you all,

1 Feb., 1993

Dear TARS Friends,

I must pass on my Nuisance News: my right arm is broken after I slipped and fell on ice. That was on the 22nd. I am blessedly without pain, have regained much of my usual stamina, and am incapacitated only by enforced use of unhandy left hand and arm.

In the meanwhile, I've started a list of those who want to see the gift slides and hear the gift tape, and I'll aim to get the show on the mail road by midmonth.

The enclosed Despatch has just arrived. Because I want to get it on its way to each of you, I'll stop now, saving for later the news I have to share that I've received from some of you. The best reaction I have to my mishap is relief that I can still be in touch with you all via this machine and the help of local friends.

TARS Forever!

Ellen

Late May '93

Items Available via Xerox

If more than 1 page long, the number of pages is in (). Please send 10 cents per page, plus 50 to cover postage. (Stamps ok).

1. A review of Peter Hunt's Approaching Arthur Ransome from THE SPECTATOR for 23 January, 1993.
2. By TARSUS member A. Bennett Wilson, Jr., "Boating on the Broads", an article in the April 1, 1993 issue of "Messing About In Boats". (3)
3. From TARSUS member Cpt. Stephenson, the names and addresses of two bookshops that sell Ransome books, plus a page that lists which Ransomes are available from one of them. (2)
4. "Rooms to Let?", an article about Alma Cottage from "Ebb'n' Flow", East Anglian Region's TARS Spring Newsletter. (2)
5. From same issue, a delightful account of a TARS outing on the Broads last October. (2)
6. From TARSUS member Nancy Bowman, a lively essay on her reactions to Ransome characters and situations. (3)
7. Names & Addresses List of Canada's TARS members.

Free Items--You Want? Just Ask!

- I. Tarsus member Kurt Cylke has sent a small picture, on thin plastic with stand, of the Fool of the World and the Flying Ship. It's colorful and cheerful.
- II. Arthur Ransome's Lakeland, Roger Wardale's paperback book of photos illustrating quotes from AR's books set in the Lakes.
- III. By A. Wainwright, four titles from his set, A Pictorial Guide to the Lakeland Fells:
Book One, The Eastern Fells
Book Two, The Far Eastern Fells
Book Three, The Central Fells
Book Four, The Southern Fells

Book Four includes Kanchenjunga (Coniston Old Man). Wainwright was an accountant who spent all his spare time climbing among the fells, taking photographs, then sketching from his photos and writing clear directions to guide the walker along each peak's trail or trails. Also, you can both re-live your own walks or hike from your armchair.

Well, dear TARSUS Friends, I regret my long silence. The broken arm, while not complicated or overly painful, sapped my energy and will power for anything other than daily chores and daily routine of exercises. It was heart-warming to receive kind messages from many of you. Thank you.

Remember the Amazon Press, that distributed "Distilled Enthusiasms" last summer? Those who sent a contribution to the Press have just received its 2nd publication, "The Blue Treacle", AR's hitherto unpublished fairy story. There are 50 extra copies (it's paperback), cost 10 pounds. If you're interested, send \$20 check made out to me; I feel you'd best move fast.

I enclose an updated Membership List. We welcome Mark Purtill, Chris Yetter, and William Hollendale. Dan Lind, a Canadian with a US address also, wants to receive our news and possibly hear from or meet nearby TARSUS folk. Marilyn Gough is the new Canadian Representative and sounds imaginative and enthusiastic.

To those of you who're off to UK and want to tap into any TARS activities, call Roderick Welch (who sent the slides and tape still on their rounds): 0621-856565. You may be able to sail in "Amazon" till June 9 or in "Peter Duck" on June 27 or on July 6 meet Polly on the houseboat.

I'll be in Maine June 2-July 12. A friend forwards my mail. The phone is 207 422-3016. I'll respond. The broken arm is OVER. Yours, Ellen

30 July, 1993

PO Box 411
Burlington VT 05402

Dear TARSUS,

Greetings to each of you. We welcome new members: Mrs. Margo Jay, Dr. Clive Dalby & Family, and Mr. Christopher Cory & Family. Mrs. Jay was given as a wedding gift from her husband both the membership and a Swallows and Amazons burgee. The Corys' boat is "Racundra". An updated Address List is enclosed.

With sorrow I report the death this month of Jess Kelsall, wife of TARS Secretary Dick Kelsall. (Dick's father and AR were friends and devised the triangle/square signaling system.) His address is inside the cover of Mixed Moss.

Enclosed is a Quiz created by Rodders, along with his tongue-in-cheek RULES. Rodders is Roderick Welch, Regional Co-ordinator. He keeps in touch with all the Regions and sends each Representative his newsheet, ROD AND A LINE. Have fun with the Quiz. Those capitals in each question, by the way, refer to the relevant book's title.

NEWS--1. A new book! In the Footsteps of the Swallows and Amazons by TARS member Claire Kendall-Price. A book of 19 walks over places AR knew, loved, wrote about; illustrated with maps, many of AR's photos and as yet unpublished drawings. It costs 6.95 pounds plus, in England, 1 pound for postage. I suggest, to round it off, that for us the price is seven pounds, plus 3 for postage, total 10 pounds. I can get it from Ransome Books or, for a signed copy, from the author. To order, send me a \$20 check made out to me and specify if you want a plain or autographed copy.

2. TARS Literary Weekend, Oct. 22-24, at a West Sussex location. Do try to go if you have UK plans in the offing! (See below for xerox of details).

3. 2 AR books: a. Kurt Cylke sent me notice of a 2nd hand copy of AR's Six Weeks in Russia in 1919 for 50 pounds. Write/phone me if you want details. b. Rod and Line is about to be re-issued in 600 copies only. It "will be quarter bound in real leather with gold blocking plus slipcase" and will have a new Introduction by Jeremy Swift. The price is 38 pounds, plus ? more for shipping. It won't be on sale in bookshops. Write/phone me if you want further details.

4. It's come to my attention that Puffin Books are no longer publishing AR's books and Johnathan Cape's parent company, Random House, have set up a new company called Red Fox Publishing, under which they intend to publish not only AR's children's books but any other that they consider worthwhile.

5. Upcoming dates: 4 Sept. Guided visit to Coniston copper mines. Phone Brian Ridsdale 08395-31758(YMCA). 22-24 Oct. Literary Weekend. 20 Nov. Northern Region AGM at Abbot Hall. Phone Ann McConnell 0768-65735. 27 Nov. Eastern Region AGM. Phone Peter Roche 0842-813344. 27 Dec. Annual noon gathering at the "Red Lion", Lowick. Phone Dick Kelsall 0524-791932.

AVAILABLE BY XEROX (10 cents a page, plus 50 postage, please. Stamps ok).

1. Literary Wkd. Brochure(2) 2. Abbot Hall brochure from Kurt Cylke that includes small photo of AR's study(4) 3. also from Kurt, an Inflight magazine page offering choice of Robin Williams reading AR's "The Fool". 4. Very sensitive brief review of S&A from "A Common Reader"'s August catalogue. 5. From ? issue of HISTORY, a book review by Juliet Gardiner of Hugh Brogan's Biography of AR. 6. Spirited rundown of TARS activities from "ROD & A LINE"(2) 7. From Eastern Region's "EBB'n'FLOW": a. Mersey Island Day Report(2) b. a Birdwatcher's Day c. Visit to a Canals museum d. Contents & description of upcoming 30 min. TV film on AR e. an 11 yr. old's voyage on "Peter Duck". f. a page from Horning church's leaflet that welcomes TARS visitors and explains meaning of TARS. Best wishes,

Phone: 802 658-4189

Ellen

Mid-October, 1993

Dear TARSUS,

Greetings to you all! Welcome to new members: the F. Carter Family; Wm. Bruce Hoff; the A. Hyde Family; the T. Mumford Family; the P. Nelson Family; the D. Thewlis Family; M. Warner, Junior Member. Enclosed is our new Membership List, now longer than one page! Note that two addresses have changed (new).

VIDEO--Fellow-member Frank Johnson has kindly converted the slides & tape show, with BBC program included, into a Video. Thank you, Frank. This was the gift to us from Roderick Welch in UK that I announced last January and that some of you borrowed. Others of you may now want to borrow the Video. Let me know by November 1 if you want it. Important warning: the BBC portion is copyrighted--no copying and sale permitted of that portion of the Video.

Three more enclosures--two from "Cumbria" magazine and a TARS shopping list that fellow-member Chris Cory sent me. (The List's tick marks are not relevant to us). The UK Officers may be sending this list to new members. Since I'd not seen it, I figured no other long-time members have either. It's a good list for handy reference, and I've made copies for us all.

I've commended "Cumbria" to you before. It's a little monthly magazine of the Lake District. Because of it I long ago read about Hardyment's Captain Flint's Trunk and, get this, in spring, '90, read that TARS was a definite possibility, with an address to which I could write if interested. Not only do they have such AR nuggets, but they also print articles, photographs and paintings of the area. Drop me a line for subscription details.

Last January, fellow-member Tony Auth told me that since '92 the magazine WoodenBoats has published a desk calendar called A Mariner's Book of Days. It listed AR's birthday on 18 January. Write Tony for purchasing details and be sure to enclose a stamped, addressed card or envelope for his use.

A former member, C.Campbell, alerted me to an international marine catalogue of small boat books called "Paddles, Oars & Sails". New a year ago, it's produced by a division of McGraw-Hill, Toll Free 1-800-822-8158. For any of you interested in a Lake District walking tour, Campbell also provided this info: Seth Steiner-Director, 18 Stuyvesant Oval #1A, New York NY 10009. Steiner includes AR in his recommended readings, after Campbell told him he should.

For Xerox: (enclose \$.10 per page, plus .50 for postage; stamps o.k.)

1. Page from just-mentioned catalogue that advertises and reviews S & A (1)
2. Thanks to fellow-member Kurt Cylke, a list of all S&A books in paperback, each with new picture on cover, from a British division of Random House called Red Fox (1). The page includes a photo of the Ransome poster Red Fox has designed. Each book is 3.50 pounds, except for Coots in the North at 3.99. Included last in the list is Swallows & Amazons Forever. Does anyone know what that could mean? If you wish to buy via Our British Account, ask for xeroxed copy before giving me your order.
3. Also thanks to Kurt, from recent issue of "The Countryman", short reviews of Lake District books, with a reproduction of Clifford Webb's illustration of the secret harbor (2).
4. Article by Christina Hardyment called "Death or Glory on the Broads" from a 3 to 5 year old National Trust magazine (3).

Freebies--almost! I'd appreciate getting \$2 per unit to go toward postage. Send your requests by Nov. 1. In case of duplicates, I'll draw from hat.

- A. new paperback copy of Hardyment's Arthur Ransome & Captain Flint's Trunk.
- B. new pack of cards, sold by National Trust, on "Lakeland, famous characters & views feature on the court cards & aces".
- C. almost new set of 6 mug-sized coasters of Lakes scenes.

PEN PALS--Do any of our young members want to have a pen pal? If yes, write me and give this information: your name, age, grade in school, what subjects

you like, what hobbies you have, AND do you want a Pen Pal in USA or in a foreign country? Please do this by November 1. (My address is below).

Bits & Pieces--I thought you'd enjoy this news from the Wilsons, fellow-members. In July "we spent 2 weeks in a cottage right on the Bure at Wroxham making excursions by boat and car. We rendezvoused with Peter Roche (head of East Anglian Region) and family and later that day joined Peter & Valerie for dinner at The Pleasure Boat in Hickling Broad... The highlight of our stay was seeing the season's second set of baby coots hatch out and begin to get around. The nest is right at the entrance to a busy basin by our cottage, and the birds are now totally blase about humans and boats. The whole premise of Coot Club is gone. They have lowered the speed limits on the Broads, and most seem to be abiding by them, and the Broads Authority boats are warning those who don't..."

This summer when reading Leon Edel's Henry James, I discovered who Sir Garnet Wolseley was, after whom the Norfolk wherry in Coot Club must have been named. I quote "...he was one of Victoria's bravest and most renowned soldiers. James liked his eye of steel--the one that remained, for he had lost the other in the Crimea--and admired his record in all the colonial wars of the era. Badly wounded in the Crimean war, Wolseley had fought in Burma, had been at Lucknow and in China; he had gone to the relief of Gordon in Khartoum. Stationed at Ottawa, he had handled the Red River rebellion in Manitoba and had crossed into the United States to cast an expert British eye on the Civil War. His exploits in the Ashantee campaign were legendary, and on his return to civilian life, he had been a great leader in the War Office for reform of the British Army."

My other Ransome adventure of the summer was to step into the dentist's office for a word with the receptionist, a cheerful young woman who loves to talk about and read books. "I know a young author," she said, "who loves children's books and has to tell the world whenever he discovers an author new to him. This summer his find is someone you may not have heard of--Ransome?" she finished in a questioning kind of tone as I went into a tailspin.

Here's the brief review of S & A in "The Common Reader" catalogue that I like so much: "Swallows and Amazons is the first in Arthur Ransome's classic series of books about the Walker family. In their initial appearance, the Walker children pilot the catboat 'Swallow' to Wild Cat Island, where they camp amidst the glories of the outdoors and the richness of their own fancies. This is the sort of book that can enchant children with the adventure of reading, introducing them to an imagined but recognizable world--filled with boats and islands, fishing and camping--that will stay with them for years."

That Ransome poster I referred to in the "For Xerox" section is a colorful, sunny one. In the center is a large "Swallow" and "Amazon" and their sailors, while around the edge are small pictures of the front of each book. Those pictures are all new creations. After Kurt Cylke kindly gave me one of these posters, I wrote Red Fox asking if I might purchase 10 of them for TARSUS. They wrote back that they're sending me 10 via air mail without charge! Let me know by November 1 if you'd like a poster. If more than 10 respond, I'll draw from the hat.

I feel tantalised and frustrated! We have so many members now, yet we know about only a few of us, namely those who've sent a piece on Who I Am and My Ransome Story. Who are we all? I don't mean to apply serious pressure; I'm just saying what a pleasure it would be to receive some pieces from new and not so new members. I'll gladly type and distribute them to be added on to those we already have.

Very best wishes to each of you, *Ellen*

Ellen C. Tillinghast, PO Box 411, Burlington VT 05402

TARSUS Membership List--October, 1993

Mrs. Margaret P. Aldrich
 91 Rumford St.
 Concord NH 03301

Mr. Tony Auth & Family
 307 Hamilton Rd.
 Wynnewood PA 19096

Mrs. Betty Jo Baerg
 (new)1803 Meadow Lane
 Lincoln CA 95648

Mr. Robert Barcus
 2002 East 36th Ave.
 Spokane WA 99203-4046

Mrs. Nancy Bowman
 4826 Gary Rd. SW
 Bonita Springs FL 33923

Mrs. Mary A. Brown
 8 Jennifer Lane
 Rye Brook NY 10573

Mr. F. Carter & Family
 6226 Woodlawn Ave. N.
 Seattle WA 98103

Mr. Christopher T. Corv & Family
 9 Winchester Rd.
 New London CT 06320-4134

Mr. F. Kurt Cylke
 P.O. Box 192
 Great Falls VA 22066

Clive D. Dalby, M.D., & Family
 P.O. Box 386
 Lawrence MA 01843

Mrs. J. de la Sceaux
 3625 SW Troy St.
 Portland OR 97219

Mr. Richard D. Evans
 412 S. Kenneth Rd.
 Burbank CA 91501

Mr. Doug Faunt
 6405 Regent St.
 Oakland CA 94618-1313

Dr. John D. Forbes & Family
 Box 3607
 Charlottesville VA 22903

Mr. John O. Gates
 237 Flying Point Rd.
 Freeport ME 04032

Mr. David A. Graves
 15424 N.E. 160th St.
 Woodinville WA 98072

Mr. Wayne Hammond
 30 Talcott Rd.
 Williamstown MA 01267

Mr. William C. Hellendale
 311 Texas St.
 San Francisco CA 94107

Mrs. William H. Hill
 7841 Woodsdale Lane
 Jacksonville FL 32256

Mr. Wm. Bruce Hoff, Jr.
 1340 Scott Ave.
 Winnetka IL 60093

Mr. Alan Hvde & Family (for 1994)
 761 Greenwich St.
 New York NY 10014

Mrs. Margo R. Jay
 360 Charles River Rd.
 Watertown MA 02172

Mr. Franklin Lee Johnson
 1803 Mission St., #97
 Santa Cruz CA 95060

Mrs. Carol M. Jones
 1504 S. Azalea St.
 Columbia MO 65201

Ms. Helena Meyer-Knapp
 3811 Pifer Rd.
 Olympia WA 98501

Mr. Thomas Mumford & Family
 4004 Cooper Point Rd. NW
 Olympia WA 98501-3733

Mr. Peter B. Myers
 11215 Oak Leaf Drive #1809
 Silver Spring MD 20901

Mr. Paul Nelson & Family
 1640 Robert St.
 New Orleans LA 70115

Mr. R. Nilsson
 2701 Falling Timber Trail
 Edgewater MD 21037

Mr. Mark Purtill
 (new)951 N. Lantana
 Kingsville TX 78363

Miss Janet Ann Riesman
 699 E. Main St.
 Branford CT 06405

Mr. Theodor Schuchat
 11015 S.E. Lake Rd.
 Bellevue WA 98004

Miss Mary H. Smith
 Box 278
 Housatonic MA 01236

Mrs. Su Stauffer & Family
 3957 Happy Valley Rd.
 Lafayette CA 94549

Capt. I.W. Stephenson
 P.O. Box 481
 Menominee MI 49858-0481

Mr. I.W. Stephenson IV
 3907 N. Sherburn Pl, Apt. 105
 Shorewood WI 53211-1830

Mr. Dave Thewlis

2301 C St.

Eureka CA 95501

Mrs. Ellen C. Tillinghast

P.O. Box 411

Burlington VT 05402

Mr. Alan Truelove

Quantum Research, Inc.

3326 Elm Terrace

Falls Church VA 22042

Miss Margaret Warner (Junior)

10 Long Hill Rd.

North Yarmouth ME 04097

Mr. A. Bennett Wilson, Jr., & Family

P.O. Box 380

Topping VA 23169

Mr. Ian W. Wojcik-Andrews & Family

1355 Hull Ave.

Ypsilante MI 48198

Mr. Chris Yetter (Junior)

c/o 196th Field Hospital

Unit 21414 Box 213

APO 09705

Mr. Dan Lind (the friendly Canadian
who'd like to meet/hear from any of us)

Suite 106

9530 Semiahmeoo Parkway

Blaine WA 98230

TARS Canadian Representative

Mrs. M. Gough

37 Athens St. West

Kitchener, Ontario N2H 4B6

Canada

THE ARTHUR RANSOME SOCIETY
Support TARS enterprises organised by TARS members

Items available for sale to Members of the Society

- ✓ 1. **Tars Knitwear**
Choice of 5 eye-catching sweaters in wool or acrylic, each incorporating the TARS emblem, with hats to match. Details with yarn samples & colour photos available if you send 9" x 4" sq.

Mrs Elizabeth Sewart
Ty Gwyn
Crow End
Bourn
CAMBRIDGE
CB3 7SY 0954=719359

- ✓ 2. **TARS AHOY Burgees**
12" x 18" burgee with Blue Swallow and Jolly Roger for sailors, caravans & flag poles. Sewn, roped & toggled.

Mrs J. S. Andrews
'Dove Wood'
Storrs Park
WINDERMERE
LA23 3LB 05394=43435

3. **Semaphore Book and 'SEMA4' tutor computer programme**
Displays semaphore code on screen:- full alphabet, cycles through alphabet, converts & displays messages, random letter testing at any speed - 3 1/2" or 5 1/4" discs.

Mr Craig Warhurst
40 March Street
BURNLEY
BB12 0BT 0282=416401

- ✓ 4. **TARS Sweat-shirts**
Society logo in black on yellow, red, light blue, cerise or grey. Also paper-weights, whisky tumblers.

Rev. N. H. Khambatta
Horstead Rectory
Horstead
NORWICH
NR12 7EP 0603=737215

5. **Stay at 'Holly Howe'**
Bed & breakfast with evening meal at the original 'Holly Howe' farmhouse, H & C in all rooms; residential licence.

Mrs Lucy Batty
Bank Ground Farm
CONISTON
LA21 7EP 05394=41264

6. **'Where it all began'**
Book by Pauline Marshall giving background to "Swallows & Amazons" in Coniston where Ransome sailed her family boats, met the Colingwoods & Altonyans as well as Pauline, sister Georgie & brother then living at Bank Ground Cottage. Contemporary diaries & 43 photographs - £6 post free.

Also "The Ransoming" - a fictional story of a sailing childhood in the 1930s at Bank Ground, Coniston; 43 Contemporary photos - £7 post free.

Mrs Pauline M. R. Marshall
4 Rowan Court
Rothay Road
AMBLESIDE
LA22 0EE

7. **Holidays for Children**
"Holidays for Children" - Each year, one or two week-long holidays are held for children aged 8-14 at the Horstead Centre under the auspices of the Diocese of Norwich.

Rev. N. H. Khambatta
Horstead Centre
Rectory Road
Horstead
NORWICH
NR12 7EP 0603=737215

- ✓ 8. **"Amazon in the Secret Harbour"**
Postcards and numbered, signed and mounted prints of John Berry's painting of "Amazon in the secret harbour, Wild Cat Island". Postcards: 10 for £1.80, 25 for £4, 50 for £7 &c. Prints for £4.90 each. Part proceeds to TARS.

Mr John Berry
Lighthouse Studio
26 Rumbold Road
HUDDERSFIELD
HD3 3DB 0484=531549

9. Embroidery Charts

Charts for counted thread and/or surface embroidery of various TARS-related designs. £1 each including postage.

Mrs Mary Carter
15 Fellside
Allithwaite
GRANGE-OVER-SAND
LA11 7RN

10. Ransome Books

Rare books by Arthur Ransome and other authors together with extensive information about all Ransomes works.

Mr John Cowen
Ransome Books
7 Culmhead Close
TAUNTON
TA1 4TG 0823=275156

11. TARS Videos

Video tapes of TARS AGMs, Literary Weekends and other AR related events.

Mr Jeremy S. W. Gibson
'Harts Cottage'
Church Hanborough
WITNEY
OXR 8AB 0993=882982

12. Swallows & Amazons Children's holidays

For children aged 10-14, in the authentic location on the south western shores of Windermere, Lakeside YMCA offers an action packed adventure holiday which includes many of the Swallows favourite adventures.

Swallows & Amazons Holidays
YMCA National Centre
Lakeside
ULVERSTON
LA12 8BD 05395=31758

13. Amazon Publications

'Subscriber based' publishing house run by four TARS members, non-profit making, which aims to publish material related to AR. Distilled Enthusiasms [1992] entertaining report on TARS enthusiasms - £3. Blue Treacle [1993], an unpublished allegorical fairy story AR wrote for his daughter Tabitha - £8. Subscribers remain on list for future publications, to become a subscriber send contribution, as above, to:-

Mr Denis Dunstone
Wenden Place Farm
Wendons Ambo
SAFFRON WALDEN
CB11 4JV 0799=41595

14. 'TARS Ahoy!'

Shanties for TARS played and sung by Jim Andrews. Tape cassette - £5 including P&P.

Mrs J. S. Andrews
'Dove Wood'
Storrs Park
WINDERMERE
LA23 3LB 05394=43435

15. In The Footsteps Of The Swallows And Amazons

19 Illustrated walks in the Lake District which visit the places where AR lived, knew well or used in his books. 112pp limpback. Many previously unpublished photographs by AR. £6.95 + £1 P&P (UK). Cheques payable to Wild Cat Publishing. For overseas orders please contact Ransome Books (See previous entry).

Claire Kendall-Price
Vicarage Lodge
Clifton
YORK
North Yorks
YO3 6BH

Opposite: Panorama from Loughrigg, looking towards Grasmere

rosettes of butterwort still to flower.

A pair of ravens lazily flapped their way across the valley as if they too were feeling the heat of the afternoon. Their own shadows followed the birds' own flight, echoing their route into Langdale.

The path petered out into a stony bed of a dried-up stream which rose like a stairway, stepping swiftly upwards. There was only a hint of moisture in the recesses of the stones. The upper slopes of Loughrigg had dried out to a golden crispness to deny the stream its life. Underfoot, baked brown-green moss was hardened and crazed with drying, its surface covered with bracken dust ground down by trampling feet.

The bed of the stream led out onto the grassy slopes surrounding Loughrigg's summit.

From the grey-brown rocky cap of the summit, Windermere could be seen, fingering a sail dotted way out of Lakeland. Silvery, beckoning, it ensnared the visiting crowds to deny them better things. Lakeland's shop window is set out by Windermere with its lake and islands, woods and fells; why look further when all is at hand for weary drivers emerging from the trauma of the motorway?

But up on Loughrigg, there was a green emptiness, silent and still with hollows

warm and drowsy to idle away indulgent thoughts unhampered by the bustle of life. A small copper butterfly caught the eye and disrupted thoughts of crowd-choked streets in Lakeland towns; it floated, a tiny splash of colour against the bracken backcloth.

Looking into Langdale, the Pikes were solid blocks of deep blue purple, threaded by the pale strands of paths that reached upwards from the valley. There, silver-ridged tarns reflected the brightness of the day in one, two, three splashes of shining treasure. The gleam of Esthwaite Water was dimmed by distance as a creeping haze softened the outlines of far-off features.

Pleasure in the descent from the summit of Loughrigg to the popular Terrace path is saved only by the view of the Grasmere fells and the lake itself, for erosion has torn savagely at Loughrigg's flanks. Deeply worn grooves have spilled loose rock and scree; path slides have broken and crumbled under grinding boots. A man-made stony staircase attempts to staunch the flow of debris broken loose and tumbling down.

Loughrigg has paid the price of easy access to the motor car and is helpless to resist. In time, maybe the scars will heal; the path of stone may yet struggle to be seen through proudly standing bracken. Nature will recover if given a chance. Loughrigg needs that chance.

Sheila Richardson

Ransome Ceremony

THE growing interest in the life and works of children's author Arthur Ransome has been celebrated in the Lake District with a presentation to the thousandth member of the Arthur Ransome Society, Charlotte Coultan, 14, from Lincoln, was last month presented with a special certificate, together with the Society's penant and some publications, by its Vice-President David Carter at a ceremony at the Windermere Steamboat Museum, where the Society was formed only three years ago.

Charlotte and a 13-year-old friend were also given an hour's sail on Windermere in *Amazon*, the Barrow-built boat which was once sailed on Coniston by Ransome's friends, the Altounyans, and used by him as the model for *Amazon* in his famous "Swallows and Amazons" books. It was originally called *Mavis* and was still afloat on Coniston until 1990. Recently restored by the Society, it has been renamed *Amazon* and given on trust to the Steamboat Museum. It is available for sailing two weeks in the year by members of the Society.

"Charlotte had already booked to sail her during this fortnight, and so we combined her sail with the presentation," said Jim Andrews, Northern Chairman of the Society. "We think to get 1,000 members already is quite something, and they come from all over the world, including Nepal, Japan, Australia and America. It shows an awful lot of people are interested in him and that he's one of the Lake District's great writers."

Andrew Wilson

"Cumbria" September 1993
Sailing the Amazon

Richard Simpson takes a close look at the boat immortalised by Arthur Ransome

WHY has a man come all the way from California to Windermere just to help carry an old Walney working boat to a pond that's more used to playing host to model boats? Well, this is the magical world of *Swallows & Amazons*, and the beamy 13-footer is the original Amazon herself. Restored by The Windermere Nautical Trust between 1989 and 1991, she is being made ready for an all too brief sailing season, in which members of The Arthur Ransome Society will be able to sail her on Windermere.

The Amazon was bought in 1928 along with *Swallow* by Dr Altonnam, a close friend of Ransome, and the two men intended to teach the doctor's children how to sail in them. The boats and the children became the heroes of the books, and indeed Mrs Brigit Sanders – who is president of the Arthur Ransome Society and who relaunched *Amazon* after restoration – is actually one of the children: "the

Ship's boy," of the books.

In fact, the little boat wasn't actually called *Amazon* until her restoration. Ransome was perhaps entitled to a little poetic licence, because I'm not certain how popular the Swallows and Amazons would have been in only one other way did Ransome bend the truth, for he described the boat as being varnished, when in fact she was always painted.

But, as Jim Andrews, president of the northern section of the society told me, the varnished hull is only referred to once in the books, and all Ransome's own illustrations show a painted boat. I told you these people are keen, didn't I? The reason the boat has to spend a somewhat embarrassing week in the model boat pond before she's sailed is to allow the old timbers to take up some water, and stem the inevitable slight leaks.

Mrs Sanders, who still owns the boat, is keen that *Amazon* shouldn't become a sterile museum piece but should be sailed by members of the Society, hence *Amazon*'s brief spell afloat. But, as Jim explained, only he and two other people will skipper the boat, she will only be sailed in lightish winds, and they won't go into deep water. "She's a very old boat, and a very precious one, so we have to take special care of her," he said.

And how does she sail? "Heavy," says Jim, "but tremendously obedient, she does exactly what you want. Very different from a skittish, modern dinghy." And with a centboard made of boiler plate and a standing lug-sail rig it isn't too surprising that she's a bit sturdier than a modern dinghy. After all she was built to ferry fishermen out to their larger vessels, so she had to be able to stand up to a blow.

The Arthur Ransome Society was formed in 1990 – Jim told me somewhat ruefully

Left: Jim Andrews moving *Amazon* from the Steamboat Museum
Right: *Amazon* on Windermere





Jim Andrews assembles the tiller

that the Japanese founded a club of their own some three years earlier – and already has an astonishing 800 members,

of all ages and from all over the world. The members enjoy a wide range of special events, more than a dozen a year, and certainly the group who came to help move the Amazon were an enthusiastic lot. I asked Jim what the appeal of these books was in the modern world, since they seem to portray a Lake District that has changed radically. "They appeal to everyone, whether you live in the country or the town," he said, "and re-reading them as an adult you notice so much that only an adult would appreciate."

The real appeal of Ransome, though, is that you really can still live out so many adventures, camping out in Swallowdale perhaps, or even sailing the Amazon on Windermere. The society is about doing, as well as reading, and the Amazon captures the spirit of the society perfectly.

And where is Swallow, arguably the more glamorous of the two boats? No-one knows for certain, but rumour has it that she was last seen in a garden with flowers growing through her hull. But Amazon survives, and like the club seems set fair for further adventures over the coming years. If you'd like to join the Society, and maybe get to sail in the lovely little boat next year you can write to Abbot Hall, Kirkland, Kendal, and they'll send you an application form for membership.



THANK you for just received piece. I'll be happy to distribute it in Jan. Right now everything except The Move is on Hold.

YEAR-END GREETINGS & A HAPPY 1991

Mrs. Ellen C. Tillinghast
3303 Wake Robin Drive
Shelburne VT 05482-7574

This is my new address, effective the 14th of December. Please cross out and do not use my Burlington address ever again!! (Don't worry if you've already used it, as my Box rental continues a few more weeks beyond Christmas).

Ever since signing up for the Wake Robin Retirement Center, I've been looking forward to moving there. Last January I was given good reason more than ever to want the move. 1993, for me, started with the Big Bang, my slipping on glare ice and landing hard enough to break my upper right arm. It happened; I don't want it to happen again; I'm hugely grateful for the help I received from professionals and friends during the early weeks; and thanks to boring but absolutely necessary exercises, the arm has been back to normal since mid-July.

Speaking of Big Bang, I heard an alternative name suggested for the Big Bang theory of how the universe began: Genesis Boom Bah.

My move to Wake Robin--to a one-bedroom and den third floor apartment--is predictable and reasonably under control. My move into an aging body is less so and causes moments of humor or frustration, depending on my mood. I have physically slowed down and in general lost strength and oomph. Institutional doors resist me, the Hymnal feels too heavy to hold up, it's hard to remain standing for long without support.

The arm break forced me to bid good-bye to time at the Library, and when I could have returned, it just didn't "feel right" to resume what would soon need to be given up again, come preparations for the move. Now another change is around the corner: I'm transferring to Trinity Church, Shelburne, so farewell, Cathedral and choir. How tremendous these past weeks in choir have been! The consecration of our Bishop Mary Adelia McLeod took place in a huge theater, the choir on stage with the stars (I was beside the kettle drums--sis boom bah). Then came the thronged service at St. Paul's Cathedral to welcome her and seat her in her chair. As a result, I can march offstage in a state of euphoria, not dismay.

I drove to Maine for my annual early summer stay at Nutshell, and the Maine air surely helped the arm, which had been on a plateau of not-there-yet, to regain pre-break stretch and mobility. Certainly the pain-free drive home was an improvement over the ache felt during the long miles in June. The rest of the summer in Burlington was pleasant and peaceful. I drove to Mount Kisco to visit George and Elizabeth. I've been able to see Peggy and Nancy too, in Vermont. The twin grandsons have started college! By the way, one of my most exciting Nutshell events was the evening the twins and eight of their friends came over from a Mount Desert Island campground to look over the ever-beautiful property and its views, and then sit around the fireside (June evenings can be raw) to eat and talk.

Besides the on-going reading and immersion in Dell puzzle magazines, I'm spending a lot of time at the word processor in connection with The Arthur Ransome Society, of which I've been US Representative for three years. We had seven members back then, over forty now. They send me news and ask me questions, and I make up an occasional news letter to distribute, and act as go-between with headquarters in England for membership and financial transactions. I never fail to marvel at the gift of Swallows and Amazons that my father chose for me 63 years ago. My falling in love with that book led to loving England and meeting the Staniers, lifelong friends. Who and what would I have become if that book hadn't come at that moment?!

A '94 dream is: attend the Society's annual meeting in the Lake District and with Peggy Stanier take a cruise on a canal boat.

Merry Christmas, + Thanks again,
Ellen