

Early April, 1994

Dear TARSUS Members,

It's good to be writing to you all again. Welcome to lots of new members! Their names are Bennett, Burbank, Burt, Cole, Dimond, Jacobson, Lincoln, Montgomery, Pratt, Price, and Schlosnagle.

My move is well behind me. I'm taking medicine for the Parkinson's that has me feeling fine. All the same, for months I've had the welfare of TARSUS at heart; I've felt badly that I wasn't meeting my standards of communication any more. (I have been efficient about forwarding your dues; have no fears on that score). The pleasant tasks were becoming difficult; efficiency was slipping. TARS deserves better than this, and I've been consulting with others to improve matters. A good solution is in the works, and you will all be informed later this spring!

This letter accompanies a new TARS publication, "Signals". A letter from Rod Welch inside the front cover is self-explanatory. The fact that there is nothing from me for TARSUS underlines my regret over loss of efficiency, and I want to apologise to you all that there's no news about us in this issue.

I've recently had two communications from members that might lead to a couple of objectives for TARSUS. One concerns a plaque at the Rusland Church, where Arthur and Evgenia Ransome are buried. Bob Montgomery writes, "An English cousin of mine went to Rusland Church and looked up the location of AR's grave. Let me quote what he said about the grave site. 'I found his grave after some searching but there is no plaque on the church gates or notice on the notice board that "Arthur Ransome is buried here". There is no track to his grave to indicate that it is much visited. He lies beneath a simple gravestone giving only name, date of birth and date of death and no mention of his writing ability. His wife is similarly described.' I wonder," Bob continues, "if it would be proper to make inquiries to see if the Society could furnish some sort of marker to be placed at the church indicating that this was AR's resting place and giving some information about his achievements. This could be a project for us North American members with the help of our English comrades."

The second is from Doug Faunt. "I've just been visiting the Ransome Collection at Cal State Fullerton. They've got some interesting material, but have no money to do anything with it. I'm trying to set something up with the Patrons of the Library organization to channel donations toward the Collection."

Other enclosures are two pieces, Bob Montgomery's and Dave Thewlis's, to add to the collection already distributed over the years, plus further information from Richard Evans. Let's hear from more members! There's a Membership List. There's a page of Quotes from some of you that are too good to keep to myself. There're two pages of Information provided by several members.

Books fall open
You fall in
Delighted where
You've never been.

Doesn't this catch what happened
to each of us when we opened our
first Ransome book?!

--David McCord

Best wishes, *Ellen*

E.Tillinghast 3303 Wake Robin Dr. Shelburne VT 05482

QUOTES FROM TARSUS MEMBERS' LETTERS

By Tim Jacobson--Our son, who is a chorister at the American Boychoir School in Princeton, N.J., reports that "We Didn't Mean to Go to Sea" is a great hit with his schoolmates (he's a sailor as well as a singer!)--and the book has that very dog-eared look to prove it!

By Karen Price (Burbank)--Last summer my two oldest children, Joelle (age 10) and Lindsey (7), and two friends had a Swallow and Amazon sleep-over. They camped out in their clubhouse, which is in the woods, and ate pemmican (tinned corned beef), boiled potatoes, seed cake and, of course, chocolate. They drank grog and vast quantities of tea with lump sugar. I found out the next morning why the tea was so popular. They appeared at breakfast asking for more tea and more sugar. They had already finished off a whole jar of sugar, putting seven lumps at a time in each cup!

All Joelle and her friend Anna want to do is camp out on an island by themselves, sail, and have adventures. Lately they've been wearing matching red berets. I wonder what has inspired that!

By Nancy Bowman--I never rid myself of my craving for a boat. What I most wanted in all the world was a flat-bottom skiff like the rowboat I owned when I was a child. I found it advertised in the latest issue of WoodenBoat with the added attraction of an antique sprit sailing rig. I have ordered one from the builder in Boothbay, Maine*. Aside from its flat bottom, it is much like Swallow or Amazone, 11 1/2 feet long with a single red sail, the peak of which is extended out from the mast by a sprit, but with no boom at all along the foot. I plan to display the flag (the S & "A burgee) from the tip of the sprit.

In my eye doctor's waiting room I found a magazine devoted to British small boats. I immediately understood that the English have not succumbed, as we have, to the allure of fiberglass boats that look like automobiles or bathtubs. They still have elegant little yachts made of wood, varnished and polished to a high gloss, with 19th-Century rigs such as gaff, gunter, and sprit. While we use aviation hardware to save weight aloft, they still favor bronze and brass and exquisite blocks with varnished wooden cheeks. I have sailed in many plastic boats and owned one. They have a chemical smell that stays with them for years and gives you a headache if you sleep aboard. I can scarcely wait for delivery of my wooden skiff.

*Stimson Marine, Inc.

(From a later letter)--I wrote to the man who is building my boat, asking him if he could have the name of the boat painted on the transom. The name is "Captain Flint," I told him, and is taken from the children's sailing books by Arthur Ransome. Here's part of his answer: "It is interesting that you chose Captain Flint for a name just as we were starting to read Swallows and Amazons to our two boys. We all love the book and your choice of name for the skiff. There is a local sign painter who specializes in boat transoms...."

By Robert K. Barcus--So we're up to 44 members now! (This was last October) Have you noticed that Washington and California, each with 7 members, comprise one third of the membership? And have you noticed that only six of our members are from non-coastal states (IL, MO, MI, WI, and VT)? Do you suppose there's some relationship between our fondness for Ransome and the proximity of about 85% of our homes to the sea?

In the "Cumbria" photo with the Amazon article, did you notice that the three galoots sailing Amazon are trailing fenders?! Jibbooms and bobstays -- Captain Nancy would be horrified!

INFORMATION

WAYNE HAMMOND has sent this announcement for TARSUS: Wayne Hammond has been commissioned by St. Paul's Bibliographies of Winchester, England and Oak Knoll Books of New Castle, Delaware to write a descriptive bibliography of AR. This will describe the contents, bindings, etc. of books written by Ransome or to which he contributed, and will attempt to list completely his newspaper and periodical appearances. It will also include a selective list of writings about AR. Wayne would be pleased to hear from anyone who owns first editions (first printings) of Ransome books or who otherwise would be willing to share information. He has already been in touch with Kurt Cylke and this summer hopes to examine the Ransome collection Kurt built at Georgetown University in Washington. St. Paul's Bibliographies/Oak Knoll Books last year published Wayne's bibliography of J.R.R. Tolkien.

Look for The Tree of Here by Chaim Potok, illustrated by TARSUS member TONY AUTH, published by Knopf. One illustration includes a picture on the wall of a brown sailed dinghy sailing against a backdrop of mountains; another reveals a ship model of a white dinghy with brown sail.

RICHARD D. EVANS writes: I have a copy of Richard Pilbrow's film of 'Swallows & Amazons' and a copy of the BBC's 'Coot Club' which I originally videotaped from the television broadcasts in the early 80's and have had the tapes converted to NTSC from their original PAL format. If any of our members would like to borrow them I would be happy to loan them out. The quality is pretty good considering that one normally loses a bit on converting the formats. Ask members to get in touch with me if they would like to borrow them.

(Furthermore)--If any TARSUS members are planning a trip to the Lake District I can heartily recommend a wonderful place for them to stay. It's called Water Yeat Guest House in Water Yeat, close to High Nibthwaite at the south end of Coniston. It's a 17th century farmhouse with stone walls about two feet thick, low ceilings, stone floors and wooden beams. The guest house is run by Pierre and Jill Labat. Jill is a Cordon Bleu chef and cooks the most delicious food - all made from local produce. You'll find my old copy of S&A to read and I think other guests have since donated other AR books. Octopus Lagoon is just a walk away across the fields and a twenty minute hike up the fells behind Water Yeat takes you to the tarn where the D's showed off their skating abilities to the Swallows. Telephone number of the guest house is (022) 985 306.

Cpt. I.W. STEPHENSON will be glad to lend to TARSUS members a video of his "Amazon". Write him about it.

KURT CYLKE writes: "I have a mint copy of Taqui Altounyan's Chimes From A Wooden Bell for anyone requesting it." (!!)
Kurt receives catalogs from M & D Children's Books, 151 Windmill Rd., Headington, Oxford OX3 7DW; Tel: 0865 61709. Catalog #31 advertises copies for sale of AR's The Soldier and Death, Old Peter's Russian Tales, Missee Lee and Great Northern?, prices ranging from 25 to 45 pounds per book. Kurt sent a book review of AR's reprinted Rod and Line by Tom Fort in the January 15/16 edition of the Financial Times: "Ransome's territory is domestic; his tone reflective, philosophical and inquiring. He roves where he wills over matters such as the wisdom of carp, the traditions of northern fly dressing, the piscatorial side-effects of an eclipse and the

uncertain temper of bulls. The book is one of my absolute favourites."

Bookshop recommendations: ALAN HYDE found the complete line of Ransomes in the new Red Fox paperback editions, a few of the Puffins too, at The Children's Book Store, 2532 Yonge Street, Toronto, Ontario, M4P 2H7; Telephone is (416) 480-0233.

DOUG FAUNT also recommends this store and says they take telephone orders with a credit card number. Doug found hardcover British editions, for \$5 or \$6, of Winter Holiday and Picts and Martyrs at The Tattered Cover book store in Denver, telephone 1-800-833-9327. Doug informs us that The Autobiography of Arthur Ransome, hardcover import, order #221988, is available from Edward R. Hamilton, Bookseller, Falls Village CT 06031-5000, price \$9.95 plus \$3 shipping.

DAVE and SUSAN THEWLIS plan to attend the Annual General Meeting late in May in the Lake District. He says, "Susan is quite a good photographer, so we'll be recording the event for our own sake (but no home videos!) We can probably make copies or circulate any really good pictures if anyone in TARSUS is interested. Additionally, Susan is an illustrator and painter, and I'm hoping she gets inspired to do something really nice." (Now we can hope too. Good luck with camera and inspiration, and stay in touch about results--Ellen).

I, ELLEN TILLINGHAST, have seen the announcement that the annual WoodenBoat Show, previously held in Newport RI, will be in Southwest Harbor (near Bar Harbor) ME from July 29-31. The show focuses on wooden boats and related products, attracting over 200 exhibitors who display boats, tools, hardware, coatings, adhesives, lumber, plans, publications, nautical books, models, and antiques. There'll also be a weeklong celebration of Wooden-Boat Magazine's 20th anniversary. For tickets and general information, call 1-800-225-5205.

This book sounds appealing: Off in a Boat by Neil Gunn, \$11.95 plus shipping, available by calling The Common Reader, 1-800-832-7323. Its description: "The occasion for the voyage recorded in this memoir is a sad-looking boat 'bought in ignorance and navigated by faith and a defective engine'. Regarded as one of Scotland's finest 20th-century novelists, Gunn quit his civil service job to become a writer, and set off on a three-month voyage round the Inner Hebrides in an old tub which he'd purchased with 'a feeling, almost uncomfortable in its excitement, that not only should I buy this boat but that it might completely alter my whole way of life.' There are exquisite descriptions of sea and sky here, as well as a lot about the simple fun of messing about in a boat."

DOROTHY HILL sent Ellen a 1984 Jonathan Cape edition of The Picts and Martyrs to keep or give to a TARSUS member. Thank you, Dorothy. I'm happy to offer it. Let me know during April if you'd like it. On May Day I'll hold a hat drawing and send it to the winner.

I can also offer a spare copy of Claire Kendall-Price's In the Footsteps of the Swallows and Amazons. Again, let me know during April if you want to be in the running for a May Day drawing. Since there are two books involved, be sure to refer to one or the other by title, and not just "that book"!

TARSUS Membership List--April, 1994

Mr. Tony Auth & Family
 307 Hamilton Rd.
 Wynnewood PA 19096
 Mrs. Betty Jo Baerg
 1803 Meadow Lane
 Lincoln CA 95648
 Mr. Robert Barcus
 2002 East 36th Ave.
 Spokame WA 99203-4046
 Mr. John H.H. Bennett (Junior)
 5917 Highland Hills Dr.
 Austin TX 78731
 Mrs. Nancy Bowman
 4826 Gary Rd. SW
 Bonita Springs FL 33923
 Miss Joelle Burbank & Family
 497 Chestnut Hill Rd.
 Montague MA 01351
 Miss Anita Burt & Family
 RR 2 Box 39 River Rd.
 Newcastle ME 04553
 Mr. Samuel P. Cole & Family
 59 Meredith St.
 Springfiled MA 01108
 Mr. Christopher T. Cory & Family
 9 Winchester Rd.
 New London CT 06320-4134
 Mr. F. Kurt Cvlke
 P.O. Box 192
 Great Falls VA 22066
 Mr. Steve J. Dimond & Family
 7516 West 84th St.
 Bloomington MN 55438
 Mr. Richard D. Evans
 412 S. Kenneth Rd.
 Burbank CA 91501
 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 & Family
 15424 N.E. 160th St.
 Woodinville WA 98072
 Mr. Wayne Hammond
 30 Talcott Rd.
 Williamstown MA 01267
 Mrs. William H. Hill
 7841 Woodsdale Lane
 Jacksonville FL 32256
 Mr. Wm. Bruce Hoff, Jr., & Family
 1340 Scott Ave.
 Winnetka IL 60093

Mr. Alan Hyde & Family
 761 Greenwich St.
 New York NY 10014
 Ms. Anna & Mr. Kit Jacobson (Juniors)
 906 Oak St.
 Winnetka IL 60093
 Mrs. Carol M. Jones
 1504 S. Azalea St.
 Columbia MO 65201
 Colonel Edward F. Lincoln
 76 Brigantine Circle
 Norwell MA 02601-2814
 Ms. Helena Meyer-Knapp
 3811 Pifer Rd.
 Olympia WA 98501
 Mr. Bob Montgomery & Family
 6985 Edgerton Rd.
 North Royalton OH 44133
 Mr. Thomas Mumford, Jr., & Family
 4004 Cooper Point Rd. NW
 Olympia WA 98502-3733
 Mr. Peter B. Mvers
 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
 Ms. E. Pratt
 P.O. Box 115
 South Glastonbury CT 06073
 Mrs. Elizabeth C. Price & Family
 13 Lake St.
 Sherborn MA 01770
 May-Oct.: RD 4 Box 712
 Vergennes VT 05491
 Mr. Mark Purtill
 951 N. Lantana
 Kingsville TX 78363
 Mr. D. Schlosnagle & Family
 2530 25 Ave. S.E.
 Rochester MN 55904
 Mr. Theodor Schuchat
 11015 S.E. Lake Rd.
 Bellevue WA 98004-7557
 Miss Mary H. Smith
 Box 278
 Housatonic MA 01236-9715
 Mrs. Su Stauffer & Family
 3957 Happy Valley Rd.
 Lafayette CA 94549

Capt, I.W. Stephenson
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Mr. I.W. Stephenson IV
3907 N. Sherburn Pl., Apt. 105
Shorewood WI 53211-1830
Mr. David C. Thewlis
2301 C St.
Eureka CA 95501-4108
Mrs. Ellen C. Tillinghast
3303 Wake Robin Drive
Shelburne VT 05482
Mr. Alan Truelove
Quantum Research, Inc.
3326 Elm Terrace
Falls Church VA 22042-3303
Mr. A. Bennett Wilson, Jr., & Family
P.O. Box 380
Topping VA 23169
Mr. Chris Yetter (Junior)
c/o 196th Field Hospital
Unit 21414 Box 213
APO 09705

Mrs. Margaret P. Aldrich has resigned

I Have Not Heard From:

Mrs. Mary Brown
Mr. F. Carter & Family
Clive D. Dalby, M.D.
Mrs. J. de la Sceaux
Mr. Doug Faunt (Look to the right)-->
Mr. William C. Hellendale
Mrs. Margo R. Jay
Mr. Franklin Lee Johnson
Miss Janet Ann Riesman
Miss Margaret Warner (Junior)
Mr. Ian W. Wojcik-Andrews & Family

I assume with regret that these people
are letting their membership lapse.

LET ME KNOW IF I'M MISTAKEN!

I've just heard from him!
Mr. Doug Faunt
6405 Regent St.
Oakland CA 94618-1313

Mr. Dan Lind (the friendly Canadian
who'd like to meet/hear from any of us)
Suite 106, 9530 Semiahmeo Parkway, Blaine WA 98230

Robert S. Montgomery, North Royalton, Ohio (Autumn, 1993)

I am a retired businessman, my hobbies are collector cars (Buicks) and playing the bagpipes. I am a native of northeast Ohio, but now spend my winters in Sarasota Fla.

I first discovered Arthur Ransome as a boy of 10 or 11 in 1938 or 1939. I lived in a semi-rural area and not having many playmates I spent a lot of time roaming the woods and fields with my dog and reading. One day at the library I found Swallows and Amazons! It was love at first reading, these children had adventures like those I imagined and many more. I read and reread all of the series that the library had, most of them many times.

I grew up found other interests and did not think too much about the books for many years, however I never forgot them either. A couple of years ago as my grandchildren began to approach the age of ten I thought of Swallows and Amazons and decided to try to find the books in hopes that they would prove to be as exciting to my grandchildren as they had been to me.

With the help of a friend who is a research librarian, several book dealers and an English cousin in Cheshire I have collected the set of twelve. It still remains to be seen if my grandchildren will like them, but I am extremely happy to have rediscovered Arthur Ransome and am reading the series again with as much joy as I did 55 years ago.

In one of the books I recently got from my Cheshire cousin there was information about The Arthur Ransome Society, I wrote for information and here I am. SWALLOWS AND AMAZONS FOREVER!

Richard D. Evans, Burbank CA (Additional details, Fall, 1993)

I am off back to England for a week long business trip and looking forward very much to a two day trip up to the Broads to stay at my brother's new riverside home at Brundall. He bought it a couple of years ago and it will be my first trip to the house. It's been renamed "Swallowdale." He now keeps his sailing dinghy, Sinbad, down there. He tells me that it's surprising the number of AR related boats one can spot on the Broads. There's a privately owned yacht up at Horning called Peter Duck, a dinghy called Titmouse and he often see the hullabaloo's Margoletta and Sir Garnett (as used in the BBC films.)

In the early 1970s I owned a house about two blocks from AR's London flat (Hurlingham Court) and never knew that that's where he had once lived. A further coincidence: I have been re-reading AR's 'Bohemia in London' written at the turn of the century and, I think, his first published book. In it he mentions moving by horse and cart from his then home in Clapham, south London over the Thames to take up rooms in the Kings Road, Chelsea. In 1976 after I moved from Putney I moved to a house in Clapham in the same street. Every day on my way to work I would retrace AR's journey from Clapham through Battersea to Chelsea and his description of the streets and buildings hasn't changed in ninety years. I don't know if this book is available in the U.S. but it's a marvellous account of London life at the turn of the century. It's strange that I seemed to have followed AR round London over the years! This all finally came to a head in 1988 when I bought my current flat in Little Venice on the Regents Canal, close to Paddington. The elderly couple who sold me the flat had been friends of AR's and the Collingwoods, and the wife claimed that she and her sister could have been the inspiration for the Blakett girls! The flat was adorned with paintings and drawings of the Lakes, some by W.G. Collingwood himself. I was shown some wonderful sepia photographs of the wife as a child playing with her sister, AR and the Collingwoods up at Coniston. To bring the tale full circle, after I bought the flat I remodelled it, during which time I gave a lot of the old shelving timbers etc to my brother. He never throws anything

away and loves to re-use old wood and fittings etc. So in due course the shelf timbers became the mid and stern thwarts in Sinbad. "Peggy's shelves," he'll mutter with great pride when asked about the building of Sinbad.

David C. Thewlis, Eureka CA (Winter 1993-94)

I'm in my early 50s. By profession I am a computer consultant and technology futurist. My hobbies are books, medieval historical recreation, aircraft and modeling, travel, and a growing and necessary interest in historical preservation. My wife and I live in Eureka, a town of about 25,000 on the north coast of California about 300 miles north of San Francisco, where we own and are restoring a 1901 transitional Victorian/Edwardian home (hence the "necessary" interest in historical preservation!) Susan, my wife, is a graphics designer and illustrator, and also the current president of the Eureka Heritage Society.

I grew up in the Washington D.C. area (suburban Maryland) and found the Ransome novels in the local library when I was about ten years old. I have always been fond of English children's novels, and the Ransome books certainly helped to establish or feed that interest. Although I learned about sailing from Ransome, I was never in a sailboat until I learned to sail on the Wannsee in Berlin in the early 1960s when I was stationed there in the Air Force. After my service, I moved to California and entered data processing as a career, which I've largely done since then. I've never had much luck finding anybody else who has read the Ransome books, although they are always in libraries (until last summer, that is).

I didn't return to Europe until 1982, when I attended a computer conference and remembered how much I had enjoyed Germany. Finally, in 1985 my son (then 14, and also a Ransome fan) and I visited Germany and the U.K. for several weeks, and spent three very rainy days in the Lake District, hoping to see where the Ransome stories had been set and if we could discover anything more about them. We were also hoping to find information on the BBC "Swallows and Amazons Forever" movie made in the late 1970s, scenes from which appeared on the cover of a Puffin edition of "Swallows and Amazons".

At that time, I had not stumbled across any of the "external" information about Ransome; we had only what we remembered from the books to guide us. We took a boat trip on Windermere, speculated on whether an island we saw might be the origin of Wildcat Island (it was Blake Holme, so we got at least one thing right) and got to visit Belle Island (which was obviously Long Island), which was still open to the public. We visited the Steamboat Museum, and saw Esperance. So our short visit was exciting, but we were certain there was more to find, if only we'd had the time, or a little more information. The day before we left the U.K. I found Hugh Brogan's Biography of Arthur Ransome, and Ransome's Autobiography, in a booksellers in England; on the flight home I found out how close we had been!

Two years later my wife and I visited England, and I was able to rent a small boat on Coniston and find the Secret Harbor on Peel Island for myself; visit Ransome's grave; and visit the Kendal Museum (where I saw Ransome's study, but of course didn't find TARS). Since then, I've found Christina Hardyment's and Roger Wardale's books, and we returned again to the U.K. but I had no time to pursue Ransome interests. In the summer of 1993, however, we visited the Lake District once more and stayed at Banerigg House on Grasmere, where the proprietors, Martin and Angela Clark, knew a bit about Ransome and about a lady who had stayed with them while researching her book recently. They told us about the S&A movie being shown fairly regularly in Bowness, but it wasn't while we were there.

One afternoon, returning briefly to the the guest house, we were greeted by Angela announcing "She's here! She was passing through and stopped for

tea." "She" turned out to be Claire Kendall-Price, whose book I had bought that morning in Grasmere. We had a wonderful talk with Claire, who autographed my book, told us about TARS and subsequently got me the information about how to join TARS, which I have now done. And I finally got a chance to see Amazon at the Steamboat Museum.

Now, it turns out that not only will we be in the U.K. next summer, but the timing is such that I should be able to be in the Lake District for the Annual TARS event. So I'm very much looking forward to that. What I haven't been able to do, unfortunately, is find a copy of that BBC movie. Apparently it's never been sold on video, and though there may be a few "pirate" copies running around the U.K., it isn't available.

So there's a not-so-brief bio, and a Ransome story largely of looking for things before I knew how to find them!



New Regional Captain:
Betty Jo Baerg
Address: 1803 Meadow Lane
Lincoln, CA 95648
Phone: 916-645-0365

May 25, 1994

MEMBERS AHOY!

You may have heard rumors that Ellen Tillinghast is retiring as Regional Captain for TARSUS. I'm sorry to say these rumors are true. We've been debating whether to make her walk the plank for this, but, since she's staying on as Treasurer, we'll just give her a great big THANK YOU for four years of faithful leadership! My children felt they should break a bottle over my head to inaugurate me, but I have talked them out of this.

Those of us who are charter members have watched the Arthur Ransome Society in the U.S. grow from seven members to our present membership of fifty-two. I'm sure there are a lot more Ransomaniacs out there that will join us. Part of my job will be to send you the materials that come from Headquarters in the U.K. And I will continue sharing despatches from each of you as Ellen has. We're scattered over such a large country that it's hard getting together, but we do find each other from time to time!

Ellen will still be in charge of finances. She has the checking account in pounds, so we can order through her and not have to pay separate charges for converting dollars to pounds.

If you have any adventures at home or abroad, I'll share them ^{with} all of you if you write to me. Sharing is one of the best things about the Society, and I'll be looking forward to hearing from you. Feel free to communicate among yourselves, too, and have Arthur Ransome Events in your area—but be sure and let the rest of us know too! It would help if I could add phone numbers to your addresses on the membership list.

By the way, how do you like the letterhead? I've noticed that the various Regions in the U.K. have different emblems (Coot, Diver, etc.). So I thought perhaps an eagle clutching the society emblems might fill the bill for us. If you have other ideas, let me know.

THREE CHEERS FOR TARSUS!



Betty Jo

Ellen

P.S. Peter Roche writes that he is extremely keen to involve Overseas Members in The Dick Callum Cup competition, but that the response has been disappointing so far. Let's show him that TARSUS is alive! (Find info. on pp. 29 and 30 in SIGNALS—name has been changed from Dick Kelsall Cup.)



SIGNALS FROM T·A·R·S·U·S

October 10, 1994

AHOY, YAWL!*

"The time has come," the Walrus said, and I had to agree that it was time to get out a Newsletter. First, I'd like to thank Richard Evans of Burbank, CA, whose business is graphic art, for the logo. The few responses I received on my crude efforts in May suggested that the eagle be a bit smaller. Some suggested that he be less fierce, but what kind of an eagle would clutch a pirate flag?! Anyway, here is our latest effort, and I, for one, like it!

Dave Thewlis reported on the TARS AGM at Ambleside. He says that although there were supposed to be 8 or 9 Americans at the AGM, he only got to smile at 2 of them and chat with one other, Doug Faunt of Oakland, CA. He had a wonderful time and came away with various S&A and TARS momentos, only one of which (a coffee mug) failed to make it back in one piece. His particular thrill was a sail in "Amazon"—made possible by whistling for enough breeze. We'll be interested in knowing whether they avoided "sailboat syndrome," a sort of variation of Murphy's Law which says that when taking a picture of somebody in a sailboat, the somebody will always be on the other side of the sail.

Frank Kurt Cylke, Director of the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, Washington, D.C., is the first non-Canadian to be awarded the Baker Medal from the Canadian National Institute for the Blind, according to the Sept. '94 issue of the American Libraries Association magazine. Kurt has sent us a listing of Braille and Audio books by and about Arthur Ransome in libraries serving Australia, Canada, Ireland, New Zealand, South Africa, and the U.S.A. If you wish any information from this list, please let me know.

I know that all of you who enjoyed the cover picture on the last Ship's Log, and the story about the placing of the commemorative plaque will be sorry to hear that in their zealous drive to avoid "visual clutter," officials of the Lake District National Park have ordered the removal of this memorial to Arthur Ransome from the summit of Coniston Old Man.

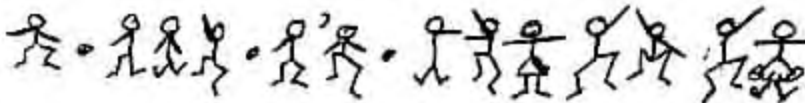
For those who are searching: M & D REEVE CHILDREN'S BOOKS catalogue lists the following—THE BIG SIX, Cape, 1st ed. £26.50; GREAT NORTHERN, 1st ed. £22.50; ARTHUR RANSOME AUTOBIOGRAPHY, Cape, 1st ed. £25.00. Ted Alexander has sent a list of items currently available—NANCY BLACKETT by Roger Wardale (hard £13.99, soft £8.99); IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE SWALLOWS & AMAZONS £6.95; WHERE IT ALL BEGAN and RANSOMING, both by Pauline Marshall and each £6.95; SOCIETY BURGEES £7.00; MIXED MOSS '91, '92, '93 £4.50 each; LITERARY PAPERS TRANSCRIPT '91 £3.50; CAPT. FLINT'S TRUNK paperback £7.99; DISTILLED ENTHUSIASMS £3.00; BLUE TREACLE £8.00 (Note: members buying these last two items become subscribers to Amazon Publications); THE FAR DISTANT OXUS hardback £3.50; '93 LITERARY WEEKEND TRANSCRIP £5.00. An International Marine Catalog lists SA, SW, PD, WH, CC, and PP available in paperback. \$11.95 each. Order toll free 800-822-8158. All the items in pounds may be ordered through Ellen Tillinghast.

Papers you may request from me at 10¢ per xerox page are: (1) BOAT SHOWS, an article by E.B. White in The New Yorker, 1 page. (2) WATER YEAT Country Guest House, located at the southern tip of Coniston Water, 2 pages of full information. (3) ST. PAUL'S CHURCH, RUSLAND, two-page article. (4) Picture of children camping with humorous comment—postcard from England, 1 page.

Remember that the Newsletter is dependent on despatches from YOU. I'll be looking forward to hearing from you.

Billy J. Bering

* Southern nautical term!



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Annual TARS event. So I'm very much looking forward to that. What I haven't been able to do, unfortunately, is find a copy of that BBC movie. Apparently it's never been sold on video, and though there may be a few "pirate" copies running around the U.K., it isn't available.

So there's a not-so-brief bio, and a Ransome story largely of looking for things before I knew how to find them!

Su Stauffer, Lafayette, CA (Spring, 1994)

I am so glad for all the good things from the ARS which really helped to keep my spirits up during last summer's bone-marrow transplant (I have cancer). I read all AR's stories in the hospital again which helped pass 7 weeks. What glorious stories they are too and form a core in my life since I was seven. Have read them every 2 or 3 years since, and, of course, to my children and have started 6 other children onto them just recently.

I haven't sailed much since leaving the East Coast where we had a small sailboat--a 12½' Werrishoff which we raced in Marblehead Harbor, Mass. and cruised in Maine near Mt. Desert--but we love the Sierra both for hiking and skiing.

I picked up 3 sets of AR's books for my children in Harrod's in London in March, 1992 and found that the Society was up and running--they seem to have a wonderful time, but I must say I would be reluctant to see the actual places--they couldn't be better than my imagination of this dear world which AR created. It is fun to find out about him. I am amazed at how conservation minded he was in the 1930's and love his emphasis on children creating their own adventures!

We went on two cruises along the Turkish coast in 1985 and 1987 (I also love Greek ruins) and loved the sailing in that beautiful place!

What about getting in touch with sailing camps and marinas? The 12 and 13-year-olds really need AR's stories to keep them out of the malls!

Test your knowledge of nautical skills and terminology with this quiz. It was prepared by TARS members, Dan, Sylvia, and Kristopher Lind of Canada. I'll include the answers in my next Newsletter.

TARS NAUTICAL TRIVIA

PART ONE: SHORT ANSWER

1. In CC, how does Tom steer and propel the Dreadnought?
2. In BS, how many feet was Sir Garnet's new coir rope?
3. In WH, what sort of sail does Captain Flint recommend for an ice sled?
4. In PH, what sort of knot is used to attach Scarab's flag to the halyard?
5. In SW, describe the fittings used to attach the rudder to the stern of a sailing dinghy?
6. In PD, what scope was used to anchor Wildcat upon arrival at Crab Island?
7. In GN, what type of anchorage bottom would "sh" indicate?
8. In SD, which vessel has the right of way, the boat sailing close-hauled or the one running down wind?
9. In ML, when the sea anchor gave way, what held the Swallow to windward?
10. In WD, what aids to navigation are left to starboard when returning from sea with a flood tide?
11. In BS, how do Tom and Joe finish off a new mainsheet for the Titmouse?
12. In SA, why does Amazon sail closer to the wind than Swallow?
13. In GN, describe the navigational lights used for the night voyage?
14. In CC, why is it so easy for the Ds to lower the mast on Teasel?
15. In WD, what sailing manoeuvre should John have done when picking up the Dutch pilot?
16. In PD, under what circumstances would a sailing vessel find the distance from Ushant to Scilly to be 35 leagues?

17. In SA, when reefing Swallow's main, which pendant is tied first?
18. In WD, why does Goblin's anchor drag?
19. In CC, list all the knots and rope skills Mate Hawkins shows to the children?
20. In PH, what sort of sail does the Great Aunt's parasel approximate?
21. In PD, how many times and with what frequency, is a sailing vessel required to sound the fog horn when the wind is abaft?
22. In SA, describe the main rule of anchoring according to John?
23. In WD, what is the distinguishing feature about Goblin's jib sail?
24. In PH, which sail boat has the right of way in an overtaking situation?
25. In CC, why does the Margotta crash into the big beacon post?
26. In WD, how does shining a torch through a Woolworth plate prevent a collision at sea?
27. In ML, discuss two reasons the Amazon drifted away from Chinese pirate ship?
28. In PH, what advice does Nancy give to Dick about steering?
29. In SA, what are leading lights?
30. In WD, when the wind dies and Goblin must resort to engine power, what two important checks does Jim Brading make?

PART TWO: MATCH THE FOLLOWING TARS NAUTICAL TERMS

A() Hawse-hole	D() Port Tack	C() Kedg
B() Brail	E() Fid	F() Gunwale
G() Jibe	H() Close-hauled	I() Goosewinged
J() Halyard	K() Parrel	L() Gudgeon
M() Bulwarks	N() Samson Post	O() Starboard Tack
P() Fiddles	Q() Mouse, to	R() Boliards
S() Gift, to	T() Binnacle	

1. A rope which encircles a sail for the purpose of gathering it to the mast.
2. The case in which a compass is fixed.
3. A post, usually on a pier or quay, to which mooring or warping lines are made fast.
4. Sailing down wind with a sail on each side of the vessel.
5. The upper edge of a boat's side.
6. Occurs when running, to bring the wind from one quarter to the other so that the boom swings across.
7. A fitting to keep the jaws of a gaff to the mast.
8. A hole in the bulwarks or topside through which the anchor cable runs.
9. A rope leading across the lee side of a sail and making a hard ridge in it is said to _____ the sail.
10. A metal eye on the after side of a sternpost into which the rudder pinacle ships.
11. A vessel is said to be on a _____ tack when close-hauled with the wind blowing over the starboard bow.

12. Strips of wood or metal fitted to a table, stove, etc. to prevent the contents from sliding off.
13. A smaller anchor often used with a fibre cable instead of chain, used for hauling a vessel off when she has gone aground and to prevent her from fouling her bower.
14. To take turns with twine or marlin around sister hooks to prevent them from opening.
15. A large spike, usually of wood. Also a short metal bar passing through a hole in a spar or other object to hold it in position.
16. A vessel is said to be on a _____ when sailing close-hauled with the wind blowing over her port bow.
17. A solid protection built round the edges of a deck to prevent people or gear from being washed overboard.
18. A very strong post that goes right through the deck and down to the keel.
19. A vessel sailing as close to the wind as she can with advantage, with her sails trimmed more nearly fore-and-aft than on any other point of sailing.
20. A rope for hoisting sails or flags.

Definitions Courtesy of:
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