



March 3, 1997

Greetings to all TARSUS Members!

This is the Winter Postholiday newsletter (because it's too early to be a Spring newsletter) accompanying *Despatches*.

Welcomes

Welcome to everyone who has joined TARS and TARSUS since my last newsletter: the Berrier family, Kate Brittain, Carlton Brown, the Bruce family, Eli Gaugush, the Geniven family, Frederica Lawrence, and Beatrice Schraa.

Memberships

Everyone has hopefully received their renewal cards from Ellen Tillinghast, and I know that she has already received a number of renewals. Please be sure and send in your renewal as soon as possible so Ellen won't have to send out too many reminders.

Resumes

Vance Bradley, Charles Preston and Carlton Brown have sent me resumes, so this mailing includes their material. You'll probably notice however that the resume pages included with this newsletter are numbered 11-13, and you already had page 17! In order to make the resumes a little more readable (and use fewer pages) I scanned the original resumes and converted them to text, and then created a new file in a smaller but hopefully still-readable format. The overlap comes in Marilyn Marshall's resume, which ended on Page 17 (old format) and is now entirely on Page 11 (new format).

From now on I will simply add to the new format. However, if anybody would like a complete new printing of the resumes, please drop me a note and I'll be happy to send you one at cost (about \$1.50 for copying and postage).

Sailing On The Broads

Captain I.W. Stephenson has sent me the February, 1997 issue of *Sailing* magazine, which has a great story on sailing on the Broads (called, appropriately enough, *Bareboating on the Broads*). If anyone wants a copy please send a SASE and \$.60 for copying.

On the Subject of Treasure Island

Jane Laninga, in her article *Treasure Island Revisited* in the last *Signals from TARSUS*, invited other TARSUS to speculate on what Jim Hawkins might have done with his share of the treasure. We have a response, from TARSUS member Thomas Grimes:

I have an answer for you about what happened after Treasure Island, specifically what Jim Hawkins did with his share—he buried it, and continued to work in the Admiral Benbow. Everyone else, the Doctor and the Squire and the others, invested their money in hopes of making even more. Jim didn't trust that sort of thing and didn't need the money, so he buried it. (Ben Gunn didn't invest his share, he drank it



up – I think that TI says that at the very end of the book.)

What they all invested in was the Great South Sea Bubble, and (historically) it burst, and they all lost their shirts, or whatever they wore in those days. All, that is, but Jim Hawkins. Squire Trelawney and the Doctor among others remembered that there were other things left on the Island—remember "the arms are easy found..." and "the bar silver... south of the black crag with the face on it" from the inscription on the back of Flint's map.

Jim dug up his share of the treasure and bought a ship (the *Hispaniola*—you would probably never have guessed!) and they raised a crew and went after the rest of the treasure. And had all sorts of adventures, including another encounter with the man with one leg.

In case you may be about to accuse me of having an active imagination and making up the above out of whole cloth, not so! I read it all a very long time ago in *Back to Treasure Island* by someone named Callahan. I remember it as a very good book, and one that I enjoyed reading a couple of times. I hadn't thought about TI or BTTI for decades, but I think that I'll have to dig out my copy of TI and read it again and try to find BTTI again.

Lest you fear that I have spoiled a good story by the above account, no problem. All the above, as far as I can remember, is in about the first three or four pages of BTTI, except for the last clause of the last sentence.

Much has been written about John Silver and his charm and as a (potentially) good man gone to waste, etc. Flint was a different matter. Strictly apart from all of the acts of piracy that generated the treasure, the murder, rapine, and so on, he (little guy that he was) was able to keep his crew under control—the pirates that did all of these things. And, according to one of the crew's account, when the treasure was buried on the island, Flint and six big bruisers went ashore in one of the ship's boats, after ferrying the silver and the arms ashore. They towed a dinghy with the treasure in it. A week later, Flint came off alone, rowing the dinghy. No bruisers. Flint was a monster.

More about Videos

I have received recent information that the 1974 *Swallows & Amazons* film is no longer available in the U.K. and that W.H. SMITH, the U.K. distributor, does not plan to re-release it. However, Vance Bradley, a new TARSUS member in Florida, has offered to make a few copies from my PAL master if there are members who really want them. Contact Vance at:

Vance Bradley
2072 SE Benedictine Street
Port St. Lucie, FL 34983-4602

561-878-1817

On the subject of the videos Peter Evans donated to TARSUS, I've received one suggestion to the effect that we could form a sort of round-robin of folks who wanted to see them and then each get them, view them, and post them to the next person. I am not sure how well that will work, as I think most folks want their own, but if anybody who would like to be part of such a video circle will write me between now and the end of March, I'll set up such a circle. Note, though, that you'll have to commit to (a) watching them in a week or two and (b) posting them to the next person on the list. This is not the same thing as getting your own copy of S&A (see previous column) or CC and BS (contact Janson Associates).

More Electronic Miscellany

In the last newsletter I mentioned that a movement was afoot to find a permanent home for the Arthur Ransome web site and to obtain a more memorable name. My own Internet Service Provider, Humboldt Internet, offered to host the site and took care of the paperwork to obtain the proper domain name. It is now at:

<http://www.arthur-ransome.org/AR>

Also for those who have world wide web access, there is a new facility on the TARBOARD (the electronic bulletin board for TARS which you can find from the AR web site mentioned above). This facility allows you to post a message in semaphore, using either Nancy's stick figures or official-looking uniformed sailors holding real semaphore flags. It has resulted in (a) a lot of short semaphore messages of the general form "wow! this is neat!" and (b) a few messages about the difficulty of looking up the characters in WH or ML and whether one likes the "official" depictions or Nancy's stick figures. Brigit Sanders, the President of TARS, chimed in at that point with "*I agree and hurray for the stick men!! How about a key to them on the Net - or would that all be too easy. We are meant to work at it I suppose - and why not?*"

That's all for now. Enjoy the AGM if you are going, and Three Cheers for TARS and TARSUS!

Dave Thewlis, TARSUS Coordinator





April 11, 1997

Greetings to all TARSUS Members!

This is the Spring newsletter accompanying *Signals* and also the proposed *Memorandum and Articles of Association* and related ballot. It's also only a month since the last newsletter, and consequently very thin of news.

Welcomes

Welcome to everyone who has joined TARS and TARSUS since my last newsletter: Jon Barrett, Jonas Benson, R.E. Honnor, Richard Johnson, Ben Matlick, and Phillip Sullivan. And welcome back to the Collett family.

Membership List

Instead of mailing everyone a complete mailing list with each newsletter, I am going to change the process to send a complete mailing list once a year, and then send updates with each subsequent newsletter. Unfortunately I forgot to do either with the last newsletter! So, *mea culpa*, and with this newsletter you will find additions and changes of address since last November. Deletions (considered resigned) are Amory, Bausch, Bennett, Schwartzkopf, Dunlap, Evers, Suen, Gale, Witte and Phillips.

Video Round Robin

I have started the round-robin distribution of the S&A, CC and BS videos. If you would like to be on the round-robin list please write me. If you would like your own copies of the videos, contact Vance Bradley for S&A, and Janson Associates for CC and BS.

Refer to the last newsletter for contact information.

Signalling from Mars: The Letters of Arthur Ransome

Hugh Brogan, who authored the Biography of Arthur Ransome, has recently published a volume of Ransome's letters. I don't believe it is available in the United States as yet, but you can obtain a copy from Ted Alexander at the address given at the bottom of the back page of the enclosed *Signals*. I also have copies of the reviews from the Times and the Daily Telegraph if anyone is interested; please send \$1.00 for copying and postage for either.

AGM

The Annual General Meeting of The Arthur Ransome Society will be held May 23-27 in East Anglia and I encourage everyone to go who can. The enclosed *Signals* includes an Agenda for the upcoming AGM and a letter from the Chairman of TARS, Malcolm Temple, discussing the proposal to make TARS a limited liability company. All members over 18 are encouraged to vote; if you are not going to be at the AGM please cast your vote via the enclosed ballot and return it to be received prior to May 22nd. And note the proposal for the 1998 AGM is for Ullapool in Scotland, near *Great Northern* waters.

Karabangbaraka!



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SIGNALS FROM T·A·R·S·U·S

July 27, 1997

This is the Summer newsletter accompanying *Mixed Moss*. For those who may not know, TARS decided to eliminate *Ship's Log* and bring out *Mixed Moss* twice a year. So you will find "Summer Moss" and *Signals* in this packet. We've a fair amount to report, so onward.

Welcome, Thanks, etc.

Welcome to new members Marcia Campbell, Dorie Dattel, Robert Hollis, Will Rae, the Rogers family, and Mark Vladick. And a special "thank you" to Ben Matlick and Jim Reeds for their resumes.

Videos: Round Robin and new S&A Release

The round-robin of the three videos (*Swallows and Amazons*, *Coot Club*, and *The Big Six*) continues. If you would like to be on the round-robin list please contact me.

If you want your own copy of *Swallows and Amazons*, things have changed for the better: Republic Industries has now brought out the film in North American video format. It is available from Suncoast (a video outlet chain) for about \$7.95. Best of all, now that *Swallows and Amazons* is available commercially, we can thank Vance Bradley for his offer to make copies of the PAL film, and he won't have to do that any more.

The Swallows and The Amazons

I don't know how many of you subscribe to Amazon Publications, but I would like to strongly recommend the 1997 publication, *The Swallows and The Amazons*.

This is a transcription of an early draft of *Swallows and Amazons*, in the collection at Abbott Hall, and has the original S&A illustrations by Stephen Spurrier. Dave Sewart, who was the transcriber, has done a marvelous job of showing the differences and author's process of thinking. Dave notes in the introduction,

"A particular pleasure for the transcriber when handling the document, has been to remember that this was probably the text that AR placed next to the bed and fingered at night, happy in the knowledge that he could indeed write such a book."

Dave points out that this isn't *Swallows and Amazons* (and isn't even called that), but that it is the foundations of *Swallows and Amazons*. It is a real delight, and thanks to everyone who labored to make this book a reality—and in the process to answer a question many have asked. In the frontispiece, they note that there is a handwritten page at the front of the manuscript:

"Titty is short for Tittymouse, and Tittymouse is long for—it may be Ann or it may be Jane. I do not know; but as she is never known by any other name, it does not seem to matter. She was a very good Able Seaman."

If you are not familiar with Amazon Publications, information on them can be found on the inside back cover of the enclosed *Mixed Moss*.

Reviews of *Signalling from Mars*

I have been sent three more reviews of *Signalling from Mars* (Hugh Brogan's new book of Ransome's letters) by assorted TARSUS members, making a total of five reviews in my file (so far). They are available for \$1.00 each for copying and postage if anyone is interested. The reviews (in date order) are:

Swallow's log – TES2, 2/21

Babba hates Dordor – Daily Telegraph 3/22

Signed, sealed and delivered – Telegraph 4/19.

The insidest Pamela – Times Literary Supplement 5/2

Swallows and Marxists – The Times Bookshop 5/20

North American Arthur Ransome Events

Two actual Arthur Ransome events are happening in the next two months. Both are in Canada, but that's still closer than the U.K., and all TARSUS are invited. Maybe we'll see U.S. events one day after all!

Toronto, Canada, August 17th

On August 17th, there will be a TARSCanada Toronto Area Corroboree at the Toronto Sailing Club beginning at 2:00 p.m. Planned events include prospecting for gold, sailing, eel facepainting and dancing, Ransome conversation and discussions, and a Human Sacrifice (if available). The event is being organized by Adam Quinan (phone 416-222-8116) and Bronwyn Graves (phone 416-968-6952). Their e-mail addresses are:

<adam.quinan@hydro.on.ca>

<bronwyn@globalserve.on.ca>

Adam asked for a list of TARSUS members who might be near enough to come, and I believe sent personal invitations, but all are welcome.

Vancouver, B.C., September 30th

On September 30th, Robert Brown and Kit Pearson are planning an Arthur Ransome Celebration at the Vancouver Public Library, starting at 7:00 p.m. The video "Remembering the Ransomes" will be presented. There will be time to meet current and new TARSUS members and chat. Refreshments will include squashed fly biscuits along with other appropriate goodies. Robert's telephone number is 604-987-2441 if you would like more information.

Treasure Island One More Time

Yet more discussion related to *Treasure Island*, this time from Charles Preston:

The article by Thomas Grimes in the March *Signals from TARSUS*, about the book *Back to Treasure Island*, held great interest for me. I, too, read and enjoyed it many years ago, shortly after it was first published in the 1930's. A few years back, I found it in print [the seventeenth printing] and bought a copy. For anyone who is interested in finding it, the author's full name is Harold A. Calahan, and the publisher is The Vanguard Press, Inc., New York.

There is another book which is related to *Treasure Island*, and is a great story. It is *The Adventures of Ben Gunn*, by R. F. Delderfield; the publisher is The Bobbs-Merrill Company, Inc., Indianapolis / New York [LC 57-9346]. The story in this book takes place several years before *Treasure Island*. The reader will discover: how Long John lost his leg; how Pew was blinded, how the pirates acquired the treasure and Flint cheated them out of it; how the wrecked ship came to be in North Inlet; etc., etc. —everything you always wanted to know, if you are a *Treasure Island* fan.

Youth: A Narrative

Jane Laninga, who initiated the *Treasure Island* commentaries, returns with another review, this time of a Joseph Conrad book:

I recently came across a sea story which members might find interesting. It is issued in the Penguin 60s series which are published to celebrate Penguin Books' 60th anniversary. If you haven't seen these they are slim mini size volumes of short stories, poetry, speeches, essays, etc. with the distinctive Penguin orange spine. The one I found most interesting is entitled "Youth: A Narrative" by Joseph Conrad.

In this short story Conrad introduces the character Marlow, who narrates a tale of seafaring from his youth — his first voyage to the Eastern Seas and first as second mate. This story is much more readable than some of Conrad's dark and heavy going novels. It is a fascinating account of the passage carrying coal from the Tyne to Bangkok (sic) with several setbacks, delays and a disaster along the way. I was just astonished by

the poor shape of the ship they set sail in, yet youth was enthralled with the prospect of seeing the mysterious East for the first time and of having a leadership position.

I don't want to spoil the story for anyone, suffice to say the crew have to abandon ship at one point and are adrift in three small boats. Marlow, with a makeshift mast and sail hopes to lose the other two boats so he might be totally in command! I couldn't find a date of original publication so it is difficult to put an exact date on this story, although Marlow does mention meeting a steamer carrying mail and recalls the "good old days" when the mail-boats were square-rigged. All in all this is a jolly good sea yarn.

Signalling to Mars: an Amplification

Jim Reeds provided the following discussion on the notion in *Winter Holiday* of signalling to Mars. This was originally in the electronic newsletter *Signalling to Mars*, thus the reference to "this newsletter".

Here is something which you might not know about the name of this newsletter, "Signalling to Mars". Yes, of course, it is a reference to *Winter Holiday*. But where did Dick's idea come from?

Well, in the 1920's and 1930's there was a lot of interest in the topic of life on Mars, popularized by the astronomer Percival Lowell (d. 1916), culminating in the 1938 broadcast of Welles's version of Wells's *War of the Worlds*, which so terrified ill-read American radio listeners.

Whenever the planets were especially close in orbit the newspapers carried stories on the topic. In 1924, for instance, there was an article in *Popular Science Monthly* titled "Could We Decode Messages from Mars?" listing twenty-one different methods to communicate with Mars that summer, and there was an attempt by American military radio stations to keep quiet and to listen to the Martians. "Data" heard on the radio between 22 August and 24 August 1924 was recorded and passed on to the decoding expert W. F. Friedman. (This is summarized from pages 947-948 of David Kahn's *The Codebreakers*.)

I assume this silly fad existed in England, as well, where it entered AR's and hence Dick's imaginations.

A Glimpse of AR from the Water

Earlier this summer, Barbara Burt and her family vacationed in the U.K. Barbara had chartered a S&A cruise from Gordon Hall at Coniston Launch, and offers us this report:

"Okay, on the map it looks like about a four-hour ride," I said as I measured the miles from Strathtay, Scotland, to Coniston Water. My eyes were only half open due to jet lag (we had arrived at Heathrow at 5:00am—that's midnight in eastern U.S. time—and then took a local flight from there to Glasgow).

"So if we leave by noon tomorrow," continued my equally groggy husband Rick, "We should have time to settle in at Bank Ground Farm for an hour or so before meeting Gordon Hall for the cruise aboard the Arthur Ransome."

"Don't forget how slowly you'll have to drive on those narrow winding roads in the Lake District," cautioned Rick's mother.

"Hmmm," we replied, not deigning to pay much attention to the warnings of a non-driver.

Fast forward the film to the next afternoon. Swirls of mist surrounded our two little cars as we valiantly climbed over hill and mountain, trying to avoid the occasional sheep in the road as well as oncoming cars. Luckily, both were infrequent, for our American driving skills were severely put to the test. Rick's mom mercifully refrained from saying "I told you so."

Our fifteen-year-old daughter Jenna was the navigator in car number one. She, Rick, his mom Lee, and Jenna's friend Melissa led the way. In car number two, Nita, our twelve-year-old daughter and Swallows and Amazons fanatic, and my mother Ann kept me company. (We left another thirteen members of my family back in Strathtay!) We had arranged to meet Gordon Hall and his launch, the Arthur Ransome, at 5:30 at the pier in Coniston.

Because of our limited time in the Lakes, we had chartered the Arthur Ransome for a Friday evening trip (she normally sails on Tuesdays and Thursdays). To help defray the cost of the special charter, Gordon had suggested that we open the cruise to other members of

TARS via e-mail. Several replied, including Dave Thewlis, the head mucky muck of the US branch.

At 5:20 we sighed in relief as we drove up to the Coniston pier. We parked the cars and spied Gordon's launch coming into view. A few people tumbled out of other waiting cars and introduced themselves as fellow travelers. Soon the voyage was underway.

Gordon, his wife Margaret, and their friendly and woolly dog Saga, charmed us as we motored to the south end of Coniston Water and back. Gordon exhibited his prodigious grasp of Ransome arcana, and continually quizzed his passengers on the finer points of the books. However, there were enough experts on board, including our Nita, that he was never able to stump all of us all of the time.

As a first introduction to the area around Coniston, this boat trip was ideal. We put-putted past our night's destination, "Holly Howe," or as it is really called, Bank Ground Farm (room #8 is a dream). We got a good look at "Wild Cat Island" and several possible "Beckfoots." The moors loomed all around, and the path to a likely Swallowdale was pointed out. (We walked it the next day, running down the hills against the threat of an impending rainstorm.) Every now and then Old Ben, or "Kachenjunga" as we knew it, thrust its awesome rocky summit through the clouds

Watery folks that we are, coming from the coast of Maine, it meant a great deal to us to see the view from the water. We especially appreciated how the shores of Coniston Water are almost unchanged from Ransome's time, due to being part of a National Park. And if we couldn't sail the lake in a dinghy, what a treat to chug along in a vintage boat like the Arthur Ransome!

And finally, from the "head mucky muck"

Yes, I did indeed meet Barbara and her family on Coniston Water. Gordon Hall runs Coniston Launch, which offers (in addition to more mundane cruises) an occasional Swallows & Amazons cruise pointing out the various Ransome sights on Coniston. It's a lot of fun, and if you are planning to visit the Lake District you should take his cruise -- especially if your children

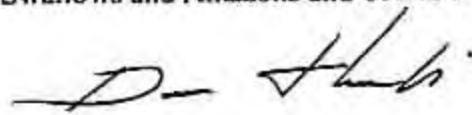
enjoy Arthur Ransome as well. You can find more information about Coniston Launch from the AR web site on the Internet, or I will be happy to send you their telephone number and address.

I was lucky enough to spend ten days in the U.K. in late June, which included several dinners with various British TARS, and a flying trip (planned, if we can call it that, at the last minute) to the Lake District, where I found the same Swallowdale that Barbara mentions (the one Roger Wardale in his book *In Search of Swallows & Amazons* refers to as Swallowdale I, near Beacon Tarn off the southwest corner of Coniston Water), and got to tromp about Wild Cat Island (Peel Island) for the second time with the help of a 6-foot inflatable dinghy belonging to Jill Goulder, a Southern TAR. (She rowed across to the island towing a kite line, which allowed me to pull back the dinghy and row across myself; concept courtesy of William the Pug in *Coot Club*.)

At the Windermere Steamboat Museum, I found not only *Amazon*, but *Coch-y-bondhu* (*Scarab*) which is presently at the museum. Apparently she may go ultimately to the Ruskin Museum, but the Steamboat Museum people very much hope she'll stay with them. The *Esperance* (Captain Flint's houseboat) has been set up to look as far as possible like the houseboat, with props in the cabin to look like the descriptions in S&A. On the table is the feast Captain Flint served to the Swallows and the Amazons after the race in the first book, complete with a plaster cake (with two little sailing boats, etc.) They also have a typewriter at the other end of the cabin table, with a page of *Mixed Moss* about 1/4 typed.

That's more than enough about me. Please keep the articles and comments coming; make it to the two TARSCanada events if you can; enjoy *Mixed Moss* and *Signals*; and let's think about hosting an Arthur Ransome event in the U.S.

Swallows and Amazons and TARS For Ever!





SIGNALS FROM T·A·R·S·U·S

December 1997

This is the Winter newsletter accompanying the Winter *Mixed Moss* and Autumn *Signals*, and your membership renewal notices – yes, membership renewals are due. The renewal notice has your name, membership number and membership type on it, along with the amount due in US\$ for each membership type. Please make our your checks to Dave Thewlis and send to me at the address shown on the notice.

In Memoriam

I am sad to report that Ellen Tillinghast, long-time TARS member, our first U.S. Coordinator, and until now our financial coordinator, passed away on November 13th. All of us who knew Ellen, in person or by correspondence, will miss her support and enthusiasm. Elsewhere in this newsletter is a Remembrance of Ellen by her long-time friend Dorothy Hill.

Financial Issues

We are going to merge the financial coordination functions back into the U.S. Coordinator position. This means that membership and renewal checks will be made out to and sent to me (Dave Thewlis) along with membership applications.

In addition to membership and renewal, I will be able to provide the same financial conversion service for items purchased from Ted Alexander at the Society Stall that Ellen provided. Right now I will not be able to provide this service for items ordered from other TARS Enterprises, but I hope to be able to do so later in 1998.

Round-Robin Videos

The round-robin of the three videos (*Swallows and Amazons*, *Coot Club*, and *The Big Six*) continues. If

you would like to be on the round-robin list please contact me.

Welcome, Thanks, etc.

Welcome to new members Dennis Boese, Will Coker-Ashby, Benjamin Fuller, Bill & Jane Jobe, Edwin Kiser, Robin Marshall, Kaitlin McCarthy, Taylor Rhodes, Andrew Roy, and a welcome also to Martha Holland, who joined earlier but whose name I missed in preparing the last newsletter. Thanks to Admiral Rhodes and Mark Vladick for their resumes (and be sure to read about AR's appointment of Taylor Rhodes as Admiral).

Speaking of Resumes

Dorothy Hill sent me a correction to her resume, which is on page 4 of the Resumes. She had referred to a fellow high-school student as being (by rumor) connected to AR, but had written the wrong name. In fact, says Dorothy, she was in high school with AR's niece, Cecily Lupton, and met her again 50 years later at the TARS fifth anniversary party.

I've updated the master Resumes file but am not going to redistribute the entire set. However, if you want a complete new set please contact me.

North American Events

In our last newsletter I mentioned that there were two upcoming North American TARS events -- both in Canada. One was a Toronto Area Corroboree on August 17th, and the other an AR Celebration at the Vancouver, B.C. public library. Reports on both events were published on the TARBOARD electronic bulletin board, and they seem to have been definite successes.

Holding actual events has always seemed a difficult proposition for TARSUS because we are widely (and thinly) distributed. However, TARSCanada has shown that it can be done in a country distributed just as widely and thinly. So, I think it's time for TARSUS to start thinking about a real, in-person event, and would love to hear from anybody with ideas or proposals. Perhaps we can have a TARSUS Annual General Meeting next year, coupled with a "real" event.

Three Million Cheers and Ten Gongs

The Arthur Ransome Club (of Japan) which was founded in 1987, three years before TARS, has just celebrated its tenth anniversary with a Ten Gong Festival. Peter Dowden (a New Zealand TARS who was present and a regular contributor to the Tarboard) reports that it began with a business meeting followed by an afternoon of games and an evening Feast, featuring the ARC Sea Shanty Club.

Peter says that they met Dr. Jingu, the translator of the S&A books into Japanese, and talked about the language differences in translating the books. For example, Japanese writing uses fewer pronouns such as "he" or "she" so many Japanese are surprised to discover that Polly the Parrot is a "he".

Another example: in Japanese it is normal to refer to a brother as "older brother" or "younger brother" so Dr. Jingu had to work out which of the two Captain Flint was -- and plumped for younger brother. Peter was surprised at first, but says he couldn't think of any evidence that says that Jim was definitely older than Molly Blackett.

The last morning was a formal event beginning with the Ten Gong salute, exchanges of gifts between ARC and TARS, and a dramatization of the scenes on top of the Matterhorn in 1901 and Kanchenjunga 30 years later. Alan Hakim, the TARS Treasurer, was in Japan as the TARS official envoy to the festival. Alan subsequently visited us in Eureka on his way back to the U.K. (he found it less expensive to keep going around the world, rather than retrace his steps and fly back to the U.K.) and showed us the gifts.

TARS presented books to all ARC members which were compilations of AR's Japanese connections, including Japanese friends in London. ARC presented TARS with a beautiful scroll with a picture of the two boats rounding Wild Cat Island, and above it a poem in Classical Chinese about the end of the Summer Holidays. This was made for TARS by Tara-san "Observatory". (ARC members choose "nicknames" of significant people, places or things in the stories). Another gift was a life-size bronze pigeon, in memory of Pigeon Post.

Kudoes and Congratulations to ARC and our Japanese friends -- or, as Peter Dowden says, "Three Million Cheers and Ten Gongs for the Arthur Ransome Club Tenth Anniversary"!

Selina King Found

In 1995 at the Chichester AGM, Roger Wardale asked the help of TARSUS in finding *Selina King*, AR's last boat, which vanished after being purchased and moved to Bermuda. We never did find her; however, in the current Mixed Moss Roger reports that she has turned up in Florida and been purchased for restoration by a former owner.

Amazon Publications

If you want to order a back issue or the current publication from Amazon (*The Swallows and the Amazons*) you should write to Ted Alexander at the Society Stall. Write to Denis Dunstone at Amazon only to inquire about or subscribe to the next (1998) publication.

A Last Contibution

In late August, Ellen sent me the following clip from a Cambridge University Alumnus magazine for Lent Term 1997:

SUPERIOR SAUSAGES

Rivalry between the two universities (CAM, Michaelmas) has persisted ever since Cambridge was founded by a group of students who had decided they could stand Oxford no longer. Arthur Ransome's Misset Lee gave credit to both sides: 'Cambridge better students, better professors; Oxford better marmalade'. The final word must go, however, to the famous grocer Sir Thomas Lipton whose shops in the 1930s priced 'Oxford' sausages at 10d per pound, but 'Cambridge' sausages at 1s 4d.

Peter Fellgett

(Peterhouse 1940)

A REMEMBRANCE

Dear TARSUS

I am writing with a sad heart to tell you of the death of our dear Ellen Tillinghast. She died suddenly at her home in Shelburne on November 13th, two days before her birthday. I'm sure that, as for me, Ellen was the first TARSUS contact for many of you - what an enthusiastic "leader of the gang" she was.

By happy circumstance we have a son who lives in Barton VT with his wife and two children, so it has been possible for me to meet personally with Ellen on a number of occasions. Our friendship blossomed beyond just our interest in AR and for over six years I have been able to count her a cherished personal friend - I shall miss her so. I'd like to quote from one of Ellen's letters: "Friendship is such a wonderful, mysterious quality, I don't will it to happen I just begin to realize that the other person has become very dear, someone I'm happy to think of, am delighted to see." I am so thankful and proud that we shared such a beautiful relationship and I feel sure that there are others among you who feel the same way, If you would like to share your own memories, I'm sure Dave would be glad to hear from you.

When visiting at Wake Robin with Ellen I attended her Church with her, worked in the Shelburne library with her, met many of the new friends she had

delighted in making since moving to Wake Robin, and we shared many cups of English tea (and biscuits of course) while conversing about AR, England, our families, books, religion and anything else that took our fancy. I especially remember her enthusiastic welcomes when I would arrive on the little ferry from Essex, where we stay with friends in the summer, and she would drive me to her apartment for a visit. We both loved that short ferry ride - it reminded us of the Lake District.

Our son in Vermont has a three-year son who was born with severe heart and lung abnormalities, being corrected by multiple surgeries. Ellen never failed to ask after Brian and tell me he was constantly in her prayers.

I have been in touch with two of Ellen's three daughters and conveyed our deep sympathy to them. Nancy kindly sent me a copy of the program for the Service of Celebration and Thanksgiving for Ellen's life and I would be happy to share these with anyone who is interested. Also I'm delighted to be able to tell you that the daughters have most generously given to TARSUS most of Ellen's AR collection, which they have shipped to me. As soon as I can, I will list all the items and let Dave circulate the list so that anyone in TARSUS or TARS can have a remembrance from Ellen's treasured collection.

If anyone would like to make a donation in Ellen's memory, any charity of your choice was suggested as she had so many and diverse interests. I have sent money to the Shelburne library for books in her honor.

I'm closing this Remembrance with a quotation from the program for the Service.

"Her whole life was lived in gratitude and joy in God. With joyful expectation she looked forward to Eternity. God's promises were the lightness in her step and the warmth of her smile."

Goodbye, dearest Ellen - we shall not forget you.

Dorothy M. Hill

December 15, 1997

