



SIGNALS FROM T•A•R•S•U•S

November 2001

Autumn Accolades!

This newsletter accompanies *Mixed Moss*, *Outlaw*, and *Signals*. It's going to be a very short newsletter as I have not received very much from the membership since the previous newsletter.

Membership Renewal for 2002

TARS Membership Renewals for 2002 are due on 1 January 2002. Included with this newsletter are renewal forms. If you did not receive a newsletter either you joined after October 1st of this year (in which case your membership extends through 2002) or you pay your membership via direct banker order in the U.K. (A few TARSUS members currently do this but it takes a bank account in the U.K.).

Here is how the renewal process works:

1. With this mailing you get a renewal notice if you have to renew.
2. With the February mailing, if you haven't yet renewed you'll get a notice saying that if you haven't renewed by the end of March you won't receive the April mailing.
3. Those who still haven't renewed by April will not get the April mailing but will get a last "farewell and adieu!" postcard.
4. Any who renew after the April mailing will have their memberships "reinstated" but TARS will not try and send them the missed mailing(s).

So please renew now. It's less work for us and you don't risk missing the April mailing (or losing your membership).

Welcome

Welcome to Faith Ann Goldhor; Danny Kessler; and Lawrence, Ria, Sinead and Ethan Toolis-Byrd.

Special thanks to John Pappas for sending in his Résumé, which you will find included with this *Signals from TARSUS*. If you have not sent a Résumé please consider doing so. They make wonderful reading and tell us a lot about how our fellow U.S. TARS have found Ransome (and TARS).

Repeat: The Coordinator Has Moved

In early June, we moved about 35 miles north of our previous home in Eureka; we are now about 10 miles north of the village of Trinidad, on the Pacific Ocean. New contact information is:

Dave Thewlis
P.O. Box 670
Trinidad, CA 95570-0670
707-488-2049 (home)
707-488-2618 (fax)
707-488-9978 (business)

<dthewlis@arthur-ransome.org>

Repeat: Publications and Contacting TARSUS

Beginning last year, Anne LeVeque took over the responsibility for publications distribution. She has the masters of Signals from TARSUS printed, receives the U.K. publications from the U.K., and repackages and mails the pubs to TARSUS members.

This has prompted several members to send Changes of Address and Renewals directly to Anne. While you can do that, she will simply send them directly on to me, so it is more efficient to send such things directly to me at the address or e-mail shown above and at the end of the newsletter.

Amazon Publications

Amazon Publications is the “publishing arm” of TARS. It produces one volume per year, by advance subscription, of interest to TARS members. Information about Amazon Publications can be found in the back of *Signals* or on the AR web site at www.arthur-ransome.org/ar/ampub.html.

The 2002 Amazon Publication will be a reissue of Arthur Ransome’s *Bohemia in London*, hopefully enhanced with period photographs and drawings. TARSUS who wish to subscribe to the 2002 publication should send \$25 (this also covers air postage from the U.K.) to the TARSUS Coordinator (and newsletter editor).

I cannot too highly recommend subscribing to these publications to TARSUS members. The books are of high quality and quite beautiful; the content is always interesting and relevant to Ransome enthusiasts. (Unpaid adv. – Editor.)

Feature Column: Ransome Readers Recommend

In November of last year, we started as column of short reviews of books which Ransome readers want to recommend to others, especially Juniors. Mary Wessel Walker, our 10-Gong Contributing Editor, initiated the column, writing : “Sometimes we stumble across books that, for one reason or another, remind us of Ransome. Maybe characters remind us of Ransome characters, or maybe they go sailing or

camping. Sometimes a book reminds us of Ransome because it just FEELS right. In this column of *Signals from TARSUS* we invite all TARS, especially Juniors, to write short book recommendations for other Ransome lovers. Be sure to include a mention of the general age group and reading level you think the book is best suited for. Both of us would like to encourage Send your recommendations to Mary Wessel Walker at 3007 Geddes Ave., Ann Arbor, MI 48104 (jcgw@umich.edu) or to Dave Thewlis (dthewlis@arthur-ransome.org).”

Unfortunately we have received no contributions for this column since the August *Signals from TARSUS* so we don’t have any new reviews for you. It really doesn’t take very long to write a one- or two paragraph review of a book, and this is a wonderful way for TARSUS who haven’t felt they had anything to contribute to *SfT* to provide something. Both Mary and myself would like to strongly encourage everybody to contribute to this column.

(New member contact information removed)

From our 10-Gong Contributing Editor:

In Which We Climb Kanchenjunga

This summer my family and I traveled in England and Scotland. One of the best parts of the trip was the week we spent in the Lake District, Ransome country. Because of the Foot and Mouth disease outbreak in the area, we were afraid we might not be able to climb Coniston Old Man (commonly known as Kanchenjunga). But we learned that the Coniston Fells, where Kanchenjunga is located would be open during our trip, but we would have to disinfect our shoes before and after our climb.

We started for Coniston very early, by the first possible bus. We took the route suggested in *In the Footsteps of Swallows and Amazons*, which is a long walk, but well worth it for all the Ransome-related sights we got to pass. Some people who climb Kanchenjunga complain of the "four-lane super highway" effect because of the number of climbers on the trail at one time. This was not our experience at all: for much of our walk we had the trail to ourselves, probably because the Foot and Mouth outbreak decreased the number of tourists.

We started out by going through a three-step disinfection process at the foot of the mountain. As we climbed, we stopped occasionally to read the tidbits given in *Footsteps* about the place where Ransome met W.G. Collingwood, the Swallow's halfway camp, and other important sites. As we walked we noticed that the hills were covered with ferns. I suggested that what we call ferns might be the bracken mentioned in the Ransome stories. We asked the next native who passed us, and he confirmed my theory. So next time you read about bracken, think of ferns. (Maybe I was the only one who didn't already know this . . .)



Margaret and Mary at the place where AR met Collingwood

It was funny that every native who passed us on the trail tried to direct us to Elterwater tarn (a picturesque spot) and not to the summit! I guess they didn't think we looked tough enough or something. We passed some old mine workings giving off cold air like refrigerators - very refreshing on a hot day! When we reached the "Pudding Rock" we looked back and saw a whole swarm of people, "highwaymen", coming along the path at a great pace. We were quite worried that our lonely walk would be spoiled. We soon learned that the group was a geography class we had seen in the town. Sadly, for some time we were unable to get rid of them as we were moving at about the same speed. When we got to Low Water Tarn, though, they went off in a different direction. We stopped for lunch.

The climb became quite difficult at the end, but we finally made it. It was a bit hazy, but the view was still terrific. We could see the sea! Margaret and I both put stones on the cairn and we made a note "We climbed Kanchenjunga . . ." but we didn't leave it there as litter. We were surprised that there was no summit register. We also ate Kendal Mint Cake (eaten by Sir Edmund Hillary on Mt. Everest) and some eggs. A sheep came and begged for food, but we did not share! No one had told it that we were supposed to avoid livestock.



Eating Kendal Mint at the Summit of Kanchenjunga



At the Summit Cairn on Kanchenjunga

Some people at the summit told us about this so-called "easier way down", and because we had some extra time, we decided to try it. It started with a glorious walk along the ridge of the high fells with many sheep and napping lambs (how cute). But we had to turn off down an incredibly steep and challenging descent that took us by Elterwater tarn (so we got to see it after all!). When we got to the other side of the tarn and looked back, we couldn't believe that we had come down where we did! The rest of the descent was much more relaxed. When we got back to the disinfecting station, the overseers there remembered us, and were very impressed that we had gone so far!

We caught the last bus back to "base camp" on the shores of Lake Windermere across the water from Rio.

About the Author: Mary Wessel Walker, 10-Gong Contributing editor is a 12th grader in Ann Arbor, Michigan who applies to colleges in her spare time. Oh, wait . . . what spare time?



From the Editor

I think the editor of every newsletter like *Signals from TARSUS* issues occasional or regular pleas to the membership for contributions for the newsletter, and I've been no different. And we all use statements such as "this is your newsletter" or "this newsletter can only print what you send the editor." However trite, these statements are indeed true. I'm still delighted to edit *Signals from TARSUS*, but it's hard to try and produce a worthwhile newsletter each time without new material. Mary Walker, our 10-Gong Contributing Editor, is doing a wonderful job, but she needs help. We do have a difficulty as compared to the U.K. regions since much of their newsletters are announcements of upcoming events or reviews of past events, and – so far – we haven't had many events (although we indeed do have announcements and reviews when we do); perhaps our choice is more contributions, or more events! So I'd like to entreat with all of you for contributions to the newsletter – or announcements of new TARSUS events – to make TARSUS, and *Signals from TARSUS*, better and more worthwhile to all of us.

Enough pleading. The next *Signals from TARSUS* should be out in February, and hopefully it will be replete with interesting articles and announcements. Send me information about TARS events, trip reports, articles for *Signals from TARSUS* and *Ransome Readers Recommend* – and be sure and send in your membership renewals!

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