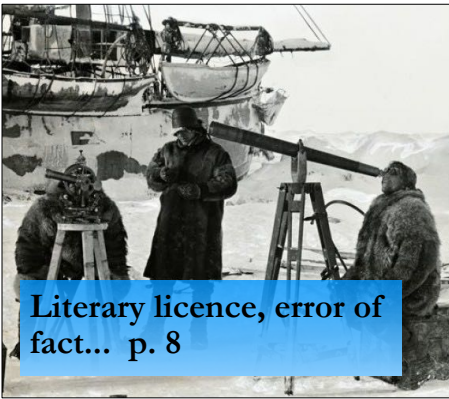




Signals from TARSUS & North Pole News

May 2021

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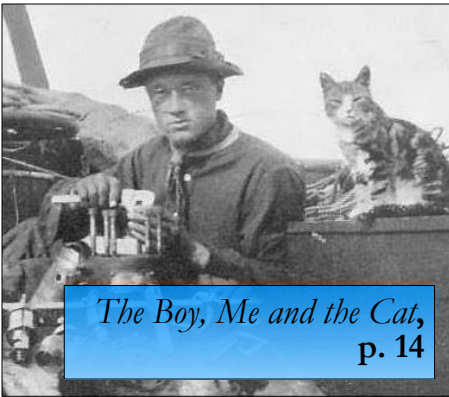


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Ship's Papers — Important information for the Crew



A View from the US Helm

By Robin Marshall
TARSUS Coordinator
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Once again things have been moving slowly, but maybe there are better voyages ahead. We have had our shots so hope to be safer and able to get out more. Unfortunately the Florida weather is heating up so time is short to really enjoy the outdoors here.

This is not so much a problem for our other members and you should now be looking forward to a better summer than last year.

We have had an invitation to attend the IAGM on Zoom on 29th of May at 10 a.m. BST. As this equates to 5 a.m. EDT and even earlier in other

parts of the US, it will be a very keen member indeed who takes advantage of this. On the same day, again on Zoom, they are holding The Dick Callum Cup Quiz at 7.30 pm. BST. This is 2.30 p.m. EDT so more members may be able to take part. I sent out an email regarding the quiz, which is based on the East Anglian books. To register please email Sarah Samuel at: 2410s.samuel@gmail.com. by no

later than noon Friday 28th May. You will then be sent the Zoom link in advance of the quiz. I regret this information may well be redundant by the time you get this edition of our journal.

I must thank all who have renewed again either with me or online. Also, please give a loud ahoy to the following new family members:

Betsy Westgate and family;
Mrs B West and family;
Mrs C West and family.

Keep well and safe everyone.

Remember if you have any concerns or questions contact me 45tarsus@gmail.com or phone 941-726-1974.

Robin



Greetings from the North

By Ian Sacré, TARS Canada Coordinator
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Greetings Canadian TARS Members.

Another four months has past since I wrote the last newsletter for our publication, and still we are virtually confined to barracks with this wretched plague. It does

not seem to be easing its grip on our country yet, and we are lucky to have such dedicated healthcare workers in every one of our provinces. I can hardly imagine how exhausted they must be. Like many other seniors I am sure, I had my first Covid 19 vaccination nearly four weeks ago with absolutely no side effects.

I am happy to report that in the last few months we have actually gained three new members! This is excellent

because our numbers have been dwindling rather alarmingly almost every year. Headquarters also complemented us on the prompt TARS subscription renewals made by all Canadian TARS members again this year. Thank you so much for doing this, it does make my job easier.

I was also able to happily reconnect two old schoolmates from more than fifty years ago who both had an interest in Arthur Ransome's stories while

at school. Privacy considerations made this a bit complicated, since I had to contact each of them individually to ask if they wished to hear from the other. As it turned out they did, and I hope their renewed friendship is flourishing.

These endless 'stay at home' days have been very taxing for those who enjoy an active social life. Fortunately I have a good many interests and hobbies that seem to make my days full. We are currently enjoying beautiful weather here on the West Coast. The early buds are out in our gardens, always encouraging and a sure sign that winter will soon be gone.

Wishing everyone good health, fair winds and calm seas. Stay safe!

Warm regards,
Ian



A Note from the Editor

By Simon Horn, sjhorn@gmail.com

Welcome to *Signals from TARSUS/North Pole News* for May 2021.

The pandemic drags on, but we seem to be starting to see some progress towards what people like to call normal. I hope you are all doing well in the meantime.

As always thanks for your contributions. However, if you look back at my editor's notes, it will rapidly become clear that the newsletter would not continue to happen without the regular, and much appreciated, contributions from a number of members who are the mainstays of the publication. May they long continue. Nonetheless, it would be great if some of you could help take the pressure off by sending in your own contributions.

In this issue

In *Dipping our Hands*, **Alistair Bryden's** "Dad's Log: snapshots of sailing history" tells us about finding an old document of his father's dating from before World War II.

Marilyn Steele provides another letter from Ransome to Helene Carter, his American illustrator, this one from June 1932, soon after Ransome lost old friend Ted Scott to drowning.

In *The Professor's Laboratory*, new contributor **Martin Beech**, in "Literary licence, error of fact, and story-line imperative", looks at the claim that Arthur Ransome didn't always care about technical details in his books.

In *Captain Flint's Trunk*, **David Rawcliffe** asks "Uh... um... What's a Telegram?", then explains how rapid communication used to happen back in Swallows and Amazons time, long before the Internet.

The Ship's Library opens with **Paul Nelson's** enthusiastic appreciation of Henry Plummer's book *The Boy, Me and the Cat*, which chronicles a voyage down the east coast of the United States and back in 1912 and 1913.

Ian Sacré then presents a range of nautically themed works in "Favorite Seafaring Writings Remembered".

In the *Beckfoot Kitchen* **Molly McGinnis** is talking about tea. "Tea, the Drink" talks about tea, cups, mugs, tea services, high tea, how to make it and how to grow it.

Then she passes on Dot's recipe for American "sweet tea" (sounds awfully like iced tea to me). Dorothea and Dick are apparently still in California.

Pieces of Eight is rather thin, I am afraid, since it is really just an elaborate link to the interesting maps pages on the All Things Ransome website. Well worth a visit!

Lastly, I have updated the subject index to the newsletter. It now goes up to and includes the January 2021 issue.

The next issue is scheduled for September 2021. I need your contributions as always. Perhaps some of you have found ways to survive pandemic and lockdown with house-



bound Arthur Ransome activities? if so we would love to hear about them. Please start thinking about what you might write now. Don't wait for my first reminder on August 1.

Take care of yourselves,
Simon

Guidelines for Submissions

Preferred document formats:
Microsoft Word (docx), Apple Pages, RTF.

Illustrations and photos:
You can indicate in your article where you would like your illustrations to appear, but please provide them separately in jpg or png formats, since they may be difficult to extract from text.

Images should be reasonably large: I can make a big photo smaller without losing quality, but I can't make a small one big!

By the way, I would appreciate if you could let me know if anything you submit has been or will be published elsewhere, whether in another TARS publication or somewhere else.

Thanks. Ed.

Dipping our Hands — Personal relationships with the books

Dad's Log: snapshots of sailing history

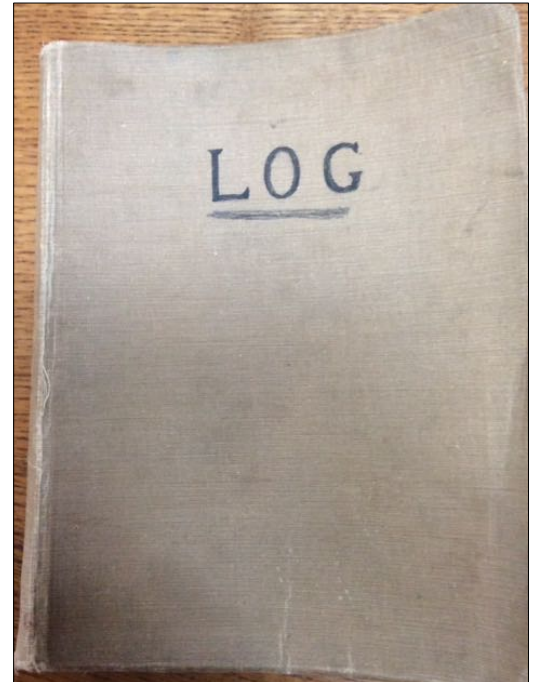
By Alistair Bryden (Calgary, Alberta)

My mother passed away a few years ago and I had some of her furniture shipped over to Canada along with a rather eclectic selection of family books selected by my sister-in-law. Until recently, all of the books were still in boxes, but one of my Covid projects was to build some bookcases. Among the books I unpacked, was one hand-labelled "LOG". It turned out to be a log book kept by my father documenting various sailing adventures from 1933 to 1946. I was vaguely aware it existed but I'd never read it.

Dad was born in late 1915, so he would have been 17 at the time of the first entry in 1933, maybe two or three years older than the fictional Captain John. He was born in Glasgow but grew up in London and lived there until about 1941 or '42. I believe his earliest sailing adventures were on the

Clyde, where he had strong family connections. However as a young man, he spent a lot of time on the Thames Estuary learning sailing and getting stuck on the mud, in a similar fashion to the adventures in *Secret Water*.

Dad's later adventures recorded in the log are mainly in Scotland, where he and various friends would charter a boat and sail off the West Coast of Scotland in the Clyde and the Hebrides, at the same time and in very much the same manner as Ransome describes in *Great Northern*. There is a six-year gap between the second to last trip in the Log in the summer of 1939 and the last trip recorded in 1946; normal life was put on hold during the war. However, I do know that Dad kept up his sailing adventures



after 1946, as he later met my mother while teaching a sailing course and she asked him to take her for a sail! He later taught me to sail, aged about 6, in a small gaff-rigged dinghy not far removed from *Amazon*.

Here is the first entry in the Log, lightly edited (remember this is a 17-year-old):

Summer 1933

Ayling and I decided to buy an outboard engine for the holidays at Salcombe (a town in Devon, Ed). We first went to the Britannia Motor Boat Co in West London. We were unlucky. Then we answered an advertisement in the Motor Boat from a chap in East Greenwich and went to see his engine. He was a typical bargee or longshoreman. The engine was an old 2 3/4 Evinrude sim-



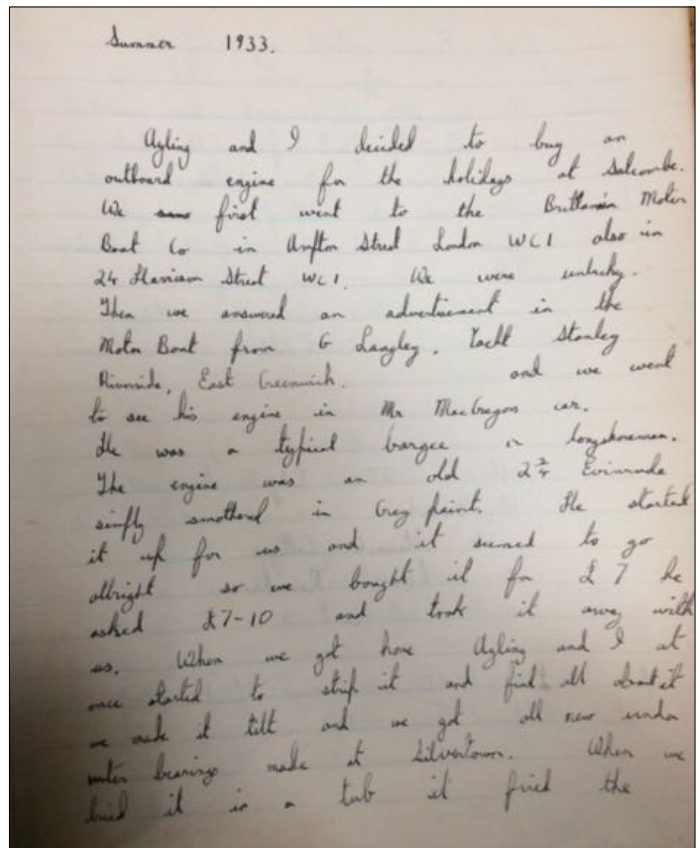
Sailing on the Clyde today

ply smothered in grey paint. We bought it for 7 pounds. (He asked 7 pounds 10 shillings). When we got it home, Ayling and I immediately started to strip it down and find out all about it. We made it tilt and we got all new underwater bearings made at Silvertown. When we tried it in a tub, it fired the first time without any difficulty. We put on a copper inlet pipe, bending it by filling it with lead. We cleaned and painted everything with green petrol and rust proof lacquer. The engine was thoroughly tested and sent down to Salcombe by rail in a crate that weighed 116 lb, for a cost of 14 shillings and threepence.

We sold the outboard July 1934 for 6 pounds 10 shillings. (In a subsequent entry, Ed)

It's interesting to note how casually Dad talks about stripping down the engine (all 2 3/4 hp and 100 lb of it) and fabricating spare parts for it. I suspect most 17-year-old boys today would be more cautious about stripping down their 100 hp fuel-injected outboard. When Dad had his own 20-foot day sailer, he would hoist out his 250 lb inboard engine each winter and strip it down.

Maybe more entries from the LOG in a future issue.



Clyde yachts in the 1930s

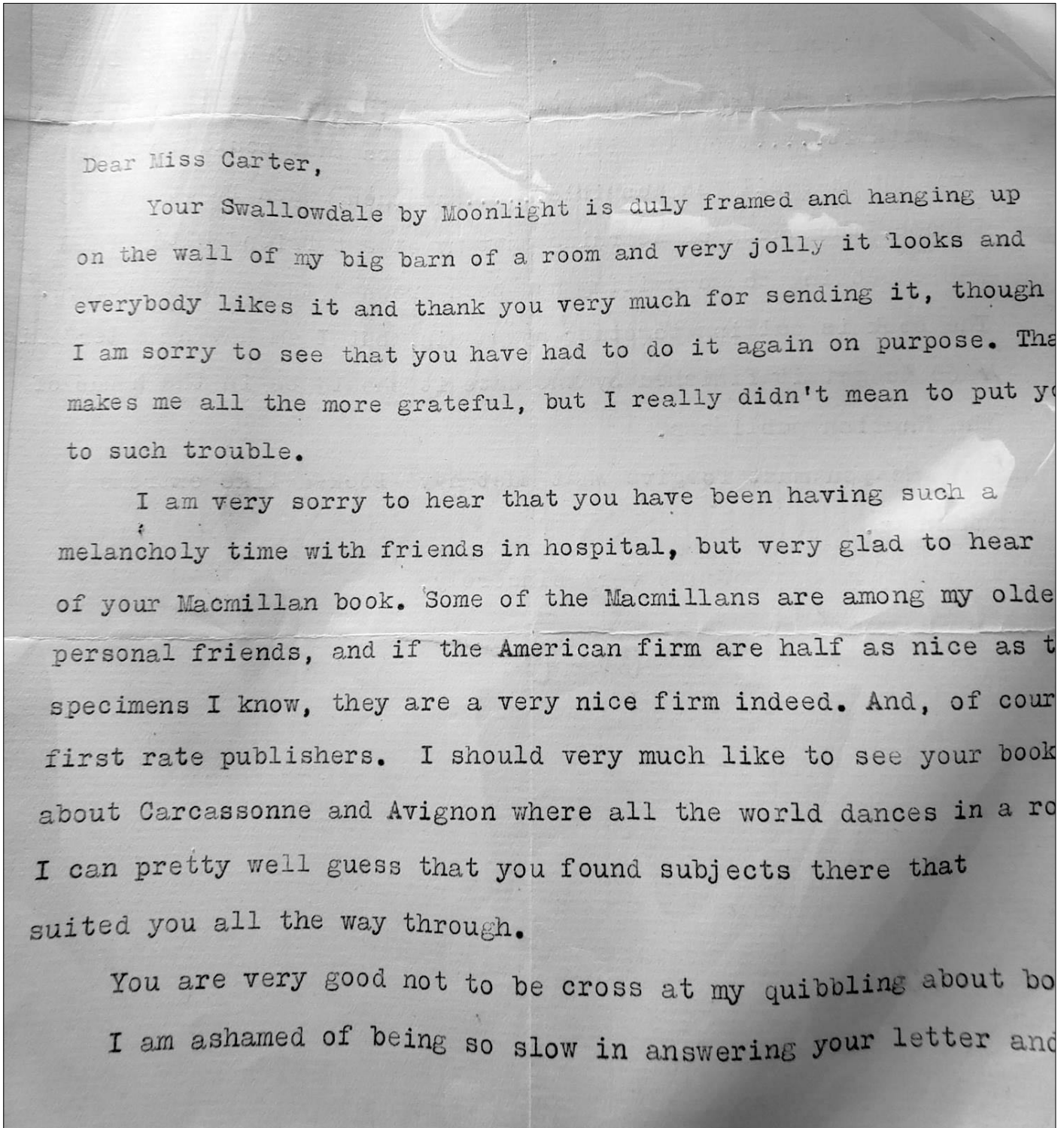


Another Letter from Ransome, June 1932

Courtesy of Marilyn Steele (Damascus, MD), presented by Simon Horn

Another letter from Ransome to his American illustrator Helene Carter. He tells her that a copy of her illustration, "Swallowdale by Moonlight", is now hanging in his writing room. As usual he apologizes for his slowness at answering

letters, and also mentions, without naming him, the death by drowning on Windermere of his longtime friend, *Manchester Guardian* editor Ted Scott.



thanking you for the picture. Reason: FRRRRANTIC lateness with my new book, which got stuck over a lot of things that had nothing to do with it.....trouble with the publishers that could have been avoided as easily as possible.....and then, when I got back to Europe, the shock of learning that my oldest friend with whom I was expecting to go sailing had been drowned three weeks before. The book is pulling together now again, but I am having a terrific race to get it finished by the date it should be in the hands of the English publisher.

So you must forgive what must have looked like extreme rudeness.

Yours very sincerely,



Please note that if the poor quality of parts of the letter makes it hard to read, you can enlarge it in your PDF reader. — Ed.

The Professor's Laboratory — Ideas, instructions & fixes

Literary licence, error of fact, and story-line imperative

By Martin Beech – crew member 5326 (Courtenay, Vancouver Island, B.C.)

The article by David Goodwin in the 2020 *Mixed Moss* drew-out a number of astronomy-related topics appearing in *Winter Holiday*, and analyzed them in terms of literary licence and/or error of fact, suggesting that there were occasions when Ransome appeared to sail close to a “couldn’t care less” attitude with some specific details.

There is certainly a long history of many authors introducing astronomical detail and/or phenomena for their literary effect rather than for some specific point of fact¹, but I would suggest that there are also situations where an author might deliberately leave a topic well alone for the sake of narrative imperative.

Goodwin writes at the end of his article, “perhaps he [Ransome] couldn’t care less. Perhaps we hear an echo of his voice through Nancy: ‘I suppose you’ve come to the Arctic to watch an eclipse?’”. To which Dick replies that there isn’t going to be an eclipse. A reply that prompts Nancy to retort, “Oh well, don’t be so particular”. The conversation is taken from the end of chapter 2 in *Winter Holiday*, “Signalling to Mars”, and occurs as the Walkers and Blacketts first meet the Callums. This dialog, I would suggest, is in fact, an attempt by Ransome to invoke a very specific astronomical backstory that, if not readily under-

stood by his youngest readers (at that time), would be appreciated by his older ones, and especially his growing readership in the United States².

Indeed, there had been a very well-publicized and extensively observed solar eclipse on 31 August 1932 (figure 1), the year before *Winter Holiday* was written and published. In this particular event the path of totality began in the high Arctic, above northern Siberia, passed close to the geographic North Pole, and then followed a path over Axel Heiberg Island, down through Arctic Canada, across Hudson Bay and Quebec, and finally through Vermont and Maine (figure 2), and eventually out over the Atlantic.

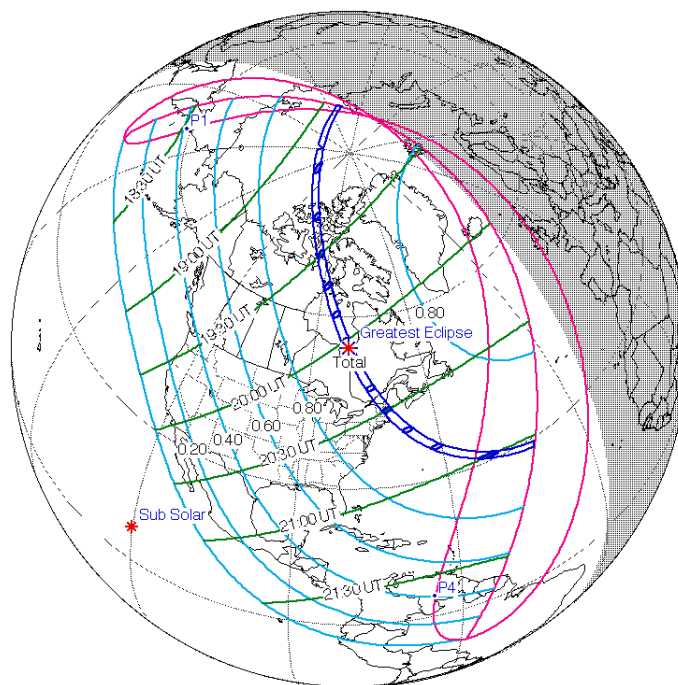


Figure 1. The path of totality (shown in blue) for the 14 August 1932 eclipse. The eclipse track began in the high Arctic, passed over the geographic North Pole, and ended over the mid-Atlantic. Image courtesy of Wikipedia / NASA.

This eclipse saw much media coverage on both sides of the Atlantic. *The Times* of London newspaper, for example, reported on the eclipse in its 20 July 1932 issue, describing the imminent sailing, aboard the steamer C.P.R. Montcalm, of astronomers from the Royal Greenwich Observatory, Cambridge University and the Imperial College of Science. These scientists were headed to Canada in order to study the Sun’s corona (the outer atmosphere only visible during totality), with observers from McGill University, at a location close to Magog in Quebec.

The 31 August issue of *The Times*, further reported on the eclipse expedition and the hope that some light might be shed by their observations upon the then mysterious coronium lines³. These spectral features were first observed during the 7 August 1869 solar eclipse, and not fully understood, it turned out, until the mid-to late-1930s.

Not only does it seem reasonable to suggest that Ransome would have been fully aware (through media coverage) of the 1932 eclipse and its Arctic connection at the time of writing *Winter Holiday*, but that he would also have known of at least one more polar solar eclipse⁴ - this time an Arctic eclipse that occurred on 6 April, 1894. Indeed, this specific

event was observed by Nansen from an ice-entrapped Fram (figure 3). Writing in volume 1 of his *Farthest North* series describing the Fram Expedition⁵ (1893-1896), Nansen records that it was a very important event to observe, not only for its potential scientific value, but for the regulation of the ship's chronometers. The eclipse observations indicated, in fact, that their chronometers were set some 7½ seconds fast.

So the fact that Nancy suggests Dick might be 'in the Arctic' to observe an eclipse turns out to be not a far-fetched idea, and it would have had a certain contemporary resonance with many of the readers of *Winter Holiday*. The fact that no such story-line was developed, however, is arguably deliberate, in the sense that it would expand the already activity-crammed narrative, and that it would add little to the development of the end-story, which was concerned with the race to the North Pole. To include yet another a sub-story, and the inevitable tension that it would induce (especially for Dick) concerning weather conditions and observatory preparations, while entirely apropos to the *Winter Holiday* story line, would none-the-less change the whole dynamic of the opening narrative. Indeed, the character of Dick, while being that of the young-scientist, was also one prone to the angst of uncertainty and worry in technical matters – this being especially so, for example, with respect to the chemistry described in *Pigeon Post* and in the hide-construction and pho-

tographs to be taken in *Great Northern*? Rather than not caring about the astronomical possibility of an eclipse expedition, I would suggest, that Ransome may have deliberately chosen not to pursue the idea.

While there are at least two solar eclipses that Ransome was likely to have known about, additionally we know that he experienced an unexpected lunar eclipse on 14 August

cockpit, watching a red star and a white, Mars and Venus, perhaps, on opposite sides of the Moon"⁷. Today, knowing the specific location, date and time of this would be straightforward to check using a planetarium simulation. Indeed, it turns out that the planets accompanying the Moon were not Mars and Venus, but Mars and Jupiter. Interestingly, the distinctive first-quarter Moon had been prominently located mid-way between Jupiter and Saturn on the evening of the 8th of August, but Ransome makes no note of this. Mars was additionally visible northward of the Moon during the time of the eclipse on the night of the 14th. So, certainly in the 12th of August case Ransome erred slightly, but such identification mistakes are easy to

make⁸, and he is saved from too much criticism by the use of the word "perhaps" - this simply indicates that he did not pursue the matter at the time (indeed, *Racundra's Third Cruise* was not published in his lifetime). For all this, we do find in *Winter Holiday* an illustration from Dick's pocket-book correctly informing us that "Jupiter is the one with moons" and "Mars is the red one"⁹.

That Ransome was attempting to build astronomical ambience within chapter 2 of *Winter Holiday* is evidenced by its very title: "Signalling to Mars". The idea of signalling to an inhabited Mars, while strangely quaint to us today, would have been readily accepted as entirely possible to many

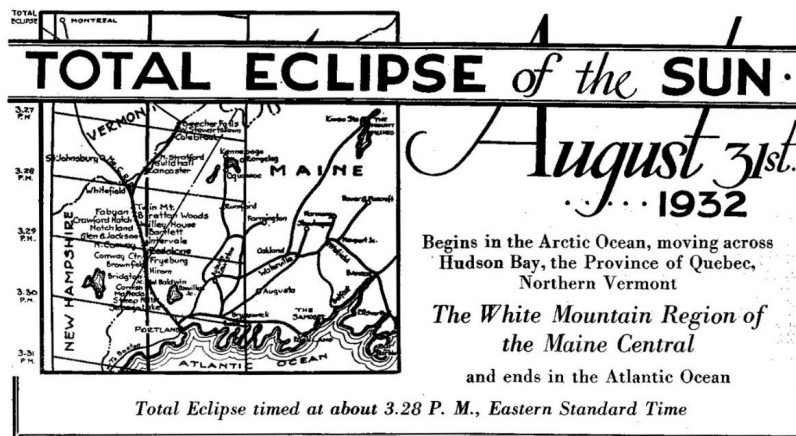


Figure 2. Newspaper advertisement revealing the stations of the Maine Central Railroad Company from which the eclipse could be viewed. Image courtesy of Wikipedia.

1924. This event is described in *Racundra's Third Cruise*. With *Racundra* safely moored at Wolgund, Ransome writes, "we had seen no newspapers for some days, and did not know that at that moment people were crowding the streets of Riga and the roofs of the houses to observe an eclipse of the Moon"⁶. Ransome and Evgenia watched the eclipse in companionship with a stork perched atop a nearby chimney.

An additional astronomical event is described by Ransome for the night of 12 August. This latter entry, recorded in his diary and ships log, is of interest because it does exemplify an error in astronomical detail. Ransome writes, "As it grew dark, I smoked in the

of Ransome’s readers in the 1930s: “... ‘Why not,’ said Dick. ‘Of course they may not see it. And even if they do see it they may not understand. A different world. That makes it all the more like signalling to Mars’ ”¹⁰.

Indeed, the idea of communicating with Martians was a topic that had been widely reported in the news media since the turn of the 20th century. The actual signalling story essentially began in 1901 when observers at the Lowell Observatory in Arizona reported that they had seen a shaft of light projecting from Mars – the emanation lasting for more than an hour. Such an unusual, unexpected and inexplicable phenomenon required an explanation, and interplanetary signalling by intelligent Martians seemed to fit the zeitgeist of the times.

Percival Lowell had actually been writing on intelligently designed and distributed Martian canals since the mid-1890s, and rampant speculation about other inhabited planets stretches centuries further back in time. Charismatic inventor Nikola Tesla reported in the wake of the Lowell Observatory announcement that he had earlier detected mysterious radio signals from Mars in 1899. Indeed, Tesla can be found advocating the use of his *Teslascope*¹¹, to exchange messages with the Martians, well into the mid-1930s.

With a grand front-page-spread in the 25 April 1909 issue of *The New York Times*, American astronomer William Pickering argued for the construction of a giant mirror system to signal the Martians in the manner of a helioscope – a project he estimated would cost 10 million dollars. Tesla roundly rejected Pickering’s idea and pushed,



Figure 3. Observing the solar eclipse of 6 April, 1894. The ice-bound Fram is in the background, and Nansen is the (standing) middle figure of the three observers. Image courtesy of the Norwegian National Library (bldsa-q3c035).

along with his arch rival Guglielmo Marconi, for the use of wireless transmitting and listening devices to monitor for Martian messages.

Indeed, in 1924, when Mars was at its closest approach to the Earth (that is, at opposition), observers at the Royal Greenwich Observatory in London tuned-in for radio broadcasts from Mars¹². At the same time the American armed forces were put on notice to scan for potential radio signals from Mars over a three-day period beginning on 21 August.

During the oppositions of 1926 and 1928, British lawyer and maverick psychic, Hugh Mansfield Robinson was the focus of some considerable media attention, since he claimed to be in telepathic contact with a Martian called Oomaruru. Motivated, perhaps, to initiate a more public conversation with the Martians, Robinson paid the Central Telegraph Office in London (at the overseas rate of 18 pence per word) to employ its Rugby Station (then the most powerful radio transmitter in the world) to send mes-

sages to Mars¹³. Apparently, no replies to his coded messages were received.

In the 20 July 1931 issue of *Time Magazine*, in an article celebrating his 75th birthday, Tesla is quoted as saying that he could think of nothing, “more important than interplanetary communication”, and echoes of this sentiment are still alive to this very day in the field of SETI research – although not in the sense of communicating with Martians.

Writing in 1933, Ransome could certainly assume that the general opinion of the public, if not that of the scientific community, was that Mars was inhabited. Indeed, as late as 1938 the famous radio play version of H. G. Wells’ *War of the Worlds*, directed and narrated by Orson Welles,¹⁴ could send many parts of America into a state of uproar and panic, with members of the populace genuinely believing that a Martian invasion had begun.

The idea of signalling to Mars, to potentially communicate with far-off peoples, was very much something that Dick, as a science-minded young-

ster, would have been well aware of, and it is an entirely appropriate story-line that Ransome could, if he had chosen to, have further developed. In addition to including actual astronomy (that is constellation locations) in *Winter Holiday*, it is also the case that Ransome employed astronomical imagery in an effort to invoke a sense of contemporary familiarity into chapter 2.

Was Ransome careless, therefore, with his astronomy? Mostly no, I would argue, and it would seem that he was far removed from advocating a ‘don’t care’ attitude to the astronomical details that he used. In this sense, Ransome is certainly not cut from the same cloth as Arthur Conan Doyle, who famously didn’t care about the inconsistencies that appeared in his Sherlock Holmes adventures¹⁵. Indeed, Ransome carefully worked on plot-line and background details with a seriousness similar to that exemplified by J. R. R. Tolkien¹⁶.

The appropriate final (and comfortingly correct) astronomical image we take from *Winter Holiday* is that of Dick and the newly returned Captain Flint in the houseboat (the erstwhile Fram): “... the talk at the end of the cabin table was about orbits and eclipses, and how it is that the planets are not to be found on a map of the constellations, and how they have their own time-table, to be found in the Nautical Almanac, and how it is that the Pole Star keeps over the North Pole in spite of the world’s spinning on its axis and flying round the Sun at the same time”¹⁷.

Notes and references

1. Perhaps the best known such novel is that of *Two on a Tower: A Romance* by Thomas Hardy (published in 1882) – a work certainly known to Ransome. Hardy deliberately set out in this particular novel to contrast two star-crossed lovers against a cold and indifferent back-drop of the greater cosmos.

2. The first three *Swallows and Amazons* books had sold well in the United States, but interestingly Julian Lovelock in his *Swallows, Amazons and Coots: a Reading of Arthur Ransome* (The Lutterworth Press, Cambridge, 2016), indicates that Helen Ferris of the Junior Literary League had suggested (after *Peter Duck*) that Ransome might, “do something entirely different with a new set of youngsters”. While the Lake District setting of *Winter Holiday* is unchanged from the first two books, Ransome did introduce the new characters Dorothea and Dick Callum.

3. It was originally thought that the spectral lines of coronium indicated that an entirely new element (one not found on Earth) existed within the Sun’s corona - hence the name. It was eventually realized, however, that the lines were due to highly ionized iron atoms.

4. The other solar eclipse that Ransome was most probably aware of, since it was a worldwide news story, was that of 29 May 1919. This eclipse, and the remarkably overseas Royal Greenwich Observatory expedition to observe it, confirmed Einstein’s theory of general relativity.

5. Peter Willis. “On first looking into Nansen’s Farthest North”, Signals January-April 2021.

6. Ransome, A. *Racundra’s Third Cruise*. Brian Hammett (Ed.), Fernhurst Books, Arundel (2002), p. 49.

7. Ransome, A. *Racundra’s Third Cruise*. Brian Hammett (Ed.), Fernhurst Books, Arundel (2002), p. 37.

8. It is the case that Jupiter can rival Venus in terms of its brightness, and Saturn does have a distinctive red hue similar to that of Mars.

9. *Winter Holiday*, illustration: “Another page from Dick’s pocket-book”, chapter 5. This page also shows a value for the speed of light

– a fundamental constant linked to Einstein’s theory of special relativity (see note 4).

10. *Winter Holiday*, chapter 1.

11. It is not actually clear that Tesla ever built his Teslascope. The first effective radio telescope was constructed by Carl Jansky, at Bell Telephone Laboratories in 1933, with the specific aim of investigating background (radio) static. While Jansky did not record any signals emanating from Mars, he did find that the Sun and the central part of the Milky Way (Sagittarius A*) were strong radio sources.

12. It was in February of 1924 that the Royal Greenwich Observatory first began to transmit hourly time signals – these eventually becoming the famous ‘pips’.

13. The details of Robinson’s story can be found at: www.weirdhistorian.com/the-strange-case-of-the-man-who-tried-to-contact-martians-via-radio/

14. Broadcast on the night of Halloween, 30 November, 1938, Welles’ radio play version of H. G. Wells’ *War of the Worlds* (first published in 1898) dramatized the initial arrival of the Martian cylinders, and the subsequent emergence of the war machines. In spite of the fact that multiple announcements were made during the broadcast that it was a play-adaptation, many in the greater listening audience were apparently unconvinced and became fearful of an actual Martian invasion.

15. Riley, D. and McAllister, P. *The Bedside, Bathtub and Armchair Companion to Sherlock Holmes*. The Continuum Publishing Company, New York (1999).

16. Tolkien suffered great angst in making sure that his Moon phase details were fully consistent, from one chapter to the next, in both *The Hobbit* and the *Lord of the Rings*. The lunar phases used in the *Lord of the Rings* were, for example, taken directly from the lunar phase calendar for 1941. See e.g., Codex Regius, *The Moon in the Hobbit*. CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform; 4th extended edition (2018); and Beech, M. "In the Moon Gleaming", *Mallorn: The Journal of the Tolkien Society*, issue 60, pp. 24-27 (2020).

17. *Winter Holiday*, chapter 21.

Captain Flint's Trunk — News from abroad (and history)

Uh... um... What's a Telegram?

By David Rawcliffe (Thornhill, Ontario)

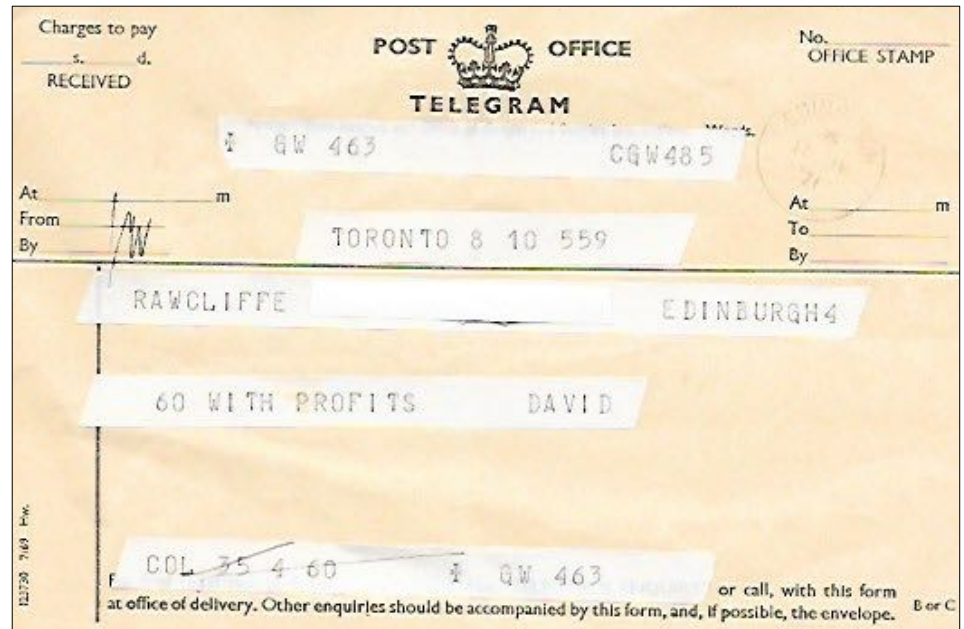
Nine words which started all of AR's S&A adventures, nine words in a red envelope:

“BETTER DROWNED THAN DUFFERS IF NOT DUFFERS WONT DROWN”.

The Swallows & Amazons and their friends had many ways of communicating with each other: semaphore with flags, in pictures, squares & triangles, pigeons, etc. What about that native life that they kept avoiding as much as possible?

Natives in S&A had three main forms of communication: the letter/postcard, the telephone, and the telegram. All were run by the General Post Office (GPO), a department of the British Government

The postal system had evolved since the invention of the postage stamp in 1840. You could put a letter or postcard into a red pillar box, with the correct stamp, and it would be delivered to most addresses in the world. The Swallows had written to their father in Malta before the start of S&A. However, while it was inexpensive, it could



take a day to several weeks for delivery, depending on where you were in the country, or in the world.

The telephone had also evolved since Alexander Graham Bell's spoken message in Brampton, Ontario in 1876. While it could send a fast message, a personal telephone in 1930 was expensive and rare, and with no such invention as an answering machine, a message might not be received. There were call boxes/telephone kiosks for the general public. Trunk calls (long distance calls) involved going through several operators, were expensive and still might not be answered.

But what was this native thing called

a 'telegram' and why was it so useful? The telegram combined the best of both the letter and the telephone. It would be delivered to the recipient by hand or by telephone – and it was fast. However, it was expensive and was used only when speed was necessary. Mr. Walker had decided speed was a priority.

How did you send a telegram? Most people would go to a post office, fill in the official telegram form and pay the fee. In *The Picts and Martyrs*, the Great Aunt sends a telegram, which is telephoned directly to Beckfoot. The GA had also used the option of 'reply paid' to make sure that she received an answer. Nancy had to reply using no more than 12 words. That was the problem with a telegram... the cost was per word including the address. Peggy suggests using 'returns' instead of 'comes back' to save a word.

(As an aside - there is the old joke about a farmer who had gone to market to buy a bull - he only had enough money for a one-word telegram to send for his truck and driver ... he used the word - "comfortable" - say the word very slowly!!!)

Around the time of S&A in 1930 the price of an internal telegram was 6d (6 old pence) for 9 words with an additional 1d (old penny) for each extra word. There were 240 old pence to a £ (pound sterling). For comparison, it cost 1.5d to post a letter while a post-card cost 1d. From Malta, Mr Walker would have paid extra for an overseas telegram.

Converting the value of money through time and place can be difficult, but for Canada in 2021 a letter costs about \$1 to send ... at eight

times the price of a letter, that 12-word telegram to the GA would now cost about \$8.

Another book which involves a telegram is *Coot Club*. As the *Teasel* starts the return journey from Beccles,

Dorothea waves to a boy on a red post office bicycle.

He was trying to deliver a telegram to Tom, but this story shows how the telegraph service would try to find you. The boy would have reported that the *Teasel* had sailed downstream and, not long after, the 12-word tele-



gram was delivered to Tom at the harbourmaster's office at Oulton Broad.

In S&A's time, while never as instant as today's texting, fast and effective messages could be sent through the telegraph system, which also might use some human ingenuity to reach the recipient.



The coins the Swallows and Amazons would have known.

Ship's Library — Books we've read and want to share

The Boy, Me and the Cat by Henry M. Plummer

Review by Paul Nelson (New Orleans, Louisiana)

The Flux Capacitor Time Machine was warming up. Inside, the man was tightly strapped in the worn leather seat.

Dials were starting to register: Heat: 345 degrees, Amps: 583, Volts: 3,096, Watts: 1,804,968

Time, Date, and Place destinations were dialed in: 8 a.m., Sept. 15, 1912, New Bedford, Mass.

It was now or never: The Man, that would be ME threw the knife switch to turn on the power.

The massive turbine increased, causing a glowing magnetic field to surround the time capsule. The destination dials quickly started to spin backwards. A weird sound emanated, with nearby birds flying off, dogs howling,

cats hissing. Even local cockroaches knew it was best to vacate the area.

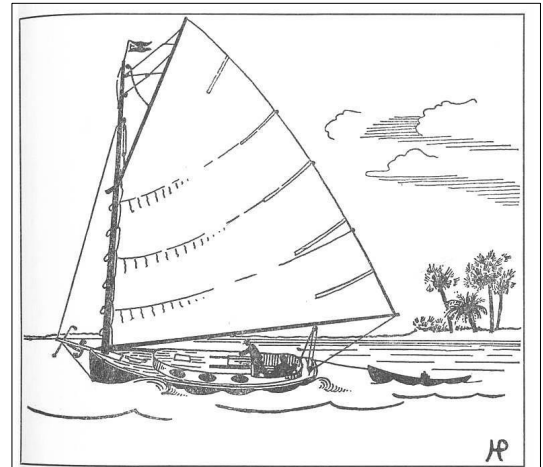
When an astonishing 1.21 gigawatts of output was reached, a massive explosion sent me tumbling out of the capsule. It took a few minutes but finally my eyes began to focus, my headache subsided, and I could just begin to hear soft voices. Sitting up from my crumpled position, I noticed I was in the cockpit of some type of boat, along with two men and a cat. I had indeed made the journey back in time – 109 years.

Well, it was kind of like that... What really happened was that I had started to read a book.

Not just any book, but one that all who are interested in sea travels must read. This book is *The Boy, Me and the Cat*. The Author is Henry Plummer – who is also Illustrator, Editor, Publisher and Binder, and Captain of the cat boat, Mascot. The Boy is Henry Jr, and faithful cat is Scotty.

The book is really the detailed log of the journey that Henry, his son and their cat took from New Bedford, Mass. all the way to Miami, Florida and then back to their home port, departing in Oct 1912 and returning in June 1913. Their boat is a Cape Cod cat boat: 24' long, 10' wide with a

The author: "Me"



THE BOY, ME AND THE CAT

Cruise of the Mascot, 1912-1913

HENRY M. PLUMMER

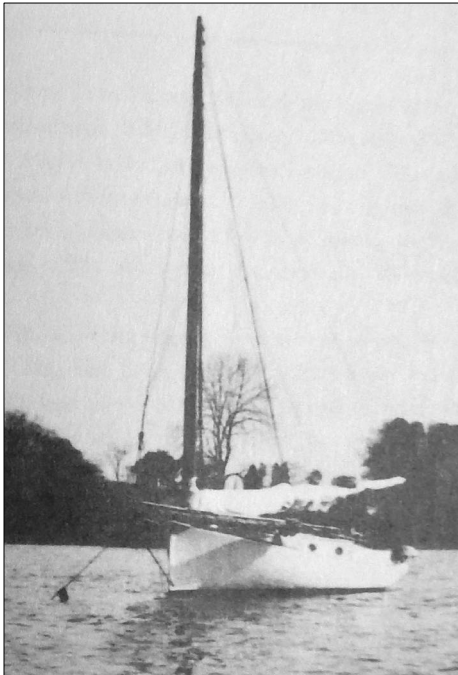
The Cyrus Chandler Company
Rye, New Hampshire

The book

draft of 3', 6", with the centerboard down. Their small cabin accommodated two bunks, a stove and a book-case. No electricity, of course. A 3-hp gas engine had been installed in their 15-foot dory skiff in case assisted travel power was needed. When tied to the transom it acted as a push boat. Max speed: 4 mph.

The daily log is well written, with captivating descriptions of the wildlife and small villages that dotted the east coast of America during the early 1900s. Included are great sketches and excellent kodaks. The book has numerous drawings, which show landings with dates, both south and north bound. Their basic travels take





The boat, *Mascot*

was heavy cotton... and worse when wet. Plus it took a lot of grunting to raise the wood gaff. In addition, as you might expect, their cruise during winter could be brutal at times while southern Florida, even in June, was “toastie”. Not to be omitted, there was an almost total wreck, multiple groundings, medical issues, gas procurement challenges and... FOOD! Right, for the most part man, boy, and cat ate from the sea, oysters and oysters and more oysters, and an occasional feather dinner. This was a very physical journey for two men... and their cat. A 9-month “vacation”!

In my view this book/log surpasses Ransome’s First and Third cruises; oh dear, is my membership going to be suspended? (We are working on the keel-hauling. Ed.) That said, the edition you should purchase is the 3rd, which has many photographs and additional readings in the back of the book. I have obtained my books direct from The Catboat Association of Massachusetts: <https://www.catboats.org>. They have an excellent website where you may contact them for a direct purchase at a reasonable price.

So, fellow TARS, trust me, you will love this book!

them from New Bedford along the East Coast, thru Long Island Sound, then New York harbor, then thru a series of canals entering Chesapeake Bay. From there, south, the route was what we now call the Intercoastal Canal, staying between the out-islands and the mainland. Of course in that time, there were very little in the way of navigational aides for most of the journey. As such, they experienced many groundings and “going off as you went on”, as is written many times in the book.

Of note to me was that this cat boat must have been a bear to handle, keeping in mind that the massive sail

The boy... and the cat



Useful Links

The Arthur Ransome Society (TARS) website: <http://arthur-ransome.org>

All Things Ransome, a website devoted to keeping articles, artwork, and anything related to Ransome:
<http://www.allthingsransome.net>

The Arthur Ransome Wiki, an encyclopedia on Ransome, his life and works:
http://arthur-ransome.wikia.com/wiki/Arthur_Ransome_Wiki

Favorite Seafaring Writings Remembered

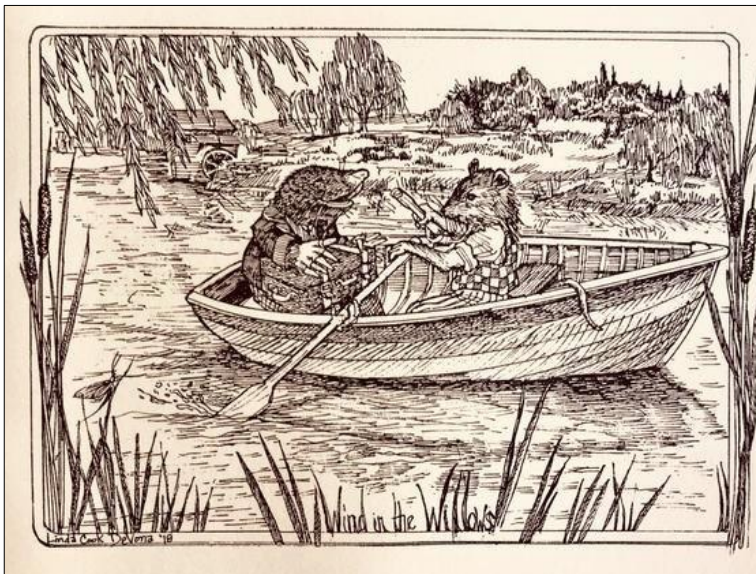
By Ian Sacré (North Vancouver, B.C.)

A recent re-reading of Kenneth Grahame's *Wind in the Willows* left me musing about Water Rat's famous pronouncement "There is nothing - absolutely nothing - half as much worth doing as simply messing about in boats!" For many of us, particularly Swallows and Amazon fans, there was never a truer statement. Often, one does not need to be sailing anywhere, just being in a boat 'messaging about' provides immense pleasure.

Ratty's famous words led me to think of other quotations associated with boats and the sea and which seem to have stuck in my mind over the years.



The biblical one from the book of Psalms 107:23 I find particularly moving. "They that go down to the sea in ships, that do business in great waters, these see the works of the Lord and his wonders in the deep." During quiet, four-hour watches spent on the bridges of general cargo ships in mid ocean on clear moonlit nights, I sometimes found myself pondering the meaning of it all and how insignificant



we humans really are in the greater scheme of things.

Then there is the quotation from Mark Twain's work that is particularly apt when associated with Arthur Ran-

some's stories. "Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things you didn't do than the ones you did do. So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from safe

harbour. Catch the trade wind in your sails. Explore, Dream, Discover."

Like many others of my generation when, as a boy at school, we were tasked with committing to memory classical poems, speeches and portions of plays and other literature which our masters (now called teachers) thought would help us develop into well-educated, civilized young

gentlemen. Shakespeare's plays were high on their list and I still recall one particularly inspiring piece from *Julius Caesar* when Brutus and Cassius were chatting about the right time to attack Octavius and Mark Antony at Philippi, Greece, in the year 42 BC. The quote is as true today as it ever was. "...There is a tide in the affairs of men, which taken at the flood, leads on to fortune; Omitted,

all the voyage of their life is bound in shallows and in miseries. On such a full sea are we now afloat, and we must take the current when it serves or lose our ventures."

Another favourite author, Henry David Thoreau when writing 'A week on the Concord and Merrimack



Rivers' wrote; "The sail, the play of it's pulse so like our own lives: so thin and yet full of life, so noiseless when it labours hardest, so noisy when least effective." Anyone who has sailed a boat and found themselves 'caught in stays' will know just how noisy and ineffective a sail can be.



Our own Arthur Ransome made many profound observations. One appearing in his book *Racundra's Third*

Cruise caught my eye. "The desire to build a house is the tired wish of a man content thenceforward with a single anchorage. The desire to build a boat is the desire of youth, unwilling yet to accept the idea of a final resting place." AR had several boats built and appears to have moved fairly often. Perhaps he was quietly fulfilling his own philosophy of life?

Then there is the poem that stirs all our imaginations and fills us with dreams of long voyages to far away places in large sailing vessels. I am of course referring to John Masefield's famous poem *Sea Fever*:



*I must go down to the seas again to the lonely sea and the sky,
And all I ask is a tall ship and a star to steer her by.
And the wheel's kick and the wind's song and the white sail's shaking,
And a grey mist on the sea's face and a grey dawn breaking.*

*I must go down to the seas again, for the call of the running tide
Is a wild call and a clear call that may not be denied.
And all I ask is a windy day with white clouds flying,
and the flung spray and the blown spume, and the sea-gulls crying.*

*I must go down to the seas again, to the vagrant gypsy life,
To the gull's way and the whale's way where the wind is like a whetted knife;
And all I ask is a merry yarn from a laughing fellow-rover
And a quiet sleep and a sweet dream when the long trick's over.*

Are You on Facebook?

Despite the many problems with Facebook, it does enable groups of like-minded people to share and exchange. (These are the groups I can find. Let me know if you find any others — Ed.)

The Arthur Ransome Society (TARS) Facebook Group: www.facebook.com/groups/762560473886537/
(This is a closed group, so you will have to ask to join.)

Arthur Ransome's Swallows and Amazons in North America: www.facebook.com/groups/tarsfriends/

The Arthur Ransome Society in New Zealand & Australia: www.facebook.com/tarsnz/

The Arthur Ransome Group: www.facebook.com/groups/2612950856/

Beckfoot Kitchen — Eating with the Swallows and Amazons

Tea, the Drink

by Molly McGinnis (Manteca, California)

Susan took the kettle from the fire, and emptied into it a small packet of tea. (SA)

...to lose no time, Susan kept the fire going strongly and had water boiling for tea almost as soon as washing-up was done after dinner (Lunch, to Americans). (SD)

But this water business was serious. Who could possibly run a camp without water and without tea? (PD)

Tea by the mug-full. Tea by the kettle-full, the jug-full, even by the ship-full, as Peter Duck who “stowed away in a tea ship bound for the Canton River” knew.

Tea in camp, tea in the crews’ knapsacks, tea in the cupboards of the *Fram* and the *Goblin* -- but seldom tea from a teapot. It’s poured out from milk-cans (CC), jugs (CC), thermos flasks (PP) and even, once, from the bedroom water jug (BS). The crews (and Jackie) drink their tea from mugs by choice, but when with Natives or Missionaries or Great Aunts, cups and saucers – “balancing bits of bread and butter on the edge of a saucer,” as Dot imagines the Martyrs’ tea with the GA. (PM)

Slater Bob drinks his tea cold, and Jacky cools his in the spring in hot weather: “Yon’s where I put my bottle o’ tea in hot weather like this,” he said.” (PM)

Great-Aunt undoubtedly serves pale “China” tea in the drawing room while Cook enjoys strong black tea with milk and sugar in the kitchen.

Mugs, Cups, Saucers

The crews’ mugs are crockery, not unbreakable metal as we



use today. We know this because when the Swallows and Amazons become allies, there are enough mugs for all: “We brought six for fear of breakage.” They were Holly Howe mugs and I hope the most expendable the farm had.

Mugs like these are often listed as “Navy mugs,” – quite appropriate for young sailors, and they were made from 1920 or earlier right up until today.

Sometimes the mugs the crews drink their tea from are the tops of thermos flasks. They were of course the vacuum kind, with liners of double-layered glass emptied of air between the layers, prone to breaking if bumped: “...new torches had to be bought at the chemist’s, and a new thermos flask in place of Roger’s...” (PP)

Saucers? When the Death and Glories have guests, “Joe got out three plates which, with the three saucers, were used for the steak and kidney.” (Their mothers must have been very



indulgent or very unobservant!). And the Missionaries of the Lapwing run out of cups when the crews come to visit and serve some of the guests their the tea in saucers (had they broken some cups?). Did the Missionaries have deep saucers like the ones so popular in the 18th century? Did ship chandlers in Ransome’s day carry special crockery for use on board?

(Photo from Wikipedia article, “Saucer.”)



Camellia sinensis in flower

Tea, the Leaf

All tea comes from this pretty shrub, carefully tended to produce new shoots. The leaves may be crushed and fermented for black tea, or fermented less and less until we get to green tea, which isn't fermented at all. In *Missee Lee*, the Taicoon gives the castaways "little cups of pale tea," to their distress -- but later Missee Lee herself serves them "English tea... Stlong... with milk... And plenty of sugar. You are surprised?"



The Taicoon's tea was probably made from a few coarse leaves of cheap green tea thrown into a lot of water, good enough for prisoners. Missee Lee's strong black "English" tea was

made from thoroughly fermented small leaves. Was Missee Lee's tea imported from England? Black teas were not very common in China.

Boil the Kettle

Susan must have found quite a large kettle – there's always plenty of water to make tea for crews and guests – and a sturdy one. This enamel kettle won't burn through over a hot fire, though Susan will need a good pot-holder to hold the hot metal coil handle. (Of course, it's always possible that Susan's kettle had had a wooden handle, burned off long before.)



John shows how to fill a camp kettle to get clean water: "He dipped the spout of the kettle under, so that water came into the kettle through the spout instead of through the hole at the top where the lid is.

When the water boils, Susan "...took the kettle from the fire, and emptied into it a small packet of tea." So simple! Rinse the kettle and put it to boil again, to use for cooking eggs or potatoes or washing dishes.

Then..."I'm going to leave the kettle just as black as it is," she said. "It looks fine."

(I hope Susan had something to wrap it in when it was packed up with the gear!)



Green



Yellow



Oolong



Black

Farmhouse Tea, Drawing Room Tea, Shipboard Tea, High Tea and “Tea”

Warm the pot with boiling water. Empty it, add tea – a big spoonful of good black tea leaves for every cup and one for the pot – fill with newly boiling water, let steep, and pour. A thrifty cook could quickly add boiling water and get a second steeping almost as good as the first.



Round thick-walled “Brown Betty” teapots like this one pour well and keep the tea hot. There would surely have been one in every farmhouse and kitchen.

Drawing room tea with the GA would keep Cook busy. She’d have to set a table with a whole matching set of china: teapot, cups, saucers, cream pitcher, sugar bowl, and small plates. A more generous Aunt might add small cakes and dainty triangle sandwiches to the bread and butter.

And then there’s “High tea,” with dainty triangular sand-



wiches, maybe boiled eggs, bread and butter and jam, and small cakes or slices from a big one to finish. In a farmhouse, “tea” might be the big late afternoon meal of the day, with cold and hot dishes (perhaps hot-pot and pork pie!), bread, butter, jam and a big cake to cut wedges from. If there was a later meal, it would be light, perhaps just bread and milk with a bit of cheese. All served with tea, of course!

Growing Tea

The tea shrub is quite accomodating, though it can’t stand very cold winters, and there are tea plantations all over the world. China and India grow the most tea.

Not all the absent fathers and uncles and big brothers in books by Edith Nesbit (*The Treasure Seekers*), Frances Hodgson Burnett (*The Secret Garden*), and many many others – including Ransome – were managing tea plantations in India or China, but you can bet that they were in those countries because of the tea trade. It’s likely that the Swallows’ father’s ship was defending the tea trade in some way when he was sent off to the China Sea.

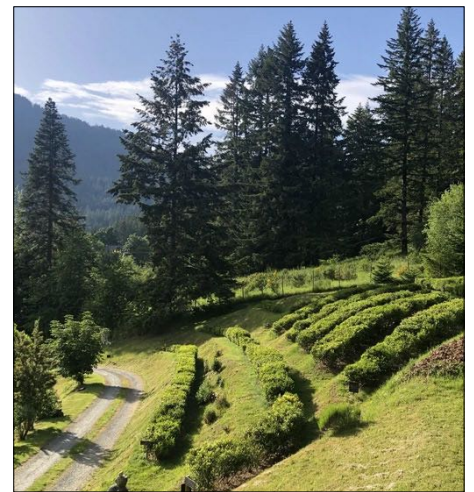
The next biggest tea plantations are in Kenya, Sri Lanka, Vietnam, Turkey, Iran, Indonesia, Argentina (did Uncle Jim drink home-grown tea when he was there?), Japan, and after those, many African countries.

Closer to home, the USA supports tea plantations in South Carolina, Oregon, Washington State, Alabama, and Hawaii.

Canada’s a cold country, right? Well, not all of it. Parts of British

Columbia surrounded by sea have quite a mild climate, and there’s a thriving tea plantation on Vancouver island, at Duncan, a little north of Victoria. It’s called Westholme and sells its homegrown tea as well as imported teas online and in its own shop.

(Molly tells me that it is possible to tie up a sailing dinghy not far from the [Westholme Tea Shop](#). Tell us if you go! Ed.)



Dot and Dick in California

“Edited” by Molly McGinnis (Manteca, California)

Sweet Tea for Summer

Dear Peggy,

It was really scorching today and Karen says it will be even hotter later on!

She brought us over a whole gallon of what she calls “sweet tea.” She learned about it when she was in Florida – that’s the southernmost state on the east coast here, and the hottest, steamiest, place in the whole country, Karen says. They drink sweet tea over ice all day and the first thing anyone says when you come to visit is “Wouldn’t you like some sweet tea?”

American refrigerators are huge, and they have a special space for making ice. You might have to sink yours in the Lake to cool it, like Jacky.

Dick and I, and Da when he’s here, are all drinking sweet tea that I make. So I thought you’d like to try it, if you can persuade Cook into making some. It’s not really very sweet at all, and very nice even if there’s no ice. Just get it as cool as you can.

We’ll envy you on these hot days, flying over a nice cool lake in Amazon!

Dot

And Dick! You almost left me out!



Dot's Sweet Tea

- 1. Boil a quart of water in a saucepan. Put a lid on the pan, the water will boil faster and you won't lose any to evaporation.*
 - 2. Throw in about 1/4 c black tea (most people use teabags here, use 3 or 4), stir gently, take it off the heat and wait about 5 minutes.*
 - 3. Stir in about 1/4 c sugar (just regular white sugar) while the water's really hot, and let it cool enough not to burn you. Pour the tea through a sieve into a quart pitcher or jar and when it's cool put it in the fridge.*
- If there's ice made from water that's okay to drink, put some chips in a big glass and pour the sweet tea over it. You can squeeze a little slice of lemon and drop it into the glass, but try it without first. Once you get used to the idea of drinking tea over ice you can make it sweeter if you want. We like it just a little bit sweet and with lots of ice.*

If you like it, maybe you can get Cook to make it by the puncheon when the Swallows get there! Tell her if she makes that much she can make the tea with half as much boiling water and add the rest cold, after the sugar is dissolved.

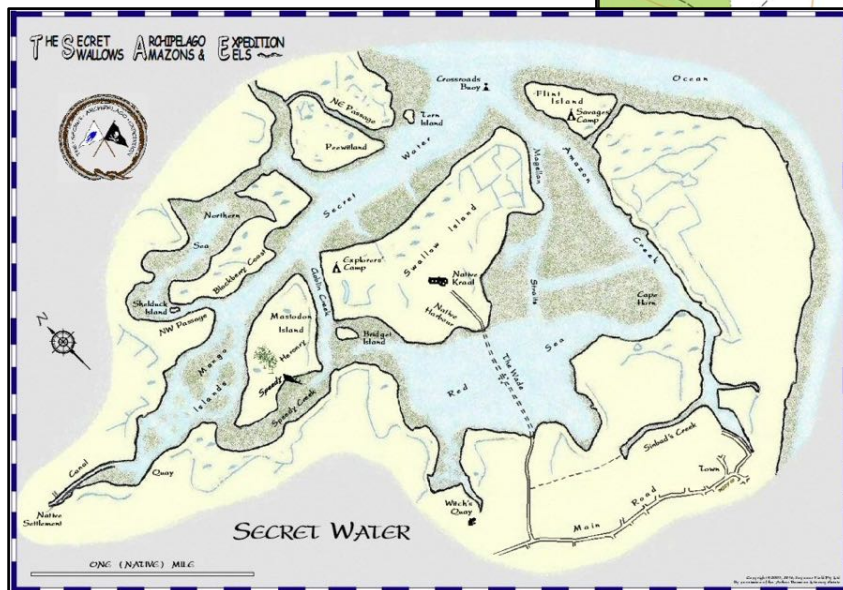
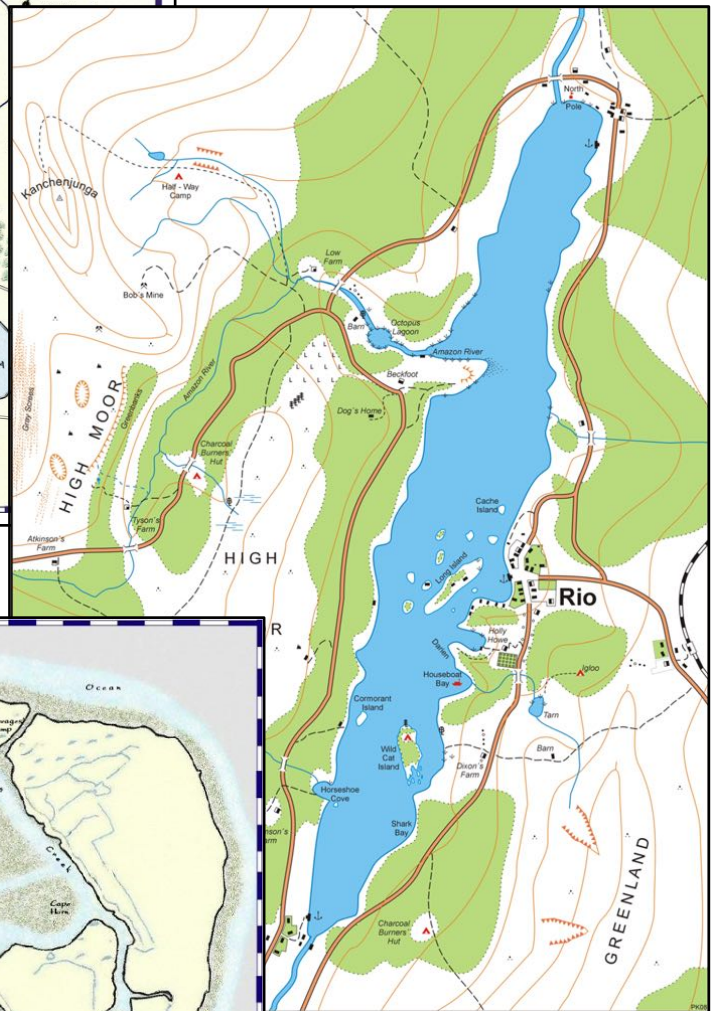
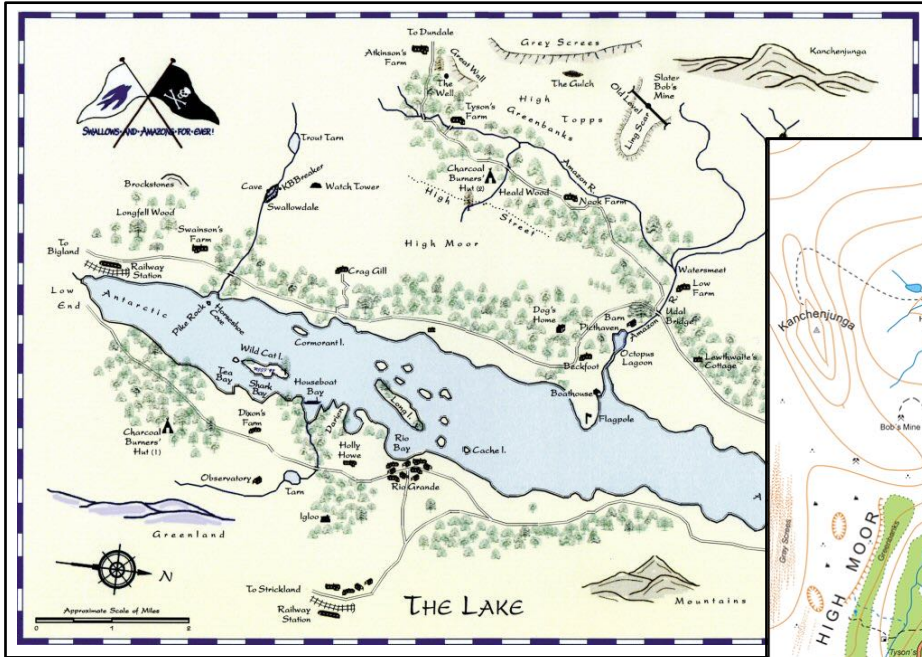


Pieces of Eight — The Junior Pages



Looking for AR Maps?

Try the [All Things Ransome](http://www.allthingsransome.net/armaps/index.html) website <<http://www.allthingsransome.net/armaps/index.html>> where you will find many... and lots of other interesting Arthur Ransome material.



Signals from TARSUS/North Pole News Index by Subject February 2016 - January 2021

Compiled by Simon Horn

Here is an updated index to articles in that have appeared in the newsletter since I have been editor, from 2016 through the January 2021 issue. The list is sorted by subject and then by issue and includes the title, the section, the author and the issue date.

If you are looking for a recipe, for example, you should be

able to find when it appeared. Note that I have not included the regular *Ship's Papers* sections from the coordinators and myself, since they appear in every issue.

Please send in any comments or suggestions for improvements. Remember, too, that your PDF reader can enlarge the type if you find it too small.

Behind the books			
A Letter from AR to Helene Carter	Dipping our Hands	Marilyn Steele	Sept. 2018
No Moss on Uncle Jim!	Pieces of Eight	Molly McGinnis	January 2019
No Moss on Uncle Jim! Part 2	Pieces of Eight	Molly McGinnis	May 2019
The Beginning of it All	Captain Flint's Trunk	Molly McGinnis	Sept. 2019
Camping			
The Tent Maker's Tale	Kanchenjunga's Cairn	Ian Sacré	Feb. 2016
Arthur Ransome's Birthday Corroborree	Pieces of Eight	Nikki McClure	June 2017
Reflections of a Gear Junkie	Kanchenjunga's Cairn	Alistair Bryden	May 2019
Polar Region Sledging Rations & Recipes	Kanchenjunga's Cairn	Ian Sacré	Sept. 2019
History			
Grog!	Kanchenjunga's Cairn	Ian Sacré	Sept. 2016
Vancouver Island, Sri Lanka and Hartlepool	Kanchenjunga's Cairn	Alistair Bryden	January 2018
Me and Arthur Ransome			
Peter Duck and the King	Dipping Our Hands	Gordon McGilton	Feb. 2016
Arthur Ransome in my Life	Dipping Our Hands	Gordon Proudfoot	June 2016
Arthur Ransome, Helene Carter & my intro. to S&A	Dipping Our Hands	Marilyn C. Doolan Steele	Sept. 2016
Confessions of an Armchair Sailor	Dipping Our Hands	Simon Horn	Feb. 2017
My Children and Arthur Ransome	Dipping Our Hands	Simon Horn	June 2017
Our Private Films	Dipping Our Hands	Peter Calamai	January 2018
A Clay Medallion, circa 1954	Mrs Barrable's Gallery	Marilyn Steele	May 2018
Sailing Around the Horn to the Goldfields	Dipping our Hands	Maida Follini	Sept. 2018
Today's Sixth Graders' on 'The Big Six: "Booor-ing"!	Dipping our Hands	Richard G. Mills	January 2019
First Fish	Dipping Our Hands	Molly McGinnis	May 2019
On "Ransome's Illustrations"	Dipping Our Hands	Janet Shirley	Sept. 2019
Pirates, Explorers, Indians, and other			
Imaginary Roles	Dipping Our Hands	Maida Follini	May 2020
Another Letter from Ransome, Feb. 1932	Dipping Our Hands	Marilyn Steele	January 2021
Puzzle/quiz			
Which Book? What's Happening?	Pieces of Eight	Simon Horn	Feb. 2016
Winter Holiday Hike	Pieces of Eight	Petr Krist	Sept. 2016
Crab Island Quiz	Pieces of Eight	Petr Krist	Feb. 2017
A Book Maze	Pieces of Eight	Simon Horn	Oct. 2017
Winter Holiday Word Search Challenge	Pieces of Eight	Elizabeth Jolley	January 2018
Swallows and Amazons Book Series Quiz	Pieces of Eight	Elizabeth Jolley	May 2019
All the animals were out searching...	Pieces of Eight	Simon Horn	Sept. 2019
Can you connect Ransome's characters to the books?	Pieces of Eight	Simon Horn	January 2020
A Puzzling Situation	Pieces of Eight	Martha Blue	May 2020

Ransome Country			
Ransome Country	Captain Flint's Trunk	Simon Horn	Sept. 2016
A View of Tallinn	Kanchenjunga's Cairn	Robert Dilley	January 2019
Don't Count On the Sheep	Captain Flint's Trunk	David Rawcliffe	May 2019
At Last, Visiting the Lake District	Captain Flint's Trunk	Alistair Bryden	January 2020
Ransome's work			
Arthur Ransome in Yiddish	Captain Flint's Trunk	Avi Lank	June 2016
Ransome's Illustrations	Mrs Barrable's Gallery	Simon Horn	January 2019
A Letter from Ransome, December 1931	Dipping Our Hands	Marilyn Steele	Sept. 2020
Reading & collecting			
Who Before Me?	The Ship's Library	Kate Crosby	January 2021
Recipes			
Banana Blossom Salad	Beckfoot Kitchen	Molly McGinnis	June 2016
Swallows and Amazons and Pemmican	Beckfoot Kitchen	Ian Sacré	June 2017
Fried Cannonballs	Beckfoot Kitchen	Molly McGinnis	Oct. 2017
Edible Igloo	Beckfoot Kitchen	Elizabeth Jolley	January 2018
Miss Beckwith's Bunloaf	Dot's Latest Story	Molly McGinnis	May 2018
Blackberry Pudding	Beckfoot Kitchen	Molly McGinnis	Sept. 2018
American Summer Pudding	Beckfoot Kitchen	Molly McGinnis	Sept. 2019
Food for Invalids: Mumps Food, Flu Food	Beckfoot Kitchen	Molly McGinnis	January 2020
Dick's First Catch	Beckfoot Kitchen	Molly McGinnis	May 2020
Baked Beans	Beckfoot Kitchen	Molly McGinnis	Sept. 2020
Who Is Sleeping in the Fram?	Beckfoot Kitchen	Molly McGinnis	January 2021
Reviews			
Nautical Reading	The Ship's Library	Ian Sacré	June 2016
"Another Country"	The Ship's Library	Gordon McGilton	Sept. 2016
When Swallows and Amazons meets James Bond	Captain Flint's Trunk	RYA Magazine	Feb. 2017
Greetings from the North	The Ship's Library	Ian Sacré	June 2017
The 2016 Swallows and Amazons Movie	The Ship's Library	Simon Horn	Oct. 2017
"The Boat in the Bay"	The Ship's Library	Simon Horn	May 2018
"Racundra's Third Cruise"	The Ship's Library	Ian Sacré	Sept. 2018
"The Twilight Years - London"	The Ship's Library	Simon Horn	January 2019
"Swallows, Amazons and Coots"	The Ship's Library	David R. Elms	May 2019
The Mariner's Library	The Ship's Library	Simon Horn	Sept. 2019
Swallows and Armenians	The Ship's Library	Gordon McGilton	January 2020
"Strike of the Shark"	Pieces of Eight	Aurora Blue	May 2020
"The Life of Arthur Ransome"	The Ship's Library	David R. Elms	Sept. 2020
"Sunlight and Shadows"	The Ship's Library	Simon Horn	January 2021
Sailing & cruising			
Sail Camping on the Nancy Blackett	Kanchenjunga's Cairn	Diane Tucker	June 2016
Sailing Woo Hoo Across the Generations	Kanchenjunga's Cairn	Steve Crouch	June 2017
Cruise of the Lydia	Kanchenjunga's Cairn	Ian Sacré	Oct. 2017
Cruise of the Sandhawk	Kanchenjunga's Cairn	Ian Sacré	January 2018
So What about that Wind in the Willows?	The Professor's Lab.	Ian Sacré	May 2018
Swallowdale & the Salvage of Swallow	The Professor's Lab.	Ian Sacré	May 2019
Biking, Hand Grenades, and Sailing	Kanchenjunga's Cairn	Paul Nelson	January 2020
On Reading Ransome while Sailing Sea Bear	Dipping Our Hands	Ross Cossar	January 2021
Stories			
Swallows and Amazons Continued	Dot's Latest Story	Louis Springsteen	Sept. 2016
Dot and Dick in California	Dot's Latest Story	Molly McGinnis	May 2018
Dot and Dick in California	Dot's Latest Story	Molly McGinnis	Sept. 2018
Dot and Dick in California - Nighthawks	Dot's Latest Story	Molly McGinnis	May 2020

Dot and Dick in California - A Featherboard "Written"	Dot's Latest Story Pieces of Eight	Molly McGinnis Martha Blue	Sept. 2020 January 2021
TARS business			
The TARS 2015 Literary Weekend	Captain Flint's Trunk	Donald Tunnicliff Rice	Feb. 2016
My First IAGM	Captain Flint's Trunk	Elizabeth Jolley	Sept. 2018
Voyaging & adventures			
The Bucket List Sand Yacht Saga	The Professor's Lab.	Ian Sacré	Feb. 2017
Tent for Two: A Year of Adventure	Kanchenjunga's Cairn	Elizabeth Jolley	Oct. 2017
Gators and Pythons and Pirate Boys! Oh, My!	Kanchenjunga's Cairn	Paul Nelson	January 2018
Anne of Green Gables Meets a Kiwi Amazon Lobster Pirate	Kanchenjunga's Cairn	Cheryl Paget	May 2018
Off to Samarkand... via St. Petersburg	Kanchenjunga's Cairn	Alistair Bryden	Sept. 2018
Riding a Dromedary from Samarkand to Istanbul	Kanchenjunga's Cairn	Alistair Bryden	January 2019
My Gritstone Trail	Pieces of Eight	Martha Blue	May 2019
The Other Railway to Windermere	Kanchenjunga's Cairn	Simon Horn	Sept. 2019
The TARS 2019 Literary Weekend	Captain Flint's Trunk	Donald Tunnicliff Rice	January 2020
A Road and River Odyssey	Kanchenjunga's Cairn	Jill Blair	May 2020
A Road and River Odyssey - 2	Kanchenjunga's Cairn	Jill Blair	Sept. 2020
Panning for Gold	Kanchenjunga's Cairn	Alistair Bryden	January 2021



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