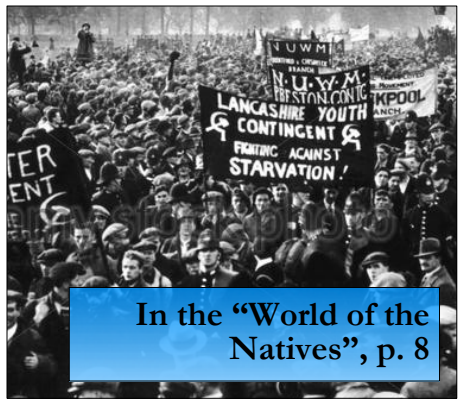
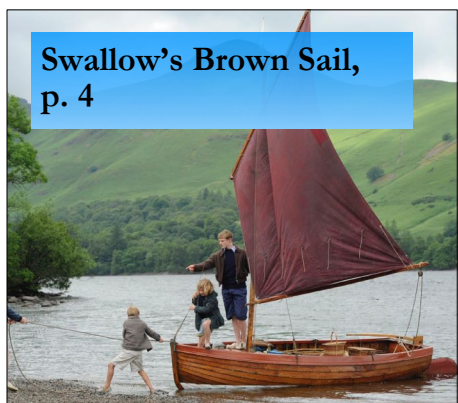




# Signals from TARSUS & North Pole News

September 2021

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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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[45tarsus@gmail.com](mailto:45tarsus@gmail.com)

Already we are leaving summer and heading to fall. Where does the time go? I do hope some have been able to take advantage of the better (although hot in some places) weather.

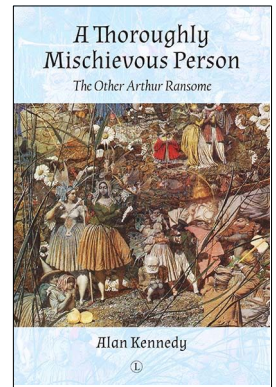
Recently I had the following email from [The Lutterworth Press](#) that I think may be of interest to members:

I am writing to make you aware of 'the best piece of writing on Ransome to have come out in years' (Peter Willis, president of the Nancy Blackett Trust) which you might find of interest for feature or review. *A Thoroughly Mischievous Person: The Other Arthur Ransome* by Alan Kennedy is a unique liter-

ary and psychological perspective on the biographical aspect of Arthur Ransome's children's literature.

First published in 1930, *Swallows and Amazons* secured Arthur Ransome's reputation as one of the most influential children's authors of all time, yet prior to writing fiction he had had a turbulent career as a journalist and war correspondent in revolutionary Russia. In this refreshing account of Ransome's

work, Alan Kennedy sets out to explain his enduring appeal, combining literary criticism with psychological expertise. (The book is expected in September.)



\*\*\*

Please give a loud ahoy to the following new member: Thomas Sadd.

Keep well and safe everyone.

Remember if you have any concerns or questions contact me [45tarsus@gmail.com](mailto:45tarsus@gmail.com) or phone 941-726-1974.

Robin



### Greetings from the North

By Ian Sacré, TARS Canada Coordinator  
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[gallivanterthree@telus.net](mailto:gallivanterthree@telus.net)

Greetings Canadian TARS Members.

Sadly, we seem to be quickly reaching the end of summer, and this year the summer equinox occurs on the 22nd September when the sun once again crosses the

equator and hurries on south. For many of us it has been an interesting period, the ever-present plague, hot tropical-like temperatures and the land parched and in places scorched by forest fires. But life goes on and we make of it what we will and so I hope everyone has also experienced joyful moments.

As you all will have read in the TARS Action Required email letter dated, 24th June 2021 from Diana Wright,

big changes are afoot regarding the TARS Administration. Might I suggest that everyone take the time to re-read Diana's email.

What these changes effectively mean is that when the new system goes live, (planned for the end of August) members will be responsible for maintaining and keeping their own membership data up to date. Additionally, Canadian members will no longer send their annual membership sub-

scription renewal cheques to me but will renew their membership subscriptions on line by visiting the TARS web site at [arthur-ransome.org](http://arthur-ransome.org). I encourage everyone to visit the site and become familiar with its workings.

When it comes to making TARS payments on line, if you do not have a PayPal account, not to worry, you can use your credit card.

Undoubtedly we may experience some growing pains as the new admin. system is brought up to speed but in the meantime we just have to watch and perhaps wait.

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](mailto:sjhorn@gmail.com)

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

I am waiting for the day when I don't have to mention the pandemic in these notes, but we are not there yet. I hope you are fully vaccinated and doing well.

Thanks as always to everyone who contributed. This issue is a bit thin, however. Take away the index and it is only 17 pages. A former editor has said to me on a couple of occasions that he stopped doing the job when he found himself writing much of the content. We are not yet at that stage. Nonetheless, please think about contributing if you haven't yet.

### In this issue

In *The Professor's Laboratory*, **Ian Sacré** talks about "Swallow's Brown Sail and More". Why was Swallow's sail brown anyway?

In *Kanchenjunga's Cairn*, **Molly McGinnis** has a few suggestions for what to do "When You Can't Sail... or don't want to..."

**David Rawcliffe** is "In the "World of the Natives" – 1932" in *Captain Flint's Trunk*. What was happening outside of Ransome Country during that year that was the setting for six of the books?

*Dipping our Hands* has another letter from **Marilyn Steele's** collection of correspondence between Ransome and his American illustrator Helene Carter. This one, from November 1932, has Ransome apologizing for doing his own illustrations for *Peter Duck*.

In *The Ship's Library* your editor has

some remarks about translation. I was led to think about it by Eva Hovorková Týlová's "Comments on 'My reading Ransome's books in French', (in the Spring 2021 TARS Library Update in *Signals*), and by my earlier professional background as a translator.

In this issue's *Becksfoot Kitchen* **Molly McGinnis** tells us about berries, how to get them and what to do with them. "Foraging in Fall" talks about the abundance of wild berries of all sorts that can be found in the North American west.

She then provides her recipe for Susan's Blackberry-Banana Mash in "Boats Full of Blackberries – Now What?"

*Pieces of Eight* is remains a weak spot, but I have found an interesting activities page on the Arthur Ransome Trust website. Take a look.

Lastly, I have updated the Author Index to the newsletter. It now goes up to and includes the May 2021 issue.

\* \* \*

The next issue is scheduled for January 2022. Your contributions are essential. Did you do anything interesting and Ransome-like over the summer, despite the pandemic? Let us know.



Please start thinking about contributing right away. Don't wait for my first reminder on December 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.

## The Professor's Laboratory — Ideas, instructions & fixes

### Swallow's Brown Sail and More

By Ian Sacré (North Vancouver, B.C.)

In *Swallows and Amazons*, Chapter 2, page 29, “Making Ready”, Mrs Walker spent some time with the adventurers checking out *Swallow* and satisfying herself that the captain and ship's company knew what they were doing prior to setting sail on their big adventure.

...Susan had got the sail ready, John hooked the strop on the traveller and hauled away on the hal-yard. Up went the brown sail until the traveller was nearly at the top of the mast...

The fact that the sail was brown set me thinking: why the sail was that colour?

Arthur Ransome wrote the novel prior to August 1930, when the manuscript was first published, so this tells us that the sail was almost certainly made of cotton canvas or duck, as most small boat sails were at that time.

How do we know this? Because it was not until 1926 that American scientist Wallace Carothers first discovered that alcohols and carboxyl acids could be mixed to create synthetic fibres, although his work on what would eventually become polyester was shelved so that he could focus on producing nylon.

In 1939 British scientists John Winfield and James Dickson continued Carother's preliminary work and in 1941 they patented polyethylene terephthalate (PETE), which would



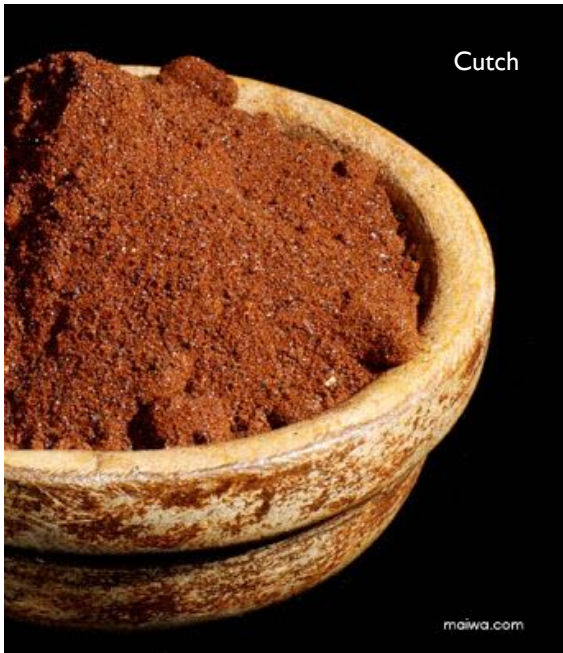
form the basic fibres for what would be called Terylene in Britain or Dacron in the United States. Later that year, with the aid of W.K. Birtwhistle and C.G. Ritchie, Winfield and Dickson produced the first polyester fibre, Terylene. under the manufacturer Imperial Chemical Industries (ICI). However, it was not until 1951 that polyester fabric was introduced to the public, some 21 years after *Swallows and Amazons* was written.

So why was *Swallow's* cotton canvas sail brown? Well, the probable reason was that the sail had had a preservative dressing applied. Sails made of cotton canvas and other organic fibres such as jute, hemp and linen (flax) all have a tendency to mould, mildew and rot,

due partly to moisture if they are not properly cared for by thoroughly drying and stowing away in a dry place after use. Sails were (and still are) also subject to UV degradation.

Various concoctions were used on cotton canvas, hemp and flax sails to help prevent the mouldering process. This was called barking or tanning, and the tannin was often derived from the bark of oak and other suitable trees. Brixham sailors frequently used an alternative mixture of linseed oil, tallow, Stockholm tar, yellow ochre, etc. on their sails to help protect them from mildew.

Sometimes sails were barked using a solution of ‘cutch’ dissolved in hot water. This would also change the



In this modern age we tend to have forgotten that synthetic, man-made fibres have only been with us since the 1950's, a scant 70 odd years, and that prior to the early 1800's all the world's voyages of exploration, discovery, trade, seagoing defence and transportation were performed by ships propelled solely by sails made of natural fibres.



colour of white cotton sails to a deep reddish brown. Cutch extract is the sap of the Acacia tree and is high in tannin. It is also a natural dye and can be bought in powdered form and mixed with water to use.

In historical times sails were generally made from materials which could be found locally. Arab dhows and Chinese junks for instance, had sails made of coconut husks and palm tree leaves. I would think the life expectancy of a palm leaf sail could not have been very long!

The Scandinavian Vikings on the other hand made sails for their longships from woven wool in a variety of different weaves using warp-weighted looms. These were looms where the individual warp threads were kept taut by small individual weights being hung on each thread.

After the 11th century Viking period, wool sails continued to be

made and used right up to the 19th century in the old Viking sphere of influence, which encompassed the Faroe Islands, the Hebrides, Shetland Islands, Norway, Sweden and Finland.

It has been estimated that it would take a year for five people to hand spin, weave and make a 25 square metre wool sail (270 square feet) for a Viking longship. It has also been estimated that such a sail would last 30 to 50 years! (Just keep the moths away!)

Canvas was originally woven using hemp or flax instead of cotton and the word canvas ultimately comes from the Latin word for the hemp plant 'cannabis'. Interestingly, the people in ancient India started weaving cotton into canvas cloth about 1500 BC. In addition to canvas, because of its strength, hemp was also used for making rope. The standing rigging of Nelson's Royal Navy ships was made of hemp.





1887 America's Cup winner *Volunteer*, with its cotton sails.

In North America, Britain and Europe, flax was also used to make the sails of both the navy and merchant ships during the middle ages up to and including the era of the fast clipper ships etc. The famous *Cutty Sark* carried a sail area of 32,000 square feet!

Cotton started to be used for sails in the United States during the war of 1812. Up until that time United States warships used flax sails and the raw materials for making them was imported from overseas. This meant that their navy was vulnerable if their

overseas supply lines were cut. The Royal Navy was rather good at blockades having had quite a bit of practice during the Napoleonic wars with France. So the United States Navy started making their sails out of cotton, of which there was an abundant supply in the southern states.

In 1851 the year of the first America's Cup race, the *America* won the race using cotton sails. Then again in 1887, the United States won the race with the *Volunteer* carrying 8,981 square feet of cotton sails.

What about today? From those simple sailcloth choices of flax, hemp and cotton prior to the 1950's invention of polyester, Terylene or Dacron – whichever you want to call it – scientists have not been able to leave things alone. For sailors who have deep pockets and the desire to squeeze the last hundredth of a knot out of their sailboats, sailmaking materials are now legion. To name a few: nylon – as strong as Dacron but even lighter and with greater elasticity; laminated sails made from aramids (or aromatic polyamides), best known as Kevlar or Twaron; Ultra PE (or ultra-high molecular weight polyethylene) with trade names like Dyneema or Spectra. Or perhaps you'd prefer PEN (or polyethylene naphthalate) used for making a cloth called Pentex. Then again you could choose Vectran, made from LCP (or Liquid Crystal Polymers), or perhaps Mylar.

I am sure dear old Arthur Ransome and his friend Peter Duck would be turning in their graves!

## 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/](http://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/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/tarsfriends/)

**The Arthur Ransome Society in New Zealand & Australia:** [www.facebook.com/tarsnz/](http://www.facebook.com/tarsnz/)

**The Arthur Ransome Group:** [www.facebook.com/groups/2612950856/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/2612950856/)

## Kanchenjunga's Cairn — Places we've been and our adventures

### When You Can't Sail... or don't want to...

By Molly McGinnis (Manteca, California)

While it may be possible to sail on California rivers and reservoir lakes, it's not necessarily a whole lot of fun. The reservoirs are crowded with speedboats and water skiers and all manner of ill-mannered Hullabalooos, and the rivers...



But toss one of these into your pickup or onto your car...



Or, if you're on the continental divide but your dinghy is on the coast...



Skippin' along the Salmon... or Slithering down the Snake...

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

### In the “World of the Natives” – 1932

By David Rawcliffe (Thornhill, Ontario)

I should start by admitting that I have chosen 1932 to be that great year for S&A stories. That great year of six books: the year we meet the Ds, the Coot Club and the Eels.

I want to have a look at the “Native world” that hovered around our adventure seekers. To begin, let us look at the main news topic in the wider world: the Great Depression, which had started with the US stock market crash of October 29, 1929.

By 1932 was its third year and, to many, the depth of the Depression. So what were the economic conditions for the Natives? Nothing is mentioned in the books about this Native world but much can be surmised.

Mr Walker was in the Royal Navy and whatever budget cuts would be made, his job was safe and decently paid. The Royal Navy had a fleet of five battle-



British battleship

ships in the Mediterranean, plus many cruisers and smaller ships. That being said, the Walkers would not be considered rich, but comfortably off. The



Depression demonstration

licitor. Both jobs were dependent on patients (*victims*) and clients (*also victims?*) but both seemed to be weathering the storm around them. Not much is said about the Eels' parents whilst those of the ‘Death

Blacketts would have been in a similar situation, as they had a car (*mmm, sort of!!!*), a telephone and a cook. The source of the family's income is never mentioned.

Mr Callum was in a slightly different position but it does sound as if he had tenure at a university... possibly London. He was able to travel, but no doubt at the university's expense.

and Glories' seem to be poorer. However, their fathers were employed at a time when unemployment in the UK had hit 22%, with little government assistance for those out of work.

Both Mr Walker and Mr & Mrs Callum travelled abroad. This would have been quite the adventure. This was especially true of Mr. Walker's trip home from China. He mentions 12 days and nights on a train. This trip would be via the Trans-Siberian Railway. At that time China was in the midst of an ugly civil war and Russia was a totalitarian state with a deep distrust of foreigners.

To get to Egypt, the Callums would have spent five days at sea... unless they took an Imperial Airways flight

All eight children attended boarding schools.

In the Norfolk Broads, Dr Dudgeon was both a doctor and a magistrate while Mr Farland was a so-



The Trans-Siberian



Flying boat

on a flying boat from Southampton to Alexandria. Setting off at 5 am it would not arrive until about 24 hours later... there were several stops on the way.

Not everyone suffered in the Depression and, as during many disasters, some did quite well. The Hullabaloo did not seem to be suffering; the grocer in *Secret Water* was doing a good trade (*the weather was good for tourism !!*). In the books, the farmers, shopkeepers, etc. seem to be 'doing fine' and the word Depression never appears. So what else was happening in the Native world which might have caught the attention of the Swallows and Amazons? e.g. races, the countryside, boats, songs... and food.

1932 was the year of the the Olympics, both the winter in Lake Placid and the summer in Los Angeles (*an aside: before 1992, both summer and winter games were run in the same year*). In the Easter of the year, there was a mass trespass onto a



section of the English Peak District known as Kinder Scout. This deliberate act was to try to open the countryside for ordinary people. It eventually worked.

The annual Boat Race was won by Cambridge University. On May 1st Roger would have been happy to hear that the Mars Bar went into production, while a popular song was "The



Flies Crawled up the Window" (*it is on YouTube*). I can hear the Swallows and Amazons all singing some adapted version of that song while camping on the Island!!!



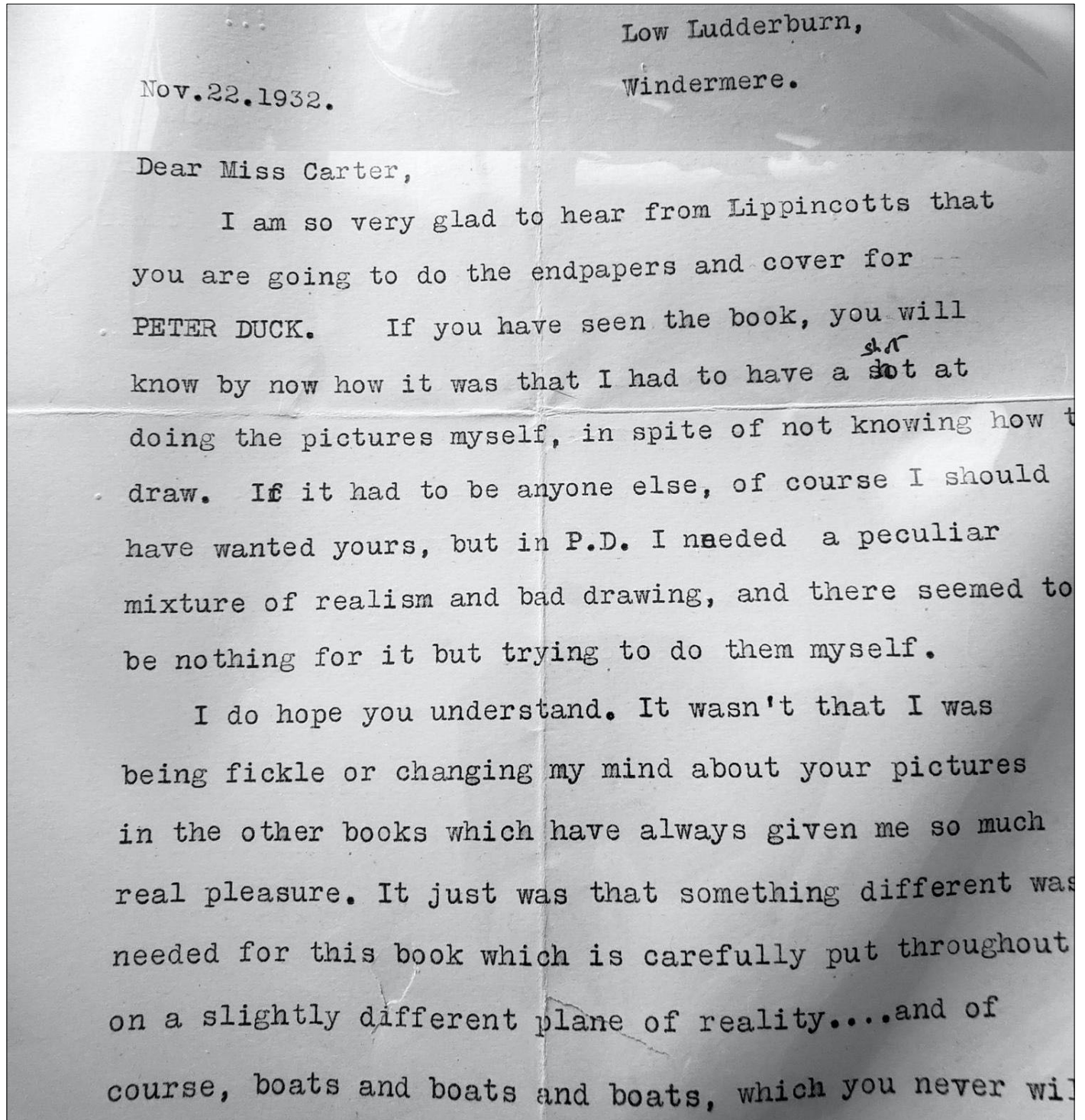
Kinder Scout march

## Dipping our Hands — Personal relationships with the books

### Another Letter from Ransome, November 1932

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

Although Ransome begins by thanking Helene Carter for doing the American endpapers and cover, he is mainly apologizing for the fact that he would be doing the actual illustrations, because “I needed a peculiar mixture of realism and bad drawing” — and in any case, she doesn’t know about boats.



enjoy doing until you done a lot of sailing!!!

Now, of course, I am simply bursting to see your endpaper. No one in either hemisphere can do such lovely maps as yours. I hate the horrid mess that had to go into the English edition. I wanted Cape's to write to you and ask you to do one that would do for both editions, but I was so slow in getting the book itself finished that they said there would not be time to send it over and get the endpaper made and sent back. But anyway you are doing it for the American edition and thank goodness for that.

And I know your jacket will be a perfect beauty.

Have you any news of Miss Evans? I do hope she is in better health, than when you last wrote.

Yours 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.

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

### Comments on “My reading Ransome’s books in French”

made by PdDr Eva Hovorková Týlová (in TARS Library Update, Spring 2021)

By Simon Horn (Montreal, Quebec)

There is a school of thought that says that translation is essentially impossible. There is no way to fully render the meaning of a text written in one language in another. Nonetheless translation happens all the time.

So let's agree that translation is difficult, and literary translation even more so.

I used to work as a translator. The regular translation of an ordinary text, i.e., one that is not too technical, is straightforward, but still one has to understand the source language sufficiently to fully understand the meaning and the destination language perfectly enough to express it. (Hence, I translated from French into English, my mother tongue, and not vice versa.)

Literary translation requires understanding the source text at an even higher level, to catch the nuances and subtleties that the author is using to get the effect they want.

In the Spring TARS Library Update, Dr. Týlová talks about reading the *Swallows and Amazons* books in French, as well as her native Czech. She cites several examples that show where the French translation was not up to the task.

I would like to comment on one of her examples in particular: why did the French translation feel the need to change the children's names? (She says: “The very first sentences in French were such a shock I had to

close the first book - *Swallows and Amazons* for some days.”)

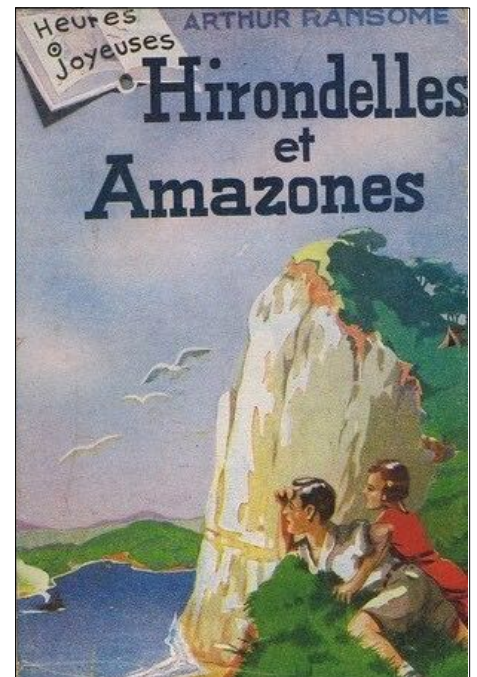
In her example, “Sammy — Mathurin!!! How does it sound when Nancy wants to discipline him...”

“Sammy” is Sammy Lewthwaite, the son of Nancy and Peggy's old nurse. Now Ransome chose to call him Sammy because it immediately lets Nancy put him in his place when he comes to Wild Cat Island to investigate the burglary of Uncle Jim's houseboat. “He's our policeman. He isn't afraid of anybody except his mother... and us, of course.”

Now, though we never hear it, Sammy's first name is probably either Samuel or Sam. At first hearing, Samuel Lewthwaite could be a country lawyer, while Sam Lewthwaite might be a farmer or a motor mechanic. But Ransome needed to call him Sammy so that his relationship with the Amazons could be made immediately clear.

Another point, the diminutive “Sammy” is not only appropriate for the son of the Amazon's old nurse, a person they have known all their lives, but it also gives a little clue to their relative class positions. Sammy is a country constable, while Nancy and Peggy, though not wealthy, are the daughters of one of the bigger houses in the district.

I don't believe that Mathurin is a diminutive for anything in French.



#### An important postscript

The TARS library apparently provided Dr. Týlová with the 1945 edition of S&W (*Hirondelles et Amazones*), in which not only the names were changed into French, but so was the country. The publishers eventually figured out that this made no sense, and subsequent editions returned the action to England and restored the characters their names.

If you can read French you might have a look at this webpage, which discusses the whole question:

“Que penser des traductions françaises?” (What should we think of the French translations?) [serge-pas-sions.fr/arthur\\_ransome\\_pb\\_traductions.htm](http://serge-pas-sions.fr/arthur_ransome_pb_traductions.htm)

## Beckfoot Kitchen — Eating with the Swallows and Amazons

### Foraging in Fall

by Molly McGinnis (Manteca, California)



Susan never had it so good! Here in the North American west, long arching canes of Himalayan Blackberry droop over river edges, with bucketsful of shining fruits just begging to be gathered into any passing dinghy or rowboat. Himalayan Blackberry grows in the Western states and provinces from Alaska to Mexico and along the eastern seaboard and – less abundantly—in the Great Lakes area.

In mild climates Himalayan Blackberry grows and fruits pretty much all year round.

The young canes and fruits can be quite pretty, and in Northern California there are two forms: one that looks like any old blackberry, and one that has deeply cut



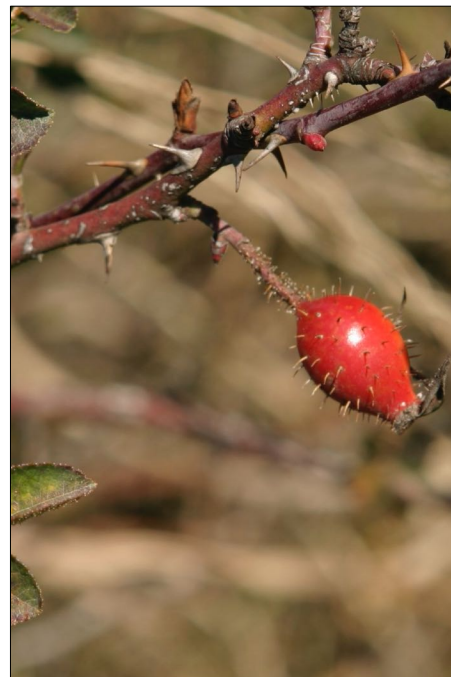
leaves. I found them side by side on an old farm in Northern California.



But there's a dark side. While the huge thickets of Himalayan Blackberry provide food and shelter for wildlife, the mass of dead and live canes smothers native species and, where there's a choice, wild animals from reptiles to birds to mammals prefer the natives. Like all blackberries, its canes live for only two years – growing the first year, fruiting the second. The canes die back as the fruit ripens, so that a blackberry thicket is a sort of donut of live canes

around and over a mass of dead canes. The dead canes burn easily but while a big thicket of Himalayan Blackberry isn't something you'd want right next to your house – or camp – it doesn't burn very well and doesn't contribute to the spread of wildfires. Unfortunately – or perhaps fortunately – in the short term, these invader blackberries are among the first plants to regenerate in a “normal” wildfire that doesn't burn deep into the soil, and they do provide early food and cover for returning wildlife. But this means that regenerating native plants may be smothered before they get a start, which isn't a good thing for the ecology of a waiting burned-over area.

A few I remember... delicious tiny wild blueberries picked on a minuscule island on a Minnesota lake... apples from this old tree on a deserted farm, now a nature reserve...  
Rose hips from the wild roses in the park down the road...



And...

Salmonberries, Thimbleberries, Huckleberries, Serviceberries, Lemonade berries, all wildlings, all likely to be growing near a boat haulout – at least in the Pacific states and BC.

“...there's a huge lot of blackberries close to our camp.” (*Secret Water*)

This is the only time that blackberries are picked in all of the Swallows and Amazons books, though there could have been, probably were, brambles – as native blackberries are often called in England – growing in most of the books' locales. The Himalayan Blackberry has invaded England, especially the Norfolk Broads, but it hasn't yet reached the Lake Country or Secret Water. Perhaps there were other fruits the crews could have picked, if they hadn't had their minds on other things...



## Boats Full of Blackberries – Now What? What about... Susan's Blackberry-Banana Mash

by Molly McGinnis (Manteca, California)

*"We've made a huge lot of blackberry and banana mash."... Secret Water*



By the time the crews got to Secret Water, they'd have been well accustomed to communal eating and expert at saving on dishwashing. I'm betting Susan set the crew to cleaning and de-hulling the berries, mashed up the berries and peeled banana pieces in a saucepan, and handed out spoons. I wonder if Susan added sugar. With blackberries only a few steps away and bananas galore, blackberry-banana mash must have finished many a meal. Were there bundles of bananas in "the three boxes that Daddy had had sent down to Pin Mill from the Army and Navy Stores?" They certainly had bananas often enough.



I you want to have a Secret Water party and make Blackberry-Banana Mash at home, a few bursts in a food processor will get the mashing done in a hurry. But first, you may want to put some (or all) of the berries through a straining device to get rid of some of the seeds. A food mill is a useful tool to have, and newer ones come with different sizes of screens. To make it easy, break the berries up in a food processor first, then crank them through the food mill. It's



possible to push soft berries through a kitchen sieve, but it's more work and even messier. Freeze some berries and you can have Blackberry-Banana mash at any time of year.

A squeeze of lemon juice and a bit of finely grated lemon zest – the outside yellow part of the peel – will liven up a bland mixture. How about a cake with B-B Mash between the layers? A lemony sponge cake or white cake would be a good choice. Top each portion with blackberries and banana slices marinated with some sugar at serving time. And for the grownups... B-B Mash, very cold, in goblets, with a splash of

brandy or orange liqueur over the top? Two lemon wafer cookies on the saucer would complete the picture.

And the rest of the berries?

Blackberries freeze well and it's easy. Just rinse cleaned berries quickly and pack into freezer bags or boxes with a bit of sugar – perhaps 2-4 tablespoons to a quart.

Or make berry topping: boil berries with about 3/4 cup of sugar to each cup of berries, pour, still simmering, to about 1/4 inch of the tops of pint or quart canning jars (sterilize jars and rings in the dishwasher and cover the lids with boiling water), wipe the tops of the jars with a paper towel dampened with the lid-softening water, and tighten the lids. (Before I started making 3-day preserves this is how my blackberry jam usually turned out.) My jars almost always seal, but if a jar lid isn't pulled down tight by the cooling mixture, the topping will keep for a long time in the refrigerator. Good on ice cream, pancakes, French Toast, waffles... You can pour the liquid through a strainer if you'd rather have syrup on your pancakes and use the berries for something else – mixed in yoghurt, for instance.

Nothing says you can't cheat and buy berries!



## “[Ransome Locations](#)” — All Things Ransome page of the month



### Ransome Locations

Locations and places which feature in Ransome's life and books, or are about Ransome, including possible originals Ransome pieced together to form fictional places.

*The "Locations" section of ATR replaces the old "Slide Show" section. Some links from this page remain unchanged from the Slide Show at this time, while new material is being added as it becomes available; we expect to gradually replace or supercede the majority of the original contents and pictures. Our apologies for the extremely small images in some cases, they are all that we have to work with from the original Slide Show.*



[The Dog's Home](#) from *The Picts and the Martyrs*.



[Voyages of the Goblin](#), Pin Mill, Harwich Harbour and the Secret Archipelago.



[Great Northern Divers](#), now called the Great Northern Loon in North America.



I have often wondered how many of you may not be aware of the superb All Things Ransome website:

[www.allthingsransome.net](http://www.allthingsransome.net)

This occasional feature will highlight a specific page I hope you find interesting. This time it is “Ransome Locations” ([www.allthingsransome.net/locations](http://www.allthingsransome.net/locations)), which presents everything from The Dog's Home to Rusland Church to Wild Cat Island. Take a look. I hope you enjoy it.

Ed.





## Pieces of Eight — The Junior Pages



### Try out the Arthur Ransome Trust “Home Activities Resource Kit”

I recently I stumbled upon a source of Arthur Ransome activities that I had never noticed before.

The Arthur Ransome Trust website includes a “Home Activities Resource Kit” page. There you can find and download a whole series of activity pages, from signalling to codemaking to mapmaking to storytelling, puzzles and colouring.

Visit their [web page <arthur-ransome-trust.org.uk/resources/home-activities-resource-kit/>](http://www.arthur-ransome-trust.org.uk/resources/home-activities-resource-kit/) to see the whole collection, or click on any of the selection below to take a look:

**Story-Telling 3**  
Swallowdale

“Yes,” said Roger, “or perhaps bear. It’s big enough for bear.”  
In Swallowdale, Titty and Roger discover a cave. But what is in it,  
and what adventures might they find inside?

Have you ever discovered anything exciting for the first time? Have you ever imagined  
exploring something like a hidden valley, a secret garden, a ruined castle or a mysterious  
cave? Why not try writing your own story of exploration, discovery and adventure?

**Spot the Difference 3**  
Secret Water

In this drawing the Swallows are all looking at something.

You’ll need to read Secret Water to find out what. In the meantime, can you spot the ten differences between these two drawings?

**Word Search 1**  
Swallows and Amazons

Address  
Amazon  
Beam  
Camp  
Compass  
Captain Flint  
Compass  
Comments  
Barnes  
Baffin  
Fox  
Grog  
Holly House  
Hemlock  
John  
Leading place  
Leading lights  
Lighthouse trees  
Lambton grass  
Nobby  
Old Billy  
Peggy  
Polly  
Roo  
Roger  
Sail  
Secret Harbour  
Shark  
Steam  
Steins  
Swains  
Swallow  
Swallows and Amazons  
Titty  
Woe  
Wild Cat Island

Can you find all of these Swallows & Amazons words in this puzzle? Which word appears twice? (Words may go up, down, forwards, backwards or diagonally. Keep an eye out for red herrings!)

**Signal to Mars**  
Winter Holiday

“They’re trying to spy something,” said Derezhko.  
“It’s Morse code they’re using, and we don’t know it,” said Dick with deep melancholy. But he cheered up.  
“Of course, it’s all right,” he said.  
“Morse, Morse, Morse. Naturally we don’t know their language.”

You’ll need to read Winter Holiday to find out why Dick thought he was watching a signal from Mars. But you can learn Morse Code much closer to home, and use it with your family and friends. Then you’ll be prepared, if a Martian ever gets in touch!

Try writing Morse messages to each other. Then go on to sending messages in the dark, with a torch. Or you can practise online, using a Morse Code practice programme.

**Start**  
(For each letter, go → Left for dashes, →→ Right for dots)

```

    T   E
     \ /
    M  N  A  I
     / \ / \
    O  G  K  D  W  R  U  S
     / \ / \ / \ / \
    Q  Z  Y  C  X  B  J  P  L  F  V  H
  
```

**Design Your Coat of Arms**  
Peter Duck

The old sailor laughed when he saw what they were looking at. “It’s a long while ago since that was painted,” he said. “We had three days’ calm in the China seas and all the manner. Peter Duck, they learn many things. From the proper way to lay ropes to how to wash an anchor. He also had at least one good idea for a hairy dog.”

Like all Medieval knights, who started the idea of heraldic shields, Peter Duck’s Coat of Arms tells people about his life as a sailor on the tidelk, Broads and ocean.

What hobbies or interests would you put on your Coat of Arms? Why not use the blank template below to design it?

**Colouring in 1**  
Swallows and Amazons

“Three cheers for the stay-at-homes!”

What will “The Start of the Voyage” in Swallows and Amazons look like, when you colour it in?

## Signals from TARSUS/North Pole News Index by Author February 2016 - May 2021

Compiled by Simon Horn

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

If you are looking for Alister Bryden's many articles, for

example, you should be able to find when they appeared. I have not included the regular *Ship's Papers* sections from the coordinators and myself, since they appear every time.

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.

<b>Alan Hakim</b>			
What I Did in the Holidays	Kanchenjunga's Cairn	Voyaging & adventures	Jan. 2019
<b>Alistair Bryden</b>			
Dancing on Ice	The Ship's Library	Review	June 2016
My Great Northern Coffee Mug	Captain Flint's Trunk	Me and Arthur Ransome	Sept. 2016
"Catch-a-little"	Kanchenjunga's Cairn	Voyaging & adventures	Jan. 2018
Fulfilling a Long Held Ambition	Dipping Our Hands	Sailing & cruising	Jan. 2018
Vancouver Island, Sri Lanka and Hartlepool	Kanchenjunga's Cairn	History	Jan. 2018
Off to Samarkand... via St. Petersburg	Kanchenjunga's Cairn	Voyaging & adventures	Sept. 2018
Riding a Dromedary from Samarkand to Istanbul	Kanchenjunga's Cairn	Voyaging & adventures	Jan. 2019
Reflections of a Gear Junkie	Kanchenjunga's Cairn	Camping	May 2019
At Last, Visiting the Lake District	Captain Flint's Trunk	Ransome country	Jan. 2020
On the Road to the Yukon	Kanchenjunga's Cairn	Voyaging & adventures	Sept. 2020
Panning for Gold	Kanchenjunga's Cairn	Voyaging & adventures	Jan. 2021
Dad's Log: snapshots of sailing history	Dipping Our Hands	Sailing & cruising	May 2021
<b>Audrie Cossar</b>			
My Discovery of Arthur Ransome	Dipping Our Hands	Me and Arthur Ransome	May 2020
<b>Aurora Blue</b>			
"Strike of the Shark"	Pieces of Eight	Review	May 2020
<b>Avi Lank</b>			
Arthur Ransome in Yiddish	Captain Flint's Trunk	Ransome's work	June 2016
<b>Catherine Madsen</b>			
Swallows and Amazons in the Far North	Kanchenjunga's Cairn	Me and Arthur Ransome	Feb. 2017
<b>Cheryl Paget</b>			
Anne of Green Gables Meets a Kiwi Amazon Lobster Pirate	Kanchenjunga's Cairn	Voyaging & adventures	May 2018
<b>David R. Elms</b>			
"Back to Swallows and Amazons"	The Ship's Library	Review	Jan. 2019
"Swallows, Amazons and Coots"	The Ship's Library	Review	May 2019
"The Life of Arthur Ransome"	The Ship's Library	Review	Sept. 2020
<b>David Rawcliffe</b>			
Don't Count On the Sheep	Captain Flint's Trunk	Ransome country	May 2019
Uh... um... What's a Telegram?	Captain Flint's Trunk	History	May 2021
<b>Diane Tucker</b>			
Sail Camping on the Nancy Blackett	Kanchenjunga's Cairn	Sailing & cruising	June 2016

<b>Donald Tunnicliff Rice</b>			
The TARS 2015 Literary Weekend	Captain Flint's Trunk	TARS business	Feb. 2016
The New Movie	The Ship's Library	Review	Oct. 2017
The TARS 2019 Literary Weekend	Captain Flint's Trunk	Voyaging & adventures	Jan. 2020
<b>Elizabeth Jolley</b>			
Imaginary Worlds and Tove Jansson's Moomin Stories	Pieces of Eight	Review	Feb. 2017
Tent for Two: A Year of Adventure	Kanchenjunga's Cairn	Voyaging & adventures	Oct. 2017
Edible Igloo	Beckfoot Kitchen	Recipe	Jan. 2018
Winter Holiday Word Search Challenge	Pieces of Eight	Puzzle/quiz	Jan. 2018
Tent for Two Roundup	Kanchenjunga's Cairn	Voyaging & adventures	May 2018
My First IAGM	Captain Flint's Trunk	TARS business	Sept. 2018
Swallows and Amazons Book Series Quiz	Pieces of Eight	Puzzle/quiz	May 2019
<b>Gordon McGilton</b>			
Peter Duck and the King	Dipping Our Hands	Me and Arthur Ransome	Feb. 2016
"Another Country"	The Ship's Library	Review	Sept. 2016
Swallows and Armenians	The Ship's Library	Review	Jan. 2020
<b>Gordon Proudfoot</b>			
Arthur Ransome in my Life	Dipping Our Hands	Me and Arthur Ransome	June 2016
<b>Ian Sacré</b>			
The Tent Maker's Tale	Kanchenjunga's Cairn	Camping	Feb. 2016
Nautical Reading	The Ship's Library	Review	June 2016
Grog!	Kanchenjunga's Cairn	History	Sept. 2016
The Bucket List Sand Yacht Saga	The Professor's Laboratory	Voyaging & adventures	Feb. 2017
Greetings from the North	The Ship's Library	Review	June 2017
More Nautical Reading	The Ship's Library	Review	June 2017
Swallows and Amazons and Pemmican	Beckfoot Kitchen	Recipe	June 2017
Cruise of the Lydia	Kanchenjunga's Cairn	Sailing & cruising	Oct. 2017
Cruise of the Sandhawk	Kanchenjunga's Cairn	Sailing & cruising	Jan. 2018
So What about that Wind in the Willows?	The Professor's Laboratory	Sailing & cruising	May 2018
"Racundra's Third Cruise"	The Ship's Library	Review	Sept. 2018
In Search of the Great Northern Diver's Range	Kanchenjunga's Cairn	Voyaging & adventures	Jan. 2019
Swallowdale & the Salvage of Swallow	The Professor's Laboratory	Sailing & cruising	May 2019
Polar Region Sledging Rations & Recipes	Kanchenjunga's Cairn	Camping	Sept. 2019
The 'Beast' Goes East!	Kanchenjunga's Cairn	Voyaging & adventures	Jan. 2020
"Boxing the Compass"	Pieces of Eight	Sailing & cruising	Jan. 2021
Favorite Seafaring Writings Remembered	The Ship's Library	Sailing & cruising	May 2021
<b>Janet Shirley</b>			
On "Ransome's Illustrations"	Dipping Our Hands	Me and Arthur Ransome	Sept. 2019
<b>Jill Blair</b>			
A Road and River Odyssey	Kanchenjunga's Cairn	Voyaging & adventures	May 2020
A Road and River Odyssey - 2	Kanchenjunga's Cairn	Voyaging & adventures	Sept. 2020
<b>Kate Crosby</b>			
Who Before Me?	The Ship's Library	Reading & Collecting	Jan. 2021
<b>Lorne Brown</b>			
Thomas, Ransome and Adlestrop	Dipping our Hands	Behind the books	Sept. 2018
"Those Snake Island Kids"	The Ship's Library	Review	Sept. 2018

<b>Louis Springsteen</b>			
Swallows and Amazons Continued	Dot's Latest Story	Stories	Sept. 2016
<b>Maida Follini</b>			
Before the Spray	Captain Flint's Trunk	Sailing & cruising	June 2016
Skimming Over the Ice	Dipping Our Hands	Me and Arthur Ransome	Jan. 2018
Sailing Around the Horn to the Goldfields	Dipping our Hands	Me and Arthur Ransome	Sept. 2018
Pirates, Explorers, Indians, and other Imaginary Roles	Dipping Our Hands	Me and Arthur Ransome	May 2020
<b>Marilyn Steele</b>			
Arthur Ransome, Helene Carter & my introduction to S&A	Dipping Our Hands	Me and Arthur Ransome	Sept. 2016
A Clay Medallion, circa 1954	Mrs Barrable's Gallery	Me and Arthur Ransome	May 2018
A Letter from AR to Helene Carter	Dipping our Hands	Behind the books	Sept. 2018
A Letter from Ransome, December 1931	Dipping Our Hands	Behind the books	Sept. 2020
Another Letter from Ransome, Feb. 1932	Dipping Our Hands	Behind the books	Jan. 2021
Another Letter from Ransome, June 1932	Dipping Our Hands	Behind the books	May 2021
<b>Martha Blue</b>			
"The Marvels" by Brian Selznick	Pieces of Eight	Review	Jan. 2019
My Gritstone Trail	Pieces of Eight	Voyaging & adventures	May 2019
A Puzzling Situation	Pieces of Eight	Puzzle/quiz	May 2020
"Written"	Pieces of Eight	Stories	Jan. 2021
<b>Martin Beech</b>			
Literary licence, error of fact, and story-line imperative	The Professor's Laboratory	Behind the books	May 2021
<b>Molly McGinnis</b>			
Banana Blossom Salad	Beckfoot Kitchen	Recipe	June 2016
Bananas Everywhere!	Pieces of Eight	Ransome's work	June 2016
Fried Cannonballs	Beckfoot Kitchen	Recipe	Oct. 2017
A Winter's Feast	Beckfoot Kitchen	Recipe	Jan. 2018
Susan Learns to Make Hot-pot	Beckfoot Kitchen	Recipe	Jan. 2018
Dot and Dick in California	Dot's Latest Story	Stories	May 2018
Miss Beckwith's Bunloaf	Dot's Latest Story	Recipe	May 2018
Blackberry Pudding	Beckfoot Kitchen	Recipe	Sept. 2018
Dot and Dick in California	Dot's Latest Story	Stories	Sept. 2018
"Western Reptiles & Amphibians"	The Ship's Library	Review	Sept. 2018
No Moss on Uncle Jim!	Pieces of Eight	Behind the books	Jan. 2019
"Those Sugar-Barge Kids"	The Ship's Library	Review	Jan. 2019
"Extraordinary Birds"	The Ship's Library	Review	May 2019
First Fish	Dipping Our Hands	Me and Arthur Ransome	May 2019
No Moss on Uncle Jim! Part 2	Pieces of Eight	Behind the books	May 2019
American Summer Pudding	Beckfoot Kitchen	Recipe	Sept. 2019
The Beginning of it All	Captain Flint's Trunk	Behind the books	Sept. 2019
Food for Invalids: Mumps Food, Flu Food	Beckfoot Kitchen	Recipe	Jan. 2020
Cole Slaw	Beckfoot Kitchen	Recipe	May 2020
Dick's First Catch	Beckfoot Kitchen	Recipe	May 2020
Dot and Dick in California - Nighthawks	Dot's Latest Story	Stories	May 2020
Dot and Dick in California - Shore Trip	Dot's Latest Story	Stories	May 2020
Baked Beans	Beckfoot Kitchen	Recipe	Sept. 2020

Dot and Dick in California - A Featherboard	Dot's Latest Story	Stories	Sept. 2020
Who Is Sleeping in the Fram?	Beckfoot Kitchen	Recipe	Jan. 2021
Sweet Tea for Summer	Beckfoot Kitchen	Recipe	May 2021
Tea, the Drink	Beckfoot Kitchen	History	May 2021
<b>Nikki McClure</b>			
Arthur Ransome's Birthday Corroborree	Pieces of Eight	Camping	June 2017
Getting Ready for the Wooden Boat Festival	Captain Flint's Trunk	Sailing & cruising	June 2017
<b>Paul Nelson</b>			
Gators and Pythons and Pirate Boys! Oh, My!	Kanchenjunga's Cairn	Voyaging & adventures	Jan. 2018
Pirates attack a US Coast Guard Gunship	Kanchenjunga's Cairn	Me and Arthur Ransome	Sept. 2019
Biking, Hand Grenades, and Sailing	Kanchenjunga's Cairn	Sailing & cruising	Jan. 2020
Churchill, Ransome, and Me	Dipping Our Hands	Me and Arthur Ransome	May 2020
"The Curve of Time"	Pieces of Eight	Review	Sept. 2020
The Great and Epic and Magnificent Andele Adventure	Kanchenjunga's Cairn	Voyaging & adventures	Jan. 2021
"The Boy, Me and the Cat"	The Ship's Library	Review	May 2021
<b>Peter Calamai</b>			
Ransome's Winter	Dipping Our Hands	Me and Arthur Ransome	Feb. 2017
Our Private Films	Dipping Our Hands	Me and Arthur Ransome	Jan. 2018
<b>Petr Krist</b>			
Winter Holiday Hike	Pieces of Eight	Puzzle/quiz	Sept. 2016
Crab Island Quiz	Pieces of Eight	Puzzle/quiz	Feb. 2017
<b>Richard G. Mills</b>			
AR Taught Me!	Dipping Our Hands	Me and Arthur Ransome	May 2018
Today's Sixth Graders' on The Big Six: "Booor-ing"!	Dipping our Hands	Me and Arthur Ransome	Jan. 2019
<b>Robert Dilley</b>			
Bacon and Eggs!	Beckfoot Kitchen	Recipe	Jan. 2018
A View of Tallinn	Kanchenjunga's Cairn	Ransome country	Jan. 2019
Secret Water from Above	Captain Flint's Trunk	Ransome country	May 2019
<b>Ross Cossar</b>			
On Reading Ransome while Sailing Sea Bear	Dipping Our Hands	Sailing & cruising	Jan. 2021
<b>RYA Magazine</b>			
When Swallows and Amazons meets James Bond	Captain Flint's Trunk	Review	Feb. 2017
<b>Sandy Boswell</b>			
Peter Calamai - An Obituary	Ship's Papers	Obituary	Sept. 2019
<b>Simon Horn</b>			
Which Book? What's Happening?	Pieces of Eight	Puzzle/quiz	Feb. 2016
Ransome Country	Captain Flint's Trunk	Ransome country	Sept. 2016
Confessions of an Armchair Sailor	Dipping Our Hands	Me and Arthur Ransome	Feb. 2017
My Children and Arthur Ransome	Dipping Our Hands	Me and Arthur Ransome	June 2017
Try a LitWits Kit	Pieces of Eight	Review	June 2017
A Book Maze	Pieces of Eight	Puzzle/quiz	Oct. 2017
The 2016 Swallows and Amazons Movie	The Ship's Library	Review	Oct. 2017

"The Twilight Years - Hill Top"	The Ship's Library	Review	Oct. 2017
"The Boat in the Bay"	The Ship's Library	Review	May 2018
Tent for Two Wraps Up	Kanchenjunga's Cairn	Voyaging & adventures	Sept. 2018
Ransome's Illustrations	Mrs Barrable's Gallery	Ransome's work	Jan. 2019
"The Twilight Years - London"	The Ship's Library	Review	Jan. 2019
All the animals were out searching...	Pieces of Eight	Puzzle/quiz	Sept. 2019
The Mariner's Library	The Ship's Library	Review	Sept. 2019
The Other Railway to Windermere	Kanchenjunga's Cairn	Voyaging & adventures	Sept. 2019
Can you connect Ransome's characters to the books?	Pieces of Eight	Puzzle/quiz	Jan. 2020
"Sunlight and Shadows"	The Ship's Library	Review	Jan. 2021
Looking for AR Maps?	Pieces of Eight	Ransome country	May 2021
<b>Steve Crouch</b>			
Sailing Woo Hoo Across the Generations	Kanchenjunga's Cairn	Sailing & cruising	June 2017
<b>The Blue Family</b>			
Our Climb of Kinder Scout	Pieces of Eight	Voyaging & adventures	May 2018
A TARS pilgrimage to Norfolk	Pieces of Eight	Voyaging & adventures	Sept. 2018
Bagging the Monros	Kanchenjunga's Cairn	Voyaging & adventures	Jan. 2021



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