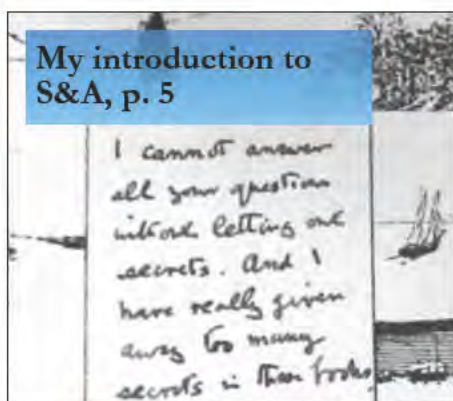




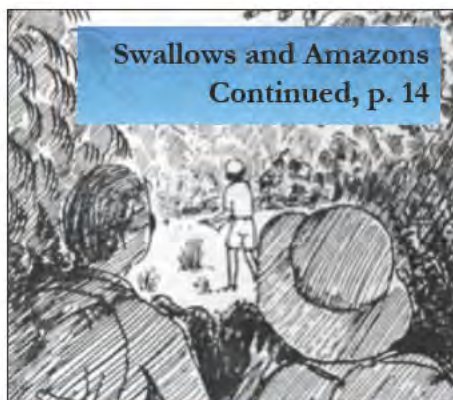
# Signals from TARSUS & North Pole News

September 2016

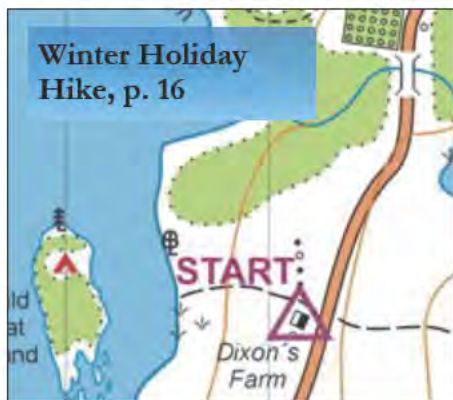
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## Ship's Papers — Important information for the Crew



### A View from the Helm

By Robin Marshall  
TARSUS Coordinator  
210 18th Street NW Bradenton, FL 34205  
[robin@arthur-ransome.org](mailto:robin@arthur-ransome.org)

I hope you all had a fine and interesting summer with plenty of opportunities to enjoy the great outdoors.

I wish my own summer had been a wonderful experience. I mentioned in the May edition that my wife and I were off to Spain for eight weeks, something we had been planning for all year.

Regrettably things went wrong from the start, a piece of luggage went astray and on arrival at the house we were renting my wife fell and fractured her right femur. Having very little Spanish at my disposal we were greatly relieved to have the owner of the house still with us and who summoned emergency help. My wife then spent the next three weeks in a Span-

ish hospital and having surgery. The adventure continued as I had to find alternative accommodation that was wheel-chair accessible. This was not so easy but I did just before she was released. So the following weeks were spent getting her mobile enough to fly home. This all made me more of a Susan than a John, cooking, housework and nursing, which continued when we got back. There were many more difficulties involved in the whole trip, but being home was a relief; dealing with bureaucratic natives is a lot harder than in fiction.

On to a more TARS topic. The new

movie has been released in the UK and has generally good reviews, though less so from Ransome followers. If you are able to go onto Facebook there is a lot of information and discussion there at:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2612950856/>

I hope it will be released here so we can see for ourselves.

Sail Safe

Robin

---

Owing to my problems at home, please note I am less able to return calls and email as quickly as I would like.

Contact me by email at:  
[usa@arthur-ransome.org](mailto:usa@arthur-ransome.org)

by mail at:  
210 N 18th St W.  
Bradenton FL 34205

or by phone at:  
941-726-1974



### Greetings from the North

By Ian Sacré, TARS Canada Coordinator  
750 Donegal Place, North Vancouver, BC V7N 2X5  
[gallivanterthree@telus.net](mailto:gallivanterthree@telus.net)

Our editor has asked for contributions for the September issue of *Signals from TARSUS/North Pole News*, so once again it is time to provide you with a few details which may be of interest to the Canadian TARS.

There are currently 27 Canadian TARS memberships made up of 45 actual warm bodies associated with these memberships. Fortunately I

have not received word of any resignations since subscription renewal time last winter, when sadly two members resigned from our Society. I have

had little communication with any of our members since last autumn and winter but I hope to read of some of our member's latest adventures in this issue of our publication.

It appears that the overall global membership of TARS is slowly dwindling as people grow older and the stories Arthur Ransome related in his twelve books seem to lose relevance and currency for young people in this modern world. As a boy, oh so many years ago now, I felt that all the Arthur Ransome yarns, with the possible ex-

ceptions of *Peter Duck* and *Missee Lee* were perfectly realistic and doable if I so chose. And of course an essential part of a young person's education was a good knowledge of Morse Code, Semaphore and the ability to pitch a tent, "Box the Compass" and light a camp fire with one match! Now, so much of society seems totally dependent on their hand-held electronic devices to get them through their day!

"Shiver my Timbers!" as Nancy Blackett would say.

### Membership renewals

Now on to business. TARS subscription renewals for the calendar year 2017 fall due on the 1st. January 2017, less than three months from now.

For those Canadian TARS members who wish to pay their subscriptions directly to the Arthur Ransome Society, UK, please send your payments to:

Secretary, Mr. D.Y. Middleton  
9 Merrow Avenue  
Poole, BH12 1PY  
UK  
email: [memsec@arthur-ransome.org](mailto:memsec@arthur-ransome.org)

The renewal form will be found on the back of the address sheet that accompanies your copy of Signals.

Please be sure to let me know if you do pay directly to the UK so that I can tick you off my list and advise Ted Evans so that he can update the regional membership directory.

The overseas TARS membership rates when paid in British Pounds Sterling are as follows:

Junior 10.00 BPS  
Student 20.00 BPS

Senior 25.00 BPS  
Adult 30.00 BPS  
Family 35.00 BPS  
Corporate 60.00 BPS.

Please be sure to enclose your membership number with your remittance.

For those who wish to continue to renew their TARS Subscriptions by personal cheque drawn on a Canadian bank and made payable to me, the following are the TARS subscription rates in Canadian dollars based on the exchange rate as of September 1st. 2016 rounded upwards to the nearest dollar figure. I am hoping there will not be any radical currency exchange rate changes between now and January 1st. 2017.

Overseas Junior \$18.00  
Overseas Student \$35.00  
Overseas Senior \$44.00

Overseas Adult \$52.00  
Overseas Family \$61.00  
Overseas Corporate \$100.00.

Please make your cheques payable to me, Ian Sacre, and send them to:

750 Donegal Place  
North Vancouver  
British Columbia, V7N 2X5.

When all the renewals have been received I remit a lump sum payment to TARS Headquarters.

My phone number is: 604-984-2295  
and my email address is:  
[gallivanterthree@telus.net](mailto:gallivanterthree@telus.net)

Wishing everyone fair winds and calm seas as we sail into autumn and winter.

Sincerely,  
Ian Sacre  
TARS Canada Coordinator

### Don't Give that Monkey a Cigar!



Robert Dille has sent in another picture. Unlike the pictures of a recent China trip in the last issue, this one dates from 1994:

"It shows my four daughters in 1994 at the Ambleside TARS AGM, with Brigit Sanders (the original of Bridget Walker). The toy monkey on Brigit's lap was made by a family friend in Carlisle and given to TARS Northern Group in memory of Gibber.

The girls (and Gibber) are all wearing TARS sweaters created by my wife."



## A Note from the Editor

By Simon Horn, [sjhorn@gmail.com](mailto:sjhorn@gmail.com)

Welcome to the third issue of *Signals from TARSUS/North Pole News* since I took on the job of editor. You will find this number a bit more pictorial than the last one, thanks in part to Marilyn Steel's sharing of some of the fascinating correspondence between herself as a girl and Ransome's American illustrator Helene Carter.

The reproductions of the letters are not always that clear, so remember to enlarge them in your PDF viewer to read them properly.

Louis Springsteen has asked the question, Why can't there be any more Swallows & Amazons stories? and has sent in an outline for a new one.

Alistair Bryden tells us about Great Northern Divers, which here in Canada turn out to be loons, while Gordon McGilton reviews a guide to the children's literature of the Lakes and Cumbria.

Ian Sacré explains the origins of "grog", and Petr Krist provides another of his beautiful S & A-inspired maps to give the readers of Pieces of Eight another challenge.

The whole is rounded off (padded perhaps?) by a number of pictures from my not-quite-Ransome tour in England this summer.

Please consider sending something in for the next issue, which I hope to

publish in January. I did not receive as much material this time around, and I was a bit worried that the issue would be very thin. If you are counting, I definitely has fewer *words*. As it is, I hope you like my holiday snaps, but I would rather publish some of yours.

### The new movie

The new *Swallows & Amazons* film was released in Britain in August. I am anxiously waiting to see it but, I must admit, with some trepidation. Adaptations of classics read as a child almost always bump uncomfortably up against one's own memories.

As far as I can see the reviews are mixed, to say the least. The [Guardian](#) says: "Swallows and Amazons review – sails on merrily, despite spy ballast", and its review is not enthusiastic.

[Contactmusic.com](#) is not happy either: "...the most enjoyable aspect of the movie is its spectacular scenery, which leaves us wishing that the filmmakers had stuck more closely to the



The ship I sighted off Kingston, Ontario almost 10 years ago (and misidentified as a topsail schooner) has been identified, correctly, by TARS member Audrie Cossar. It is the sail-training brigantine St. Lawrence II, based in Kingston. Any younger TARS looking for adventure should [check out the ship's website](http://www.brigantine.ca/) at [www.brigantine.ca/](http://www.brigantine.ca/)

original story about children using their imaginations to create action and adventure around them. That would be a much more entertaining story, and also carry a far stronger thematic kick than this half-hearted Russian spy nonsense."

Perhaps the latest *Mixed Moss* has it right: "Inevitably the changes to the original plot are controversial, but, love or loathe it, let's hope that the film puts Ransome in the limelight again some fifty years after his death."

What do you think?

*Signals from TARSUS/North Pole News* is a joint publication of TARSUS (The Arthur Ransome Society USA) and TARS Canada.

The TARSUS coordinator is Robin Marshall, [robin@arthur-ransome.org](mailto:robin@arthur-ransome.org)

The TARS Canada coordinator is Ian Sacré, [gallivanterthree@telus.net](mailto:gallivanterthree@telus.net)

The editor is Simon Horn, [sjhorn@gmail.com](mailto:sjhorn@gmail.com)

Please send contributions, questions and suggestions for the newsletter to the editor.

## Dipping our Hands — Personal relationships with the books

### Arthur Ransome, Helene Carter and my introduction to S&A

By Marilyn C. Doolan Steele

Arthur Ransome's *Swallows and Amazons* was introduced to me by my elementary school library, which spanned one wall of the school cafeteria. The county bookmobile introduced me to *Winter Holiday*, *Swallowdale* and others, all antidotes to the world of the atomic age in the late 1950s in the suburbs outside Washington DC.

As a preteen I read Arthur Ransome to experience the camaraderie and adventure of the Swallows and the Amazons as they sailed, camped and explored throughout their English summer months.

Soon I wanted to know if the stories about these adventurous children were fiction or based on real families.

My Mom encouraged me to write a letter to the author. The reply took ages and eventually arrived from England. Impatient to receive a reply I had written to the illustrator in New York City and received much more than I had expected.

I have included the first letters from this correspondence.

455, C Franklin D. Roosevelt Dr.  
Apt. C-2102, New York 2, N.Y.  
Jan 21<sup>st</sup> 1956

Dear Marilyn:  
your letter was forwarded to me at my new address and I am sorry to be so tardy in replying but, having just moved, there are a mountain of "things" that must be attended to as quickly as possible.

I illustrated *Swallows and Amazons* long, long before you were born so, if the children were real, they will all be grown up now probably with children of their own. As I remember it he wrote about real children he knew. If you will look up a large map of England you will find a lake called Windermere, that was the setting for *Swallows and Amazons* and *Swallowdale*. If I am not mistaken *Winter Holiday* was also the <sup>same</sup> background. I think you will find on the Windermere an island that we'd have seen Wild Cat. Because making the map drawing I followed

a map of Windermere, my making it more romantic and exciting.

Among all of Arthur Ransome's letters which I have kept all these years, I can't seem to find one that deals with *Swallows & Amazons* but I am enclosing one that does refer to *Swallowdale* which you might like to have to keep with your books. Also a very old newspaper review of *Winter Holiday* which refers to S and A.

I am still illustrating books but they are of a more scientific nature. *The Story of the Gulf Stream* by Ruth Brindzi, also *The Story of Our Calendar* by Miss Brindzi. For the past few years I have been working on a series called *The First Book of...* In this series I have done *Trees*, *Bees*, *Prehistoric Animals* and *Gardening* which is to be published this Feb.

Best of luck to you in your reading and am so glad the Ransome stories are still enjoyed by the new generation.

Most sincerely  
Helene Carter

First letter from Helene Carter to Marilyn Steele, dated January 21, 1956: "As I remember it, he wrote about real children he knew."

Dec. 31, 1931.

Dear Miss Carter,

You must be thinking me all kinds of an ungrateful rogue and good for nothing. I have never been able to get and send the photographs you wanted. Partly I've been having the old troubles when trying to do journalism. Partly there's been hardly any sunshine. Between the two reasons, or at least putting the two together, a pretty good and solid excuse results. And really, I don't expect it has much mattered. The Webb farms will have showed the sort of architecture. The only thing that I really had wanted to send you was a picture of one of the stone walls. These are built without any mortar, just flat stones laid one on another, small flat stones, *very irregular split stones, limestone, or slate, flat but all over a shape.* and other stones put cross ways at the top. The result of this is plenty of good stones sticking out for climbing purposes, and lots of moss everywhere and little ferns growing in the crevices. We never use wooden railings or railings. Always these loose stone walls.

But, you know, some details are bound to be different, and after all the country is a dream country though a real one, and there is nothing against it being a different country in different places

Letter from Arthur Ransome to Helene Carter, dated December 31, 1931 — page 1 of 2.

"But, you know, some details are bound to be different, and after all the country is a dream country though a real one, and there is nothing against it being a different country in different places as it is bound to be a different country to different people."

2

as it is bound to be a different country to different people. All that matters is that it shall be consistent with itself. You are far too good an artist for it to be anything else. I am looking forward no end to seeing the whole book when it comes along with your pictures to it. I am absolutely sure that you will have made it a lovely thing and a new thing, and I shall have all the pleasure of seeing it for the first time.

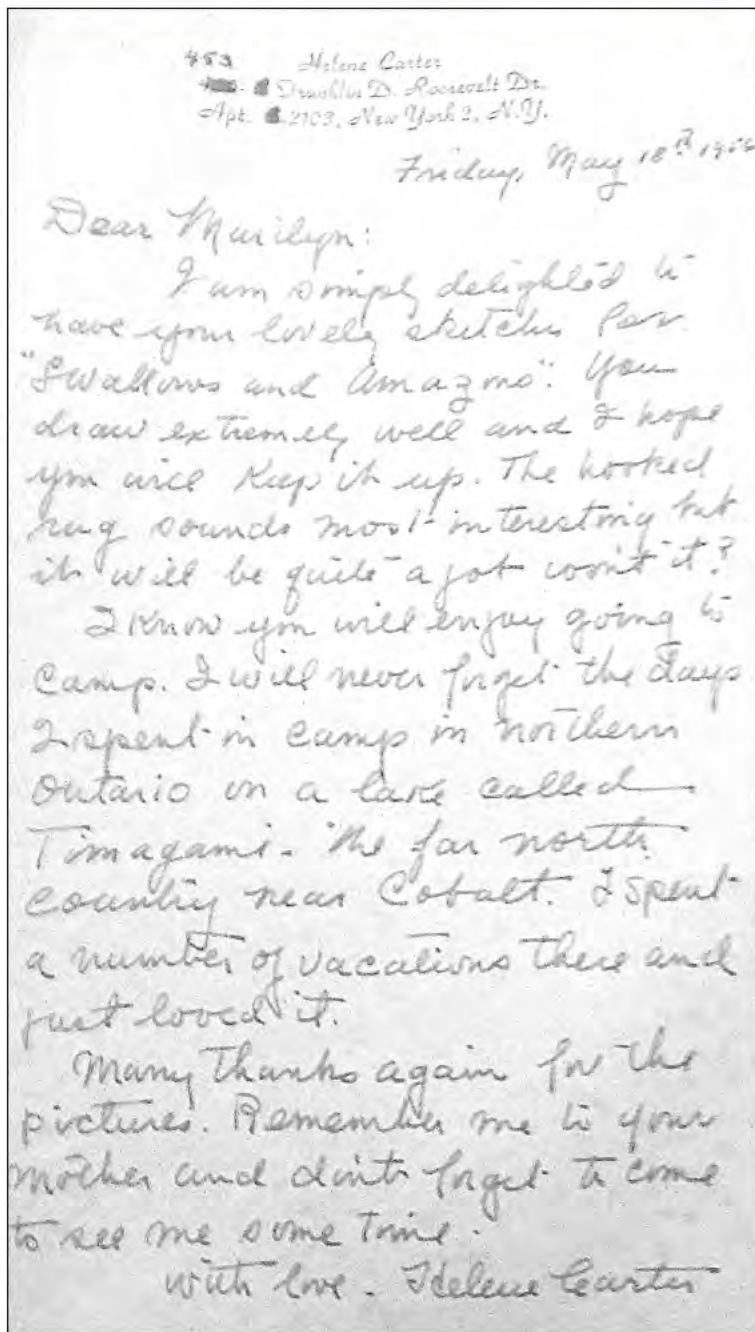
The safest address for me for the next six months will be care of the British Consulate, Aleppo, Syria. And it saves a lot of time on the way if you remember to write "via Istanbul" on the top of the envelope. Where I shall actually be I am not quite sure. Part of the time in Aleppo, part of the time in the mountains, part of the time in the desert, and part of the time sailing in some queer waters near the head of the Bosphorus where the islands are covered with narcissus and the reeds are <sup>(or so I am told)</sup> ten feet high. I leave Windermere on January 6, and sail from Manchester on Jan. 9. After that, Aleppo, which will be my address until I have finished another book.

Good luck to the pictures. And a happy New Year to you. And if there is any chance of your coming to England this year, do try to fend it off until about August or September when we shall be back.

Yours sincerely,  
*Arthur Ransome*

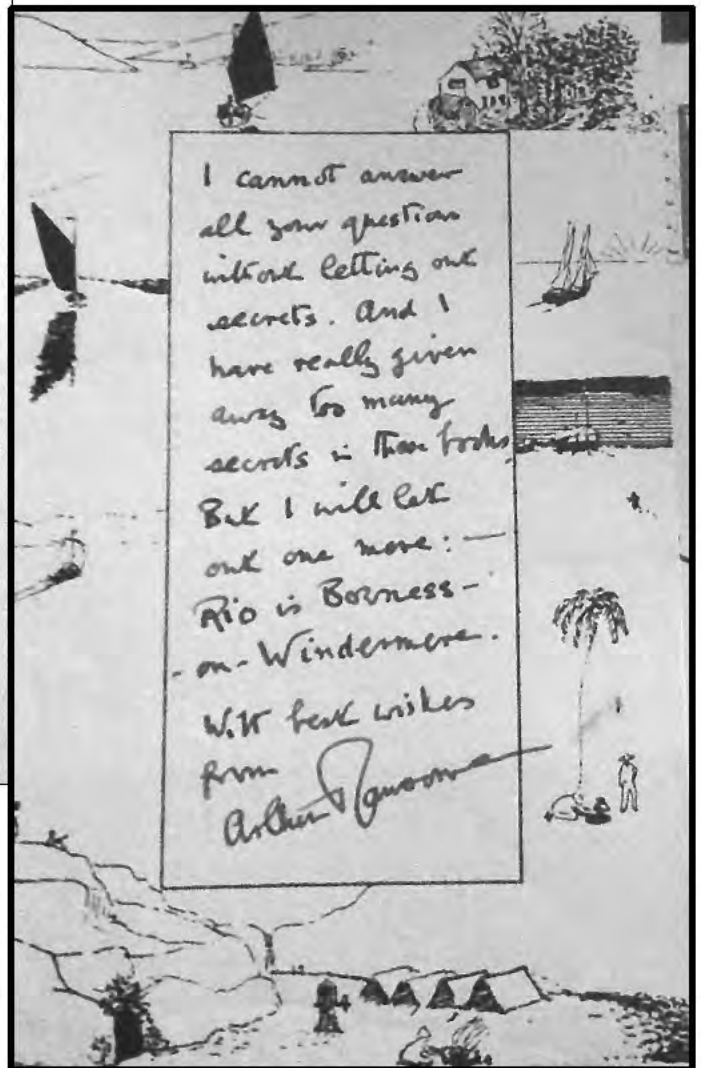
Letter from Arthur Ransome to Helene Carter, dated December 31, 1931 — page 2 of 2.

"The safest address for me for the next six months will be care of the British Consulate, Aleppo, Syria. And it saves a lot of time on the way if you remember to write 'via Istanbul' on the top of the envelope."



Letter from Helene Carter to Marilyn Steele, dated May 18, 1956.

"I am simply delighted to have your lovely sketches for 'Swallows and Amazons'. You draw extremely well and I hope you will keep it up."



Letter from Arthur Ransome to Marilyn Steele.

"I cannot answer all your questions without letting out secrets... But I will let out one more: Rio is Bowness-on-Windermere."

Editor's note: These letters have been scanned from the original pages, so they may be hard to read. Remember that when you a viewing the PDF of this issue of the newsletter, your PDF reader will let you enlarge it to see greater detail.

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

### Grog!

By Ian Sacré

As the warm days of summer slowly wane, many of us may well have enjoyed some form of what Arthur Ransome referred to as “grog” in several of his twelve books. While I was enjoying a tall glass of grog myself one warm afternoon, with my grandchildren alongside, a thoughtful little one asked me, why did I call lemonade grog, and what was grog really anyway?

Out of the mouths of babes sometimes come the most thought-provoking questions, to which ancient mariners such as myself do not have a ready answer. So there was nothing for it but to find the answer. I thought others might find the origin of the word enlightening if only to allow us to knowingly smile when seven-year-olds ask the question, what is grog and where did the word come from?

Real grog is, of course, the most traditional of all rum drinks and the word grog is derived from the nickname given by his crew to a British Navy admiral called Vernon. Vernon had served in other parts of the world but most of his sea service had been spent in the West Indies, of which he had an intimate knowledge. Therein lies the tale. At the time, the early- to mid-1700's, Spain and France held sway in the Caribbean. For Spain the Americas were a source of bullion, while France faced the growing importance of sugar and the slaves required to work the sugar plantations of the islands and the cotton and to-

bacco plantations of the Southern United States.

In 1739 Britain declared war on Spain, which it felt to be blocking free trade. British merchants wanted to trade freely with anyone they chose but Spain opposed their activities. Vernon was appointed to command the West Indies Squadron, which was expected to see significant action against Spanish interests. Vernon decided to take the city of Porto Bello, in Panama's Colon Province, after learning that a large shipment of gold and silver was en route there from Panama city. In November he, with a fleet of six ships, dropped anchor in Porto Bello Harbour and proceeded to bombard the city into submission and subsequently take it. Vernon would not allow his men to rape, pillage and burn as his predecessor Morgan had done, but in recognition of the tremendous effort they made in taking the city, Vernon decided to divide all the public money found in the city and Spanish ships amongst his crews and marines as prize money. This was most popular with his men of course. As the result of this action his men had affectionately nicknamed Vernon “Old Grog” on account of the old grogam cloak he wore during foul weather. Grogam was a rough fabric made of mohair and silk.

In Vernon's time each of the crew received one half pint of rum (10 oz.) per day, which the sailors drank neat, without water. This caused a lot of



The Royal Navy rum ration continued until 1970, when it was discontinued after the “Great Rum Debate” in the British House of Commons voted to eliminate it.

drunkenness and disobedience on board his ships, which Admiral Vernon was not prepared to tolerate. He therefore reasoned that if the rum was diluted with water it would help to cut down on the rampant drunkenness aboard ship. Thus on the 21st. August 1740 he issued the order to all the captains of his fleet that henceforth the rum ration was to be diluted with one quart of water (40 oz.) to a half pint of rum. He also decreed that lime juice and sugar be added to make the ration more palatable.

His men were not happy with Vernon's order that their rum ration should be diluted, and angrily named the mixture “grog” from the nickname they had given him. Thus we can thank Vernon for the first cocktail: grog! I am sure Nancy Blackett would heartily approve.

## Ransome Country

By Simon Horn

### Coniston Water and Peel Island



This summer I spent a month in the UK. Although it was by no means a Ransome tour, I was able to spend some time in the Lake District, including a visit to the Museum of Lakeland Life and Industry in Kendal, and then in Norfolk. Here are some pictures which may be of interest.

Peel Island, Coniston, seen from the west side of the lake

### Sailing to Peel Island?



Peel Island, closer

Museum of Lakeland Life and Industry, Kendal

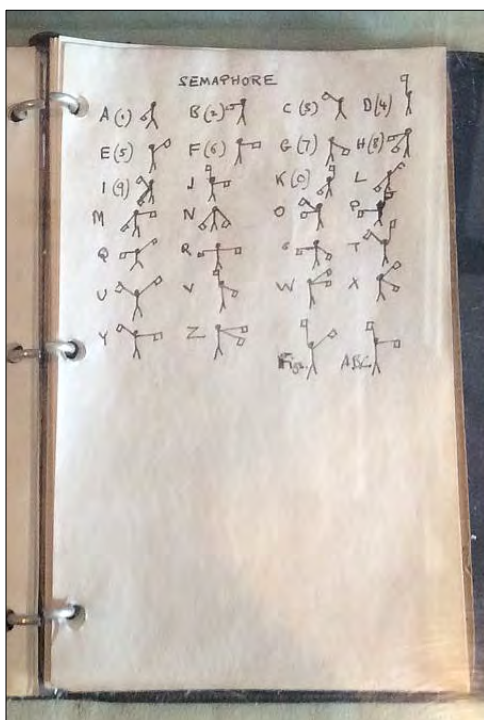


Ransome's desk



A portrait of Ransome by  
Dora Altounyan

Notebook page with the  
semaphore alphabet



A showcase of Ransome items

## Horning and the Broads

Horning village street



Teasel?



Horning shop window



Ranworth Dyke



## My Great Northern Coffee Mug

by Alistair Bryden

I'm sitting drinking coffee from my favourite coffee mug with its images of loons, otherwise known as Great Northern Divers.

Loons are an iconic bird in Canada and, far from being rare, they are sufficiently common to be known as the Common Loon. Any Canadian who has spent time out of the city is familiar with their calls, often echoing over a lake in the evening.

Loons actually have four calls<sup>1</sup>:

- The **tremolo** is also known as the "crazy laugh." It is used to signal alarm;
- The **wail** call sounds much like a wolf's howl. It is used during social interactions between loons;

- The **yodel** is given only by the male to defend his territory;
- The **hoot** is a one-note call that sounds more like "hot." It is mainly used by family members to locate each other and check on their well-being.

In *Great Northern*, Ransome reveals some of the meticulous research that he put into his books. He describes some of the different calls; he describes the birds appearance perfectly and it is uncanny how closely his drawings match the drawings on my coffee mug; he even accurately describes the birds behaviours including their awkwardness on land. (According to Wikipedia, the word "loon" seems to be derived from an old



Norse for lame or clumsy).

I enjoy my coffee mug every morning. If you want your own *Great Northern* coffee mug, try googling "common loon coffee mug" and you should find some for sale on eBay.

<sup>1</sup>[Wikipedia](#)

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

### *Another Country: A Guide to the Children's Books of the Lake Country and Cumbria*

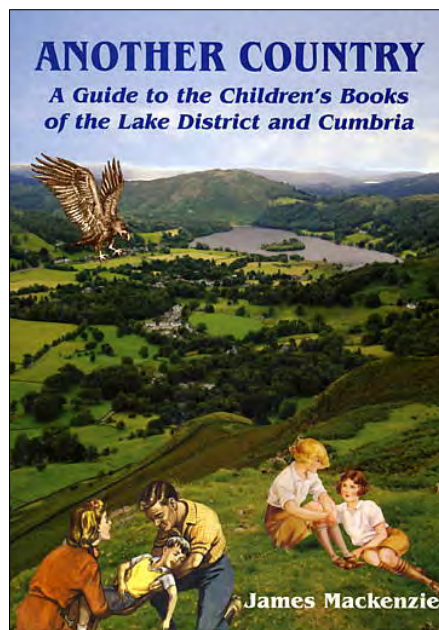
Reviewed by Gordon McGilton

Although this is non-fiction, James Mackenzie's book reads like a novel. Its 10 chapters cover the children's literature of the Lake District geographically, from Morecambe Bay through the Lakes and north as far as Carlisle.

Excellent and helpful appendices tell you how to search for the books, many now out of print, and provide indexes of places, both real and fictional, and of books and authors. The book includes a very satisfying chapter on Ransome's Lake District books.

I discovered authors and read interesting books previously unknown to me. I particularly enjoyed the chapter on Geoffrey Trease. If you have not

read his four books primarily set in the Lake Country, I highly recommend



you start by reading the first one, *No Boats on Bannermere*.

I do not know whether *Another Country* is still available. I bought my copy from Kirkland Books when the owner ran the TARS library. (One can no doubt search on the internet for used copies.)

I consider Mr. MacKenzie's book a useful and key addition to one's Ransome library.

**Editor's note:** *Another Country* was published in 2008 by Girls Gone By, [whose website](#) ([www.ggbp.co.uk](http://www.ggbp.co.uk)) lists it as out of print. A search on [Abebooks](#) or [Amazon](#) shows many used copies available, however.

## Dorothea's Exercise Book — Your stories

### Swallows and Amazons Continued

By Louis Springsteen

**Editor's note:** There cannot be many Swallows & Amazons enthusiasts who have not wished that Ransome had written more novels, or had at least finished *Coots in the North*.

TARS member Louis Springsteen has submitted an outline for a new Swallows & Amazons story, with the idea that “with a new plot, a writer among the Society’s members could write a new story for S & A”.

The children are back in the Lake Country. They have heard a story that early records show there was a Roman villa on the Fells, which was sheep-herding country. They decide they would like to find it, since this is their territory.

Also, Dick has read about fast-paced evolution in the Andes and, without any real foundation, feels that there was a similar situation on the Fells. He wants to find the evidence.

1. The Swallows and Amazons, along with Dick and Dorothea, meet at Holly Howe farm, where they make their plans to camp on Wild Cat Island.

2. They go to the Rio boatyard, accompanied by Captain Flint, to pick up their boats. They find that there

has been a fire and, while their boats were not touched, the boatyard is so busy that the boats will not be available right away.

3. Their disappointment is so great that Captain Flint goes to talk to the boatyard owner. He comes back saying he may have a solution for them. “They have in storage here a replica whaleboat ready to go, no sails and no mast, but propelled by oars. Would this do for the time being?” They say “yes”.

4. They row the whaleboat back to the farm where Mother says, “Let’s have a day of supervised rowing so I can be sure you will be safe.” So into the boat they get, with Bridget at the bow and Roger handling the helm. The others are at the oars. Mother rides with them to see how well they handle the boat.

5. Dorothy already has two possible stories in her head: (1) their adventures in a whaleboat, or perhaps (2) being a galley in the days of when warships were propelled by oars. (With a little research one could find out about this, and this can be her fantasy through the rest of the story.)

6. While they are out rowing, a power boat comes along driven by a young man of their age. He swirls around near them, creating waves. It’s upset-

ting and he seems pleased with himself, and he laughs at their reaction. This is their first contact with ‘laughing boy’.

7. The next day, certified by Mother, they load their gear and go to Wild Cat Island. It takes three trips to transport all their gear, and then they set up camp.

8. They go rowing about the lake, passing a big boulder that sticks up above the water. The Amazons say that in a storm the waves wash around it, and boats have been damaged on it. Dorothea names it “Wolf Rock”.

9. Later the Amazons row down to Rio with Susan to buy supplies. While it is no easy job, three people can row the whaleboat.

10. Arriving in Rio, they encounter laughing boy who again swirls his boat about them making waves. They pull into the dock and he does too. Climbing out of his boat he says “Did I scare you?” and laughs. Captain Nancy says “It isn’t funny. I would keelhaul you if I could but instead...” and she hauls off and punches him in the nose. It begins to bleed and he runs off to the town.

11. Two men nearby are working on a yacht and noticed what happened. One says “That’s Jim Turner’s niece.”



The other takes a bucket of water to wash off the blood that has dripped on the dock. Then he takes a nail and drives it into the dock planking, saying, "This will be a memorial to the battle of motors and oars."

12. When they get back to the Island, all they can talk about is Nancy punching laughing boy. Roger says "We don't call Captain Nancy any more, call her Admiral." But it is obvious they are all disconcerted with her act of violence, and they look at Nancy with new eyes.

13. They have heard that a group of college students are also looking for the Roman villa, which they think it is on the other side of the Fells. The children go there to see how the students are doing and find that they are digging shallow trenches, hoping to hit the foundation. Dick doesn't think that will work, but they are college students and he is just in prep school.

14. Back on their side of the hills, Dick suggest it should be easy to find the villa, because it must have had a water supply. That means a spring. He recalls that up on High Topps, Titty used a dowsing rod to locate a spring. But when Dick suggests she tries this again, Titty she gets upset. She and Susan walk off and Susan tries to calm her down. Titty says it is an awful feeling to have a branch come alive in your hands.

15. Thanks to Susan, Titty gets a hold of herself. Later, when the others all messing around with the whaleboat, she traverses the ground where they think the villa might lie using a dowsing rod, and this gives her an idea of where it is.

16. When the others return she tells

them, and with a spade they dig on the spot. Several feet down they find the stones of what was obviously a well in Roman times. They have found the villa.

17. Another day they are rowing down the lake when they encounter a barge being towed by a power boat. The barge is going along the lake picking up sheep from the various farms to take them to market in Rio. They wave to one another but, as the barge gets a little ahead, they see a lamb squeeze through the railings and fall overboard.

18. As they wave frantically and yell to the barge skipper, Dick jumps into the water and manages to rescue the lamb. Once it has been restored to the barge, they see that among the farmers is the one from Dickson's farm whose sheep Dick rescued last winter. The farmer tells his fellows and they are all impressed that Dick has now rescued two animals.

19. Another time they are out on the lake when a squall comes up. Along comes 'laughing boy' but he isn't laughing: his motor has died, and his boat is being swept toward "Wolf Rock". He cries for help, saying "I can't swim and I have no life preserver." With great effort they pull the whaleboat towards him. The water is turbulent but Nancy throws a rope to him and they pull him safely into harbor. Now he is no longer laughing, but very grateful.

20. Laughing boy tells them his story: his name is Henry Knott and his father worked with Captain Flint and Timothy in the mining camps of South America. Henry's mother has died and his father is winding things



up and coming home to take care of his son. During the summer Henry has been staying at Henderson Farm at the top of the lake where his father had spent his youth. His father also arranged for the young man to have access to a motor boat. But Henry has been chastised for being wild and his father was now going to be present. They all meet together at Holly Howe and Henry asks if he can join the group on Wild Cat Island. After much discussion they decide to accept him in their group.

21. As the story closes, they have recovered their sailboats and sail down the lake, passing Captain Flint's houseboat. On the deck is Timothy, Captain Flint and some of the farmers who had been on the barge with the sheep. As they come abreast of the houseboat, Amazons first, Captain Flint fires his cannon in salute, repeating it for each boat as they pass. The farmers applaud. The sailors 'come about' and head for Wild Cat Island and new adventures.

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Perhaps somebody with a creative imagination can enlarge on all this and turn it into a real story. — L.S.



## Pieces of Eight — The Junior Pages

### Winter Holiday Hike

By Petr Krist

Can you work with a map and compass?  
Search for the way from the start at Dixon's Farm to the finish.

1. 570 m, 90° — 2. 420 m, 350° — 3. 400 m, 50°
4. 660 m, 289° — 5. 500 m, 234°

