



August 29, 1996

Summer Greetings!

This is the TARSUS newsletter accompanying your Summer Ration of *Signals* and *Ship's Log*, and I need to start out with an explanation. My name is Dave Thewlis, and I am the new U.S. Coordinator for TARS, which means for those who don't know that I produce this periodic newsletter, mail the TARS publications on to TARSUS members, and handle new memberships and various inquiries. Many of you know Betty Jo Baerg, my predecessor as Coordinator. Betty Jo had to give up being U.S. Coordinator very suddenly in March of this year, and also relocated to Yuba City (as you will see in the accompanying membership list). Since the job change happened right when *Signals* was due to ship, there was no April *Signals from TARSUS*, and your copies of *Signals* were mailed directly from the U.K. to give me a chance to take over the job gradually. So that's why you haven't heard from TARSUS for so long. I also must offer an apology: the *Signals* and *Ship's Log* enclosed in this packet arrived on my doorstep earlier this month just one day before I had to leave on a business trip, so I wasn't able to send this out until I returned. Additionally I apologize for the small type face, but I didn't want to go to too many pages!

I don't know how many of us were able to go to the AGM (Annual General Meeting) in May in Bristol (I wasn't able to) but you'll find all sorts of write-ups about it in *Ship's Log*, and it sounds as though it was quite an experience all around. Probably the biggest piece of news from the AGM is that a Resolution was passed which provided that Brigit Sanders, the President of TARS, may remain President for as long as she likes. As we know, Brigit Sanders, né Altounyan, is the Bridget Walker of the *Swallows and Amazons* stories, and she and her sister Taqui (John Walker in the stories) are active in TARS.

Reading the tales of activities in the TARS publications often makes me sorry that we cannot do regional or national events in the United States, but the sheer size of the country makes it difficult to impossible to do organized events as they do in the U.K. Betty Jo did host an AR birthday party at her home earlier this year, and reported on it in her last newsletter in February, and occasionally a few of us who are comparatively near to one another get together, I don't see how we can do very much in the way of actual events. I would be delighted to receive suggestions, though, from anyone who has an idea, and maybe some enthusiasm for helping to make it happen.

The fact that we don't have events also creates a problem for me in the role of editor of *Signals from TARSUS* -- what do I report in the newsletter-- to say nothing of a problem for you who receive the newsletter -- is there anything interesting in the newsletter? So I would very much like to encourage any of you who have done, found, or researched TARS things to report on them by sending me a tale for inclusion in the next newsletter. And, in the same spirit, I will try to write up my dinner with some Southern TARS on this recent trip to the U.K. for the next newsletter.

In the meantime, absent actual news, I have a variety of announcements and things to bring to your attention for the remainder of this edition.

First, I would like to ask everyone to check their name and address on the TARS membership listing enclosed, and send me any corrections. Also, enough of our members now have electronic mail addresses and enjoy corresponding via e-mail that I have started to carry e-mail addresses on the membership list in addition to regular addresses and telephone numbers. If you have an e-mail address and want it published to other TARSUS, please let me know, either telephonically, by mail, by e-mail, or by fax (all are recorded below). Also, if your telephone number isn't listed it means I don't have it, so if you want it listed please send it to me.

Speaking of e-mail, for those TARSUS who have e-mail, you may want to subscribe to the electronic newsletter *Signalling to MARS*. You can find this on the Ransome pages on the WWW (see below), or you can subscribe directly by sending e-mail to the Signaller, Doug Faunt: <faunt@netcom.com>.

If you not only have an e-mail address, but have access to the World Wide Web, you might be interested in browsing the Arthur Ransome Pages web site (which is maintained by Peter Dowden, a TARS in New Zealand). Point your browser at: <http://sauron.otago.ac.nz:800/~pdowden/ar/index.html> to see the AR pages. There is also an electronic bulletin board called the **TARBOARD** which you can access at <http://es-parto.lancs.ac.uk/~esarie/tarboard/tarboard.html> (provided by Ian Edmondson in Lancashire) and which a small but enthusiastic group of TARS from all over the world have been using for the last few months.

From Internet to Video: a firm called Janson Associates has released the films *Coot Club* and *The Big Six* in North America. These films were produced by the BBC about ten years ago and played on the Disney Channel in 1989 or 1990 but have not been available here until recently. Janson Associates have sent me a stack of their postcard flyers about the films which I am including with this mailing. There is also a disclaimer about the postcard, as follows:

"Note: After our postcards were printed, we found out about the 1974 film of *Swallows and Amazons* which has recently become available in the U.K. on video, but only in PAL (British) film format which won't work in North American VCRs. We have not been able to obtain the North American rights to distribute this film, but do intend to try again in the future."

In the U.K. the film is being distributed by W.H. Smith, a major book store chain, and if you get a copy it can be converted to NTSC (North American) format by firms which have the necessary equipment (I found such a one in my local telephone book, and Eureka certainly isn't a major metropolis).

On the subject of videos, there is a video available called *The Ransomes Remembered* by Brigit Sanders, interviewing those who knew AR and Evgenia. Due to requests from a few North American TARS, it was made available in North American format; however, I gather that very few people have actually ordered it. If you are interested, you can obtain it from the TARS Society Stall and Ted Alexander. Check page 29 of the *Ship's Log* in this packet. Also note a number of other TARS-related offerings on pages 27 and 28, with addresses.

Those who are interested in sending off for things from the U.K. may want to remember that you can arrange for monetary conversion through Mrs. Ellen Tillinghast, our financial facilitator, by sending her the payment and having her write a check in British Pounds. She uses 150% as the standard Pounds to Dollars rate. Her address and telephone number are in the Membership List, and also you received a flyer about this when you joined TARS with more details (or you can contact me for a new one).

From videos to books: If you aren't familiar with the books produced by *Amazon Publications* (also mentioned on page 29 of the *Ship's Log*) you might want to investigate them. The most recent one is

*Ransome at Home* which is an exploration of all of AR's many different lodgings and homes over the years. I have all of their publications and they are very nice and very informative. I'm especially fond of *Illustrating Arthur Ransome*, which has illustrations from the different editions and different countries of the *Swallows and Amazons* books. Also, Roger Wardale, who wrote *Nancy Blackett* (see above), *Arthur Ransome's Lakeland*, and *Arthur Ransome's East Anglia*, has a new book, *In Search of Swallows & Amazons* which I have just obtained and have not had a chance to read as yet, but which looks to be a worthy addition to the growing TARS-related library of explorations into the world of Arthur Ransome. Ted Alexander, who manages the TARS Society Stall and is mentioned above, can find and ship just about any Ransome-related book which is available in the U.K.

From books to sleuths: TARSUS have been asked by Roger Wardale if we can help to locate one of Ransome's boats which has vanished: *Selina King*. (Betty Jo alluded to this in a previous newsletter). The whole story is told in Roger's book *Nancy Blackett: Under Sail with Arthur Ransome*, but the salient point is that in 1963 "she went to Bermuda, where she changed hands several times, until an American bought her a few years ago and took her away from the island. I have been unable to trace her whereabouts since that time." (Quotation from *Nancy Blackett*, Page 253.) I have included a copy of a blueprint of *Selina King* (or at any rate the general type of cutter) which Roger sent to me, together with the statistics I have. If any of us can find her, Roger and all TARS would be extremely delighted. If you know of her whereabouts, or have clues or suggestions, please let me know! And, speaking of boats, please note the *Nancy Blackett* Appeal flyer inserted into *Signals*.

Following in Betty Jo's tradition, we have three articles available, and I'll be happy to send copies of any of them in exchange for a SASE and 10¢ per page. The first is "In Filthy Pursuit of Power on the Lakes" (3 pages) from *Cumbria* magazine (November 1994), and is about Alan McEwen, who is a boilermaker and has worked on *Gondola*, the steamer on Coniston Water. The second article is "Pickup Pram" (2 pages) from *Messing About in Boats* (date unknown) and is a rowing/sailing "dink" recommended as a good boat for children "in which to relive the adventures of the Walker and Blackett children" -- there appear to be plans available for \$20. The third article is on "Robert MacNeil's new adventures" (2 pages) from the *Boston Globe*, October 1995, talking about the publication of his book "The Voyage" -- the connection is that MacNeil is a Ransome enthusiast.

I have received resumes from Alan Truelove, Tom Grimes, and Marilyn Marshall, and so pages 16 (partially retyped) and 17 of the RESUMES OF U.S. MEMBERS of the Arthur Ransome Society are also enclosed. I would like to encourage any of you who haven't contributed your resume to do so and send it to me for circulation with the next newsletter.

And finally, I would again like to solicit contributions from all of you for the next newsletter, so that it has more content about things TARSy and Ransomey and less administrivia. Trip reports, plans, requests for information -- anything reasonable accepted. Thanks in advance for your contributions. If I can help or if you have any questions, give me a call, fax, note, or e-mail.

Three cheers for TARS and TARSUS!



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707-442-0547 (work; has answering machine)  
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Selina King:

5.9 tons reg.

10.41 tons net

12.0 tons gross

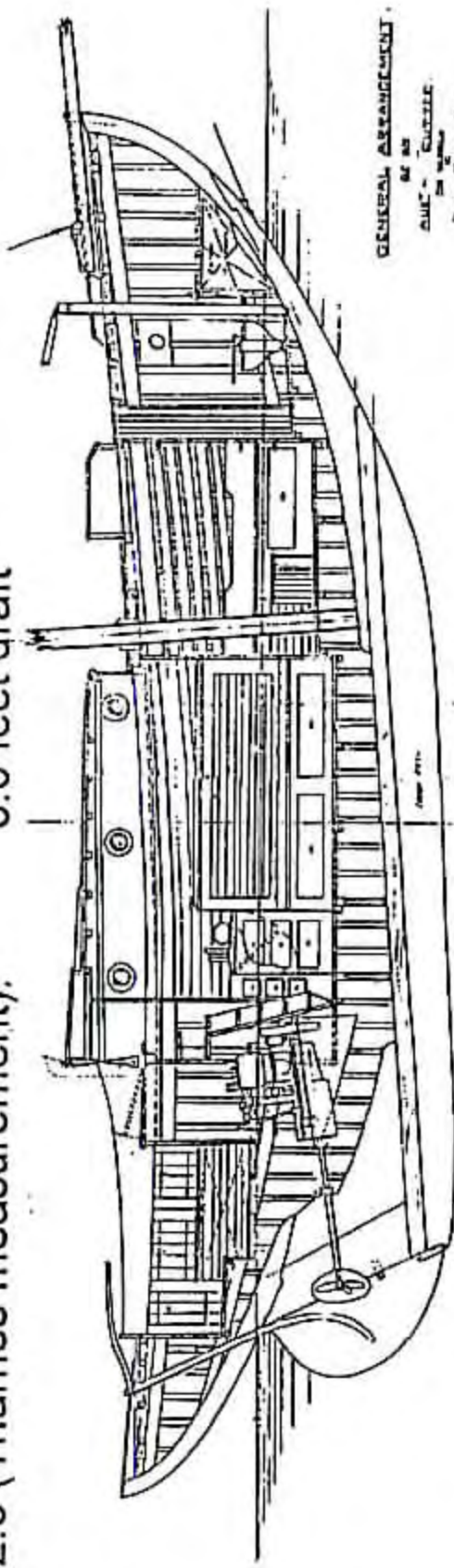
32.8 (Thames measurement).

35.8 feet overall

28.3 feet waterline

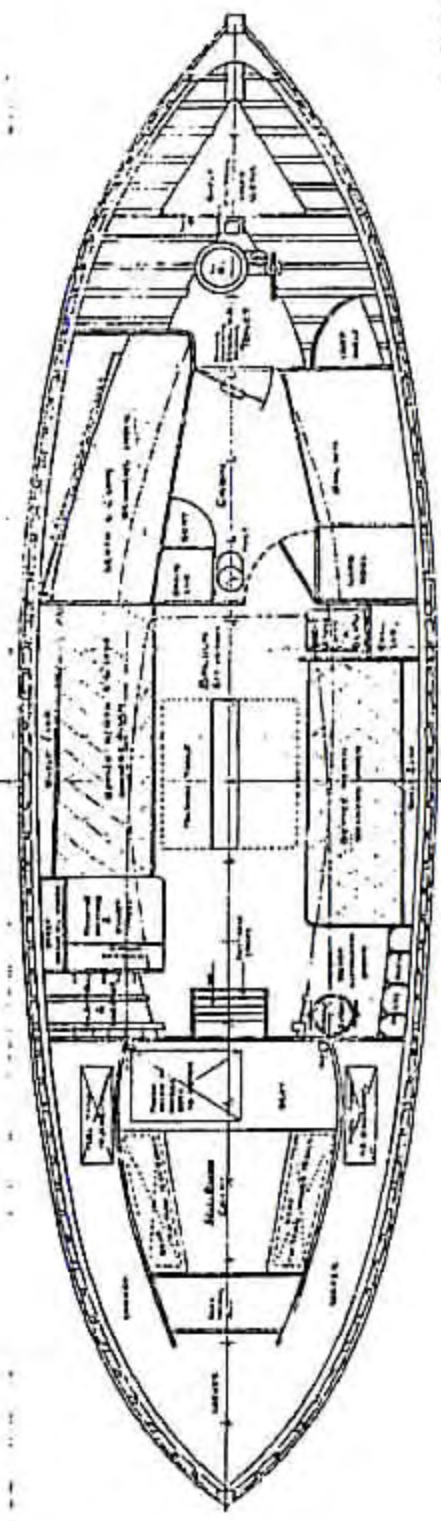
9.8 feet breadth

5.0 feet draft



GENERAL ARRANGEMENT

AS SHOWN  
ON PLAN  
ON WATER  
FROM CENTER LINE  
SCALE 1/4" = 1' LONG



End of document  
at Planning Office  
S. 2021



November 30, 1996

Fall Greetings!

Or perhaps Winter Holiday Greetings would be more appropriate by now. This newsletter accompanies our Fall publications, *Signals* and *Mixed Moss*, and I hope you enjoy them as much as I did. I was particularly amused by *Imaginary Conversations 2* by Peter Willis because I'd heard it last summer (see below). I am trying to make this look a little more like a newsletter, so this time we experiment with columns. I also have the wonderful opportunity of running copy from a contributor, thanks to TARS Jane Laninga!

### Welcomes

When I sent out the new Juniors publication *The Outlaw* in October I didn't include a newsletter, since it wouldn't have gone to everybody in TARSUS, so this is only my second newsletter. Welcome to all who have joined TARSUS since my last newsletter: the Austin family, the Bradley family, Richard Corson, Jack Eckert, Beth Flory, Nina Gramowich, Kenneth David Johns, Tessa Jordan, Dan Leab, Linda Dunlap, the Schultz family, and Jamie Lynn Sullivan. Welcome also to the McCreery family and Katherine Schmid, whose memberships are in progress, and who would be members already if I hadn't been out of town for most of November.

### Memberships

Speaking of memberships, it is coming up on annual renewal time. Included with this packet is a reminder from TARS "headquarters". Early in January, Ellen Tillinghast will be sending out postcards to all of us reminding us to send our membership renewals to her.

☞ Remember, if you joined after September of 1996 your membership is good through 1997.

### Exchange Rates

While we are talking about membership renewals, I need to mention currency conversion rates. For quite a while, Ellen has held her exchange rate at 1.5 to 1, which meant that a £20 overseas adult or family membership cost us \$30. However, in the last several months the exchange rate has gradually worsened (from our point of view) and it is now somewhere between 1.65 and 1.7 to 1. Therefore, with this renewal, Ellen has set her exchange rate to 1.65 to 1. So the renewal rates are:

Junior (<18)	\$8.25 (£5)
Student (full-time)	\$16.50 (£10)
Overseas Pensioner (Retired)	\$24.75 (£15)
Overseas (adult or family)	\$33 (£20)

If you order any TARS items through Ellen, please use the \$1.65 = £1 exchange rate as well.

### No Resumes

I haven't received any more resumes, so this packet does not have any additions to the RESUMES OF U.S. MEMBERS of the Arthur Ransome Society. Needless to say, I'd like to encourage all those who haven't contributed your resume to do so.

## Bad News About Videos

In my last *Signals from TARSUS* I said that the 1974 film *Swallows and Amazons* was still being distributed in the U.K. by W.H. Smith in PALS format. Unfortunately, since then W.H. Smith has stopped distributing the film, and as far as I know it is no longer available. So, if you want a copy, you will have to find someone who has it.

## Martha's KitLit Newsletter

Not long ago I received a very nice letter from Martha Rasmussen, who is the Editor and Publisher of *Martha's KidLit Newsletter*, which is for collectors of out-of-print children's books. She sent along a copy of the newsletter, and asked for information about TARS to include in a future newsletter. The newsletter contains articles, book reviews, advertisements for booksellers, lists of catalogs and notices of events, and so forth. It is nicely done and appears to be a good resource for beginning and advanced (?terminal?) children's book collectors; it would probably interest teachers as well. If you are interested in further information, you can contact Martha at Martha's KidLit Newsletter, Box 1488, Ames, IA 50014, or e-mail her at MART515@aol.com.

## Articles Available

In our tradition of making clippings available, Ellen Tillinghast forwarded an article (culled by F. Curt Cylke) from the *Weekend Telegraph* of Saturday, July 20, 1996, entitled "Enemy on our trail, me hearties". This article is about the Ransome cruises put on by Coniston Launches and Gordon Hall. I'll be happy to send copies of this article for a SASE and 20¢ to cover copying.

Karen Stinson, who lives in Delaware and is interested in homeschooling, sent me a copy of her article about Arthur Ransome and the Ransome books which appeared in the summer issue of *The Parents' Review*, a quarterly magazine for home training and culture. Karen writes,

"Ellen Tillinghast wrote to me asking me to send you a copy of my article ... if you think anyone wants a copy you're welcome to make as many as you want... you might want to offer this to the TARS members as a short article to give to friends who don't know about AR as it is really intended to whet the appetite of that unfortunate group for Ransome's books."

The article is 3 pages, so I'll be happy to send a copy to anyone who is interested for a SASE and 30¢. Karen adds at the end of her letter,

"FYI: *The Parents' Review* is a magazine about education based on the writings of Charlotte Mason, a British educator who wrote her books between 1880-1926 or so. Hence the article is written with moms, especially home-schooling moms, as the target audience. I'm sure that Nancy would shudder at the thought that her exploits could be considered educational!"

## Electronic Miscellany

In the last *Signals from TARSUS*, I mentioned several items about the electronic side of TARS, such as the Arthur Ransome Pages web site and the electronic bulletin board called the **Tarboard**. Since August, work has begun to find a permanent home for the AR web site (together with a URL (its electronic address) which might actually be rememberable!) We hope eventually that [www.arthur-ransome.org](http://www.arthur-ransome.org) will be the electronic address to access the pages, find out about TARS and ARCJ in Japan, find the bulletin boards, and so forth.

The other piece of electronic news is the **ARboard**, a Japanese equivalent to the Tarboard, which has just started up. It's mostly in Japanese, of course, but for anyone who wants to give it a try it is at:

<http://ux01.so-net.or.jp/~hyamada/wwwboard/ARboard.html>

## Treasure Island Revisited

Jane Laninga, who recently moved to South Carolina from Hawaii, and who wonders how many TARS are also interested in other children's literature, contributes the following:

### TREASURE ISLAND REVISITED

Over the summer I took the opportunity to read *Treasure Island* again for the first time in many years. This was partly prompted by seeing an old black and white movie of the book, and partly by the many associations with R.L. Stevenson in Hawaii. He visited Hawaii and islands west of there before settling in Samoa, where he was given the name "Tusitalia," meaning storyteller. Every day I drove past a school in Honolulu named for him.

Even though the story and the characters are well known, and have been portrayed in many different versions of movies, cartoon, and comics, it was refreshing to go back to the original source. My opinion is that you cannot compare a novel with, say, a movie version, simply because they are two differing media. Each has its own merits and you enjoy each separately.

And *Treasure Island* is a very enjoyable read. If you have never read it, or haven't read it for a while, I recommend it. It's a jolly good adventure story of the type Nancy Blackett might have savored by the light of a campfire. So many of the characters are well known to us — Jim Hawkins, Squire Trelawny, and of course Long John Silver.

Without spoiling the story for first time readers, I noticed that Stevenson did not tell the reader what Jim Hawkins did with his share of the treasure. I find this odd, since I consider Jim to be the main character of the book, and Stevenson does mention what the other characters did. Jim does call the island "accursed," and complains of hearing the booming of the surf and the voice of Captain Flint in his nightmares, so I think it unlikely he went to sea. Would any of the members care to make suggestions?

The Editor would be happy to include suggestions, comments and responses to Jane's article in the next newsletter.

## Farthest South

(Or, How I Spent 48 Hours in England)

In August, I (Editor) had to go to Ireland on a business trip, and was able to spend about 48 short hours in England. While there, I was invited to a TARY dinner at Alan Hakim's house in Havant (near Chichester) with Alan, Jill Goulder, and a few other TARS from the Southern Region, notably Peter Crisp and Peter Willis. (Peter Hyland was supposed to be there but couldn't make it; I gather that tends to happen with him!)

It was a wonderful dinner even if I was terribly jetlagged and Jill and I did find ourselves going the wrong way on the motorways near Winchester while trying to get to Havant. I was addressed as "Lord Mayor" (of San Francisco) several times even though I hadn't brought my pith helmet. This is where I first heard Peter Willis' *Imaginary Conversations 2* referred to above.

Not long after I returned, I received a fax from Jill, including a note from Peter Willis which began with the following:

### FARTHEST SOUTH

Being the Record of the Expedition to Hakimland

18 August 1996

Including the Great Hogsback Diversion by JG and DT and the Tour of the Roundabouts of Havant-À-Clu by PC

*Lately adapted by  
Mr. Arthur Ransome  
as*

### Summer Holiday

in which, guided by their unavoidably absent comrade, the crew prepare for an expedition to the East and enjoy a great feast, prepared in advance by Capt. Flint

I thoroughly enjoyed my evening at "Havant-À-Clu" and, as frequently happens, it made me wish that we found it easier to have actual events (however small or informal) here in the United States.

Well, a few days ago I received a fax from Jill which whetted my appetite all over again. Here's the passage that started me off:

"Had a good piratical Southern Region Winter Gathering; I startled the pub where we had lunch beforehand by turning up as Taicoon Chang, complete with yellow face, moustache and sword (and velly fine bud)."

Perhaps we'll figure out a way yet; all ideas and suggestions appreciated. Meantime, I would very much appreciate contributions to the newsletter. If we can't get together we can at least talk together (as opposed to me talking at all of you!)

#### A Kind Donation to TARSUS

Richard Evans is a British TARS who has for several years been in Los Angeles. (Interestingly, he is the person who designed the TARSUS letterhead on this newsletter). I received a call from him recently telling me that he was moving back to the U.K. Consequently, he has four videos in the U.S. (NTSC) format which he has no use for. They were *Coot Club* and *The Big Six* (the Janson videos), plus two copies of *Swallows and Amazons* (the 1974 film) which he says were "made from NTSC conversions from BBC tapings, so the quality isn't good, but still watchable".

Richard has donated these four videos to TARSUS with the notion that they might be of interest to one or more of our members. I think so also, especially to our Junior members.

I am sure that they should be enjoyed, rather than sitting on a shelf by my own copies. So, if you have a good idea who should get them and why, please write me and let me know. I'll hold off deciding for a couple of months to give folks a chance to write.

#### And Finally

I'd like to encourage everyone who can to try and find a way to visit the U.K., attend the AGM or regional events, and meet our TARS friends. Every issue of *Signals* contains a reference to one or two Americans who have come to an event. Anyone who has been there knows how much fun it is and how wonderful our British counterparts are, and would probably jump at the chance to go back. Everyone else, especially our Juniors, should get the opportunity to see the Lakeland and the Broads, experience Arthur Ransome country, and enjoy the hospitality of our fellow TARS.

Have a wonderful holiday season!

- and -

Three cheers for TARS and TARSUS!



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