



SIGNALS FROM T•A•R•S•U•S

May 2001

Spring Greetings!

This newsletter accompanies *Signals*, which contains information about the next Literary Weekend, and (if you are a Junior or Family member) *The Outlaw*. I would like to express my apologies and those of TARS for the lateness of both the previous mailing and this one. I sincerely hope that by the next mailing (*Mixed Moss*), due in August, everything will be back on schedule.

If you plan to go to the Literary Weekend, you should notify Alan Hakim via e-mail immediately at awhakim@mcmail.com if you have e-mail capability, send him the booking form, and (if you wish to pay through TARSUS) send your booking fees in US Dollars (at \$1.50 = £1.00) to Dave Thewlis at the address at the end of this newsletter.

Be sure and indicate on your check that it is for the Literary Weekend booking fees. Note that Alan is delaying processing the booking requests to make sure that overseas TARS have a chance to register.

Membership Renewal for 2001

TARS membership renewals were due on 1 January 2001. As of this mailing, all delinquent memberships have been purged and will not receive this newsletter or the U.K. publications. An updated TARS membership list will be distributed with the next *Signals from TARSUS*.

Welcome

Welcome to Sandy Gaffett and David, Sally and Sam Spier; Graham Leland Howard; Hugo Madden; Pamela Marshall; and John Pappas.

Résumés

No new résumés since the February newsletter –

please consider submitting your résumé if you haven't done so. They make wonderful reading and tell us a lot about how our fellow U.S. TARS have found Ransome (and TARS).

TARS on the Great Lakes

The Third Annual TARS sailing day in or near Ohio or Michigan will be held this summer. The previous two expeditions, called the Promise expeditions, were reported on in past years by Mary Wessel Walker, our 10-gong contributing editor.

The exact date, place and vessels have not been decided for this year. For information please contact Mary Wessel Walker at 734-996-0129 or e-mail jcgw@umich.edu.

Ship's Baby Fund

I've been told there is an insert in *Signals* (I haven't seen it yet) about the Brigit Memorial Fund. If you wish to donate you may send your donation in US Dollars to Dave Thewlis at the address at the bottom of this newsletter and I will send the equivalent in pounds on to the fund.

Georgia TARSUS Event 2001

Repeated from the last *Signals from TARSUS*: Jim Satterfield (alias Capt. G. Flint), who hosted a TARSUS weekend sailing and camping event last summer on Lake Alltoona, Georgia, is going to do it again.

The event will be Wednesday, June 20 through Saturday, June 23, and will include boating, camping, fishing, semaphore, and a variety of other events. You can find out more about this event on Jim's website at:

<http://www.gsu.edu/~biojdsx/tarsus/tarsus.htm>.

You can e-mail Jim at jsatt@gsu.edu or write him at 258 Ridge Pine Drive, Canton, GA 30114.

TARS Canada: 5th Annual Ontario Corroboree

The TARS Canada Fifth Annual Ontario Corroboree will be held Saturday and Sunday, July 7th and 8th, 2001, at the Fanshawe Yacht Club, Fanshawe Conservation Area, 1424 Clarke Road, London, Ontario, Canada.

Saturday the 7th will be from 1:00 p.m. to dark, and will feature "Sailing, Rowing, Treasure Hunting, Quizzes, Games, and Fun For All



Feature Column: Ransome Readers Recommend

In November of last year, we started this column of short reviews of books which Ransome readers want to recommend to others, especially Juniors. Mary Wessel Walker, our 10-Gong Contributing Editor, initiated the column and wrote: "Sometimes we stumble across books that, for one reason or another, remind us of

Ages!" Sunday the 8th will be from 9:00 a.m. to "afternoon" and will be a Casual Family Day at the Lake, with more sailing, talking, and exploring.

The Fanshawe Yacht Club's web site is www.fyc.on.ca and offers maps and photos. Camping is available at the lake; suggestions for hotels, restaurants etc. available upon request.

All U.S. TARS are invited: please contact Anne and Peter Busby, 1444 Sprucedale Road, London, ON N5X 1J4. Telephone 519-434-6057 or e-mail at pkbusby@home.com.

(Omitted on online edition)

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

Fastnet, Force 10

John Rousmaniere

Most of us may never take part in a deep-sea yacht race, but all of us sailors and would be sailors can learn from this book about the perils of the sea and the potential hazards of the sport we love. The Fastnet race runs from Cowes on the south coast of England around Fastnet Rock off the south coast of Ireland and back to Plymouth. In August of 1979 the race began in fair weather but was overtaken by a fierce, Force 10 gale when many of the boats were in the Irish Sea and far from land. Even big yachts were rolled right over by mountainous seas, lives were lost, and many sailors were rescued by lifeboat and helicopter. The author describes how the storm developed and considers why some boats got into trouble while others were able to avoid it. This gripping tale is suitable for older children and adults.

(Reviewed by James Wessel Walker)

The Derelict

Charles Nordhoff

The Derelict is the sequel to *The Pearl Lagoon*, which was reviewed in the last *Signals from TARSUS*. *The Derelict* takes place a year later at the beginning of World War I, with *Tara* and crew again picking Charlie Seldon up from the ranch and sailing south for Polynesia. On the way *Tara* and crew are taken by a German raider and *Tara* is sunk. The raider's Captain marooned the crew of the *Tara* on a deserted atoll well to the east of the rest of the islands—Iraitai, their original destination. Shortly after that, a hurricane hit. The raider was lost with all hands and the *Tara's* crew, with their knowledge of the island, survived. They had their knives and the head of an axe--the storm waves had washed away everything else. How they survived, and made it to the nearest inhabited island makes a fascinating tale--told in detail because of Nordhoff's exhaustive knowledge of Polynesian islands and islanders. If anything, it's a better story than *The Pearl Lagoon*.

(Reviewed by Tom Grimes)



From our 10-Gong Contributing Editor:

TARS Favorites

Recently I was reading the TARS pamphlet *Renewed Enthusiasms* by Rodney Dingle. This pamphlet is the result of a questionnaire about TARS members' favorites. The pamphlet itself is a fun read full of witty side comments, but the really interesting thing is the responses of the TARS members. How do your favorites compare?

Favorite Character: Nancy (69 ½), Titty (55 ½), Dick (44)
Least Favorite: G. Owden (67 ½), Great Aunt (32)
Favorite Book: *Winter Holiday* (131), *Pigeon Post* (86)
Best Book: *We Didn't Mean to go to Sea* (114)

Those are hard questions, aren't they? I answered the questionnaire when it was first sent out in 1998 and I'm not sure what my answers were anymore! Nancy, Titty, and Dick are most likely my favorite characters. (Even as I type other characters come to mind: Miss Lee, Roger, Captain Flint, Sinbad . . .) Nancy I identify with the most personally - bossy older sister, group leader, etc. Titty is a wonderful character. I needn't say more than that since I'm sure all TARS know what I'm talking about. Dick is also just terrific, with his scientific thought processes and everything. He's the "brains" of the bunch, but that doesn't keep him from having a good time (he never puts the others down or shows off). He just applies his knowledge to whatever the group is doing, making all the fun more possible (think *Pigeon Post*).

Least favorites are easy to pick from the series villains: the Great Aunt, G. Owden, Jemmerling, Black Jake, Hullabaloo are obvious targets for our dislike. Don't we all hate the Hullabaloo in our own lives? They just zoom around in their slick little motor boats making the lakes unpleasant for the rest of us! What a depressing thing to think of at the beginning of sailing season.

I personally find it impossible to pick between the books and select one favorite. It depends on what mood I'm in, the time of day, the season of the year, etc. etc. I love them all! But I do agree that *We Didn't Mean to go to Sea* is the best constructed of the books. Just think of that sequence at Flushing . . .

All of us TARS have it in common that we love Ransome's work. I don't think we'll all ever agree about our favorites. I mean, I don't even agree with myself! What are your favorites?

About the author: Mary Wessel Walker, 10-Gong contributing editor, is a very busy junior in high school in Ann Arbor, MI who is looking forward to summer and many more Ransome adventures.



From the Editor:

Thanks to Jim Walker and Tom Grimes for their book reviews, and of course to Mary Wessel Walker for her column. Again I'd like to encourage book reviews for the "Ransome Readers Recommend" column, and particularly reviews by Juniors (Juniors are welcome to recommend books for adults and APs as well as other Juniors, by the way!) Also, let's get thinking about more TARSUS events for 2001.

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