



## SIGNALS FROM T•A•R•S•U•S

November 1998

### Winter Greetings!

This newsletter accompanies *Signals* and either the Winter 1998 *Mixed Moss* or the Autumn 1998 *The Outlaw* (or, if you are family members, both of them). Also enclosed is a double flyer – the left half notifies us all that it is now time to renew our membership in TARS. The right half is a questionnaire which it is hoped will lead to a new *Distilled Enthusiasms* (the first such questionnaire and resultant publication having been done in the earliest days of the Society). I would like to encourage everybody to (a) renew your membership (see below) and (b) fill out and return the questionnaire!

### Membership Renewal for 1999

The enclosed membership renewal form has a sticker applied to it with your name, membership number, and membership type unless you have already paid for 1999. It also has the different membership type renewal amounts in US\$ printed on it. So it should be easy to fill out your check now and send it to me (my address is on the notice, and on this newsletter, and in fact nearly everywhere you look). (If you want to change your membership type just note that on the renewal form and send it back with the correct amount for the new type of membership you want.)

When Ellen Tillinghast was still our financial coordinator, she sent out individual postcards separate from the publications mailings to remind members that it was time to renew. Upon taking over the financial coordinator job in addition to the correspondence and membership coordinating, I used the U.K. renewal notices with an added sticker showing members' name, membership type, and amounts. I've since heard from a few members that they preferred the former practice as they felt it

made it easier to notice that it was time to renew. I appreciate that – but I don't have the time and can't justify the additional expense to TARS (Ellen paid for the cards herself). So please notice the renewal notices in this mailing!

### Welcome

Welcome to new Family members Theodore, Mary-Jean and Katherine Aschman; to new Junior member Nathaniel Sherrill; and to Thomas and Mary Grimes, whose membership had lapsed.

### A TARSUS Event in 1999? No Status...

As I reported in my last newsletter in August, Barbara Burt, who had proposed the Maine venue and volunteered to be the chief coordinator, has had to withdraw her offer: her family will probably be overseas most of the summer and she won't be available. She is still willing to help as possible, for example in working with the Maine Maritime Museum (if that is the venue we want) but cannot

assume overall responsibility.

Unfortunately, I received no responses to my call for a volunteer who would be willing to be the primary coordinator for an event in Maine next summer.

While it's not absolutely too late to get something going for next summer, it almost is – so if anybody out there is willing to host such an event, please get in touch with me quickly. If I haven't heard anything by the next newsletter (late February or early March 1999) it'll be too late for people to plan for it. You can refer to the March, 1998 *Signals from TARSUS* for basic information about what Barbara had in mind.

Please, if anybody out there would like to see this event happen, consider volunteering, either by yourself or pulling together a group of local TARS (and in the northeast there are other local TARS).

### **Again, What About Local Events?...**

Unless we get a volunteer, the idea of a “national” TARSUS event in 1999 will probably die. That does NOT mean that we couldn't have local or regional Corroborees, Literary Gatherings, Parleys, or even Fleet Actions. There's no reason individual TARSUS cannot organize such an event. Our Canadian TARS colleagues have done three such events in the last 12 months, two Corroborees in Southern Ontario and a Literary evening in Victoria, B.C.

Especially in the Northeast (New York through Maine) and Pacific Northwest (Northern California through Washington) we have a fair number of TARSUS, we have members with boats, sailing and otherwise, and we have members who have been to TARS events in the U.K. (which I assume would be a plus?)

If you're wondering what kinds of things you might have at an event, here are a few notes from the Canadian Corroboree on 1 August 1998, courtesy of Adam Quina (whose report I have drastically shortened):

The event was held at the Peterborough Sailing Club on the shore of Clear Lake in southern Ontario. The lake is “just the right size for dinghy sailing”. About 50 people attended including P.C. members, friends, families and people interested in Ransome. They had swimming and some sailing; Optimists for youngsters, an Albacore, a couple of Lasers and a Sunfish for larger people.

An icebreaker event, seeking out from other attendees people who had been to or done various AR related things such as camping on an island, climbing a mountain, owning a parrot, visited China...swimming and sailing. Members made a giant map of The Lake to be colored in, and little wooden boats to assemble, glue and decorate. Much chatting (especially to non-TARS members about what they were missing in the AR books). Semaphore. Banquet (barbeque, it sounds like). Large cake with map of Wild Cat Island in icing on top. Prizes of AR paperbacks. Roasted marshmallows and singing sea shanties.

Of course, one could do a literary evening, or a more ambitious occasion like the one originally envisioned for Main next summer, or... How about it, folks? Or is everybody satisfied with the status quo, just getting the publications and the occasional *Signals from TARSUS*?

If you've got an idea for something, drop me a line, give me a call, send me e-mail, and I'll try to help in any way I can to find ideas, resources, help, and to get out the word! Several Junior members have expressed a desire for Corroborees or other TARSUS events, and this is certainly something Juniors can (and may have to) take the lead on. After all, what would Nancy do if the Natives never seemed to get anything happening?

### **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. (Does this item look familiar?)

## **Amazon Publications – *Ransome the Artist* and *Ransome on Blue Water Sailing***

Those of us who subscribed to this year's Amazon Publication, *Ransome the Artist*, should at last have received it (mine arrived about 3 weeks ago). With it came the announcement for the next, 1999 Amazon Publication offering: *Ransome on Blue Water Sailing*. As always, if you wish to subscribe to this publication in advance, you may do so by sending your subscription directly to me in US\$. Given the increase in costs they are experiencing, I propose a donation of \$25 U.S., which is about £15 and includes shipping.

Those of you who did not subscribe to *Ransome the Artist* in advance of publication and now want a copy must order it via the Society Stall (you can also do this through me); the cost including surface postage is \$24.60. All of the Amazon publications are worth having; this one is wonderful!

## **Ransome-Related Articles**

Occasionally TARSUS members send me AR-related articles clipped from newsletters or magazines. When possible I report them in this newsletter and make copies available for \$1.00 to cover copying and postage. This time it's an article entitled "Swallows and Amazons Forever!" from the August, 1991 edition of *In Britain* magazine. The article is largely about the Norfolk Broads and the "Coots for Ever" holiday arranged by Rev. Neville Khambatta, an early member of TARS. If you are interested send me the obligatory \$1.00.

## **Ellen Tillinghast's Remaining Books**

Ellen Tillinghast, a founder of TARS and TARSUS, passed away last November and left a number of Ransome and Ransome-related books which were made available to TARSUS members who knew her. Here are the books which still remain:

## **Books by Arthur Ransome:**

Coots in the North  
Great Northern  
Old Peter's Russian Tales  
Pigeon Post  
Coot Club  
The Big Six  
Swallowdale  
Peter Duck

## **Other Books and Items:**

Down Channel in the Vivette, by E. Keble Chatterton  
The LandsMan's Guide to Sea Lore by C.C. Benstead  
Windermere Steamboat Museum handbook  
The Ransoming by Pauline Marshall  
Steam Yacht Gondola souvenir booklet  
In the Footsteps of the Swallows and Amazons by  
Claire Kendall-Price  
Arthur Ransome and Captain Flint's Trunk by  
Christina Hardyment  
Nancy Blackett, by Roger Wardale  
Approaching Arthur Ransome, by Peter Hunt

If you are interested in any of the above, please contact Mrs. Dorothy Hill: 904-641-0735.

## **The 1999 Annual General Meeting**

Most of the information about the 1999 AGM will be forthcoming in late February or early March in the 1999 *Despatches*. Just to remind anybody who is thinking of going, however, it is going to be held in the Midland Region on the shores of Rudyard Lake near Leek in Staffordshire, on May 28-31, 1999. (This is the lake that Rudyard Kipling was named after.) I'm going to try my darndest to get to the AGM this time, so maybe I'll see you there!

