



Signals from TARSUS

SEPTEMBER 2010

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Ship's Papers--Important Information for the crew



A View from the Helm

By Robin Marshall, TARSUS Coordinator

I hope everyone has had a wonderful summer; those of us who live in milder climes can still look forward to many more fine days, and activities. I have been lucky to receive regular dispatches from one member, Capt Jasper and his crew, informing me of their many adventures and voyages, leaving me at times quite envious. I am sure you read his letter in the last issue of Signals. I know of at least one adult member who goes on exciting voyages on replicas of famous sailing ships. Hopefully one day he will write about his trips.

Following requests for some sort of apparel that members can wear to show their interest and enjoyment of Arthur Ransome and TARSUS, I looked into what could be done. Shirts presented a problem because of the large range of sizes, so I looked at other TARS and found that Austars had a patch, which could be sewn onto members' apparel of choice. As an experiment I designed one of our own featuring the TARSUS logo, so now you can display to the world your love of AR. This should be a talking point if anyone asks you about it, and helps to spread the word. They are on sale now at \$5.50 and are obtainable from me. I also started a Facebook page for those who visit Facebook. It is "Arthur Ransome's Swallows and Amazons in the USA." Apart from being a place for members to air their views, it also means anyone searching for AR or S&A's will see this page and maybe join TARSUS. Spreading the word is something we need to do.

I had hoped to get some members together to form ideas to promote TARSUS. I know our editor Elizabeth has a suggestion so let's put on our thinking caps. I know it is very early days but the IAGM, as you may have seen in Signals, will be at Bowness on Windermere in 2012. It seems an ideal opportunity to mount a TARSUS expedition. There is a deal at the Hydro hotel for TARS that weekend. I also see there are many B&B's and even cottages one could stay at. It would be a chance to get together with fellow members and other TARS, something to think about, even if it is a while away.

I would like to welcome the following new members:

David Gilles-Thomas of Williamsville NY
Elizabeth Stevens of South Deerfield, MA

Welcome aboard to both of you!

Several members have enquired if they can still get copies of the movie Swallows and Amazons starring Virginia McKenna and Ronald Fraser. Unfortunately this is no longer available in the US, and the one for sale on the TARS stall is not compatible for the US. It seems a pity as the recently acquired sailing boat "Swallow" is in it. All is not lost however; if any member wishes to see it please contact me and I may have a solution.

Have a fine fall!

Robin

TARSUS & TARS Leadership Information

TARSUS--The Arthur Ransome Society in the United States:

TARSUS Coordinator: Robin Marshall robin@arthur-ransome.org
210-8th Street Bradenton, FL 34205

US Members, please contact Robin Marshall with your questions, concerns or ideas--he will forward your e-mail or letter to the appropriate board member.

Signals from TARSUS editor: Elizabeth Jolley erjolley@mail.com
675 NW 114th Ave. Portland, OR 97229

Please send your articles & ideas for articles for Signals from TARSUS to Elizabeth any time--she will publish articles when there is space.

TARS--The Arthur Ransome Society--Board:

National Chairman:	Flo Galbraith
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Australia:	David Bamford
New Zealand:	Dr. Peter Summers
Canada:	Harry Miller
Japan:	Tamami Nakayama

NEW THIS ISSUE!

Sailing in the North Sea--Our most adventuresome moments

(Editor's Note: We encourage everyone of all ages and writing abilities to submit stories of their grandest adventures, on land or on sea, high up or underground. Whatever has had YOU on the edge of your seat as you lived through it, please share with all of us so we can enjoy your most exciting adventures, too :-)

Stormy Weather- Without a GPS

By David Forman, a.k.a Captain Jasper

Do not worry. It wasn't that bad, but...

I was sailing in an inlet. Dad steered for me and guided twelve foot *Surf Scoter* toward McMicken Island. The breeze looked steady, and we sailed wing on wing. It wasn't steady enough because I had to row the last fifty yards. I wasn't positioned correctly for rowing, and tiny strokes were all I could manage.

After tying fast with a clove hitch, we made for the only entrance in the thick woods. After climbing over an infinity of logs we reached the entrance to the trails. We had forgotten the GPS, so we couldn't find the treasure. Nevertheless, we did have a grand tramp around the island. As we marched back we heard a high wind in the treetops.

When we pushed off, we were immediately sailing. We sailed past many logs, and had to change course for some of the smaller ones. Once, water poured over the gunwale when Dad wasn't quick enough at the mainsheet. We were sailing very quickly, hitting waves four feet high. Not big for bigger boats, but they were large for *Surf Scoter*. She winged it to Clearwater Cove safely. I thought it had been fantastic.

Kanchenjunga's Cairn--Places We've Been

In the Wake of the *Sea Bear*, one member's trip to the 2010 IAGM

By Don Rice

In the January *Signals from TARSUS* when I described the TARS 2009 Literary Weekend in Cambridge, I urged fellow TARSUS members to consider attending the 2010 AGM in Oban, Scotland. I acknowledged it would be expensive, but promised it would be worth the price. As it turned out, I was the only member to take my advice. The clincher for me was the planned follow-up journey to the Isle of Lewis in the Outer Hebrides. Lewis, or at least Arthur Ransome's version of it, was the setting for the final book in the S&A series, *Great Northern?*.



This was my Backpacker Plus hostel in Oban. I had a top floor single room for £19. That seemed to be the going hostel rate for a single in Scotland, with or without a private bath. Breakfast of some kind was always provided, along with kitchen facilities for preparing your own food. The Gathering Hall was just a two-minute walk away.



One of a number of activities available at the AGM was taking a ferry from Oban to the Isle of Mull, a bus ride across Mull, and then a second ferry to the Isle of Iona. It was here that St. Columba came with 12 companions in 563 CE to convert the heathen Scots. Construction of Iona Abbey began around 1200, fell into ruin after the reformation in 1560, and was restored in the 20th century.



Oban Bay



AGM evening meals were in the Gathering Hall

Once the four-day AGM with all its delightful activities was over, a break-away group of 17 made our way to the Baile-na-Cille Guest House overlooking Uig Bay on Lewis's northwest coast. Getting there required a longish ride from Oban to Ullapool, the road for a while running along the western banks of Loch Ness where we got a glimpse of Urquhart Castle. At Ullapool, population 1308, I spent the night in a modern and inexpensive hotel for just £19, or a little over \$30, breakfast included. It was an easy walk to the town center where I ate fish and chips for supper. The next morning, after a stop at Tesco, I joined others in the party aboard the five-decked Caledonian-MacBrayne ferry for Lewis.



The cloistered courtyard at Iona Abbey



Uig Bay at low tide from Baile-ba-Cille

Here I should pause to mention my stop at Tesco, one of the UK's half-dozen or so large supermarket chains. Every store in every chain, along with outlets in railroad stations and other venues, sells ready-made sandwiches. Some are typically British – prawn and mayonnaise, tuna and sweet corn, ploughman's lunch, and so on – but if you can get yourself out of the bad habit of translating pounds into dollars, they're reasonably priced. Tesco is one of the chains that offer a special deal: one sandwich, one bag of crisps (potato chips), and a bottled drink for just £3. I knew there would be a proper cafeteria on the ferry, but I also knew I could eat more cheaply if I carried a supermarket lunch. This is something to keep in mind as you travel in the UK.

The ferry left at 10:25, sailing out of Loch Broom and crossing the North Minch, finally arriving at Stornaway on Lewis two hours and 45 minutes later. From there, we traveled by car to Baile-na-Cille (sort of pronounced bailee-nah-killee) overlooking Uig Bay. Only when the tide is in can you see any water; otherwise there are acres of shimmering white sand. For a view at high tide take a look at the gatefold photo (pp 63-65) in the January 2010 *National Geographic*. (CAUTION: If you look at this photo you are going to be very, very sorry you weren't with us.) Baile-na-Cille was cropped out of the photo at the far left edge.



Baile-na-Cille from the tidal flats



Approaching the Standing Stones of Callanish

For the first three nights we were the only guests. On the last night we were joined by two women, one of which, I believe, expressed an interest in signing on as a member. At mealtimes we filled two long tables in the dining room, gorging on sumptuous, cooked-to-order breakfasts and fabulous evening meals. Our host, Richard Gollin, a quirky sort of guy, is an excellent chef and had no problems dealing with special diets: four vegetarians, one diabetic, and one lactose-intolerant. We ate mostly local produce – fish, lamb, fresh vegetables, and one night were served haggis for an appetizer. The dinners ended, following great desserts, with fresh fruit and a variety of cheeses. Wine was available.

Each day we ventured forth, convoy style, to visit various sites on the island. Our detailed itinerary, including lunch stops, had been carefully planned by our cicerone, Chris Birt. Although they

have no AR connection, we couldn't pass up the opportunity to see the nearby Standing Stones of Callanish, second in size only to Stonehenge. Later that day we clambered over Carloway Broch, a large and partially intact example of Roger's "picthouse." Two other tourist attractions, the Arnol Blackhouse, and the Gerrarannan Blackhouses, also qualify as Ransome sites because drawings and references to such buildings appear in the book. Built of dark stone and thatch-roofed, these houses seem ancient, but go back only to the 19th century. The Arnol house, with its peat fire in the middle of the floor and no chimney, was occupied until 1966. We also visited one of Ransome's favorite fishing sites where he'd sketched a stone bridge and a rocky gorge. On another occasion we stopped at Husinish Beach where a Great Northern had been seen during a previous TARS excursion. While there, we saw a diving bird that certainly looked like a Great Northern, but our ship's naturalist, Malcolm Porteous, wasn't convinced. The beak, he thought, was too light. The rest of us were willing to believe it was a Great Northern anyway. (As an American I've enjoyed seeing many Common Loons, as they are called here, but seeing one on Lewis made this sighting special.)



Most of the gang at Carloway Broch, an ancient building last occupied around 1300



A reconstructed blackhouse village on the Isle of Lewis

One afternoon Chris led us on a bit of a scramble to see two inlets separated by a narrow peninsular. Many believe this location was the inspiration for Scrubbers' Cove and its sister cove where the dastardly Jemmerling moored the *Pterodactyl*. Earlier that day we'd driven to Stornaway for a walk around town and lunch in a private dining room at the County Hotel. It was here that Ransome stayed in 1945 while gathering material for *GN*? During our final morning we spent a half hour or so in Uig Lodge, visible across the bay from Baile-na-Cille. AR stayed there regularly and used the building as a model for his drawing – with some alterations – of the Gael's castle.



Looking for Great Northern on Husinish Beach



AR's gorge: Compare it to the sketch reproduced on page 149 in Roger Wardale's "Arthur Ransome and the World of the Swallows & Amazons."

Then it was over. Just like that. None of us wanted to leave, but we were all due somewhere else, and a wedding party was taking over our rooms. Perhaps another time, but at least I've been there once.



The bridge on Lewis that Ransome sketched



Our private dining room at the County Hotel in Stornaway

A few months ago I began a leisurely rereading of the series, this time in order. I'd gotten up to *WDMTGTS*, but leapt ahead to *GN?* in preparation for this trip. I'm glad I did. A fresh reading made me appreciate being on Lewis even more than I might have. It's one of a number of visits I've now made to S&A sites. There are a few places I have yet to see, including the harbor at Flushing. And I have no idea when I'll get to China, but every trip has been very satisfying. If you can get that uncle who flies all over the country on business to bestow some frequent-flyer miles on you, you should really consider making a journey to Swallows and Amazons country. I'll be happy to offer some travel tips to anyone who's seriously considering it. "Grab a chance and you won't be sorry for a might-have-been."



The ferry that plies the water between Ullapool and Stornaway arriving to carry us back at journey's end

(Ed. Note: Thanks to Don Rice for his tale of Ransome-ish fun at the 2010 IAGM. Next, read Peter Wright's invitation to the 2011 IAGM, to be held in Glasbury, along the Welsh/English border. And don't forget to plan ahead to join the TARSUS adventurers who attend the 2012 IAGM in Bowness on Windermere. If you have not set foot in one of the sites Ransome featured in his books, you should travel to England and do so--you will not regret it. There is something very special about seeing The Lake for the first time--Ransome's incredible descriptions literally come to life all around you, and for a time, you really ARE one of the Swallows, Amazons & D's :-)

The International IAGM 2011 at Glasbury

By Peter Wright, Midland, UK member

A very warm welcome awaits anyone who decides to make the trip to the UK for next year's IAGM. In addition to an exciting and varied programme of activities, set out in detail in *Signals*, the area around Glasbury (or Glasbury-on-Wye to give the village its full title) is steeped in history and abounds in glorious countryside, thus making your trip doubly worthwhile.

Glasbury is a small village sitting on the Welsh side of the English/Welsh border in an area known as the Welsh Marches. Derived from the Anglo-Saxon "mearc" which means a boundary, the Marches were an area of frequent conflict in the eleventh and twelfth centuries. Following the invasion of William the Conqueror in 1066 the Welsh did not submit kindly to the imposition of Norman rule. King William therefore created the Marcher Lordships, granting virtual independence and what amounted to petty kingdoms to over 150 of his most valued supporters. Marcher lords ruled their lands as they thought fit and to put down the frequent Welsh uprisings built numerous "motte and bailey" castles. The Marches contain the richest concentration of such castles anywhere in the UK and there are several within a short distance of the IAGM site although the one built at Glasbury, first mentioned in 1146 has now been built over.



The River Wye....



near Glasbury

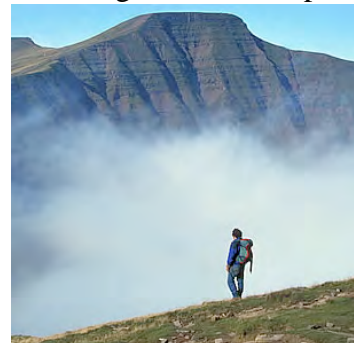


Welsh motte and bailey castle

Glasbury sits on the banks of the magnificent River Wye and with high Welsh mountains to the South and West, and rich agricultural land to the East, this is an area the industrial revolution passed by. Today it is one of the most natural and least spoilt areas of the England and Wales. The Brecon Beacons National Park and the Black Mountains lie just to the South with the Cambrian mountains to the west. Four miles to the East runs *Offa's Dyke*, an 80-mile long earthwork that roughly follows the England/Wales boundary. Constructed by the Mercian King Offa who reigned between 757-796, it is thought to have been a defensive earthwork as well as a political statement of power and intent. Today you can walk any part of its length, as it forms one of the UK's long distance footpaths.



Offa's Dyke



The Brecon Beacons

Three miles away lies the small town of Hay on Wye (with two Norman castles), renowned as the second hand bookshop of the world, with some 30 bookshops stocking over 1 million pre-owned books. It's also home to the premier Book Festival in the UK, which will be running alongside the TARS IAGM and for the rest of the week following our closure – why not take in these two prestigious events?

Llangorse Lake (about 20 mins from Glasbury and where TARS sailing will take place) features heavily in Welsh folklore and is the site of the only known crannog (man-made island/home) in Wales and England - they are normally associated with Scotland and Ireland.



The crannog on Llangorse lake



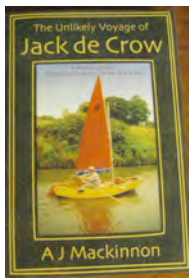
Half-timbered cottage & oast houses



Hereford Cathedral

On the English side of the border Herefordshire is equally scenic and historic. Famous for its apple orchards and hop growing, it has some of the country's most interesting villages, particularly those of "black and white" timber framed wattle and daub construction, and also English churches. Thirty to forty of the most historic sites can be followed on an interesting visitor trail and include Kilpeck, the best preserved Norman church in the country with stunning carvings, along with Brockhampton, a 20th century thatched church created in the Arts and Crafts style. Glasbury itself has a most interesting church history being famous for its non-conformity. Maesyronnen chapel was founded in 1691 and is considered the most important surviving building associated with the non-conformist movement in Wales, and lays claim to being the first and oldest chapel in Wales. It is now protected as a building of national importance and is still used and maintained by the United Reformed Church. There are also early Methodist and Baptist chapels in the village. Other sights worth visiting within half a day's journey include the renowned cathedrals at Hereford or Gloucester, the romantic ruins of Tintern Abbey (immortalised in verse by Tennyson and Wordsworth and painted by Turner), many fine stately homes and gardens, and many beautiful market towns and villages. If you are able to visit and choose to travel to Glasbury from London (about 170 miles); several fine tourist sites can be taken in along route. One route could include Oxford, Blenheim Palace, and the Cotswolds, a second route Windsor, Stonehenge, Bath and Tintern. Midlands TARS would be very happy to advise you on options. We hope to see some of you in 2011!

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



The Unlikely Voyage of Jack de Crow, by A.J. "Sandy" Mackinnon

This is the true and very funny story of a middle-aged English and Drama teacher, a pith helmet, and a Mirror Dinghy, and their voyage from North Wales to the Black Sea. Mackinnon's style is similar to Arthur Ransome's, and Mackinnon actually makes several allusions to the Swallows and Amazons books as well as to others by authors including J.R.R. Tolkien, C.S. Lewis, and many more. Hilarious stories and very Ransome-ish illustrations fill every chapter. I suggest that if you share a bedroom with anyone, you do not read this while the other person is sleeping. I was unable to control my laughter in many parts of the book and therefore lived with a very grumpy sister for the duration of it (the book is 355 pages long). While it is targeted more towards adult readers, most teens would also enjoy it (I know I did!).

Friendly Natives—short bios of members

David Gilles-Thomas

Here's some background about me:

I lived in England for one year, 1970-71, when my father, a university professor, was on sabbatical. We lived in a small village, Brookhouse, just outside of Lancaster. I went to school, 2nd form, at Bentham Grammar School. It was here in England that I discovered the Swallows & Amazons books. I forget who gave me the first book, probably a neighbor in the village. I immediately fell in love with the books. We hiked often in the Lake District, and I was forever imagining adventures and would often wish I could join the Swallows and Amazons. As that wasn't possible, I created my own adventures. For example, a small stream ran behind our house, up into the moors, and I spent many a happy day, alone or with my sister or a friend, hiking it, mapping it out just as they mapped out their adventures in the books. I still have those maps after all these years. I've attached scans of two of the maps; the small one connects to the top of the long one to make a continuous map. There is a house marked with "Savage Camp" (just north of "Bonfire Bend"), which is where we lived: 2 Moorside Rd, Brookhouse, Lancaster, Lancashire LA2 9PJ. The River Nile refers to the Lune River. You can find it all on Google maps! The zebras were horses, and I believe Leopard Creek was named thus because I saw a black cat there. I just visited Google maps, and I must say I did a pretty good job at the maps. I also discovered that Google maps has the entire area now mapped with their "street view", so I just took a lovely "stroll" up the street into the moors. Sweet memories. I do miss England.

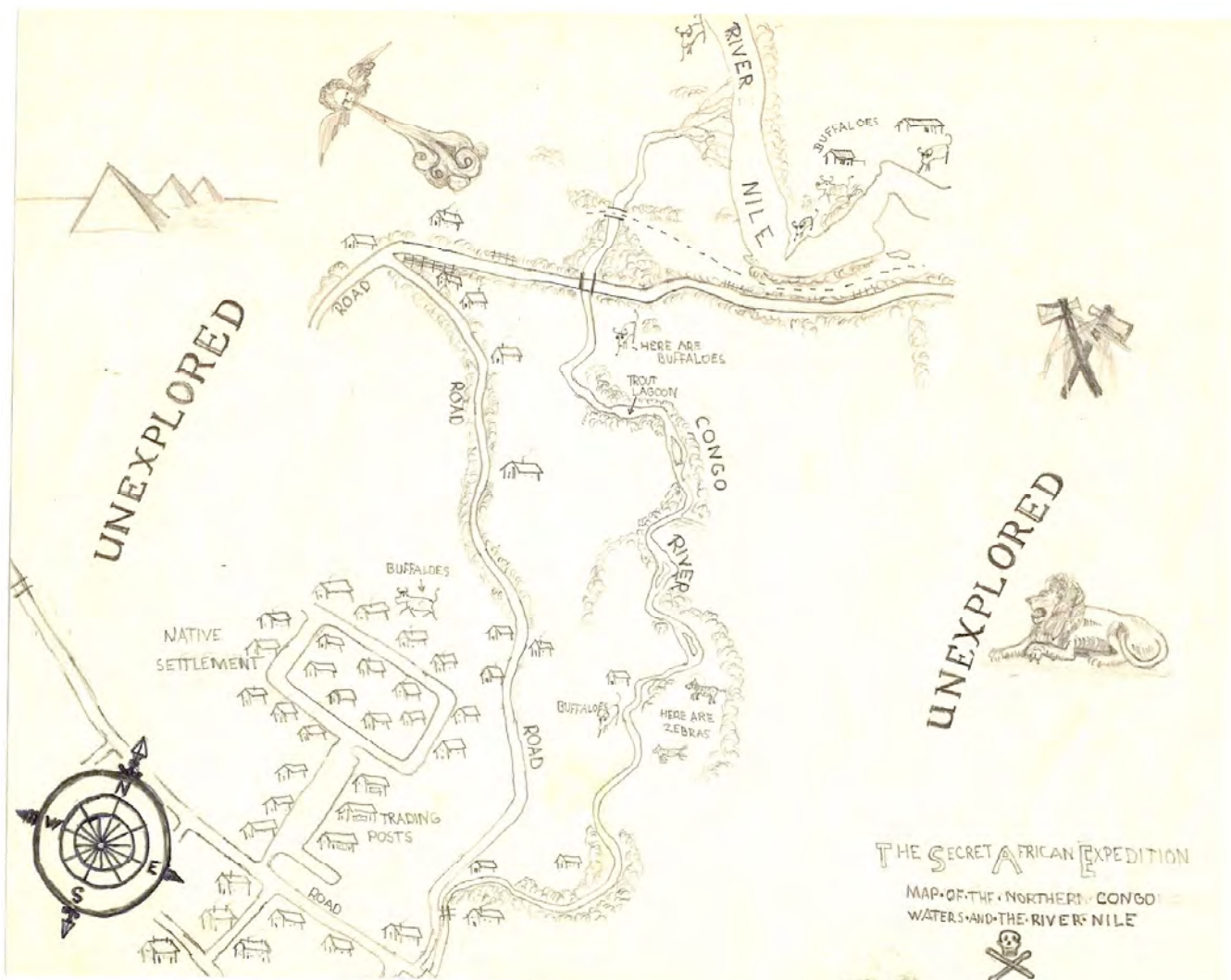
When we returned, my parents bought a small sailboat for a lake they have a cabin on here in Western New York, and I was so surprised how much I had learned from the books about sailing -- I just knew what to do, and enjoyed sailing about the lake, although I never completely got over my fear of capsizing! Perhaps that makes me a duffer. Ha ha!

I am 52 years old now, and have children of my own. My enjoyment of these books is being passed on to my children as we read the books together. For me, one of the greatest things about Ransome's books is that they teach us to find wonder and adventure in everyday life. When the creek behind your house can become the Congo River, and a cat can be a leopard that is quite a gift.

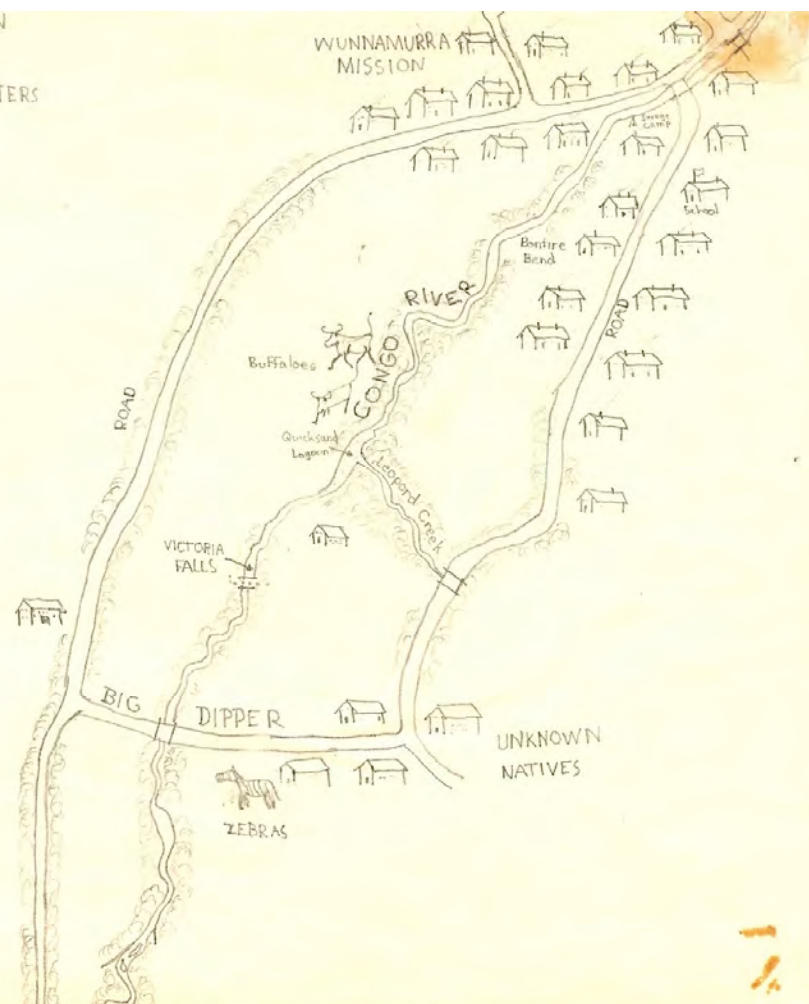
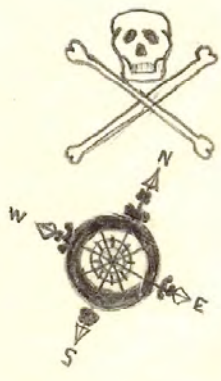
And so, you will see this influence in the clues for the Swallows & Amazon letterbox I created. Although not directly related to the books, the clues were definitely written with the spirit of the books in mind. Everyday events and objects take on something magical. For example the "native spear" noted on the map is just a metal pole stuck in the water of the pond. ... or is it? Maybe it really is a spear. You never know!!

Cheers,
David

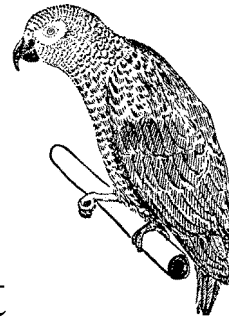
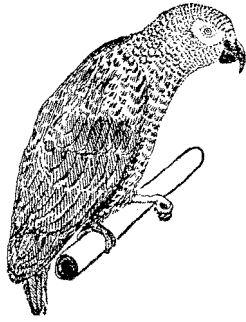
(Maps on the next two pages)



THE SECRET AFRICAN EXPEDITION
 MAP OF THE SOUTHERN CONGO WATERS
 AND THE HILL COUNTRY



UNEXPLORED LANDS



Pieces of Eight

The Junior Pages

Edited by Jessika Hodgson, Hannah Hodgson, and Mikaela Springsteen

Swallows and Amazons Puzzle

Solve the puzzle by filling in letters. Look at a word with some letters filled in for you (for example, “AMA_ _”) and guess what letters to fill it in with. The word I chose for the example does not have too many words to pick from: “Amandas”? Doubt it. “Amaze”? Maybe. How about “Amazon”? Highly probable. So fill in Z-O-N at the end of A-M-A. Now you know that the Y-shape is a Z, so you can fill in any other Z’s; you also know that the white triangle is an O, and the T shape is an N. Fill those out, too. Repeat this process until all of the letters are filled out, and you have a message. Swallows and Amazons scholars might also be able to tell me what book this is in!

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

T	T	A L L		M T		A M A	
Ω Δ	Ω Π Σ	Ο Ι Χ Γ Γ Δ Ι Ο	Φ Θ Δ Ε	Ω Π Σ	Χ Ε Χ Ψ Δ Τ		
P A T		L M T		L			
B K Θ Χ Ω Σ Ο		Ι Σ Γ Ζ Δ Ε Σ		Ω Δ	Ι Κ Γ θ		
A T	L A	L L		M	A		
Z X Ω	K Ο Γ Χ Τ θ	Ι Σ Γ Γ Ζ Δ Ε Σ		X Ο	Ο Δ Δ Τ		
A	A		A T	T	L		
X Ο	Σ Α Σ Ο	Ι Σ	Z X T	T X Ω Κ Α Σ	Ω Θ Δ Ρ Η Γ Σ		
A P T A		L	T	T	K T		
Z X B Ω Χ Κ Τ		Φ Τ Κ Τ Ω	K Ο	Ο Ω Ρ Ζ Α	Ω Δ Δ		
A	T T T	M M	T	G			
Π Χ Ο	Ω Κ Ω Ω ς	Θ Σ Ε Σ Ε Η Σ Θ Σ θ	Ω Π Σ	N Θ Σ Σ Τ			
A T		? T	A	L A T			
Φ Σ Χ Ω Π Σ Θ Ο		Ω Π Σ Ο Σ	X Θ Σ	Δ Ρ Θ	Γ Χ Ο Ω		
A L L		A	A M A				!
Ο Ι Χ Γ Γ Δ Ι Ο	X Τ θ	X Ε Χ Ψ Δ Τ Ο	Φ Δ Θ	Σ Α Σ Θ			

Enter a drawing for a puzzle prize: E-mail your correct Pieces of Eight puzzle responses to Elizabeth: erjolley@mail.com to be entered in a drawing for the September 2010 Puzzler's Prize, an enameled metal TARS logo pin with a tie-tack on the back, for you to put on your hat, backpack or anywhere else you like. Entries must be received by October 15th, 2010. Put on your puzzler hat & give it a try! All ages of TARSUS members are eligible :-)

Tea Leaf Reading

By Deirdre Iams-McGuire

In *Great Northern?* Titty sees two leaves floating in Dick's cup, and says "strangers." This version is different, but it's still fun. And only for fun, so don't go and freak out if you get a bad one. Instructions:

1. You need a cup with a handle (so don't use one of Missee Lee's), and a saucer. You also should use loose leaf, or cut open a tea bag.
2. When you have about half an inch (not including leaves) left, swirl the tea around clockwise three times in your non-dominant hand (the hand you use the least. Sorry all ambidextrous people), and put the saucer on the cup, face down. Turn your cup over and let the tea drain out into the saucer, and turn back over.
3. Put the handle nearest you, it represents you. Also, if you see a letter or number near a symbol, it usually corresponds with it.

Images towards the rim of the cup mean the present, and images towards the bottom mean the future.

Some Symbols and Meanings

Airplane-Unexpected journey, or danger

Alligator-Strength or power

Arch-Trip abroad (The IAGM, perhaps?)

Arrow-A letter (made me think of Swallowdale), or if it's bent, bad news

Basket-New family member

Birds-Good news

Boat-Friendly visitor (Mrs. Blackett coming to visit the Igloo?)

Bridge-Pleasant trip. If it's blurry, it will have a bad end

Coffin-Death (not necessarily yours)

Comet-Unexpected visitor (might want to prepare for an Amazon ambush)

Dog-Faithful friend

Dot-Money

Egg-Good fortune

Elephant-Health, good luck

Fence-Obstacles

Fish-Good news from far away

Flag-Danger

Goat-Surrounded by enemies

Grasshopper-A friend will leave

Gun-trouble

Hand-Friendliness

Hat-A small success (is it squashy?)

Key-Problems solved

Knife-Danger (go figure)

Ladder-Success or travel

Monkey-Success

Moon-Fame and wealth

Mouse-Thief nearby (keep an eye on your pieces of eight)

Owl-Failure or sickness

People-A good omen

Pig-Good luck

Question Mark-Beware of major decisions

Ship-Good news coming

Square-Peace

Toad-Unknown enemy

Wheel-Unexpected gift

Windmill-Help

Worms-Secret enemies

You can make your own up, if you want! Sorry the list is so long.

Just a Note

(with photos taken by Dick and others)

By Jessika Hodgson

I wanted to add in a little note about a trip my sister and I took. We flew out to New Hampshire to visit our G.P.s (Grandparents), and once there we also drove to Vermont and Maine. We got to do lots of exploring, swimming, and even some boating (sorry though, John, it wasn't a sail boat!). I'm going to let the photos tell the rest of the story, with just a bit of help from captions. ☺



While we only went on a motorboat, we did see all sorts of boats and people 'messaging about' in them.

Death or Glory!



The waves break on the rocks at the Cape Neddick Lighthouse, AKA Nubble Light.

Us tubing behind a boat

Closer view--really fun!



We both had a turn at being Mister Mate..... and also a combination of charcoal burners and savages (with our cousin)

All in all we had a wonderful, Swallows-and-Amazons-ish time!

From the Beckfoot Kitchen: Apple Boats



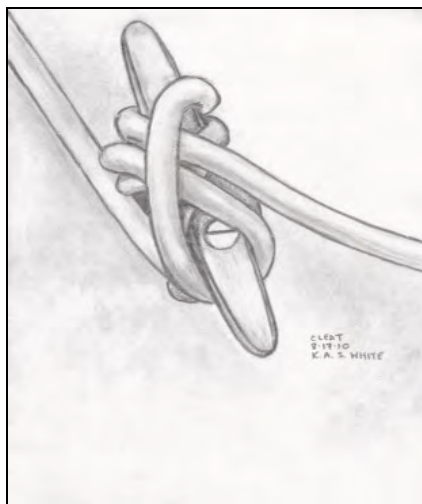
Apple Boat with Walnuts & Honey
Taste-tested at Elizabeth's house--Delicious!

Whenever I'm at my aunt's house, she usually makes me an apple boat. I'm not sure if she came up with this or if it's my uncle's creation, but they're good anyways. *(These would make yummy additions to any feast—Jessika)*

First cut a large-ish apple in half, and hollow out the middle of it (you know, like take out the core). Then you can put anything you want in the middle. I usually have like oranges or something, but if you have nice APs, I bet you could have honey with cinnamon sugar sprinkled on, or even caramel sauce in the middle. No cooking, but be careful with the knife.

-Deirdre ☺

Dipping our Hands—personal relationships with the books



Ca Ira's bow cleat, by Kristin White

It's been a rough couple of weeks. I've been varnishing Ca Ira's exterior brightwork. I also emptied, removed, and sent the fuel tank off to get repaired. When it came home, I cleaned the inside of it. I also dealt with the short in the starboard running light, which caused me to lose all my nav lights and electronics one evening while motoring through the harbor! At any rate, I finally found an hour to draw. This is one of Ca Ira's bow cleats. It's a good thing that I went up to the foredeck looking for something to sketch; this line had somehow untied itself and needed re-cleating!

Ed. note--This sketch reminded me of Captain Nancy's illustrations in Missee Lee!
Find more artwork on TARSUS member Kristin's blog: <http://kaswhite.blogspot.com/>

A Final Note--from your editor

Thanks to Robin for creating our new TARSUS patch! This is a sturdy patch, ready to be sewn to your backpack, hat, purse, jacket--whatever will remind you of your connection to the AR books, and also show other people what you are interested in. To order, e-mail Robin at robspigeonpost@gmail.com. Patched cost \$5.00, including mailing. Take a look at the artwork for the patch:



I have filled most of the back of my car with a variety of bumper stickers that my family has found over the past 10 years, and I love it when someone stands behind the car to read the back end! It is a way for me to share what I believe matters in our lives, and you can do that, too. Simply wear your new patch with pride, and be willing to tell people about the incredible stories behind your patch.

We are all noticing that fewer people seem to be finding the books and joining TARS worldwide. We can help young and older readers find these wonderful books.

Idea #1: Leave a used copy of *Swallows & Amazons* at a coffee shop, in a laundromat, at a doctor's office, or at your hairdresser's. Add a note inside telling the new reader why you left the book and that it is a GIFT for whoever finds it.

Idea #2: Donate a few used copies--the whole canon if you can afford it--to your local public elementary or middle school. Write the web address for TARS on the inside, so readers can look it up and see what we are about.

Idea #3: Talk to your local library about using a display case to show the books and anything else you have--hand-drawn maps are online at www.allthingsransome.net, you can display your TARSUS patch, souvenirs from your trips) to England, photographs of the Ransome sites (also on All Things Ransome).

What are YOUR ideas? Please share them by sending them for publication in future issues!

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P.S. Don't forget to explore the website All Things Ransome, where many of you are reading this uploaded copy right now: <http://www.allthingsransome.net/>

There are many pages full of all sorts of interesting Ransome-related writings! Thanks, Dave Thewlis, for keeping up ATR and uploading Signals from TARSUS issues for us to enjoy :-)