



Signals from TARSUS & North Pole News--January 2013

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Ship's Papers--Important Information for the crew



View from the Helm

By Robin Marshall, TARSUS Coordinator

A very happy 2013 to you all! I hope you all had a Happy Christmas, and with luck some Winter Holiday adventures. It has been some time since I saw snow, and am of an age that's not a great miss.

Recently I was able to meet up with Eric Abraham, on his annual visit to the area with his delightful traveling display of Funtastical Porcelain Works of Art. Eric is one of the few TARSUS members I have met face to face. It is a great pity we have not had great success in having group events. It would be wonderful to meet others. I often think that in areas where there is a concentration of members they could occasionally meet, if only for a cup of tea and a slice of bunloaf.

Texas member Gerard Mittelstaedt suggested combining with some local sailing club or event, but some time ago this was tried by our previous editor on the west coast; it did not bring forth much interest. Maybe other members have some ideas and the willingness to get involved. Contact me if you would like to offer a gathering of any sort.

I am sure most members are aware of Doug Faunt's narrow escape when aboard HMS Bounty, which tragically sunk by the effects of hurricane Sandy. We are so glad fourteen of the crew, including Doug, were rescued very dramatically by the USCG, but are very saddened by the loss of the captain and one crew member. Many of us followed the events closely, as did the national and international media. Real life Drama is much closer to home if you know someone involved. Bounty was heading for Galveston TX, and had planned a stop in St. Petersburg, FL on the way. I was looking forward to meeting Doug; being a member of the local Shanty singers I had hoped we could perform on Bounty.

So far, I have received a good number of renewals for 2013. If you have not renewed yet, please do not forget. When paying by Paypal rather than check, let me know, as the UK does not always notify me. It will save a reminder.

Please welcome these new members:

Marilyn Steele, in Damascus, MD
The Hovey Family, in New York, NY
Sofia Lyons, in Genoa City, WI

Sofia is anxious to meet and correspond with other junior members. She is going to Europe and the UK in the spring and hopes to meet TARS over there. Welcome Aboard to all of you!

Keep warm and have fun,
Robin

The TARS Stall: Currently seems unavailable online. They can be contacted by email at tarsstall@arthur-ransome.org. See *Signals* for address and Tel #. It is a pity as the old system worked well for us overseas. I hope that they will get it sorted out.



Greetings from the North

By Harry Miller, TARSCanada Coordinator

Greetings from the North and best wishes for 2013! For those of you who were expecting a new face I'm still here for the moment. However, Ian Sacré has agreed to take over as Canadian coordinator after this issue. Here are the membership numbers of those from whom I have received payment or have informed me that they have paid directly as of Jan. 7, 2013. For those whose numbers are not on the list below I will still be chasing you up: 381, 465, 476, 550, 772, 934, 1117, 1471, 2030, 2118, 2423, 2760, 3318, 3760, 3981, 4104, 4250, 4389, 4503, 4504, 4745, 4917, 4929.

If you think you have paid me and your number isn't here contact me at: harryandmarymiller@rogers.com or call me at 416-694-6301.

I recently received this email from a grade 3 teacher in Alberta, reproduced with her permission:

Hello! I hope this email finds you well!

I am writing regarding the Arthur Ransome Society, since you are their Canadian contact.

After re-reading, and thoroughly enjoying, his books again in adulthood, I'm wondering if anyone has considered re-publishing the books, with minor changes for Canadian readers. As a teacher, I would love to read these books to my class, but simply can't due to Titty's name and small British language differences. It seems such a shame to not be able to share these excellent adventures with more children! I would be very interested in getting involved in re-writing his stories, if possible. I am quite ignorant of publishing as a whole, so I realize that I may be asking for the impossible, but I'm hoping that you could let me know more. I truly believe that Swallows and Amazons could become household names if the books could only be Canadian-ized!

I look forward to your reply!

Sincerely,

BJ vanden Hoven, Mother and Grade 3 teacher, Barrhead, AB

My response to her:

Thanks for your letter and interest in the books. In talking to my daughters who are now 36 and 34 and basically felt obligated to let me read to them when they were children, they were certainly put off by the name Titty. In a BBC TV dramatization she was called Kitty to which, I believe, some purists took exception.

Have you actually read the books to your students and/or children and have received enthusiastic response? The pace of the stories seems a bit slow for the lives of today's children. I struggled through Swallows and Amazons and Peter Duck with my ten-year-old grandson but gave up half way through each of Swallowdale and Winter Holiday. I know it seem almost a sacrilege but maybe it reflects my competence as a reader. I have hopes for his seven-year-old sister but not quite yet as her favourite author is Dav Pilkey. I'm considering making a "fliporama" of Capt. Flint walking the plank but that's near the end of the book and I worry about reaching that stage.

As far as re-publishing is concerned I am a retired math teacher and have as little idea as you how to proceed. There is an Arthur Ransome Literary Trust which may be hard to satisfy. Across Canada we have only 29 members of TARS (The Arthur Ransome Society) and most of us are old so some way of awakening the interest of younger people would certainly be welcome. We have recently been coordinating with the US branch of TARS and an on-line newsletter appears three times per year. With your permission I would like to copy your email, with or without your name, and this response. The next issue comes out at the end of Jan. and my submission needs to be in by the middle of the month. This goes to all Canadian, US and many other members. We might get some encouraging response. If you agree I will send you a link to this newsletter when I receive it. I'm sorry to be a bit of a wet blanket.

Hoping to hear from you,

Harry Miller

Now I'd like to finish this, my last issue by thanking all of you for your good wishes and friendship over the years and hope to read about your Tarry activities in this journal!

Harry

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Membership Information:

Member Benefits

The descriptions below apply to **TARSUS** and **TARS Canada**** only. Members in other countries receive the publications listed, with the exception of Signals from TARSUS, and pay their local equivalent of the UK prices. **Subscription prices will change to the higher amount listed under each category as of January 1, 2013:**

FAMILY Member: **\$44.00 (2012)** **\$62.75 (2013)**

Family Members receive the following publications:

Mixed Moss, the yearly Literary Magazine

Signals, the news from UK Regions and headquarters, and some overseas groups, three times per year

Outlaw, the newsletter for Junior members

Signals from TARSUS, the quarterly newsletter of TARSUS & TARS Canada.

With a Family Membership, it is necessary to register the names of all members of the family.

ADULT Member: **\$52.50**

Adult Members receive Mixed Moss, Signals and Signals from TARSUS.

SENIOR Member: **\$35.00**

Over 65 years of age you are eligible for Senior Membership & receive the same publications as Adult Members.

STUDENT Member: **\$35.00**

Student members must be engaged in full-time study. They receive the same publications as Adult Members.

JUNIOR Member: **\$17.50**

Junior members, under 17 years of age, receive Signals and Signals from TARSUS, plus Outlaw.

To apply for TARSUS membership, please complete the Application Form (next page).

Send it with your remittance to:

Robin Marshall 210 18th St NW Bradenton FL 34205-6845

robin@arthur-ransome.org

or join online at: <http://arthur-ransome.org/join/index>

To apply for TARS Canada membership, contact:

Harry Miller 284 Kingswood Road, Toronto, ONT M4E 3N7

harryandmarymiller@rogers.com

or join online at: <http://arthur-ransome.org/join/index>

**Renewal of Membership of
THE ARTHUR RANSOME SOCIETY
TARS US (United States) MEMBERS ONLY**

Subscriptions for the calendar year 2013 fall due on **1 January 2013**

Please pay now while you remember - and before we have to spend a lot of time and postage chasing you up, and **you** miss publications!

Newcomers Exempt

If you joined in October, November or December 2012 then your subscription covers 2013 and there is no need for further payment until January 2014.

Pensioner/Senior status: If you are 65 or over then you are eligible for the pensioner/Senior rates.

Additional Voluntary Contribution

The basic subscription, payable by all members, covers the basic operation of the Society, including all the benefits that each member can expect to receive. Any additional donations will be reserved for spending on additional activities or projects. This *may* include, for example: the TARS Library; the Ship's Baby Fund; making donations to outside bodies (such as the Nancy Blackett Trust or Horstead Centre); or helping to increase funding for regional "Books for Schools" schemes. Donations to TARSUS are also welcome to help with the newsletter and prizes for competitions or promotions.

Name:		Membership No:	
*Types of Membership:			
Junior (overseas up to age 16)	\$17.50	<input type="checkbox"/>	Family (overseas) \$67.25 <input type="checkbox"/>
Student (any age in full-time education)	\$35.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	Pensioner (overseas 65+) \$35.00 <input type="checkbox"/>
Adult (overseas)	\$52.50	<input type="checkbox"/>	Corporate (overseas) \$105.00 <input type="checkbox"/>
Additional <u>Voluntary</u> Contribution \$	Please use my contribution as follows: _____		
	(You may indicate more than one use; if you do please advise the proportion to go to each. If you leave this blank the Trustees will decide how to allocate your contribution.)		
TOTAL Subscription + Additional <u>Voluntary</u> Contribution (if any) \$			

Please make cheques (in US Dollars) payable to **The Arthur Ransome Society** and send with this sheet to: **Robin Marshall**
210 N 18th St W
Bradenton, FL 34205-6845 phone (941)896-9169
email: robin@arthur-ransome.org

IMPORTANT: For those who prefer you can now pay by **PayPal** with a **credit card** at http://tarseast.co.uk/TARS_Subscription_Renewals.html Be sure to have your **member number** ready, and remember to check the **overseas member** box. If you have any questions please contact Robin Marshall.

If you have made arrangements to pay by **BANK STANDING ORDER**, please ensure that the amount of the order corresponds to the appropriate subscription rate shown here. If your membership status has changed (e.g.: from Junior to Student on reaching age 16) during the past year, please let Robin Marshall know the details. Otherwise no action is needed on your part to renew your membership and there is no need to return this sheet. However should you wish to make a voluntary contribution in addition to your regular membership payment please use this form and return as above.

TARSUS, TARS Canada & TARS Leadership Information

TARSUS Coordinator: **Robin Marshall** robin@arthur-ransome.org
210 18th 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.

TARS Canada Coordinator: **Harry Miller** harryandmarymiller@rogers.com
234 Kingswood Rd. Toronto, ON M4E 3N7

Canada Members, please contact Harry Miller with your questions, concerns or ideas--he will forward your e-mail or letter to the appropriate board member.

*****NOTE:** After 10 years serving as TARS Canada Coordinator, Harry is stepping down. The new Coordinator will be Ian Sacre. Harry will forward any questions to Ian until we have a new listing.

Signals from TARSUS Editor: **Elizabeth Jolley** erjolley8@gmail.com
675 NW 114th Ave. Portland, OR 97229

All Members--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:

President: Gabriel Woolf
Chairperson: Elizabeth Haworth
Vice Chairperson: Bill Johnson
Company Secretary: Mike Glover
Membership Secretary: David Middleton
Asst. Membership Secretary: Linda Phillips
Treasurer & NBT liaison: Ted Evans
TARS Library: Winifred Wilson
TARS Stall: (in progress)
Signals Editor: David Middleton
Outlaw Editor: Peter Aitchison
Mixed Moss Editor: Nick Hancox
Trustee: Roger James
Trustee: Doug Faunt
Trustee: Christopher Kerwin

Other Overseas Coordinators:

Australia: Janet Allen
New Zealand: Cheryl Paget
Japan: Mikako Tarashima

All Things Ransome, a website devoted to keeping articles, artwork, and anything related to Ransome, is online at: <http://www.allthingsransome.net>

You can find the full archives of *Signals from TARSUS/Canada* on this site--fun reading!

Dipping Our Hands--personal relationships with the books

Camping in Style

By Alistair Bryden

The *Swallows and Amazons* books are all about camping. The camp spots: Wild Cat Island, Swallowdale, the High Fells Camp and Swallow Island, are iconic and memorable because they were described so well. Arthur Ransome also captured the camping experience perfectly, from planning the trip, packing, campsite selection, camp set-up, camp cooking on a fire and living in camp through sun and storms. He had clearly been camping, loved the experience and to prove it, there are pictures of him in camp beside his tent (the one with rabbit ears that he described in the *Swallows and Amazons* series).

However, Ransome couldn't conceive of today's lightweight backpacking camps with aluminium, titanium and nylon. The packing list for Wild Cat Island is anything but lightweight; it included canvas tents and groundsheets, woolen rugs and blankets, and tin biscuit boxes full of equipment, books and food. Other supplies included a heavy farm lantern, a frying pan (cast iron?), a saucepan and a kettle. The food supplies included sacks of potatoes and peas. When 'Swallow' left the dock at Holly Howe, she was full to the gunwales, loaded deep in the water and that wasn't counting the hay bags that Mr. Jackson rowed over later. So the *Swallows and the Amazons* didn't travel light, and consequently like Ransome, they camped in some comfort. They usually established base camps: Wild Cat Island, High Fells Camp and Swallowdale. They usually transported equipment by boat (or dromedary). They rarely carried their equipment far--Swallowdale is a partial exception--and they rarely did what we would call backpacking; the trip to Kanchenjunga is the only example I recall.

Like many TARS members, I read the books at an early age and as my parents never went camping (though I did learn to sail at an early stage) the books were my first exposure to camping. On reflection and as the years have passed, I have concluded that Ransome had the right idea; he wrote about camping in style.

So what does camping in style mean these days? If we exclude backpacking (too much work) car camping, (a bit of a cheat) and exotica such as African safaris, real camping in my mind means getting away from roads, being beside water, sleeping in tents (or even better sleeping outside under the stars) with self propelled transport (no motors). In order of comfort, I have camped overnight with white-water kayaks (canoes in UK), sea kayaks, open Canadian canoes and rafts.

Camping with a white-water kayak is undoubtedly a bit Spartan. Depending on your kayak, there is room for a sleeping bag, and mat, a stove, and maybe a tarp for shelter. Food is severely limited. A friend once planned a trip in white-water kayaks and proposed to live on Oxo cubes. I think we decided this was going a bit far and moved up to dried ramen noodles or the equivalent, but we were not going to be putting on weight on that trip!

Next step up in comfort is a sea kayak. In a sea kayak, you can pack a surprising amount of gear: tents, sleeping bags, tarpaulins, folding stools, food for a week or more, and there is certainly room for some scotch and maybe some wine. Earlier this summer I was sitting on a log on a beach on the West Coast of British Columbia with not another soul other than your party within 20 miles, watching the surf and the sunset, grilling a fresh 15-lb. spring salmon over an open fire, while drinking a glass or three of Cabernet, and it was a wonderful experience!

Camping becomes even more comfortable when you have a canoe (UK Canadian canoe). A canoe lets you bring along everything you can fit in a sea kayak, plus deck chairs, beer and plastic coolers (ice chests) to hold your beer! You get to bring a two-burner stove to cook on and maybe a Dutch oven. (A digression on Dutch ovens. For those who are not familiar with a Dutch oven, it is a heavy cast iron or aluminium pot 10" to 12" in diameter, usually with four short legs and a lid with a raised lip on the outside. I have always imagined that the legendary hot pot that disappeared through the ice described in *Winter Holiday* looked like a Dutch oven. With a Dutch oven, you can do real camp baking and can turn out all manner of dishes including wonderful cakes. The secret is to use charcoal briquettes on the top and bottom, (more on the top less on the bottom so that the dish bakes from the top).

But the clear winner in the self-propelled camping comfort stakes is an inflatable raft with an oar frame on a good river. With a raft you really get to go to town! On the Grand Canyon of the Colorado River a couple of years ago, we camped for 21 days straight with no re-supply. With 5 x 18 foot rafts, we carried food and equipment for 16 people with full kitchen (including Dutch ovens) plus large tables for the cooks. We lived in real comfort and ate wonderfully. In addition to dried goods such as bread, pasta, etc, we had frozen meats, steaks and salmon, vegetables such as cabbages, salads made of lettuce, tomatoes and cucumbers, fruit including apples, limes, and oranges and as large a supply of various types of alcohol as you could wish. After 21 days on the river in hot conditions, we still had ice for gin and tonics on the last day, and it probably cost us less to live on the river than it would living at home! Many of us slept comfortably on the sand or on rafts without tents on a number of nights.

This all sounds quite decadent, and to some extent it is, but I would like to anticipate those hard core backpackers, walkers and hikers who are reading this article with a sense of incredulity and perhaps superiority. As one gets a little older, a measure of comfort means that you are much more likely to make the trip and to find friends to come with you. Particularly on the raft trips, the extra capacity lets one reduce environmental impact to a minimal level. With a raft, you can and do carry everything out, including ash and human waste, so you leave the campsites pristine with no rubbish, fire rings or human waste. Usually the only evidence of your predecessors is their footprints in the sand; sadly it is the hikers who leave a mess.

So I am a camping enthusiast and I measure a good summer by the number of nights spent in a sleeping bag, but increasingly, I appreciate some measure of comfort. Usually this means using some form of watercraft to carry your equipment. Camping doesn't necessarily mean discomfort. Arthur Ransome had the right idea.

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

About That Towed Ship . . .

By Donald Tunnicliff Rice

Coming out beyond the *Cork* was one of the last of the old sailing ships, a four-masted barque, being towed out clear of the shoals before setting sail for the Baltic.

"In ballast," said Daddy. "See how high she is out of the water. She'll have left her grain at Ipswich. She'll have come around the Horn from Australia, and now she's going home."

For me, and I'm sure for many other Tars, those two short paragraphs in WDMTGTS spoke volumes -- and the volumes were written by Alan Villiers. If you haven't already read this well-known Australian's Grain Race Trilogy, I envy you because you have a special treat to look forward to. **

The earliest of the three books, published in 1929, is entitled *Falmouth for Orders: The Story of the Last Clipper Ship Race around Cape Horn* and has since been reprinted. In the book, published when he was still a relative lad of 26, Villiers documents the 1928 voyage of the *Herzogin Cecilie* from Port Lincoln in South Australia to Falmouth. It was a 96-day undermanned journey of some 14,000 miles, battling gales, being becalmed, and getting lost in fog. More than a journey, it was a race with the British ship, *Beatrice* -- a race the *Herzogin Cecilie* won. Winning a grain race was more a matter of gaining prestige than anything else, there being no economic advantage unless you'd placed a wager on the outcome. The cargo was usually wheat, but it might also have been barley for distilleries in Scotland. Villiers spared no details in his retelling of the voyage. How he acquired so much knowledge at such an early age, I can't even guess, but the book is packed with an enormous amount of information about the sea and sailing ships. One of the many incidents he relates was reported in newspapers around the world -- the discovery of a stowaway. What's so newsworthy about a stowaway, you may ask. Well, the stowaway was Jennie Day, a 22-year-old woman -- referred to alternatively in the press as a "girl" and a "brunette" in those benighted times. You can still buy a photo of her online.

Villiers shares the credits for the second book in the trilogy, *By Way of Cape Horn* (1930), with his friend, Ronald Walker. They signed on with the *Grace Harwar* to film what life was like aboard one of the last of the old full-rigged ships, hoping to capture “something of the glory of their wanderings and the courage of their battles with the sea.” It was a good idea, but the *Grace Harwar* was a poorly maintained ship. The journey was a horror, and Walker was killed by a falling yard. There were other mishaps as well, but the book remains a readable and important addition to 20th-century deep-sea literature.

The third installment in the trilogy, *Voyage of the Parma: The Great Grain Race of 1932 from Australia to Falmouth by Way of Cape Horn* (US title: *The Great Grain Race*) was written, according to Villiers, to complete the picture he “set out to give of the graceful wind ships before the last of them departed.” You might think there would have been little left to say on the subject of carrying grain, but you’d be wrong. His ship this time, the 4-masted barque, *Parma*, made the Australia-Falmouth journey in just 83 days, the fastest ever to be achieved on that route by a sailing vessel.

It would have been a nice coincidence indeed if this had been the ship seen by Commander Walker and his children, but it wasn’t. As many will remember, it was the *Pommern*, which, like the *Parma*, was at one time part of the famous Flying P-Line. There’s long been a controversy surrounding the *Pommern*’s timeline *vis-à-vis* the ages of the Walker children. I’ll stay out of that and mention only that today the ship, preserved in the same state as it would have appeared to the Walkers, is a floating museum in the port of Mariehamn in the Åland Islands.

Like AR, Villiers was a man of many parts, but in his case nearly all the parts had something to do with ships, even when he was ashore. He first went to sea when he was 15 and never really came back. As a youngster he learned quickly, yet he once wrote, “No man takes to the sea life naturally.” As Able Seaman, ship-owner, training ship captain, and in many other capacities, he sailed the seven seas and circumnavigated the globe. Among his notable voyages was the 1957 crossing of the *Mayflower II* on which he served as captain. Always a competitor, he beat the original *Mayflower*’s time by 13 days.

During WWII he served with valor during a number of exploits and was promoted to commander, following which he was awarded the British DSC. Ashore he served as the Chairman of the Society for Nautical Research, as Trustee of the National Maritime Museum, and as Governor of the *Cutty Sark* Preservation Society. And all the while he was writing, writing, writing – 25 books in all along with many pieces for the *National Geographic*.

Did AR read any of Villiers's works, particularly the three books in the trilogy? I’ve found no such evidence, but it would hardly be a surprise if he had. I wondered, too, if Villiers was familiar with Ransome’s works. Both authors’ books are found again and again in the same catalogs and reading lists. I got in touch with Villiers's son, Peter, and put the question to him. He didn't think his father “ever met Arthur Ransome or was especially fond of his writings.” This makes sense. After all, Villiers was an Aussie who reveled in sailing around the Horn in a gale. It's unlikely he'd get any special pleasure reading about some middle-class English kids messing about in boats on a big pond. Peter Villiers did note, though, that his mother enjoyed the S&A stories set in the Lake District.

In his mid-forties Alan Villiers wrote an autobiography, *The Set of the Sails*. He would live to be 79, however, and there were still many years and many adventures to account for. I suppose you could consider his entire oeuvre a good summation of his life, but that’s a lot of reading, and he didn’t always tell everything about himself. Fortunately, in 2009 the National Maritime Museum published Kate Lance’s biography, *Alan Villiers: Voyager of the Winds*. I haven’t read it yet; it’s one of those books I’m saving for exactly the right moment.

**If after reading Villiers’s three books – or if you’ve already read them and you’re still thirsting for knowledge about carrying grain from Australia to Europe – you can turn for help to Eric Newby, the long-time travel writer for the *Observer*. In 1938 at age 18 Newby joined the crew of the 4-masted barque *Moshulu* and later used his considerable writing skills to describe the experience in his 1956 book, *The Last Grain Race*. Unlike Villiers, a career sailor who was also a writer, Newby was a writer first and, near as I can tell, a professional seaman on just this one voyage. His writing is more personal – and saltier – than Villiers’s. Copies of the original are kind of pricey, but inexpensive paperback reprints abound on the Internet.

Scotland Yard--members' explanations of the books

Artistic and Arctic Parallels Between Ransome and Arthur Conan Doyle

By Peter Calamai

Even the most fervent admirers of AR's Swallows and Amazons books will acknowledge that his own illustrations, while delightfully evocative, lack a certain something – namely faces. Where children are concerned this omission is deliberate.

Why? For public consumption, Ransome drafted this playful explanation:

"There are savage tribes who think it is unlucky to have their portraits made. My characters belong to these savage tribes, and it is only fair to them that I should guard them from falling under the evil eye of the author.

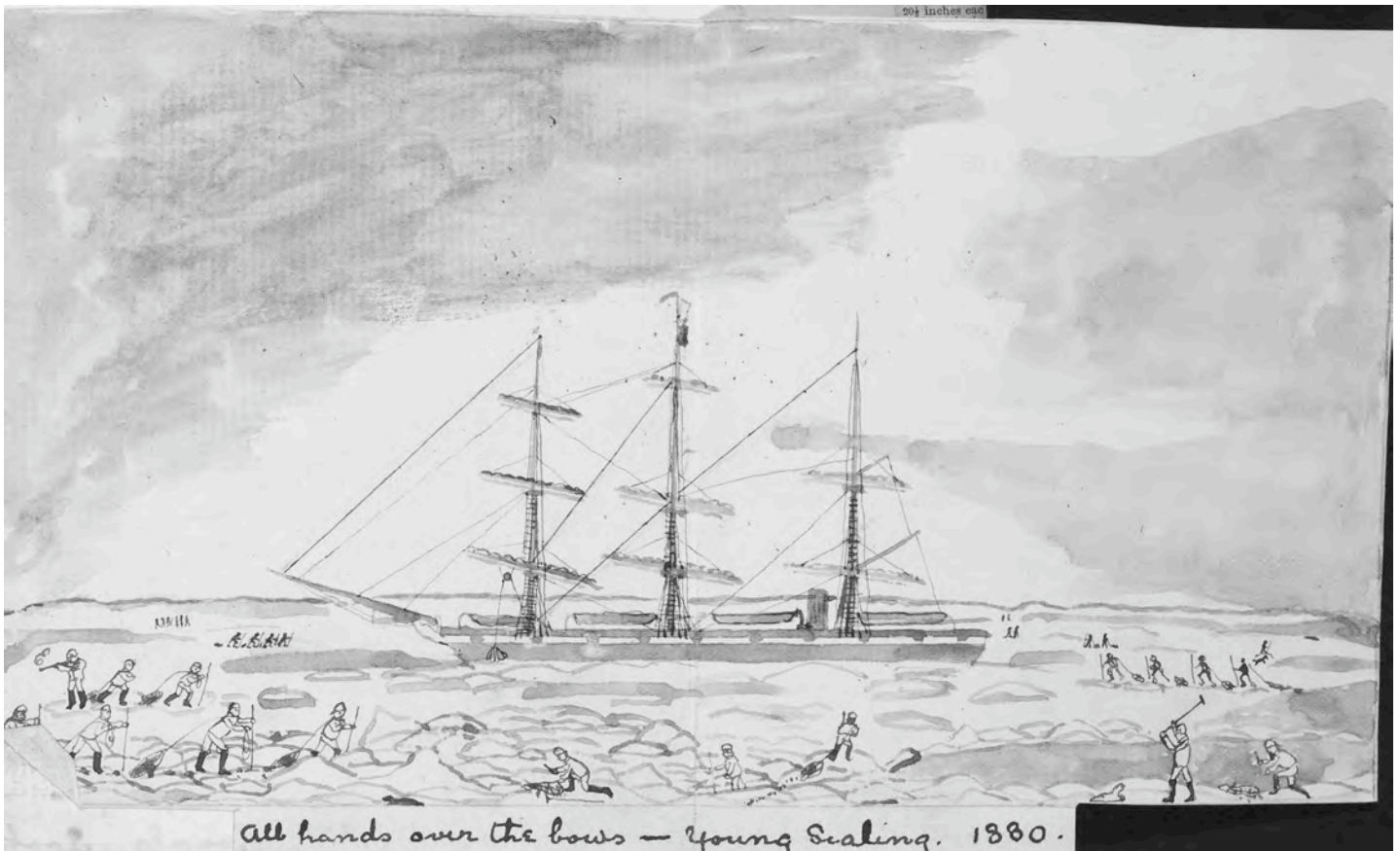
Nancy, my chief collaborator, heartily agrees with me."

However, there is a far more pragmatic explanation for the unformed children's faces, as proposed by the collaborators in *The Best of Childhood* :

"Ransome almost always choose to draw the action from over the shoulders of his characters, and even when the figures are distant they are usually seen from the rear. He hoped, by this means, to help children identify with his characters regardless of their own personal appearance. One of the reasons that Ransome rejected the illustrations by Stephen Spurner for the first edition of SA was that the children were always facing the reader. In contrast, he "very much" approved of the lack of detail in the faces of the children in the illustrations for the Canadian edition."

Yet Ransome also eschewed detail for the faces of many adult characters. For instance, what does Captain Flint look like? Or Miss Lee, Peter Duck, Mrs. Dixon

In 1950 a review in the *Times Literary Supplement* contended that adult admirers of Ransome's children's books were apt to be people who, in their own childhood, were intoxicated by the heady delights of Stevenson, Conan Doyle and John Buchan and lived in those imaginary worlds.



"All hands over the bows--Young Sealing. 1880"

Reprinted from "Dangerous Work" courtesy of Conan Doyle Estate Ltd.

The link between Arthur Ransome (AR) and Arthur Conan Doyle (ACD) became even stronger with the publication in October of *Dangerous Work: Diary of an Arctic Adventure* which is a facsimile reproduction of the log which Doyle kept of his almost six months as a surgeon aboard a Scottish whaling vessel in the spring and summer of 1880.



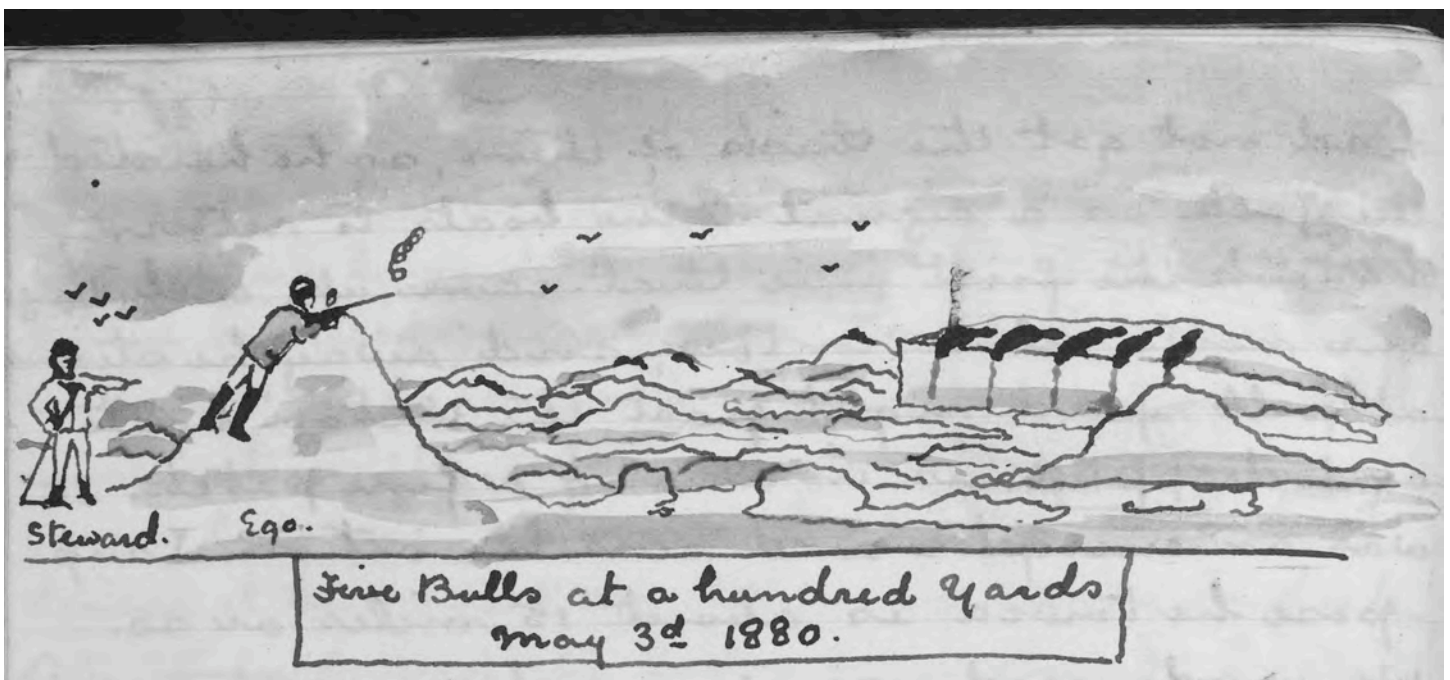
"Natural Ice House. Lat. 73.15. Long. 6 W."

Reprinted from "Dangerous Work" courtesy of Conan Doyle Estate Ltd.

Although ACD was still a medical student at the time (he turned 21 during the voyage), the log displays many of the attributes that helped shape his later success in life – stamina, pluck, quicksilver observation, unrelenting curiosity and an apparently effortless prose style. More importantly for our purposes, it also includes 60 drawings which Doyle made in his log.

This is a rare cache because ACD, unlike AR, did not illustrate his own writings later in life, although he came from a family of artists. Instead, drawings by professional illustrators such as Sidney Paget and Frederic Dorr Steele graced the Sherlock Holmes stories in England and America.

The ACD drawings in *Dangerous Work* display eerie similarities to AR's drawings in the Swallows and Amazons series. Both mostly depict natural settings; both have a high quotient of adventure scenes; both are predominantly black and white; both show human figures mostly in outline and – most strikingly – both avoid presenting characters face-on.



"Five Bulls at a hundred yards. May 3rd 1880."

Reprinted from "Dangerous Work" courtesy of Conan Doyle Estate Ltd.

Doyle's ship, the SS Hope, spent most of its time in ice-strewn waters off the east coast of Greenland. Not surprisingly, the drawings in *Dangerous Work*, are most evocative of AR's drawings in *Winter Holiday*, especially those of the trek to the North Pole.

The key distinction is, of course, that ACD was drawing from life, and AR from his imagination. With that in mind it is remarkable how well the Ransome drawings of "Arctic" adventure compare to reality – even without faces.

Dangerous Work: Diary of an Arctic Adventure

By Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

Edited by Jon Lellenberg and Daniel Stashower

University of Chicago Press, 368 p., 60 colour plates, 12 halftones

ISBN 978-0-226-00905-6

\$35

[Native Post--links to stuff you might want to know about](#)

Lakeland Cam

Tony Richards' website

Article by Elizabeth Jolley

One of my favorite daily moments is when I open the website named Lakeland Cam. Tony Richards, a retired postman who lives in Coniston Village, walks his dog every day & shoots amazing scenery photos. He posts 5 or more photos of the local area each day, sometimes posting from his vacations, allowing us to see beaches & cities of England. Mostly, I like the photos from right around Coniston Water, showing 'Wildcat' Island (Peel Island is its real name), 'Kanchenjunga' (The Old Man of Coniston), and other scenes familiar to those of us who have read & re-read AR's wonderful stories. Here are a few photos around Coniston in the past two days (January 15-16), reminding me of Winter Holiday:



Sheep on High Greenland



Skating Tarn



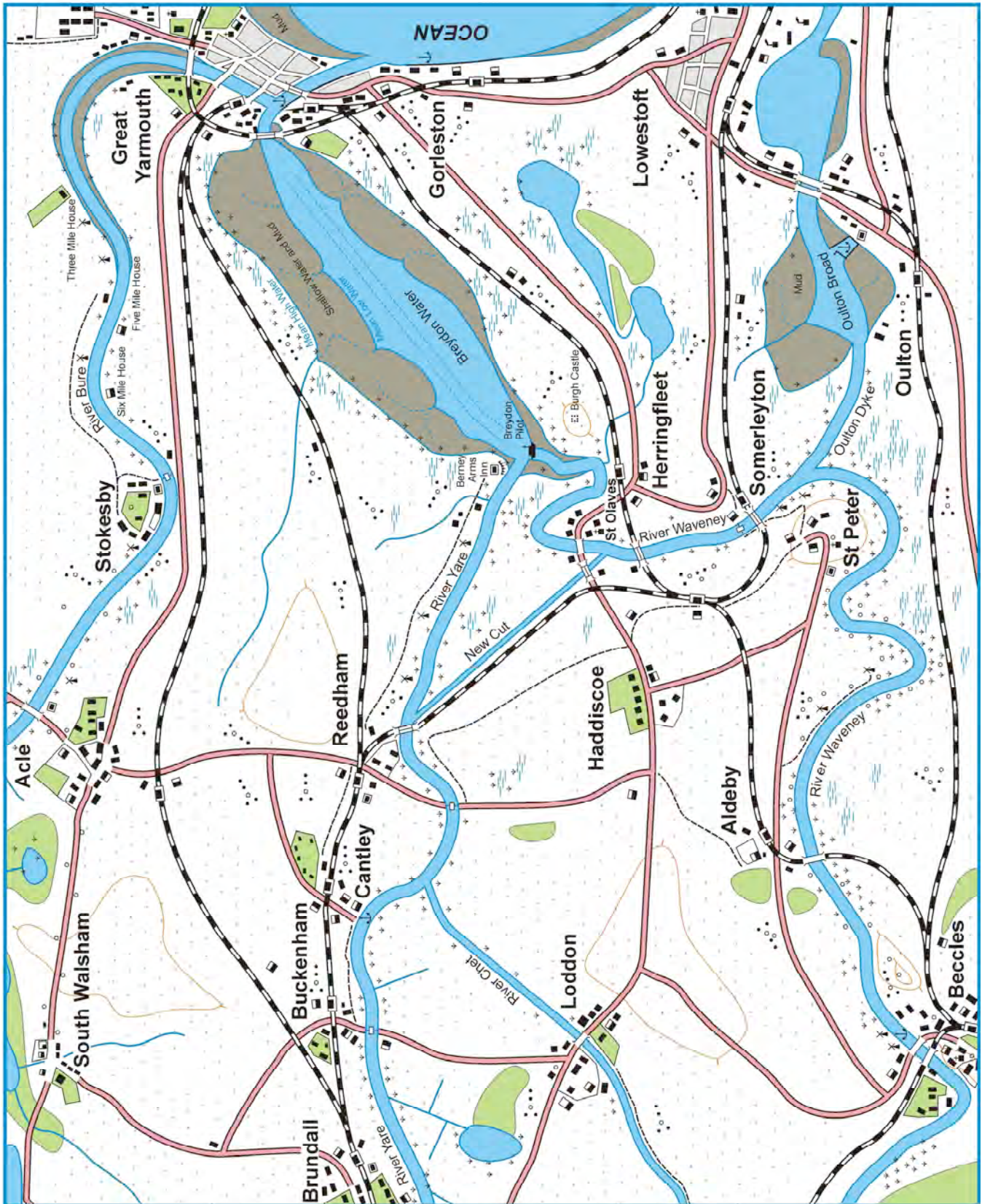
Where they stopped the doctor



Kanchenjunga

Mrs. Barrable's Gallery--artwork by members

By Petr Krist, Czech TARs



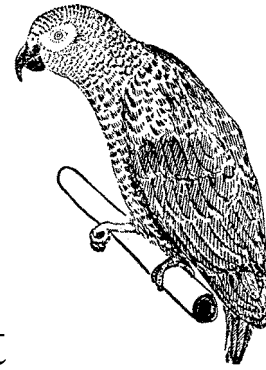
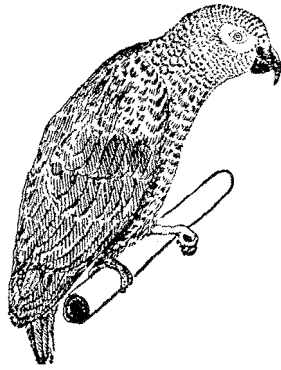
Captain Flint's Trunk--news from abroad

Word search puzzle from 'Furthest South', AusTARS & TARS NZ

Sailing

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

BARQUE	LATEEN	SHIP
BERMUDA	LOWER	SLOOP
BRIG	LUGSAIL	SPINNAKER
CAT	MAIN	SQUARE
CHUTE	MARCONI	STAYSAIL
CUTTER	MIZZEN	TOPGALLANT
FELUCA	MOONRAKER	TOPMAST
FLANKER	OUTER	TOPSAIL
FORE	POLACRE	TURBOSAIL
GAFF	RIGGED	UPPER
GENOA	RINGTAIL	WINGSAIL
JIB	ROTORSAIL ROYA	YAWL
JUNK	SAIL	
KETCH	SCHOONER	



Pieces of Eight

The Junior Pages

Edited by Jessika Hodgson and Hannah Hodgson

Hot Spiced Pirate Grog

What do cold pirates (and explorers, scientists, authors, savages, etc.) enjoy to warm them up during their Winter Holidays? This delicious spiced "grog", of course! Make batch for your family some wintry evening:

Ingredients: 2 quarts apple cider ¼ cup packed brown sugar ¼ tsp. salt
1 large orange, quartered, with peel still on
1 cinnamon stick
2 paper coffee filters or a piece of cheesecloth folded to ~6" x 6"
1 rubber band or longer twist-tie
1 tsp. whole cloves ½ tsp. whole allspice 1 pinch ground nutmeg

Directions: Place 4-quart pot on stove over medium-high heat. Pour in cider, and stir in brown sugar and salt. Drop orange pieces & cinnamon stick into pot.

Carefully put the whole cloves, whole allspice, & ground nutmeg into the center of the coffee filter or cheesecloth. Use a rubber band or twist-tie to secure the edges, creating a little bag of spices. Drop this into the cider.

Bring the mixture to a gentle boil, then turn down to low heat & simmer for about 30 minutes. The sweet, spicy aroma will waft through your house! Enjoy hot in a really nice mug :-)

TEST YOURSELF: Quiz from UK Television Show "Mastermind"

1. What's the family name of the children who make up the crew of the good ship Swallow in Swallows and Amazons?
2. The first book in the Swallows and Amazons series is dedicated by Arthur Ransome to the six to whom it was written in exchange for what?
3. What's the pirate name of Ruth Blackett as tomboy and master of the Amazon, she took it when told the Amazons were ruthless?
4. The mysterious Timothy in Pigeon Post turns out to have been Captain Flint's prospecting partner in South America, much to the children's disappointment. What did they expect him to be?

5. Which of the Walker children brings the book 'Simple Cooking for Small Households' to the ship's library on the expedition to Wildcat Island in Swallows and Amazons?
6. What is the name of the rock Swallow is wrecked on in high winds in Swallowdale? (The children have to haul the boat onto the beach as part of a salvage operation)
7. In Great Northern, which of the children, a keen bird-watcher, takes what are said to be the first five photographs ever taken of a Great Northern Diver nesting in the British Isles?
8. In what language is the writing in the mysterious notebook that Roger finds hidden in the box in the Pighthouse in Great Northern?
9. Who, in the make-believe game played by the children in Secret Water, is sacrificed, put in a cooking-pot, and later reluctantly rescued after the Swallows are captured by the savage Eels?
10. In the Big Six, Dorothea takes down the Coot Club sign at the club shed and writes the new sign on the back saying what?
11. According to the original ship's papers of the Swallow what is the name of the ship's homeport?
12. In Pigeon Post what's the title of the first sea shanty the Swallows sing while wheeling the handcart and their bicycle over the hills to Tyson's Farm?
13. An animal called Sinbad is rescued from a wrecked chicken coop and is nursed back to health with medicinal alcohol and Carnation milk in We Didn't Mean To Go To Sea. What type of animal?
14. Who is the broad-shouldered skipper of the Goblin who avoids a crash thanks to John's knot-tying skills in We Didn't Mean To Go To Sea?
15. At what activity, which uses muscles that seem to be mostly on holiday did Dick and Dorothea turn out to be surprisingly skilled in Winter Holiday?
16. Of which organisation, as part of the Coot Club, is the Death and Glory a patrol boat?

How did you do? On the episode televised (in the UK) on the 18th of January, a young lady answered questions on Swallows and Amazons as her specialist subject (the questions covered all the books). She scored 15 out of 16 points and went on to win with 27 points!

The Nightfire Pirates, Part 3

By Hannah Hodgson

Jeremiah sat at the edge of his bed. The ship was quiet, except for the methodical footsteps of the night watchman up on deck. He fiddled with the strings on Williams' bag. Surely Williams wouldn't mind, if he knew. Not as if there would be too much in there. But he could take what he needed. He would have to leave the rest.

Jeremiah leaned his head back against the rocking of the ship. He didn't quite know what to do, and for the first time in his life, he realized he was only seven years old. He knew he couldn't overpower the night guard. He would have to use stealth. He thought of the stories he loved. Robin Hood. He would have to be like Robin Hood.

He sat up again, taking a deep breath. He quickly undid the drawstring and pulled the bag open. By the dim light of the candle he had lit, he picked through the belongings. He pulled out shirts and other pieces of clothing. There was a tin of biscuits, to Jeremiah's relief. He set it aside. Digging deeper into the bag, he found another box. He set that aside as well without looking too much at it. At the bottom of the bag was a knife. Jeremiah weighed it in his hand, threw it back into the bag, then thought better of it and set it with his two boxes.

Among the clothing was a warm coat. Jeremiah put it on. It sagged all over, and the sleeves were much

too long, so he rolled them up as best as he could. He then took a shirt and tied up the knife, the boxes, and a few of the extra pairs of clothing.

He hopped off the bed lightly, then tiptoed toward the stairs. He climbed upward softly, and breathed a little easier in the fresh air that wafted at him as he reached the deck. He looked around, hurrying as quietly as he could toward the lifeboat. He had just about made it when a hand grabbed him by his collar and turned him briskly around.

Muskrat's face was close to his. "And where're you headed, eh?"

Jeremiah didn't answer, and Muskrat pulled him even closer. "And what have you got in here?" He jerked Jeremiah's makeshift sack from him.

Jeremiah found his voice. "Some...some food. That's all."

"Ah, you little thief. I knew there was something off about you. It's off to the Captain with you."

He dragged Jeremiah toward the Captain's quarters and banged on the door. After hearing a grunt from Captain Steel, Muskrat threw open the door and shoved Jeremiah in.

Captain Steel looked up uninterestedly. "What is it, Muskrat?"

"This boy. Running off with our provisions!" Muskrat tossed Jeremiah's sack onto Captain Steel's table.

"I didn't steal them!" Jeremiah protested. "I swear I didn't. They were in Wi—in my bag."

"Then why were you running?" Captain Steel asked, beginning to untie the knot on the shirt.

"Because...because I don't like pirates!"

Captain Steel looked at Jeremiah with a strange glint in his eyes, then opened the sack. He tossed aside the knife and the clothing. He opened the first box. Biscuits dumped onto the table. He then proceeded to open the second box. His eyes widened as he beheld the contents.

"Where did you get this?" he said abruptly.

"I told you already. From my bag."

"Where did you get this?" Captain Steel had gotten up. Jeremiah trembled a little under his glare.

"I...I already told you."

Captain Steel knelt down to eye level. "The owner of that is a dead man. How did it come to be in your bag?"

"It's...it's not actually my bag," Jeremiah blurted.

"Who's is it?"

"A man. I didn't steal it. But I was keeping it for him when I fell in your crate and couldn't get out."

"Who was he? Where was he?"

"I don't know. I think...I think his name was...I don't know his name!" Jeremiah's mind was working quickly. He did not like the look in Captain Steel's eyes. He did like Williams.

Captain Steel stood up. "Was he tall? Large beard? Red hair?"

Jeremiah let out a breath. "No. No, he didn't look like that at all. He had sandy brown hair. Clean-shaven. No beard at all!"

A dark look passed over Captain Steel's face. "Williams," he muttered.

Jeremiah's heart sank.

"Muskrat. Out."

Muskrat stalked out.

"You. How do you know Williams?"


"I...I don't..." Tears welled up in Jeremiah's throat. "I don't know him at all. He was sh-showing me his ship. I was on the dock and—"

"What was the name of his ship? WHAT WAS IT?"

Jeremiah's heart burst as he heard the words jump out of his mouth. "*Lady Marie.*"

Captain Steel stomped out of his quarters and slammed the door. Jeremiah put his head in his hands. He sniffed. Then he got up, ran over to Captain Steel's table, and grabbed the box. He opened it quickly. Inside were three things. The first was a silver chain, on which hung a locket. Jeremiah opened it with his fingernail, and inside was a picture of a beautiful woman. The second thing was a card. An Ace of Spades. And the third thing was a map. Jeremiah's heart skipped a beat. A treasure map.

Juniors--Please remember your *Signals from TARSUS/Canada* connection when you upload photos of your Winter Holidays, or any fun activity you do! Send your photos with captions to: Jessika Hodgson creativejessika@msn.com so she can publish them in a future Pieces of Eight!

Final Note-- "Farewell and adieu to you fair Spanish ladies" --until next issue!

I am lucky to live in a part of the US where winters are fairly mild--we are 'suffering' a cold spell right now that has lasted about a week with low temps of around 28 above zero. I know many of you have much colder winter weather to deal with. However, I do miss having snow during the winter, as we sometimes go without any at all. A few days ago, we awoke to an early morning frozen mist coating branches, stems, grasses, and fir needles. Each tiny part of every living plant was coated with not just frost, but frost growing on top of frost--the thickest I have ever seen. I could see every tiny little piece of the trees, bushes & weeds, outlined in brilliant white frost. It was pretty amazing! Unfortunately I did not have my camera with me, or I would share with all of you.

Thanks to everyone who shared their articles for this issue, and I want to urge members who enjoy reading *Signals from TARSUS/Canada*, but who haven't ever submitted anything, to find something you can share with the rest of us. AR's characters were deeply involved with the outdoors around them, and his descriptions are lyrical. What do you see in your outdoors? Where do you travel? What activities do you enjoy? Send me your stories and photos, ideas, theories, recipes, crafts, good books to read....whatever you want to share I will publish for everyone to enjoy!

Elizabeth Jolley
erjolley8@gmail.com