



Arthur Ransome Literary Estate

Introduction

Arthur Ransome died on 3rd June, 1967.

Copyright terms

Arthur Ransome's works will remain in copyright in the UK until 31st December, 2037, in accordance with current legislation (the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act, 1988).

Copyright status in other territories depends on those territories' copyright laws. Countries that are signatories to the Berne Convention will apply the same author's life + 70 years term as the UK. However, there may be detailed differences arising from different countries' historical laws.

The USA is probably the most significant of these. All of Arthur Ransome's works published before 31 December, 1922, are out of copyright within the USA and its dependent territories. All of his works published from 1 January, 1923 onwards are in copyright. This is by virtue of the Uruguay Round Agreements Act (URAA), signed into US law in December, 1994. The URAA implemented the Uruguay round of the Global Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. Its relevance, for Ransome's works, is that it automatically restored copyright, within the US, for post-1922 works by foreign authors that were still under copyright in their source country.

A number of countries maintain shorter copyright terms than the life + 70 years Berne standard. These include Canada, at life + 50 years. Under Canadian law, Ransome's works entered the public domain on 1 January, 2018.

Whether they have done so permanently may be another matter. This is because Canada signed the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) treaties in 2016, one of whose clauses committed the Canadians to adopting the Berne standard for copyright. It is not clear, at present, whether the necessary changes to Canadian copyright would mirror the US precedent by reviving copyrights for foreign works. Neither is it certain that Canadian copyright law will actually be revised. This is because the USA's unilateral withdrawal from the TPP, in 2017, has thrown the Partnership's entire future into doubt. It remains to be seen whether or how the other partner countries will proceed. It may be that Canada will eventually enter into modified treaties requiring changes to its domestic copyright periods. Or it may not. The best advice, at present, is probably to be aware that Canadian law *may* change and that there are precedents, from other countries, for revival of copyright in such circumstances.



Arthur Ransome Literary Estate

So long as Ransome's works remain in copyright, they form his Literary Estate. The Estate is managed by Executors, in accordance with Ransome's own instructions. The current Executors are Christina Hardyment, Geraint Lewis and Paul Flint.

The Estate and the Arthur Ransome Trust

To avoid any confusion, it should be noted that the Estate is not a part of the Arthur Ransome Trust, nor is the Trust a part of the Estate. The Trust and the Estate are completely separate legal entities.

That said, the Executors approve of the Trust's charitable aims and the Trust is very grateful for their encouragement and support. In particular, the Trust is grateful for the Executors' permission to use the Estate's copyright material, including on this website. Details of the material used on the website can be found on our Copyright and Trademark notice.

Geraint Lewis and Paul Flint are Executors of the Arthur Ransome Literary Estate, and Trustees of the Arthur Ransome Trust.

Copyright material

It should be apparent from the above that the Trust does not own rights to Ransome's works, nor is the Trust in a position to grant rights to individuals or other organisations to use copyright material belonging to the Estate. If anybody wishes to use such material, they need to seek permission from the Executors or, where applicable, from their publishers.

Random House hold exclusive licences in the UK and overseas (excepting USA and its dependent territories) to publish the Swallows and Amazons series through their Jonathan Cape (hardback), Red Fox (paperback) and Random House Childrens' Books Digital imprints. Anybody wishing to use quotations, drawings or bookcovers from the series or these other titles should contact Random House in the first instance. Note that permission fees are usually charged.

David R Godine holds licences to publish the twelve Swallows and Amazons series novels in the USA and its dependent territories. Permissions to use material within those territories should therefore be addressed to David R Godine.

Enquiries in respect to unpublished material, copyright material currently out of print, or other Ransome works currently in print should be made directly to the Estate. Again fees may be charged.

There are substantial Ransome archives in the Brotherton Collection, within the Special Collections Department of Leeds University Library and at The Museum of Lakeland Life, at Abbot Hall in Kendal. Note that if you wish to use material from either location you will also need their respective permission to use it, and they may choose to levy their own charges independently of any required by the Estate.

Trademark

The phrase “Swallows and Amazons” is a registered trademark of The Arthur Ransome Literary Estate (UK Trademark No 2219604). If you wish to exploit the trademark, whether for commercial or non-commercial purposes, permission must be sought from the Executors. Please note that permission will not be automatic and fees may be charged.

Contacts

You may contact the Estate using this email:

arthur-ransome-literary-executors@allthingsransome.net.

Please note that this email address is a complimentary service provided by All Things Ransome. Emails sent to this address are forwarded automatically to the three Executors and are not read by anybody at All Things Ransome.

For permissions enquiries relating to the *Swallows and Amazons* novels, please contact the Estate’s publishers as follows:

- UK & World (excl USA): The Permissions and Contracts Administrator, The Random House Group, Penguin Random House UK, 20 Vauxhall Bridge Rd, LONDON, SW1V 2SA, United Kingdom. Tel:+44 (0)20 7840 8448.
- USA: David R. Godine, Publisher, Fifteen Court Square, Suite 320, Boston, Massachusetts 02108. Tel:617-451-9600