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## ARTHUR RANSOME'S LAKE DISTRICT

*Jon Sparks*

Arthur Ransome's 'Swallows and Amazons' books have never been out of print since they first appeared in the 1930s and '40s. They remain popular with today's children, and command a large and loyal adult following. Their appeal owes a great deal to the fact that they are populated by real people, and that they inhabit real places and sail real boats.

Award-winning photographer and writer Jon Sparks knows the stories well, and is equally familiar with the Lake District landscapes which inspired them. Now he has produced an in-depth guide to that landscape, which in many places has changed remarkably little since Ransome's time. He has done extensive detective work and exploration to unearth the real-life counterparts of the fictional locations, and has some original ideas about them. But what really sets this book apart from previous ones on the same subject is the photography; in full colour throughout, it is everything you would expect from a leading Lake District photographer.



**Jon Sparks** is an award-winning photographer and writer. He has lived in Lancaster for most of his life, and his photographic career was founded on local photography. He has subsequently worked on five continents, but still feels that North West England is a great place to live as well as an exciting one to photograph.

As well as several books of photography for Halsgrove, Jon has produced guidebooks for walkers, climbers and cyclists, contributes to a range of magazines and has published greetings cards, postcards and calendars.



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**Swallows and Amazons**

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**Swallowdale**

**Winter Holiday**

**Pigeon Post**

**The Picts and the Martyrs**

**Voyage 2 – Coniston Water**

**Mixed Moss – Arthur Ransome’s**

**life and the background to the stories**



The original Amazon at Windermere Steamboat Museum.



Example of a double page spread.



Launch on Windermere with snow on the Coniston Fells behind.



Friar's Crag, Derwent Water.



The view from Hawk Rigg, with the Langdale Pikes on the skyline.



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