



Robert Louis Stevenson Club of Monterey



Celebrating the life and works of RLS since 1994

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A Google Online "Salon," February 2022.

Details will be mailed to members in January. This will be a brainstorming session for program ideas. **What would you like to do when Club members get together?** -- read/discuss works of RLS, take field trips, watch films of his works, learn from speakers, tour Stevenson House, perform a play about RLS.....etc.

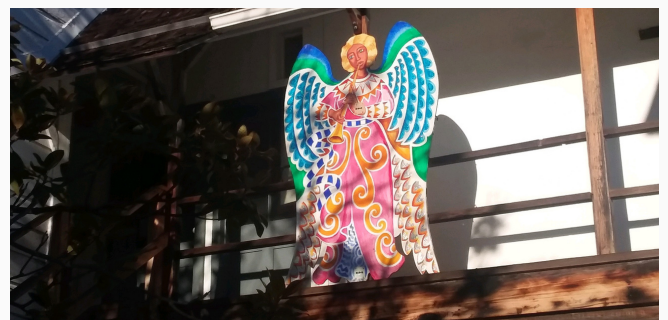
RLS CLUB OF MONTEREY BOARD ELECTION RESULTS

Congratulations to our nine nominees who have been elected to two-year terms commencing on January 1, 2022. Thirty-eight "Aye" votes and zero "Nay" votes were tallied. Thanks to all who participated for your unanimous endorsement. Your New Board is:

President	Monica Hudson
V.P. - Historian	Lindy Perez
Treasurer	Harish Joshi
Secretary	Bob Fisher
At-large	Bende Kelly
At-large	Mimi Sheridan
Newsletter Publisher/co-Editor	Donna Gibson
Hospitality, Community Outreach, Librarian	Ruth Krotzer
Programming and Events Coordinator	Gerry West

Through our volunteer efforts, each taking a turn, we can continue to enjoy and benefit from a strong, active, and successful literary society. We thank all members for their interest and passion in contributing to the goal of celebrating the life and work of Robert Louis Stevenson. **Bob Fisher**, Chair, Nominating Committee

Christmas in the Adobes will be held Friday, December 10, and Saturday, December 11, 2021, 5-9 pm in downtown Monterey. Eighteen historic buildings, including **Stevenson House**, will be decorated and filled with music and volunteers in period dress. Masks required. For ticket information, please visit www.mshpa.org.



**Reminder
2022 Dues
see p. 6**

'Inspired by Robert Louis Stevenson – A Life-Long Treasure Hunt'



To celebrate the 142nd anniversary of Stevenson's arrival in Monterey on August 30, 1879, Roger G. Swearingen was invited to speak to a joint gathering of the Pacific Grove Heritage Society and the RLS Club of Monterey on Saturday, August 28. Looking back on his own fifty-plus years of reading and studying Stevenson, the well-known writer and scholar explained with many illustrations the four features of Stevenson's writing that have sustained, and continue to sustain, his interest.

Swearingen asserted that Stevenson wrote extraordinarily well. He took trouble over his writing, and it shows. Stevenson was versatile. As Henry James remarked in 1888, 'it is a delight to read him and ... he renews this delight by a constant variety of experiment. ... Each of his books is an independent effort - a window opened to a different view'. Stevenson never wrote the same book twice.

Stevenson was engaged ethically, again and again giving substance and form to the struggle to find one's way in a Darwinian universe; to endure although one cannot master situations in which no good deed goes unpunished and one's fate is not one's own; and to conflicts of duty and inclination, speaking and silence. Stevenson rendered what he could not master or explain ... creating parables rich in ethical substance but without ethical intent.

Finally, Stevenson's work continually surprises; the most recent instance of this for Swearingen is the importance of music to Stevenson and the compositions he wrote. No better guide exists, he noted, than John Russell's masterful 'Music of Robert Louis Stevenson' website:

<https://sites.google.com/a/music-of-robert-louis-stevenson.org/introduction/>

Stevenson was a celebrity, in his own time and today. But what matters, according to Swearingen, is what he wrote. As G. K. Chesterton remarked in 1927: 'His life really was romantic, but to repeat that romance is like reprinting the Scarlet Pimpernel or offering the world an entirely new portrait of Rudolph Valentino'.

It must be said that many of us in Monterey love to recall the romance and retell stories about this remarkable man.

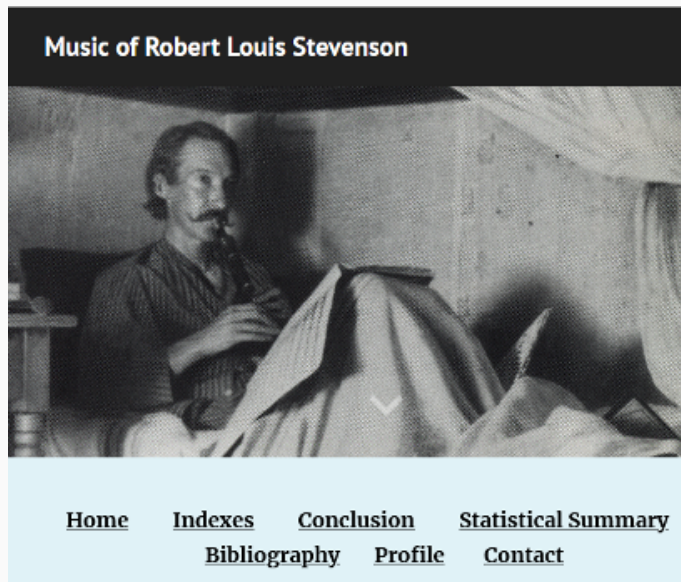


Looking for some good "reads" for the holidays? Our RLS Lending Library is available solely for members. Contact Ruth Krotzer if interested at (831) 601-1894

**The RLS Club website <https://rlsclubmonterey.org/>
email to rlsclubmonterey@outlook.com**

The Music of RLS

By request from many in the audience on August 30, Roger Swearingen sent the following references: <https://sites.google.com/a/music-of-robert-louis-stevenson.org/introduction/>



Compiled and maintained by John Russell, 20 years Special Collections music cataloguer at Northwestern University. Details on manuscripts of more than 170 musical works by RLS, mid-1886 (age 35) to 1892, none published during his lifetime. Includes sources, scores, and audio examples. Many of RLS's works (~60 per cent) are arrangements of songs, dances, and familiar instrumental works for pennywhistle, flageolet, clarinet, violin, piano, and other instruments. Often adapted from published scores, to play at home. But there are ~40 original compositions by RLS and 10 settings by RLS of poems of his to the music of others.

Web Links to Musical Selections

- Ralph Vaughan Williams, in 'The Vagabond' (1904).
Bryn Terfel, 1995.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jX597ZOyVCo>

Also: Thomas Allen/Simon Rattle, City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, 1993.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bSJxTZjTKew>

- 'Aberlady Links' (probably 1888), manuscript in Monterey State Historic Park Collection.
From a Garden of Songs: Songs from the poetry of Robert Louis Stevenson (2009).
<https://musicscotland.com/products/from-a-garden-of-songs-robert-louis-stevenson>

- 'Skye Boat Song' ... Harold Boulton and Annie MacLeod, Songs of the North, from the Highlands and Lowlands of Scotland (1885).
The Corries, Scottish Love Songs (1970).
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n1CTxa-FuKc>

- 'Over the Sea to Skye' . . . RLS lyrics, Songs of Travel (1896), XLII.
The McCalmans, Scots Abroad (2006).
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=evMruRh-Hxk>

- 'Over the Sea to Skye' . . . RLS lyrics, Songs of Travel (1896), XLII.
Opening theme, Outlander (STARZ TV) changing 'lad' to 'lass'. Recording: Kathryn Jones.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-zQoQ1ckFxl>

RLS and the Work Ethic of Writing by Donna Gibson



Robert Louis Stevenson's talents as an author extended to a plethora of literary forms including plays, poetry, essays, travel logs, short stories, novels, criticism, and correspondence. He is considered one of the most successful and versatile writers in the last half of the nineteenth century. His career as a writer took place while he and his family traveled extensively, and it is astounding to consider his productivity while working on multiple articles within the same time period, all the while dealing with his continual poor health.

Stevenson's own description of the aim of his art was published in the *San Francisco Chronicle*, Dec 17, 1894, p.1. as quoted in the introduction to *The Complete Stories of Robert Louis Stevenson*,

edited by Barry Menikoff, p.xix-xx. "When I am making a point I try to do it in the smallest possible space. I do not think a reader should be expected to plod through pages of print to find out what I mean. The great difficulty I have is in compressing my matter. I can always tell when an author does not write over and over again. The most rapid and fluent writer cannot arrange the mass of material that goes to make up a book without having it out of order here and there. Order is the basis, the charm and end of literature. Literature is an art that takes place in time. Therefore the main point is to be certain that you have everything in proper order. That you can never get in the first shot. That is my experience." His writings were a noted departure from the three-volume, ponderous prose of earlier Victorian authors; he chose to entertain the reader with concise story-telling and a laser focus on choosing the right phrasing and order, a defining characteristic of all of his fiction.



An example of how his writing continued over various locations and years is illustrated by the classic novel *Treasure Island*. The story, initially called *The Sea Cook*, was written to amuse his stepson Lloyd Osbourne, while in Braemar, Scotland, in October 1881. The family then traveled to Davos, Switzerland, October 1881-April 1882, where he completed *Treasure Island*. During the same time-period, he corrected proofs of *Familiar Studies of Men and Books* and wrote *Silverado Squatters*, based on RLS and Fanny's honeymoon in an abandoned mining camp on Mount St Helena, CA, in addition to writing stories that he would include in *New Arabian Nights*, published in 1882.

The family then travelled to Hyeres, France, where they would stay from late February 1883 until early June 1884. While there, RLS corrected proofs for *Treasure Island* published in 1883 and *Silverado Squatters*, published in 1884. In the same time period, RLS was working on *A Child's Garden of Verses*, *Prince Otto*, and *The Black Arrow*, published

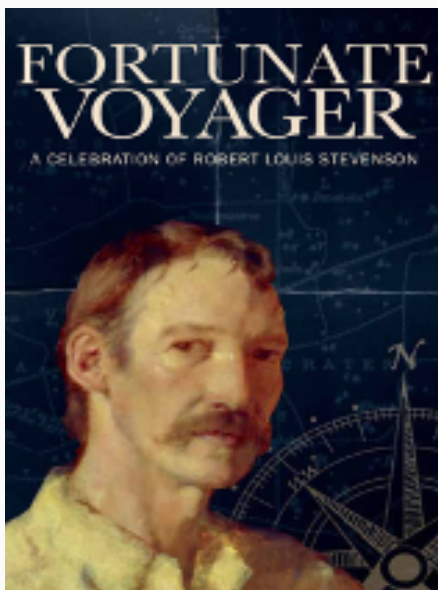
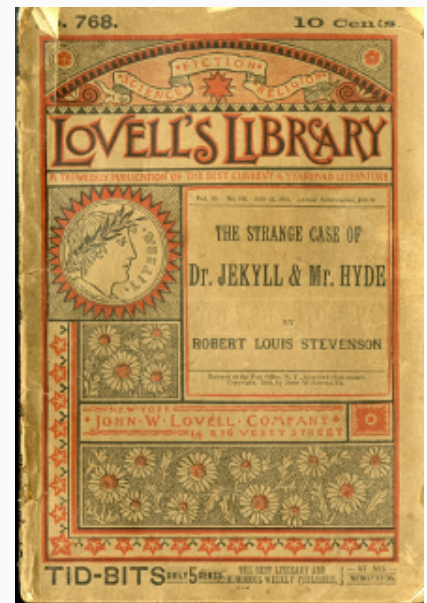
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in later years, while working on *More New Arabian Nights*; *The Dynamiter*, along with other writings. The family then settled in Bournemouth, England, from July 1884 through August 1887, where RLS would complete the works started in Hyeres (*A Child's Garden of Verses* 1885, *Prince Otto* 1885), while writing *Jekyll and Hyde*, 1886, and *Kidnapped*, 1886.

Altogether, the time period of 1881-1884 is among RLS's most productive, establishing him as one of the most successful fiction writers of the last half of the nineteenth century, and providing the financial security for his writing career.

For more on RLS's travels, visit In the Footsteps of RLS/Robert Louis Stevenson. <http://robert-louis-stevenson.org/in-the-footsteps-of-rls/>



Important News from Scotland

The Robert Louis Stevenson Club of Edinburgh turned 100 years old in 2020. To celebrate the centenary (a year late because of the pandemic), "Fortunate Voyager," an anthology edited by Jeremy Hodges, brings together tributes from 60 contemporary travelers, including Scottish First Minister Nicola Sturgeon, crime writers Ian Rankin and Val McDermid, children's author Michael Morpurgo, and Sir Paul McCartney, a *Treasure Island* fan since childhood.

One of the tributes was written by members of the RLS Club of Monterey: Monica Hudson, Lindy Perez, and Elizabeth Anderson.

The book was launched with readings on November 12, the day before Stevenson's birthday, at Augustine Central Church, George IV Bridge, Edinburgh. An attractive array of other Stevenson Day events, live and online, can be accessed through the RLS Day website: www.rlsday.wordpress.com

To order a copy of "Fortunate Voyager, send an email to info@typewronger.com and you will be sent a secure link to pay by PayPal or enter your card details and mailing address. The price is £9.99 plus postage; your card will be charged the equivalent in dollars.

News from Saranac Lake

The Stevenson Society of America sent an update regarding the roof restoration at the Stevenson Memorial Cottage in Saranac Lake N.Y. The RLS Club and individual members have supported this important project.

Phase One, which included repairing the most deteriorated roof shingles, was completed in July 2021 for a cost of \$8,800 just in time for the Museum's reopening. The collection is no longer in jeopardy due to generous donations from around the world.

Phase Two will begin when additional funds have been raised. Donations are appreciated, payable to the Stevenson Society of America, P.O. Box 607, Saranac Lake, New York. 12983.

Answers to the Spring 2021 Quiz

Here are the Answers to the Quiz from the Spring 2021 newsletter (submitted by Mike Delahant, curator of the Stevenson Cottage, Saranac Lake, NY)

- 1) Who persuaded RLS to remove the first 5 chapters from his novel, *The Black Arrow*?
- 2) Who gave RLS "Findley's South Pacific Directory" which is on display at the Stevenson House in Monterey?
- 3) Who locked himself in his business office and cried after learning of RLS' death?

The answer to all 3 questions is Sam McClure.

Samuel Sidney McClure (1857-1949) was an investigative journalist and magazine publisher, who promoted the leading writers of his time by printing their works in McClure Magazine. He was a friend and admirer of RLS and published letters about RLS' South Seas travel from 1889. The letters were compiled in book form entitled *In the South Seas* published in 1896.

Welcome to New Members

The RLS Club of Monterey is its members. Without member support, there would be no Club. With gratitude and appreciation, we welcome and introduce the following nine (9) new members:

Jean Brenner, Bob and Lisa Haslam, Jessie Lu, Ali Matthews, Eleanor Morrice, Nicole Pilleux, Brian Randall and Charles Reynolds.

Don't forget your 2022 Dues

It's that time again to renew your membership in the RLS Club. Dues are still only \$10 a year! There is one change: we are now asking \$10 for each individual; for example, a couple pays \$20. In the past, we've been inconsistent on this family issue. Under our current habit of communicating, however, the change will enable us to have a list of each person's name, email address, and phone number, not to mention a bit more revenue.

Please make your check payable to the RLS Club of Monterey and mail to:

Lindy Perez, P.O. Box 51504, Pacific Grove, CA 93950

Remember to include contact information for each member. Thank you!

RLS Club Newsletter co-editors: Donna Gibson and Lindy Perez

We welcome your stories and ideas for future editions.