



THE KIPLING SOCIETY

FOUNDED 1927

Registered Charity No.278885

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CHAIRMAN'S NEWSLETTER – August 2019

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Society will be held on **Wednesday 11 September** at 5.30 for 6 pm in the Evelyn Wrench Room, Royal Over-Seas League. *Please note that this is the presentation originally scheduled for 10 July.*

Dr Jarad Zimbler, Senior Lecturer in English Literature at the University of Birmingham, will speak on 'Making it in America: Kipling's *Captains Courageous*'.

It is the practice of Council to entertain the speaker at a local restaurant after the meeting. If you would like to join us for a meal to continue the discussion or to chat about things Kipling more widely, please let me know in advance of the meeting so that I may reserve the appropriate number of places.

Earlier the same day (2.00 pm) at the Royal Over-Seas League, we are having a Press Launch to publicise the New Readers' Guide as a window on the world for Kipling's life and works. We hope that this will elicit some coverage in the press and broadcasting, so as to attract public interest in the Guide and encourage more people to join the Society.

AGM REPORT

At the AGM held on 10 July, the proposed rule amendments were accepted.

Dr Angela Eyre and Mr John Walker were elected to Council. At a subsequent meeting of the new Council, Angela was appointed Deputy Chairman and John

Honorary Librarian. Other office holders were confirmed in place. The position of Secretary remains vacant.

Following the AGM, Mark Paffard spoke to us most entertainingly on 'Pity and imagination in some of Kipling's stories', including a most intriguing analysis of 'Wireless'. A successful discussion in which many members present participated then followed.

FUTURE MEETING DATES

Wednesday 13 November. 5.30 for 6 pm in the Mountbatten Room, Royal Over-Seas League. Tim Pye. 'The National Trust's rare book holdings at Bateman's and Wimpole Hall'.

The following further dates have been set for meetings in 2020. They are all Wednesdays.

12th February

22nd April

6th May – Annual Luncheon

8th July - AGM

23rd September

11th November

NEWS FROM THE KIPLING SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA

David Watts reports that the Society remains active, holding four meetings a year. At the most recent, they acted out Kipling's commentary on a Ladies versus Men cricket match (as published in the March 2019 *Kipling Journal*). David's wife Sharon played the role the female commentator. Several members also gave their ideas on Kipling's fictional females as opposed to his real relatives and friends.

At their next meeting members will be describing their favourite Kipling poem, and defending the choice.

BATEMAN'S LEATHER WALL HANGINGS

Member Richard Howells has been carrying out some research into Kipling's time at Bateman's and came across a 1940 letter in the National Trust central archives from Kipling's daughter Elsie to Donald Matheson, Secretary of the NT.

Dear Mr Matheson,

After you left on Tuesday I found, quite by chance, an envelope with the correspondence and details of the painted and gilt leather on the walls of the dining room. It was bought by my father in 1902 for 100 guineas from a Mr. W. Moens of Tweed, Lymington, Hants.

Mr. Moens had bought it from the Burgomaster of Broek in Waterland, Holland. The leather remained rolled up under the kitchen table in Mr. M's house from 1877 – 1902 so it is a wonder it is in such good condition.

Yours sincerely
Elsie Bambridge

Very many thanks for your kindness to me on my visit and for your interesting notes about the leather. I hope the Burgomaster had a right to sell it! (Note written by Matheson)

Moens was of Dutch parentage and, interestingly, had a nephew, Seaburne, who lived in Rottingdean at the same time as the Kiplings and appears to have been a member of Kipling's rifle club. Seaburne Moens had been borne in the Punjab, where his father was serving as a judge. It therefore seems very likely that the family was known to the Kiplings from Rottingdean if not before.



Bateman's volunteer David Allen has done some further digging and established that there was an old stone house in Broek (once a major port to rival Amsterdam) called 'The Famous House' which was demolished in 1857.¹ It was known to have had gold leather wall hangings which were first moved to the house next door and then sold in 1877.

It seems therefore that this was the source of the *Bateman's* hangings.

¹ A wooden house in Broek with impressive wall-paintings now has the same name

KIPLING RUDYARDS AND RIDING HAGGARDS

The Rider Haggard Society has let us know that a few copies of a book about Kipling and Haggard are still available.

***The Kessingland Connection in the life and works of Rudyard Kipling* by Maureen Long**

A5, 28pp, quality cream paper, with many B&W and colour photographs.

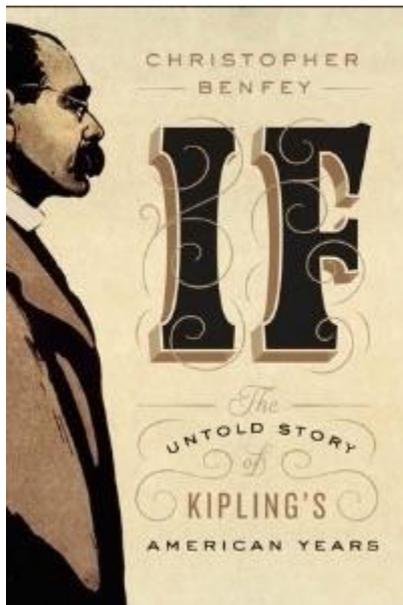
As a close friend of Haggard, Kipling spent the summer of 1914 at Kessingland Grange. This book covers this period and the great friendship of both men.

Price: £6 including p&p

Payment: Cheque payable to S M Addy, 2 The Hazels, Wilpshire, Blackburn, Lancs, BB1 9HZ. Alternatively Paypal £6.40 (to include Paypal charges) to smaddy@talktalk.net

A NEW BOOK

On July 9th, Penguin Press published *If: The Untold Story of Kipling's American Years* by Christopher Benfey, which tells the story of Kipling's time in Vermont.

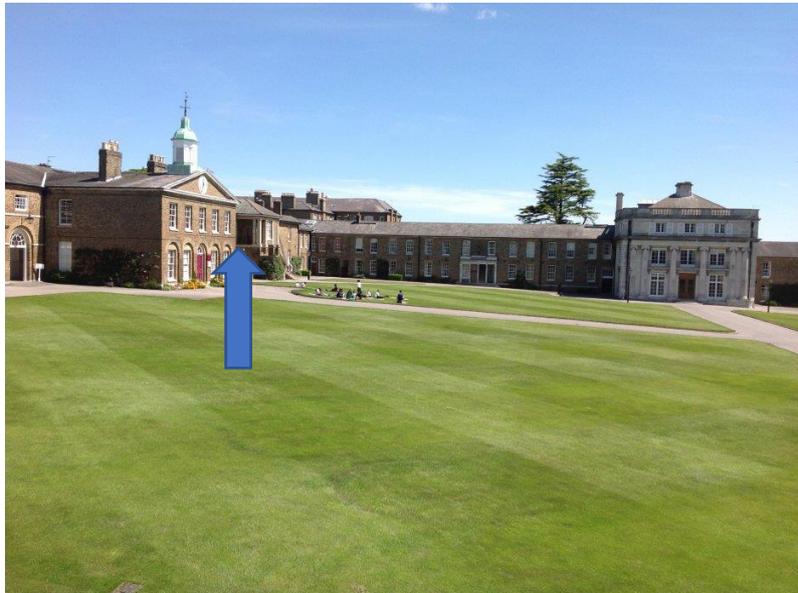


“The book offers a unique exploration of the life and work of Rudyard Kipling in Gilded Age America. Though Kipling is often studied through the lens of colonial India, his birthplace and the setting of some of his most famous work, Kipling’s most prodigious and creative period took place in America. It was here, on the crest of a Vermont hillside overlooking the Connecticut River, that Kipling wrote both *The Jungle Book* and *Captains Courageous*. *If* brings to life in fresh, revelatory detail Kipling’s decade-long engagement with the United States, including the years he lived in Vermont with his American wife and their two daughters.”

On Sunday, August 18th at 3:00 p.m. The Landmark Trust USA will host Christopher Benfey at *Naulakha*. Following a reading by the author, The Landmark Trust USA will provide tours of *Naulakha* and refreshments. This event is free and open to the public but we do ask that you register due to limited seating. [Register here!](#)

THE KIPLING SOCIETY LIBRARY

The Society's library is located at Haileybury College in Hertfordshire, a few miles north of the M25. Haileybury merged with the Imperial Service College in 1942, the ISC being itself a successor to the United Services College attended by Kipling.



The Society library (arrowed) in the Quad at Haileybury



Our Librarian shows off several collected editions of Kipling's works

Members are welcome to visit the library to browse its unrivalled range of Kipling's books, books about Kipling and books on related themes. Please contact the John Walker, the Society's Librarian, should you wish to do so.

NEW RADIO DRAMATISATIONS

Our Librarian recommends a visit to <https://blogs.atu.edu/radiotheatre/adaptations-of-classic-literature/>, dramatisations of a variety of short stories by such writers as Arthur Conan Doyle, Gertrude Stein, Lucy Maud Montgomery, Jack London, and Virginia Woolf include ‘**The Brushwood Boy**’, ‘**Children of the Zodiac**’, ‘**The Maltese Cat**’, ‘**Mary Postgate**’ and ‘**Mrs Bathurst**’. Also promised is ‘William the Conqueror’.

Adapted for radio, and directed by David Eshelman, these favourite pieces are products of the Arkansas Radio Theatre, which operates in association with the Arkansas Tech University Department of Communication and Journalism. You can support this team by emailing David at deshelman@atu.edu

THE NEW READERS’ GUIDE

Alastair Wilson is continuing with his notes on the little-known Motoring Diaries, kept by Kipling on his frequent motor tours by Rolls Royce, on the continent and up and down England and Scotland. You will find an introduction to the diaries at

http://www.kiplingsociety.co.uk/motoring_fra.htm,

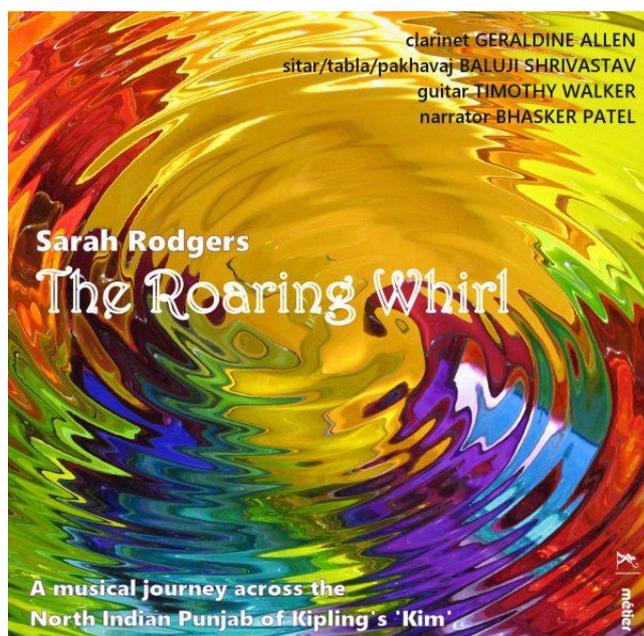
and the latest entry, on the tour of the battlefields in Flanders in 1922, at

http://www.kiplingsociety.co.uk/motor_1922_may.pdf

Philip Holberton continues to annotate the many early poems written in Kipling's schooldays, when he was reading and writing intensively, and seeking to find his voice as a published poet. They shed an interesting light on his personal preoccupations, his ideas about the world, and his developing skills. Some appeared in the USC magazine, others - more personal - he kept private. These verses were never published by Kipling in his lifetime, but have survived in his notebooks, in the University of Sussex Special Collections, and in the Berg Collection in New York.

To find them go to http://www.kiplingsociety.co.uk/bookmart_fra.htm, click on 'Other Works' in the sidebar. and then on 'Uncollected Poems from Schooldays'. You may be interested to take a look at "Job's Wife", which harks back to young Rudyard's sad time in the House of Desolation at Southsea, to the many love poems he wrote for Flo Garrard, like "Pro Tem" or "Brighton Beach", and to the accounts of schoolboy life in the rough and tumble of United Services College, like "A Mistake" or "I Sit in the Midst", with their strong ring of *Stalky & Co.*

THE ROARING WHIRL



"The Roaring Whirl is a musical journey across the North Indian Punjab – the setting for Rudyard Kipling's 'Kim'. The work was originally commissioned by clarinetist Geraldine Allen as a piece to take on tour, and she approached composer Sarah Rodgers for a piece that would cross continents, genres and styles. After the first performance it was clear that the short work had much more potential and it was expanded. The final version was a centrepiece of the Nottingham Now Festival in 1992, as a fully staged performance with a designed set and lighting and choreographed *kathak* dance. This studio recording was made at the same time but has not been made available until now."

The record includes colourful extracts from 'Kim' narrated by Bhasker Patel, who has progressed from being little known as an actor to become a household name in the UK as Rishi Sharma on ITV's *Emmerdale*.

This is the track listing:

- I. India Awakes (7:32)
- II. Seventh Heaven (9:09)
- III. Little Friend of All the World (8:16)
- IV. Title Piece (The Roaring Whirl – Kim) (16:52)
- V. The Wheel of Life (8:24)
- VI. The Man under the Hat (7:13)
- VII. Golden Spokes of the Sloping Sun (10:26)

More information is available at <https://divineartrecords.com/recording/the-roaring-whirl/>

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