

THE KIPLING SOCIETY

FOUNDED 1927

Registered Charity No.278885

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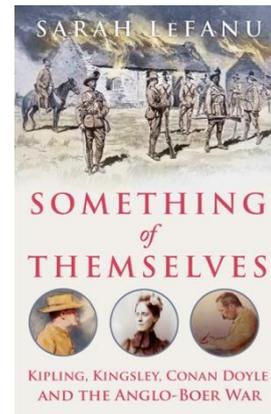
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CHAIRMAN'S NEWSLETTER – January 2020

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Society will be held on **Wednesday 12 February** at 5.30 for 6 pm in the Rutland Room, Royal Over-Seas League. Sara LeFanu will speak on 'Kipling and his colleagues at *The Friend* newspaper in Bloemfontein'. Sara is the author of the forthcoming book *Something of Themselves: Kipling, Kingsley, Conan Doyle and the Anglo-Boer War*, details of which can be found on Amazon.



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.

FUTURE VACANCIES ON COUNCIL

At the AGM in July this year, four current members of Council will come to the end of their three-year term. Under the Society's rules, they will not be eligible to stand for immediate re-election. This is an excellent opportunity for members who have not been on Council before to step forward and begin to involve themselves in the running of the Society. Of course, former members of Council are equally welcome to return.

Council normally meets five times a year, in the late afternoon before speaker meetings at the Royal Over-Seas League. Unless you want to take on one of the honorary offices, this is the only commitment. If you're interested, please do contact me or any other member of Council for a preliminary discussion.

MEETING REPORT

At our last meeting, Tim Pye, Chief Librarian of The National Trust, told us most entertainingly about his personal selection of favourite books in the collections at Bateman's and Wimpole Hall. The copy of 'Kim' which accompanied Shackleton's Antarctic expedition took pride of place but equally intriguing to me were two books with Rudyard's bookplate which bore the markings of a much earlier Kipling owner.



The first is a 16th-century Herodotus which appears to have been supplied to Kipling in 1919 by John Howell, the San Francisco bookseller:

<http://www.nationaltrustcollections.org.uk/object/3105006>. The second is a 1708 copy of The Royal Dictionary: <http://www.nationaltrustcollections.org.uk/object/3105323>.

I've subsequently suggested to Tim, that possible candidates for this (or these) John Kiplings are three generations of 18th and 19th century Oxford-educated clergymen or an 18th/19th century Clerk of the Rolls. None, alas, relatives of Rudyard.

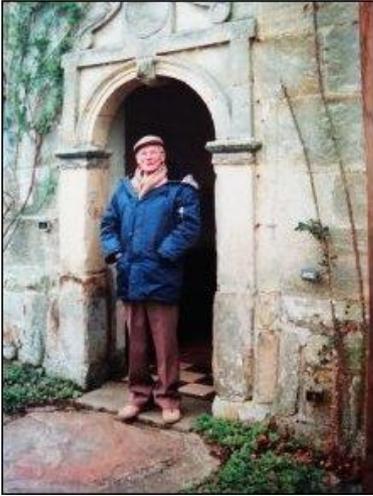
However, also in the NT collection are two copies of *Paradise Lost* inscribed 'William Lockwood, Skelton'. William Lockwood was Kipling's great grandfather. He lived in Skelton in North Yorkshire, which was where the Rev Joseph Kipling married his daughter Frances in 1836.

FUTURE MEETING DATES

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

- 8th April. Annual Luncheon (Prof. Harish Trivedi: 'Kipling, the Raj and the Indian Rajahs') – *full details and application form at the end of this newsletter*.
- 17th-18th April. 'Kipling in the News: Journalism, Empire and Decolonisation'. Conference – *further details below*.
- 22nd April. The Eileen Stammers-Smith Memorial Lecture: Prof. Harry Ricketts, Victoria University, Wellington: 'Kipling and Trauma'. *Royal Over-Seas League*. 17.30 for 18.00.
- 1st July. AGM; followed by Adrian Munsey & Vance Goodwin in conversation about their recent television programme 'Rudyard Kipling: a Secret Life'. *Royal Over-Seas League*. 16.30 for 17.00.
- 23rd September. Madeleine Horton, Oxford University, 'Rethinking Rudyard Kipling : Genre, Value and Reputation'. *Royal Over-Seas League*. 17.30 for 18.00.
- 11th November. Professor Jan Montefiore, 'War Graves, the Mayo assassination and Kipling's last Raj story 'The Debt''. *Royal Over-Seas League*. 17.30 for 18.00.

JOHN MCGIVERING



John McGivering, a member of the Kipling Society for over sixty years, and one of our Vice Presidents, died on October 19th, at the age of 96. He will be much missed.

A frequent correspondent to the Kipling Journal, to which he contributed many articles over the years, his deep knowledge of Kipling's works made him an invaluable and tireless annotator for the New Readers' Guide, as many grateful readers can attest.

A full obituary will appear in the March edition of *The Kipling Journal*

KIPLING AND MAUD BEERBOHM TREE

Susana Cory-Wright has written a biography of Maud Beerbohm Tree, actress and wife of actor and theatre manager Sir Herbert Beerbohm Tree.

She writes that his larger than life persona completely subsumed Maud's and yet she was the one who supported new writers and avant-garde playwrights. In the 1890s Maud wrote to Herbert with a list of playwrights she identified as being useful to them – Kipling's name being among them.

Maud's correspondence reads like a Who's Who of the 20th century. This was partly because people then did correspond so much more than they do today but it was also because Maud was quite shameless in exploiting each and every contact she ever made to create job opportunities for herself and her family. Her relationship with Herbert was fraught and early on in their marriage she realised that it had also become highly competitive. She knew it was not a given that she would always (if ever) be his leading lady and that she would have to carve a career away from Her/His Majesty's Theatre. Her first act of defiance, as you know, was when she recited *The Absent-Minded Beggar*. (Herbert was furious that Maud had chosen to perform in a music hall and this in turn opened up a theatre versus music hall debate conducted largely in the press).



Maud Beerbohm Tree

Lady of the Stage

Susana Cory-Wright



LEGENDA

Modern Humanities Research Association

Maud had first met the Kiplings in America when she was staying with Mary Leiter (later Vicereine of India) and Rudyard was living in Brattleboro, Vermont. Predictably, she did not hesitate to contact him with a view to performing his poem. She had already recited his *Soldier, Soldier*.

After a motor accident in 1906 disfigured her face (but not her voice), ‘stand and deliver’ performance became vital in restoring Maud’s confidence and livelihood and she once again turned to Kipling. In 1910 she recited *Dead King*. (The Dead King in question was Edward VII).

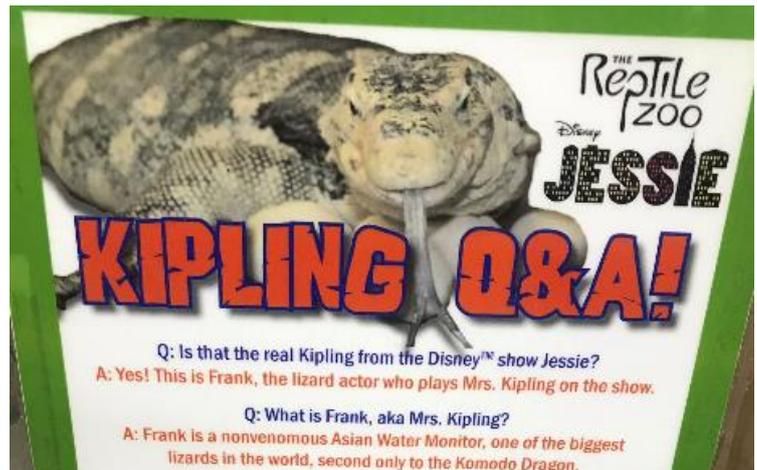
Kipling was always concerned with copyright and the conflicting permissions that might ensue. By 1928 he was also tetchier – he refused her request to recite extracts from *The Jungle Book*, because as he wrote her, quite simply he ‘disliked the BBC.’

Susana’s book is available on Amazon.

JESSIE

A Disney children’s TV series, ‘Jessie’, features a family call Ross who have a seven-foot Asian water monitor lizard as a pet.

When it was brought from India, it was named as Mr Kipling. However, in the episode entitled *The Secret Life of Mr. Kipling*, it is revealed that he is actually a female and has laid twelve eggs. The lizard was renamed Mrs Kipling and the hatchlings were named Mowgli, Sanjay, Gupta, Slumdog, Kumar, Ravi Jr., Scooter, Rikki, Tikki, Tavi, Mohandas, and Padma.



BATEMAN’S AT TWILIGHT



This beautiful picture was taken by member, and Burwash resident, Mike Lacey, who writes “for me, it captures the genius loci of our Very Own House”.

CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS

Once again, National Trust volunteers decorated Bateman's for Christmas, once again on a 'Just So Stories' theme. This year the whale, the camel and the butterfly featured.



KIPLING IN THE NEWS: JOURNALISM, EMPIRE AND DECOLONISATION

This conference, being held at City University on 17th and 18th April 2020, is supported by the Society.

Rudyard Kipling's experience as a journalist and colonial correspondent honed his distinctive, concise prose style, and it is this pithiness that accounts for his enduring legacy in the twenty-first century as a writer often in support of – but occasionally critical of – first British and then US empires.

At a time when both pervasive imperial nostalgia



and movements to decolonise the university are dragging Kipling back into the news, this conference will explore the importance of journalism to Kipling's literary life and, in so doing, ask larger questions about the relationship between journalism, empire, and decolonisation. It will also invite reflections on the continued relevance of these questions in what has been characterised as our "post-truth" era.

Registration for the conference is £20 (staff/waged) or £10 (student/unwaged). The registration fee includes tea and coffee, lunch on both days, and two wine receptions. There will also be a conference dinner on the evening of Friday 17th.

Full details and details of how to apply to attend can be found at:

<https://www.city.ac.uk/events/2020/april/kipling-in-the-news-journalism-empire-and-decolonisation>

OUR MODERN AENEID - CALL FOR PAPERS

Vergil's Aeneid is, of course, a longtime standard of the liberal arts curriculum. However, it has seen revived interest outside the academy. Since 2017, Vergil's epic has featured in articles in the Washington Post, The Wall Street Journal, and The New Yorker. All three articles argue that the Aeneid speaks as much to modernity as it does to antiquity.

For example, in demonstrating the modern importance of Vergil's classic, a number of reviews from the late 2000s briefly stress the similarities between Vergil and Kipling's views of empire. As the government sanctioned poets of global empires, one might expect to find thorough comparisons between Kipling and Vergil in the literature. Remarkably, one would find several articles devoted to historical inquiry into the quality of Kipling's classical education, but none directly considering the relationship between those classics and his own writing.

We propose a volume of essays from a diverse group of scholars and artists that represents a multidisciplinary, multicultural redeployment of the Aeneid. Final papers should run between 4,000–6,000 words (inclusive of endnotes and works cited). Please send all queries to the editors (Joseph R. O'Neill and Adam Rigoni) at 21stcenturyaeneid@gmail.com. Authors are invited to submit an abstract of approximately 500 words, along with a select bibliography of at least ten sources, and an author bio of approximately 250 words to the editors by May 1, 2020.

USING SOCIAL MEDIA

Following our work on the **New Readers' Guide** and **Facebook** page we have become more active on **Twitter** as part of our campaign to reach out to new and younger audiences.

You can find our tweets - and the Facebook page - via the Home page of the web-site at www.kiplingsociety.co.uk If you have any comments please send them to **johnrad@btinternet.com** or tweet them on line. If you have suggestions for people we might usefully follow, do also let us have them.

Here is a list of who we are currently following, and retweeting when they post something that may be of interest to readers of Kipling:

Guardian Books@GuardianBooks News, reviews and author interviews plus tweets from the @Guardian and Observer books team

Michael Rosen@MichaelRosenYes Writer, poet, performer, broadcaster, Professor Children's Literature, Goldsmiths, Univ London.

Malorie Blackman@malorieblackman Author - Noughts & Crosses series, Pig Heart Boy, Boys Don't Cry, etc. Ex UK Children's Laureate.

The New York Review of Books@nybook In their judgement the premier literary-intellectual magazine in the English language.

London Review of Books@LRB In their own judgement Europe's leading magazine of culture and ideas,

Dylan Thomas News@dylanthomasnews A parallel enterprise to our own, celebrating the life, work & legacy of Welsh poet Dylan Thomas. News, events, anniversaries, theatrical productions etc.

Dr Amy Bromley@AmyBromley1990 English Lit PhD (Virginia Woolf, Modernism, Sketches). Based in Glasgow. Scorpio. 'I'll have a cup of tea, and tell you of my dreaming'

KiplingInTheNews@KiplingInTheNews A conference exploring Journalism, Empire, and Decolonisation, and Redressing Kipling's legacy in the Age of Johnson 17 - 18 April 2020 @CityUniLondon

The Keep@TheKeepArchives The Keep brings together the archives & collection from the University of Sussex, East Sussex County Record Office & Royal Pavilion & Museums, Brighton & Hove

Mary Hamer@mary_hamer Member of Kipling Society Council, former Chairman, writer, loves travel, small adventures, lunch with friends, theatre and cinema, novel "Kipling & Trix" won Virginia Prize.

Brian Harris@brianharris27 A tired lawyer with a yen to write. New book on Kipling going to publisher soon. Title: "Rudyard Kipling, a Life in Verse"

The Literary Review@Lit_Review Sees itself as Britain's most eclectic literary magazine. Lively, independent-minded reviews of new books every month.

Andrew Lycett @alycett1 Biographer of Rudyard Kipling, Ian Fleming, Dylan Thomas, Conan Doyle, Wilkie Collins Lincolnshire born, Africa raised, London resident Wicket-keeper

SussexUni Speccoll@SussexSpeccoll Special Collections of the University of Sussex at The Keep: home to the Mass Observation Archive, the papers of Virginia Woolf, Rudyard Kipling and many more.

Gladstone's Library@gladlib Gladstone's Library is one of a kind - a residential library and meeting place dedicated to dialogue, debate and learning for open-minded individuals.

Bateman's@BatemansNT The former home of Rudyard Kipling, run by the National Trust.

FINALLY - NATURE EMULATING LITERATURE!



President: Lt Col ROGER AYERS O.B.E. Chairman and Treasurer: MIKE KIPLING

Deputy Chairman: Dr ANGELA EYRE Editor: Prof JAN MONTEFIORE On Line Editor: JOHN RADCLIFFE Librarian: JOHN WALKER Membership Secretary: Dr FIONA RENSHAW

Meetings Secretary: Dr ALEX BUBB Bateman's Liaison Officer: LINDA BURTON

THE KIPLING SOCIETY ANNUAL LUNCHEON 2020

Wednesday April 8th 2020, 12.30 p.m. for 1.00 p.m.

at

The Army & Navy Club, 36 Pall Mall, London SW1Y 5JN.

Admission is by ticket available from the Treasurer. The cost is unchanged from last year and remains excellent value at £65 for a two course meal with wine and tea/coffee. There will be a vegetarian option. Tickets will be sent by e-mail, or by post if a stamped addressed envelope is provided.

Closing date for applications: Wednesday March 18th 2020.

The Guest Speaker this year will be the eminent Kipling scholar Professor Harish Trivedi who will be speaking on 'Kipling, the Raj and the Indian Rajahs'.

Harish Trivedi, formerly Professor of English at the University of Delhi, was visiting professor at the universities of Chicago and London. He has published in the areas of Modern British Fiction, Postcolonial Theory, Translation Studies and Comparative Literature. He edited Kipling's 'Kim' for Penguin Classics (2011), and has contributed essays to The Kipling Journal (2018) and to several books including 'Kipling and Beyond: Patriotism, Globalisation and Postcolonialism' (2009), 'The Cambridge Companion to Kipling' (2011), and 'In Time's Eye: Essays on Rudyard Kipling' (2013). He is currently co-editing with Jan Montefiore a book of conference essays on "Kipling in India: India in Kipling."

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TO: Mike Kipling, Bay Tree House, Doomsday Garden, Horsham, West Sussex, RH13 6LB

Telephone 07801680516. e-mail: mike@kipling.me.uk

1. Please send me _____ tickets for the Kipling Society Annual Luncheon 2020 at **£65** each.

ME Title..... Initials..... Surname.....Vegetarian Y/N

GUEST Title..... Initials..... Surname.....Vegetarian Y/N

GUEST Title..... Initials..... Surname.....Vegetarian Y/N

GUEST Title..... Initials..... Surname.....Vegetarian Y/N

2. I enclose my cheque for £_____ (payable to The Kipling Society).

3. I have paid £_____ direct into the Society's bank account 30-96-24 00114978. Please include your name and 'Lunch' as reference.

4. I should like, if possible, for me and my party to sit with.....
.....

5. Please advise any special dietary requirements.....
.....

6. **Please e-mail my tickets to the following address**
OR I enclose a stamped addressed envelope for the dispatch of my ticket(s).