



THE KIPLING SOCIETY

FOUNDED 1927

Registered Charity No.278885

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CHAIRMAN'S NEWSLETTER – MARCH 2019

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Society will be held on Wednesday 10 April 2019, 5.30 for 6pm in the Hall of India and Pakistan at the Royal Over-Seas League.

Stephen Ridgwell will speak on 'Some land the Law calls mine: Kipling and the Edwardian Countryside'.

Stephen taught history, politics and film studies at schools and colleges in London for 20 years. He then completed a PhD at Sussex University (2017) on representations of the English poacher from the 1830s to the end of the First World War. He has since published a number of articles on aspects of this work (including the *Journal of Victorian Culture* and the *Kipling Journal*) and is currently preparing a more general history on the culture of poaching. He has also written on British cinema and spoken on various aspects of film form and history. He lives not far from Kipling country in Lewes, East Sussex.

*The date of 12th of April given for this meeting in the March edition of The Kipling Journal was **incorrect**.*

HONORARY SECRETARY STILL URGENTLY NEEDED

As mentioned in the previous newsletter and in the March edition of *The Kipling Journal*, our Honorary Secretary Dr Simon Machin had to resign from office shortly before Christmas for personal reasons.

Other members of Council are currently carrying out the Secretary's tasks but it is vital for the future of the Society that we find a permanent replacement as soon as possible. Unfortunately, no volunteer has yet come forward.

The post involves organizing four Council meetings a year plus the AGM and Annual Luncheon, along with liaison on behalf of the Society with a number of voluntary and statutory bodies, fellow members and the general public.

Please do give serious thought as to whether you can help your Society out in this way.

Alternatively, should you not consider this to be the role for you but would be interested instead in being the Society's Treasurer, I would be more than happy to discuss a 'job swap'

FUTURE MEETING DATES

Wednesday 10 July . 4.30pm in the Evelyn Wrench Room, Royal Over-Seas League: Kipling Society Annual General Meeting. 5.30 for 6pm: Dr Jarad Zimble (University of Birmingham), title TBC.

Wednesday 11 September. 5.30 for 6 pm in the Evelyn Wrench Room, Royal Over-Seas League. Speaker and title TBC

Wednesday 13 November. 5.30 for 6 pm in the Mountbatten Room, Royal Over-Seas League. Speaker and title TBC

Note: The rooms in which the meetings are to be held may change.

DATES FOR MEETINGS IN 2020

The following dates have been provisionally set for meetings in 2020. They are all Wednesdays. If you yet have one, please note them in you diary now.

12th February

22nd April

8th July

23rd September

11th November

ANNUAL LUNCHEON

A further application form for tickets for the Annual Luncheon was included in the March edition of *The Kipling Journal*.

The luncheon will be held on Wednesday 8th May at the Army & Navy Club, 36 Pall Mall, London SW1Y 3JN at 12.30 for 1 pm. The speaker will be Professor Daniel Karlin, who will talk on 'Rudyard Kipling and Robert Browning'. The cost remains £65.

I hope to see as many as possible of you there, so **please do send your application forms to me sooner rather than later.**

UNVEILING OF KIPLING STATUE IN BURWASH

It was with great pleasure, on a sunny February morning, that I unveiled Vicki Atkinson's wonderful seated statue of Kipling in Burwash High Street. The short ceremony was well attended, a number of Society members being present.

After an introduction by a parish councillor and by Vicki herself, I spoke about Kipling and the village. Then our Librarian, John Walker, read some stanzas of *The Land*. Finally, the burgundy cover was removed to reveal Rudyard looking for all the world as if he was taking a rest on his regular stroll from *Bateman's* to visit acquaintances in the village.



The newly-unveiled Kipling.



*Your Chairman, Vicki Atkinson
and Rudyard*

More pictures can be seen on Vicki's own website, illustrating the whole project from start to finish. <https://www.victoriaatkinson.co.uk/kiplingproject>

TELL THEM OF BATTLES, KINGS AND ELEPHANTS...

... is the title of a newly-translated historical novel by Mathias Enard. It tells of a visit by Michelangelo to Constantinople in 1506 to design a bridge across the Golden Horn for Sultan Bayezid. The title is taken from the preface to *Life's Handicap*, from the advice purportedly given to the author by the holy man, Gobind.

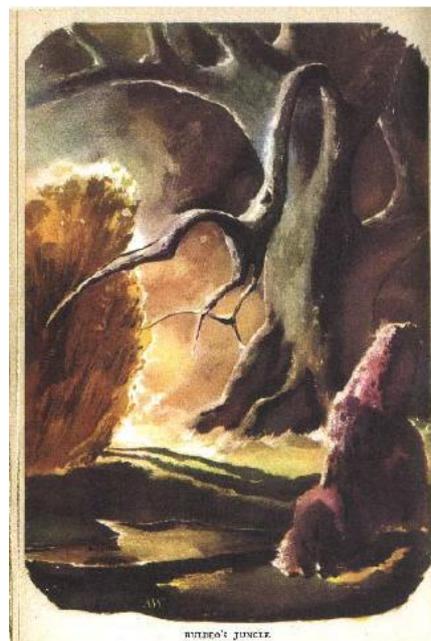
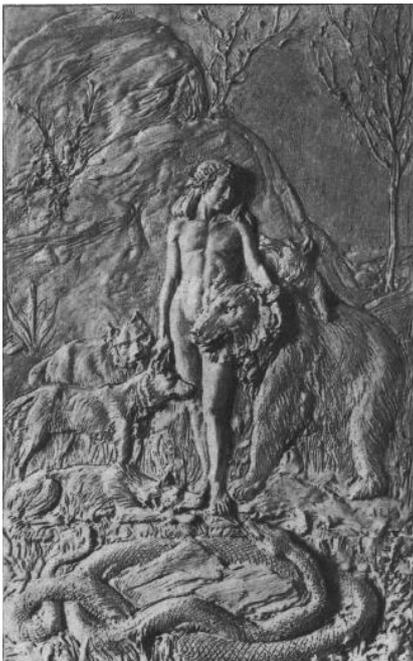
The book (Fitzcarraldo Editions, 2018, translated from the original French by Charlotte Mandell) is a short 137 pages. It tells of real kings and metaphorical battles. It even has elephants. And it does not omit to tell of love and suchlike.

EMPATHY IN RUDYARD KIPLING'S *JUNGLE BOOKS*

Norman Fischer, who wrote about empathy in Kipling's dog stories in KJ 352, has written a further article entitled 'Empathy in Rudyard Kipling's *Jungle Books*, mirrored in illustrations by John Lockwood Kipling and Aldren Watson'. It was published in the *Journal of Literature and Art Studies*, January 2018, Vol. 8, No. 1.

It can be read at <http://independent.academia.edu/JournalofLiteratureandArtStudies>.

It is delightfully illustrated with the contrasting styles of Lockwood for the 1897 Outward Bound Editions and Watson for the 1948 Doubleday editions.



KIPLING'S MOTORING DIARIES

The Society team that brought you Carrie Kipling's diaries on-line is now busy transcribing and annotating Kipling's own motoring diaries. So far the period 1911-1920 has been completed (there being of course being a long hiatus for the war). You can find them at http://www.kiplingsociety.co.uk/motoring_fra.htm.



Here's an extract from 1920:

April 12th.

Left Angers 10.30 after shopping for various ladies' things (caps and gowns). Punctured after awful roads in American Camp dump 5 Km from Le Mans and talked to old man and woman and their pet pig over the gates. Pig was allowed into house by day – never at night. Lunched Le Mans (Hotel de Paris) 1.20. Spent till 3.30 getting new Bourguignon tyre at garage. Left old tyre. No more punctures but roads vile until after Nogent de Rotrou (*probably a mis-reading of Kipling's writing – the name is Nogent le Rotrou*) (heavy wet, unable to get even a cup of chocolate). Arrived own hotel Beauvais (Grand Monarque) 7.30, where received with cordiality and love and reminiscences of war and tender enquires after John.

GIFT AID

The Society only holds a Gift Aid declaration for around one-third of our UK-based members. Reclaiming Gift Aid provides us with another 25% on top of your subscription income and it would be good to get a higher proportion subscribed.

We will shortly be e-mailing UK members for whom we don't hold a declaration, inviting them to complete one. If you receive this request, please do respond positively if you can.

FACEBOOK

The Society's Facebook page has had discussions on Kipling in Film, the Prometheus Hall of Fame, the latest Jungle Book spin-off (Mowgli), the Fitzrovia Chapel, where Kipling's body lay 'in state', the new statue of Kipling in Burwash and, most recently, the trial of Henri Landru, in Paris, with links to the latest work on the Readers' Guide. If any of these are subjects you don't recognise, log on to:

<https://www.facebook.com/pg/kiplingsociety/posts/>

Why not start a social media hare of your own? We need a wider audience, so please do share.

NEWS FROM THE UKRAINE

A new translation into Ukrainian of *Captains Courageous* is shortly to be published, translation by Anton Sanchenko, preface by Prof. Jan Montefiore.

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