



THE KIPLING SOCIETY

FOUNDED 1927

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NEWSLETTER – OCTOBER 2020

FUTURE MEETINGS

Our next meeting will be on **Wednesday 11 November at 6.00p.m. GMT** when Professor Jan Montefiore will deliver a talk on *War Graves, the Mayo assassination and Kipling's last Raj story 'The Debt'*. The meeting will be by **Zoom**. Please e-mail John Radcliffe at johnrad@btinternet.com for an invitation and further details.

Following two successful Zoom reading sessions (see report below of the most recent), our Chair Jan Montefiore will lead another session of members' short readings (maximum three minutes each) from Kipling's poetry or prose on **Wednesday 9 December at 6.00p.m. GMT**. If you would like join us to read something, or just to listen, please email Jan at J.E.Montefiore@kent.ac.uk for the Zoom link, giving her details of what, if anything, you would like to read.

We are unsure when we will be able to safely restart physical meetings, but plan to hold meetings either by Zoom or at the Royal Over-Seas League on the following dates in 2021 (all Wednesdays): 10 February, 21 April, 30 June (AGM), 22 September and 10 November. Please put these dates in your diary now and look out for further news in future newsletters.

We also hope that we will still be able to go ahead with the previously announced joint event and dinner with the Honourable Artillery Company on 7 June when Prof. Ian Beckett will be speaking on *Kipling's Army Revisited*. An application form will be made available closer to the planned date.

REPORT OF SEPTEMBER MEETINGS

On 9 September, Jan Montefiore led a well-attended Zoom reading by members. Those taking part and their selection from Kipling are set out below.

1. RK and India

Harish Trivedi: Ballade of Photographs

Kaori Nagai: Epigraph from *Toomai of the Elephants*: "I will remember what I was"

Jan Montefiore: From 'Tiger-Tiger!' (Jungle Book): children herding cattle

2. RK and the Army

Tonie Holt 'Tommy'

John Walker 'Danny Deever'

3. RK and Engineering

David Richards Hymn of Breaking Strain

James Mulcahy Sons of Martha

4. RK and the woman's angle

Mike Kipling On Greenhow Hill

John Radcliffe Harp Song of Dane Women

5. RK and children: from *Just So Stories*

Monica Turci 'The Camel's hump is an ugly lump'

Valmai Holt 'I keep 6 honest serving men'

Sarah LeFanu Merrow Down

6. RK in America

Danny Karlin From *Leaves from A Winter Notebook*

Janice Lingley From *Captains Courageous*

7. RK and the Great War

Howard Booth From *The War in the Mountains*

Alex Bubb The Fabulists

Harry Ricketts Gethsemane

8. RK and religion (sort of)

Steve Russ His Disciple

Andrew Scragg The Road to En-Dor

Meredith Dixon 'Natural Theology'

Jan Montefiore Jobson's Amen (in memoriam Charles Allen)

9. RK and public life

Christopher Morrison: Kitchener's School 1898

Tim Connell: Glory of the Garden

Martin Powell: squibs on RK and Rider Haggard from JK Stephen and Anon in 1920

10. RK for today:

Fred Lerner MacDonoughs Hymn

Chris Washington: Our Fathers of Old

Alastair Wilson A Charm

Envoi: Harry Ricketts: Cities and Thrones and Powers

Alex Bubb, Meetings Secretary, writes:

Since April, the Covid-19 pandemic has forced us to hold all our speaker events online. But this obligation has come with an unexpected benefit, which is that we have been able to invite members of our international community to participate and share their recent research with us. On 23 September, we welcomed Dr Madhu Grover from Lady Shri Ram College, Delhi

University, who spoke to us on 'Border crossings in Kipling's Indian short stories'. Madhu focussed on two stories, 'The Gate of the Hundred Sorrows' and 'In the House of Suddhoo', in which a nameless English narrator transgresses the complex racial and class barriers of 1880s Lahore. The talk was very well received, and led to an enthusiastic exchange of ideas between members based in India, Britain, Australia and different parts of the United States.

BURWASH FORGE AND BATEMAN'S

As described in the April 2020 Newsletter, around the time that Bateman's was built, Burwash Forge, also known as Collins' Forge, was owned by Thomas Hepden, grandson of the Thomas Hepden who had originally acquired the forge from the Collins family. When the younger Thomas died in 1638, his only son John was just one year old, so his inheritance, including the forge, was looked after by two trustees, one of whom was his uncle William Langham, the putative builder of Bateman's.

When John came of age in 1657, he took possession of the forge and the other lands left to him. However, he discovered that Langham, who had died in 1651, had been keeping the profits of the forge and the other lands rather than holding them in trust. So Thomas took



Burwash Forge Cottages

Langham's widow, as administrator of Langham's estate, to the Court of Chancery in London, where a verdict was given in his favour and Langham's widow was ordered to pay him around £1,000 in compensation.

Witness evidence in the case alleged that Langham, a notary, had put undue pressure on Thomas Hepden to allow him to write his will, and to not only make him a trustee but also to leave him some property, including two houses in Burwash town and a field called Great Hames, also in the neighbourhood of Bateman's.

Thomas Hepden had rented out the forge and Langham initially continued this practice. Some of the witnesses in the court case mentioned above suggest that he later operated the forge directly, so as well as being a notary it is possible that he was an ironmaster, although apart from the testimony there is no other evidence for this.

Langham had been acquiring property in Burwash since 1625. In 1634, the year inscribed above the porch at Bateman's, he took on the copyhold of Dudwell Park and in 1638 he acquired Rye Green. Both these were properties later owned by Kipling. In 1642, he paid 20 shillings in tax, one of the largest amounts in the parish.

Despite all this circumstantial evidence, there is no direct proof that Langham built the Bateman's we know today. All that is known for certain is that at some time, probably on Langham's death in 1652, the house came into the hands of his niece and heir, Alice.

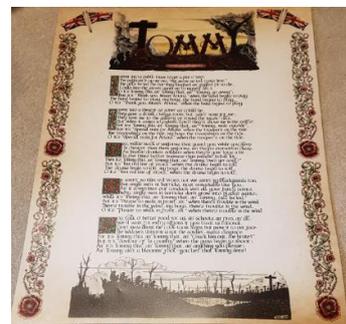
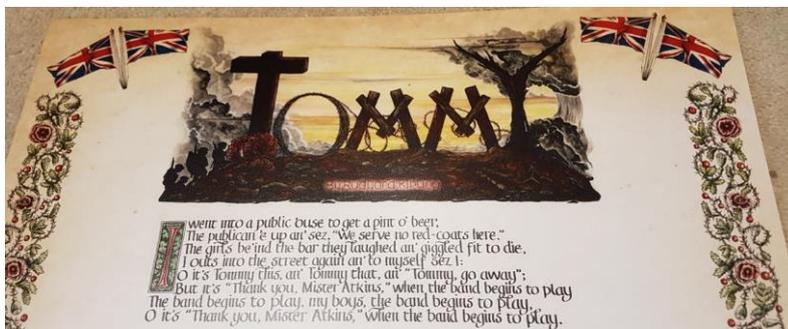
Next time: Bateman's in the eighteenth century.

‘TOMMY’

Mr Darell Line has written in to say that ‘Tommy’ has been a poem that he has always admired, not just for its content but also for its empathy with the plight and continual struggle of the working classes; living, working and ultimately fighting for a country/empire that is governed mainly by a plutocracy, and in many cases a mini-fiefdom.

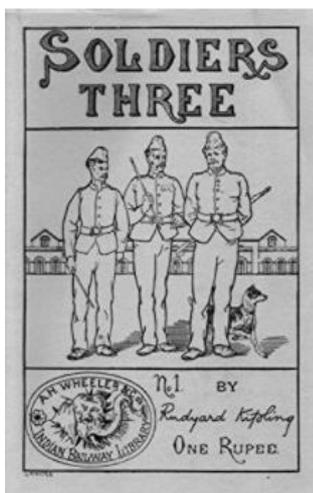
His admiration extends to Kipling’s understanding of the emotions of a common soldier during times of conflict and games of political chess. Although penned in 1890, ‘Tommy’ has relevance, connectivity and longevity right through to the recent Basra campaign. Indeed, ‘Tommy this, and Tommy that...’ may just be the mantra that inspires our troops in any forthcoming conflict.

Having recently discovered that his great-grandfather fought in the infantry in the Great War and fell in Belgium, as did tens of thousands of working men fighting for king and country, Mr Line has been inspired to design a most impressive poster presentation of ‘Tommy’.



Should any members wish to obtain a copy, Mr Line can supply them on vinyl (16”x 20”) for £20.75 or on A3 card for £13.75, including post and packaging in UK (they come in a card tubing). Please order from Mr Line at darrellline147@gmail.com, where you can also enquire about mailing costs outside the UK.

ANNOTATED ‘SOLDIERS THREE’



Following on from his *Plain Tales*, Tom White has produced an e-book of *Soldiers Three*, again including links to the New Readers’ Guide. This may be bought from Amazon for £2.39.

Once again, Tom will most kindly be donating the proceeds of sales to the Society.

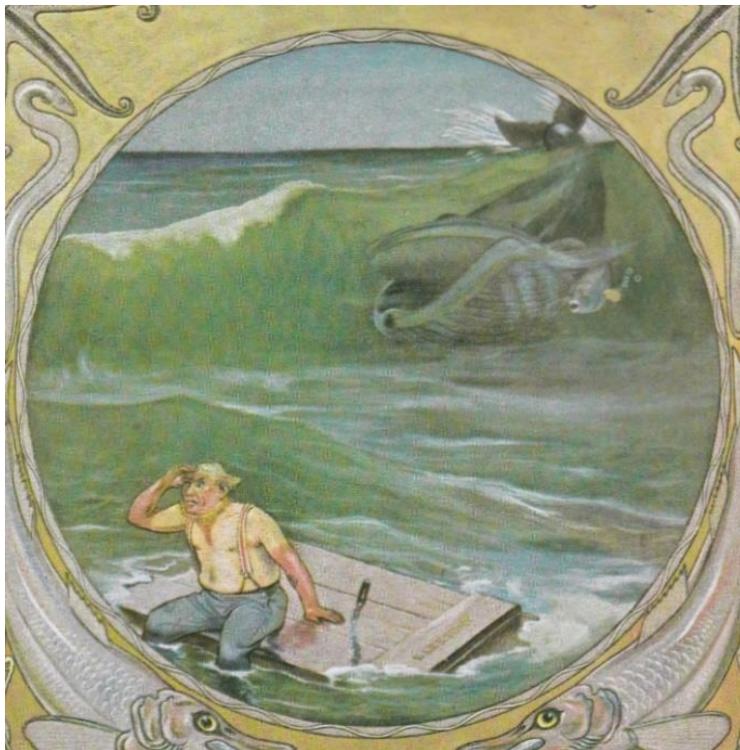
The UK link is https://www.amazon.co.uk/Soldiers-Three-Other-Stories-Readers-ebook/dp/B08FRT8Z8D/ref=sr_1_4?dchild=1&keywords=soldiers+three+kipling&qid=1602608688&s=books&sr=1-4

The US link is https://www.amazon.com/Soldiers-Three-Other-Stories-Readers-ebook/dp/B08FRT8Z8D/ref=sr_1_8?dchild=1&keywords=soldiers+three+kipling&qid=1602608835&s=digital-text&sr=1-8

ENLARGING THE WEB-SITE - *John Radcliffe (On-line Editor)*

The New Readers Guide is now well established for serious users and casual enquirers, with notes on the stories, articles and speeches, all the collected poems, and all but a few of the uncollected ones. In a month or so we will be moving the site over to a new software system, and in the process clarifying and improving the Guide. We have also been giving a lot of thought to using the web-site to reach out to new readers and wider audiences. The fruits of this so far are three new sections, 'Sharing good reads', 'On Writing', and 'For Children'. Comments and suggestions on these will, as ever, be very welcome.

'Sharing good reads' is designed to introduce some of the stories to new readers and in particular to reading groups looking for books to discuss. This is still work in progress, since we plan to group the stories in more helpful ways and institute a 'Book of the Month', starting with *Kim*. 'For writers' brings together a lot of what Kipling has said about the craft of writing, and describes his own apprenticeship from school through his 'seven years hard' as a working journalist. We are also considering a possible poetry or short-story competition.



'For Children' is designed to capture children's attention with details of the *Just So Stories*, the *Jungle Books* and the 'Puck' stories. For the *Just So Stories* we plan to offer the full text of the stories, with not only Kipling's superbly-drawn illustrations – his extensions of the stories - but the little-known colour plates by Joseph Gleeson from the 1912 Doubleday edition.

Putting these together is proving a large ongoing task, but a labour of love.

johnrad99@gmail.com

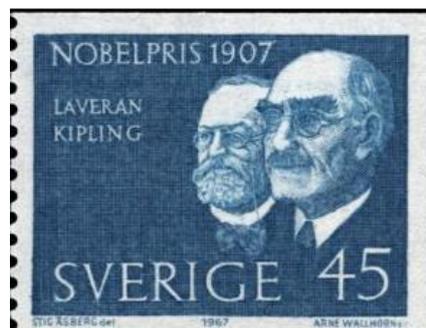
ANOTHER KIPLING PLAQUE



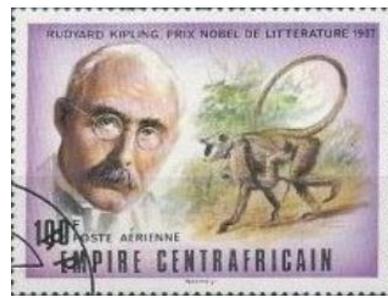
Jan Montefiore's Southsea-based cousin recently photographed the plaque at Lorne Lodge, 4 Campbell Road, the 'Downe Lodge' of *Baa Baa, Black Sheep* and the 'House of Desolation' of *Something of Myself*. She adds 'I suppose we couldn't expect English Heritage to put "Here Rudyard Kipling endured the six most wretched years of his life" '.

KIPLING ON STAMPS

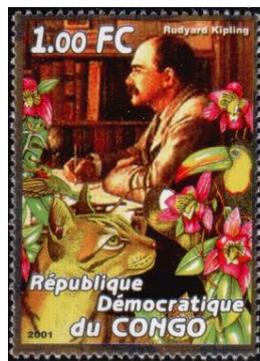
Rudyard Kipling's portrait has appeared on a number of stamps over the years. In 1967, he appeared on a Swiss stamp alongside Charles Laveran, the French physician who won the Nobel Prize for Medicine in the same year Kipling won his for literature (1907). Laveran discovered that parasitic protozoa were the cause of infectious diseases such as malaria and trypanosomiasis.



Kipling's Nobel Prize also featured on stamps from Monaco (2007) and the ill-fated Central African Empire (1977), one empire Kipling would most definitely not have wanted to be associated with.



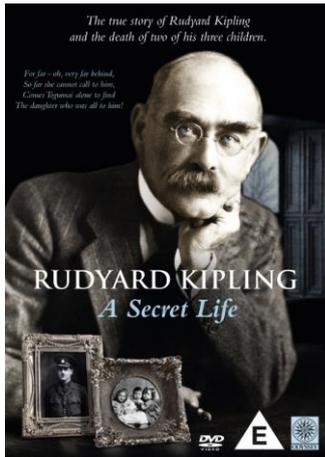
He has also appeared on the stamps of many other unexpected countries, including a nice reproduction of the Philip Burne-Jones portrait on one from the Congo (2001) and a dreadful picture on a Jungle Book themed stamp from Paraguay (1977).



KIPLING AND TOLKIEN

On the Kipling Mailbase, the influence of Kipling on Tolkien has been discussed recently. One thing mentioned was the similarity between Kipling's illustration to 'The Cat who Walked Alone' and Tolkien's 'Eeriness'. I leave it for readers to judge.





RUDYARD KIPLING: A SECRET LIFE

A definitive new documentary from Odyssey Television about the tortured hidden life of one of literature's global superstars

OUT ON DVD ON 12TH OCTOBER

"It's just what a documentary ought to be and what most documentaries aren't"

Patrick Cockburn, author and Middle East Correspondent, THE INDEPENDENT

Following its highly acclaimed TV premiere on the Sky Arts channel in October 2019, the new documentary *RUDYARD KIPLING: A SECRET LIFE* receives its DVD release on 12th October 2020.

Exploring the tortured hidden life of the author best known for much-loved classics such as *The Jungle Book*, *If* and *The Just So Stories*, *RUDYARD KIPLING: A SECRET LIFE* conveys the vividness and intensity of Kipling's public life and his remarkable ability to move between social, political and artistic worlds both in India and in England. However, its main focus is a fresh and revealing exploration of events from his 'secret' life: a grim childhood legacy of neglect and separation, the devastating loss of two of his three children and the effect that this double tragedy had on his work. There is a particular focus on the three short stories Kipling wrote about his children's deaths, *They*, *Mary Postgate* and *The Gardener* - all poignant, dark and sometimes violent. It also addresses his fluctuating personal and literary reputation and long-held misbeliefs about his life.

Endorsed by The Kipling Society, *RUDYARD KIPLING: A SECRET LIFE* features authoritative contributions from three leading Kipling biographers: Professor Harry Ricketts, Professor Jan Montefiore and Andrew Lycett. It includes stirring readings by actors Nicholas Farrell and Katherine Manners of key extracts from the author's works and there is a stunning original score played by leading musical ensembles.

RUDYARD KIPLING: A SECRET LIFE is produced and directed by Adrian Munsey and Vance Goodwin, the creative forces behind a raft of documentaries covering subjects as diverse as E.M Forster, the poets of the First World War and multiple aspects of the British royal family.

This documentary is the second in a series of Odyssey programmes about writers, which includes *The Pity of War: Poets at the Front* (DVD released on 28th September), as well as *E.M. Forster: His Longest Journey* and *What Was Virginia Woolf Afraid Of?* both coming out on DVD later this year.

Rudyard Kipling: A Secret Life is out on DVD and is available from Amazon

produced and directed by Adrian Munsey and Vance Goodwin.

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Odyssey Television is a production company created by producer, distributor and TV channel executive Adrian Munsey. Munsey has produced 42 television documentaries, two feature films, co-founded the SKY and Freeview True Movies group of channels, composed, recorded and performed orchestral and vocal music; and released over 500 films on DVD including restoring 21 Merchant Ivory feature films.