



# THE KIPLING SOCIETY

FOUNDED 1927

Registered Charity No.278885

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## NEWSLETTER – MARCH 2022

### NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, 13 April 2022: 6.00pm. This meeting, "Our Kipling Treasures", will take place entirely on Zoom. During this event our Librarian, John Walker, and archivist Toby Parker from Haileybury College will demonstrate some of the most interesting items in the Society's Library, and members connecting from their own homes are invited to show any rare Kipling editions, manuscripts, photographs or memorabilia in their private possession. If you have a "treasure" you would like to speak about, please email me ([alex\\_bubb@hotmail.com](mailto:alex_bubb@hotmail.com)) beforehand - our rota is almost full now but we still have space for one or two extra participants.

*The link below will be open from around 5.45pm.*

<https://roehampton-ac->

[uk.zoom.us/j/82827784592?pwd=S2RmbDZvR2syT1JU2xlbmRvTFhVUT09](https://roehampton-ac-uk.zoom.us/j/82827784592?pwd=S2RmbDZvR2syT1JU2xlbmRvTFhVUT09)

(Meeting ID: 828 2778 4592)

(Passcode: 900611)

### NEXT KIPLING READING EVENT

On **Wednesday 11 May**, 6.00pm-8.00pm, Jan Montefiore will lead another on-line session of members' short readings (maximum three minutes) from Kipling's poetry or prose.

*If you would like to read, or just to listen, please email [J.E.Montefiore@kent.ac.uk](mailto:J.E.Montefiore@kent.ac.uk) for the Zoom link, giving details of what, if anything, you would like to read.*

### FUTURE MEETINGS

- Wednesday 6 July. AGM. Speaker TBA. *Royal Over-Seas League, 4.30pm for 5.00pm and by Zoom*
- Wednesday 21 September – Online only meeting broadcast from Bateman's, which is expected to take the form of a narrated tour of the rooms and garden.
- Wednesday 16 November. Speaker TBA. *Royal Over-Seas League, 5.30pm for 6.00pm and by Zoom.*

## **FEBRUARY MEETING – Alex Bubb**

On the 9th of February we met again in the Wrench Room at the Royal Over-seas League in London, and listened to a stimulating lecture from Council member Richard Howell, who recently completed a Master's degree in Country House Studies at the University of Buckingham.

Richard is probably the first person to seriously investigate the Bateman's estate records held at the East Sussex Record Office, and in his talk, titled "One Spot Beloved Over All", he gave a detailed chronology of how the Kiplings systematically built up their landholdings field by field. Taking issue with the common assumption that Rudyard and Carrie's sole concern was to secure their privacy by averting the construction of any homes on land overlooking their own house, Richard instead argued that they were motivated in large part by Rider Haggard's views on declining British agriculture, and the need to ensure national food security in the event of a major war.

## **WEE WILLIE WINKIE – Tom White**

To go with his 'Plain Tales from the Hills' and 'Soldiers Three', Tom has now produced an electronic version of 'Wee Willie Winkie and Other Stories' which is fully annotated, mainly with the information from the Society's New Reader's Guide. As with his other volumes, they are available for a modest price (which Tom kindly donates to the Society) from either the British and US versions of Amazon. The links to follow are below.

[Wee Willie Winkie and Other Stories: Amazon.co.uk: Kindle Store](https://www.amazon.co.uk/dp/B089L8L8L8)

[Wee Willie Winkie and Other Stories: Kindle eBooks @ Amazon.com.](https://www.amazon.com/dp/B089L8L8L8)



## **VACANCIES AT AGM**

There will be at least two vacancies for places on Council at the forthcoming AGM. If you would like to get involved in the running of your Society, please contact me or any of the other officers in the next couple of months.

## **ALS NEWSLETTER**



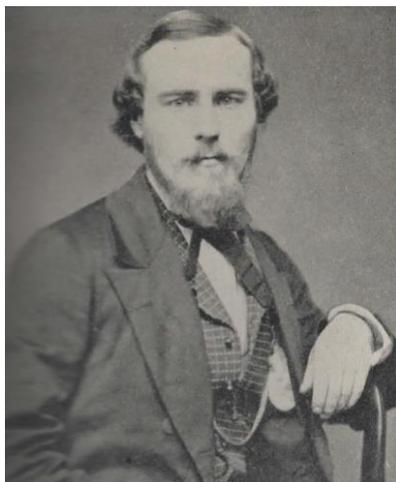
The Kipling Society is a member of the Alliance of Literary Societies and receives its newsletters. The contents of the latest edition include:

- The Highgate Highflyers: An on-line programme hosted jointly by the Hopkins and Betjeman Societies on Saturday, 2 October 2021 via Zoom

- Lance Pierson
- LitHouses Conference 2021
- Johnson's Willow rises again
- 'Alice's Day' – Lewis Carroll Society events in Oxford – Saturday 2 July
- Five Best Books About ...
- The Alliance of Literary Societies (ALS) AGM Weekend in Hull. Hosted by The Philip Larkin Society, celebrating the 100th anniversary of the birth of Philip Larkin. Friday 20th May - Sunday 22nd May 2022

The full bulletin can be read at [Alliance of Literary Societies](#)

## KIPLING'S LESSER-KNOWN UNCLES - Part 2



Henry James 'Harry' Madconald, elder brother of Kipling's mother Alice, was born in Manchester in 1835, two years before Alice, who was born in Sheffield. When the Macdonald moved to Birmingham, Harry went to King Edward the Sixth's School there, where his fellow pupils included Cornell 'Crom' Price (later Kipling's headmaster at *Westward Ho!*) and Edward 'Ned' Burne-Jones. Harry won a scholarship to Corpus Christi College, Oxford where he initially did well, taking a first in Moderations (the examinations taken part way through an Oxford Classics degree). Alice and her younger sister Georgiana ('Georgie') visited Harry whilst he was at Oxford and it was there that they encountered Burne-Jones, William Morris and others of Harry's set, Georgie of course going on to marry Ned.

Unfortunately, Harry's potential was not fulfilled after a loss of mental focus, and possibly the distraction of Peggy Tallboys, the daughter of a local bookseller and publisher with whom he had fallen in love. He left Oxford without taking his degree and sat the Indian Civil Service examination, which he passed. However, he did not go to the sub-continent, but instead to New York, where he initially worked in stockbroking for a relative of the Tallboys. Peggy never did join him there, Harry instead marrying Caroline Gold at Rochester, NY, in December 1862. They had no children.

He returned only once to England, shortly after his father's death at the end of 1868. He stayed at Bewdley where his mother and his sister Louisa lived. 'Louie' had married businessman Alfred Baldwin and their son Stanley had been born in 1867. Sister Alice and her young son Rudyard had been at Bewdley the previous year and Harry's stay was no more successful than Ruddy's had been. He had become a heavy drinker and on one occasion fell over and cut himself badly. He Louie bluntly advocated the surgical removal of his liver. Alfred Baldwin was not impressed by his lack of business abilities, notwithstanding that he had now become a stockbroker.<sup>1</sup>

After his return to New York, he continued mainly in stockbroking, never really enjoying the work, but making a decent living, sending money home to support his widowed mother. He only received three visits from his family. In 1880, his younger brother Fred, who had followed

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<sup>1</sup> Judith Flanders, *A Circle of Sisters* (2002, Penguin)

his father into the Methodist ministry, visited whilst attending a conference. The two brothers found they had little in common outside their childhood memories. Stanley Baldwin also visited whilst over developing the family business. In 1889, Rudyard Kipling visited him at the end of his long journey from India to the England via Japan and North America. Kipling wrote *'Time has not dealt kindly with him though he seems comfortable well off. That evening I dined with him and his wife who was once a very handsome woman and who even now retains a stern and loft countenance. I had to tell 'em all about my ways and works – not the novels – I couldn't help letting them continue in the notion that I was a sort of wandering scapegoat. In return they told me much family history which was doubtless very interesting – if I had only listened to it. And so I recemented the alliance with mine uncle.'*<sup>2</sup>

In 1891, Harry was diagnosed with cancer of the throat and wrote that much as he wanted to visit England one last time, medical advice was against it. Fred and Rudyard Kipling immediately took ship to New York, only to discover on arrival that Harry had died, aged only 56, two days after they set sail. Lycett relates how Kipling travelled under the pseudonym of J. Macdonald but was unmasked by the press on arrival. He took the next ship home.

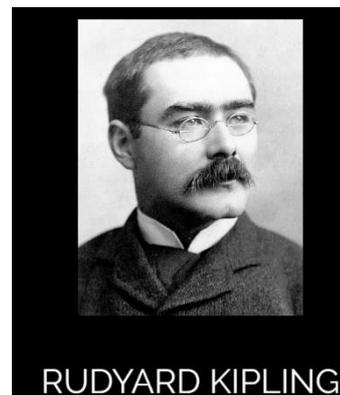
Harry Macdonald was buried at Green-Wood Cemetery, Brooklyn.

*In the end he felt the cold touch of the Crab's claw on the apple of his throat.*

## A VERY PERSONAL WAR – Jim Fanning



Society member Jim Fanning has designed an excellent website which he describes as *'my journey through the life, and works of Rudyard Kipling, with a focus on the Great and beyond.'* He also recently had an article published in January 2022 edition of *Stand To*, the journal of the Western Front Association. It was called *'A Very Personal War: Rudyard Kipling and the Irish Guards in the Great War.'* and it can be found on his website at [Article | Kipling and Me](#)



times  
War  
the

## 1921 CENSUS

Records of the 1921 census of England and Wales were recently released, just over 100 years since they were made. As can be seen, Rudyard, Carrie and Elsie were all at home at *Bateman's* on census day, as were five live-in female servants.

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<sup>2</sup> Letter to Edmonia Hill, 10 Sept 1899, in Thomas Pinney, *The Letters of Rudyard Kipling*, 1, 340

			year	months						
1	Rudyard Kipling	Head	55	5	M	Married	London	President		Author
							Bombay	2010		8705
2	Caroline Kipling	Wife	53	5	F	Married	New York	President		
							United States	British by marriage	Home - duties	
3	Elsie Kipling	Daughter	25	4	F	Single	Vermon	President		
							United States	British born	Not occupied for a living	

6	Eleanor Mayne	Servant	47	4	F	Widow	London			Cook
7	Ada Thomas	Servant	44	9	F	Single	Hackney			House-maid
8	Katherine Blyburn	Servant	20	1	F	Single	Surrey			Parlour-maid
9	Gene Hutchinson	Servant	18	1	F	Single	Sussex			Parlour-maid
10	Louise Brock	Servant	15	7	F	Single	Burwash			Kitchen-maid

I declare that this Schedule is correctly filled up to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signature Rudyard Kipling

(Head of Household, Manager of Establishment or other person responsible for making the return.)

To be filled up by the Enumerator.			
Males.	Females.	Persons.	Rooms.
1	1	2	2

This space to be filled up by the Enumerator.		
Registration District.	Registration Sub-District.	Enumeration District.
73	1	3
Name of person responsible for making the return.	Mr. Rudyard Kipling	
Postal Address	Batemans	
	Burwash.	

## GIFTS AND BEQUESTS John Walker, Librarian

We have received a number of gifts and bequests for the Kipling Society Library recently, and would like to acknowledge some of them here, while there will also be an article in a future edition of the Kipling Society Journal.

**From the collection of Victor Bonney** (member 814), given by his great-nieces Mary Anne Bonney and Vicky Dawson:

- The programme for the Rudyard Kipling Memorial fund Banquet, on 17th November 1937.
- A typed transcript of letters from Rudyard Kipling to Sir John and Lady Bland-Sutton.
- "The Story of HMS Kipling" - Report of a Lecture to the Kipling Society.
- A reprint from The Lancet, June 19th 1937: *Kipling and Doctors* by Victor Bonney
- A reprint from the Middlesex Hospital Journal March 1936: *Rudyard Kipling* by Victor Bonney.

**From a bequest by Anne Harcombe**, executed by her friend Gill Carus:

- A range of volumes which duplicate those at Haileybury, for reserve stock and renewal of older items.

**From a non-member, Mrs Beth Allen:**

- A fine copy of *Twenty One Tales*; The Reprint Society 1946.

**From a non-member, Margaret Wright, in Australia:**

- Notes on a talk by Cecily Nicholson, Kipling's last secretary.

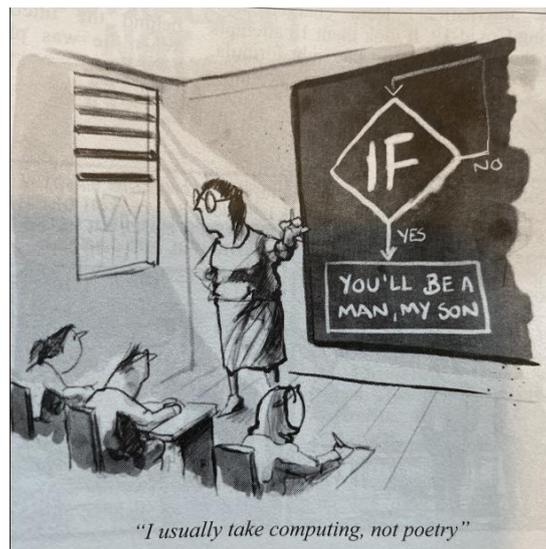
**From the library of a non-member, Adrian Leonard Lawford, given by his grand-daughter, Fiona Waugh:**

- A number of red leather Pocket Edition volumes.

We are very grateful for the forethought and generosity shown to the Society.

**PRIVATE EYE**

This cartoon caught several members' attention in a recent edition of *Private Eye*.

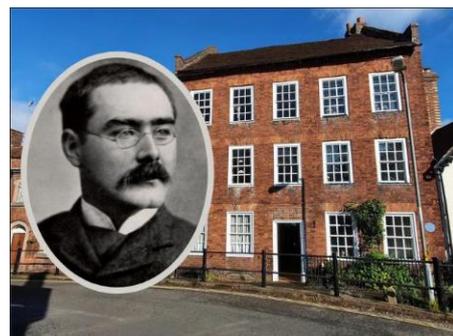


**RUDYARD KIPLING'S BEWDLEY HOME UP FOR AUCTION**

**Jack Rawlins** (journalist, *The Kidderminster Shuttle*)

The family home (sic) of celebrated English poet Rudyard Kipling is being auctioned off - with bidding starting at £285,000. The Grade II listed Georgian townhouse, which is in need of renovation, is located on the edge of Bewdley's historic town centre.

According to agents Eden Midcalf, the historic 7 Lower Park was occupied by George and Hannah Macdonald, the parents of the famous Macdonald sisters, Louisa,



Alice, Agnes and Georgiana, who recently featured in an exhibition in the Bewdley museum. Alice was mother to Rudyard Kipling, Georgiana married the Pre-Raphaelite artist Edward Burne-Jones, Louisa was the mother of Bewdley's own three-time Prime Minister Stanley Baldwin, and Agnes married Edward Poynter, artist and President of the Royal Academy. In 1868, Rudyard was left behind at the home to be looked at by his grandparents whilst Alice was in London for several months.

Rudyard Kipling is best known for writing *The Jungle Book* and seminal poem *If*. The home has five double bedrooms, two reception rooms, a large garden, and scope for extension.

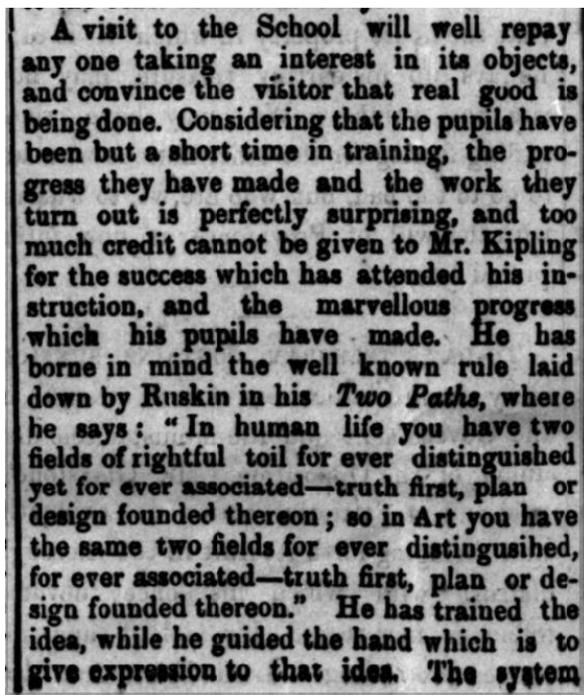
See more photographs at [Rudyard Kipling's Bewdley home up for auction | Kidderminster Shuttle](#)

**Richard Maidment**, who spotted the above article, writes "*The estate agent makes much of the Rudyard Kipling connection -- rather ironic, considering that RK was only three when he was left there for several months with his grandparents -- his Aunt Louie commented afterwards: "Ruddy's screaming tempers made Papa so ill we were thankful to see them on their way. The wretched disturbances one ill-ordered child can make is a lesson for all time to me." And he won the Nobel Prize for literature and she became the mother of a prime minister!*

*It looks a potentially very attractive property and I imagine it will fetch a lot more than the starting price. -- perhaps with a Kipling premium!"*

## THE CIVIL AND MILITARY GAZETTE – PART 6

The first Kipling mentioned in the C&MG was John Lockwood Kipling, such as in this article of 26 February 1877.



A visit to the School will well repay any one taking an interest in its objects, and convince the visitor that real good is being done. Considering that the pupils have been but a short time in training, the progress they have made and the work they turn out is perfectly surprising, and too much credit cannot be given to Mr. Kipling for the success which has attended his instruction, and the marvellous progress which his pupils have made. He has borne in mind the well known rule laid down by Ruskin in his *Two Paths*, where he says: "In human life you have two fields of rightful toil for ever distinguished yet for ever associated—truth first, plan or design founded thereon; so in Art you have the same two fields for ever distinguished, for ever associated—truth first, plan or design founded thereon." He has trained the idea, while he guided the hand which is to give expression to that idea. The system

followed by the Principal of the Lahore School of Art, experience has proved to be the right one.

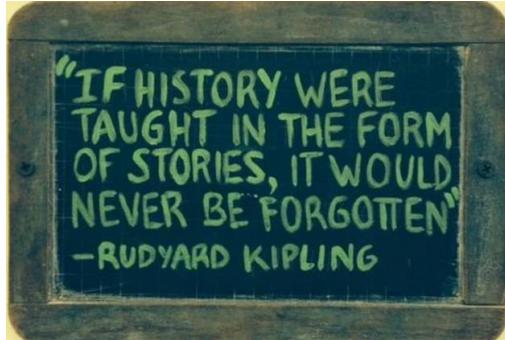
In this matter of fact age, every thing is judged by results, and Mr. Kipling's work is able to stand this test most satisfactorily.

There are at present under instruction, from 65 to 70 pupils, all evincing a thorough interest in their work and most of them showing a very creditable proficiency. Of these about a dozen or so have made such good progress that they are in the advanced classes, and their work would compare very favorably with students of double their standing in many Western schools of Art and Design.

Modelling and moulding has also been attended to with good result, and though not of course, as popular a study as drawing and painting, has attracted some promising students. And as regards designing, the admirable designs of Ram Singh, a carpenter (who while being taught drawing has been instructed in design and adaptation) will convince any one who inspects them, that his fifteen months study under Mr. Kipling has not been thrown away.

Ram Singh famously went on to create the Durbar Room at Osborne House under JLK's supervision.

### THINGS THAT KIPLING DIDN'T WRITE – #3



Having discussed this quotation with several senior members of the Society, and searched extensively, I'm fairly confident that it is not actually by Kipling. The attribution to him appears to be a relatively recent phenomenon spread widely by the internet. We can only speculate as to the origins of the attribution, for example from an article which might have said that something like this was Kipling's sentiment. For example, in a letter of 1905, referring to Puck of Pook's Hill, he writes that the stories are 'part of a scheme of mine for trying to give children not a notion of history but a notion of the time sense which is at the bottom of all knowledge of history and history rightly understood (sic) means love of one's fellow men and the lands one lives in'. [Letter to Edward Bok, 28 July 1905, in Thomas Pinney (ed.) *The Letters of Rudyard Kipling* Vol 3 (1996 Macmillan) p 189].

But if you know otherwise, please do let us know!

### AND FINALLY....



*'Naulakha' in winter (Landmark Trust USA)*