



# THE KIPLING SOCIETY

FOUNDED 1927

Registered Charity No.278885

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## NEWSLETTER – JUNE 2022

### NEXT MEETING

**Wednesday 6 July.** AGM. Speaker: Dr Sarah Shaw. Sarah is a faculty member at the Oriental Institute in Oxford, and an honorary fellow of the Oxford Centre for Buddhist Studies. Recently she has led a tour of Kipling-related sites in India organized for Oxford alumni, and the topic of her talk will be ‘Is Kipling Oral Literature’?

*Royal Over-Seas League, 4.30pm for 5.00pm and by Zoom*

<https://roehampton-ac-uk.zoom.us/j/81827298262?pwd=Rnd1c3AvZkQxbU9kQTJNK25XU25jdz09>

Meeting ID: 818 2729 8262 Passcode: 527871

*Members attending in person are invited to join Dr Shaw and members of Council for dinner at a nearby restaurant after the meeting. If you would like to do so, please let the Secretary know via e-mail, telephone or post.*

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

At the forthcoming AGM, we will be voting on making a small but necessary change to the Society’s rules. Council decided several years ago to replace the class of ‘junior member’ with that of ‘current student’. A discounted subscription is offered but with access only to the electronic version of *The Kipling Journal*. We did not amend the rules at the time but are now doing so. Also, we do not want the new class of member to be disenfranchised, as were the previous junior members. The formal changes proposed to rules 3 and 15 are set out below:

3 (2) There are four classes of Members, namely: (a) Life Members (b) Ordinary Members (c) ~~Junior Members (that is, persons under the age of eighteen years)~~ **Current Student Members**; and (d) Honorary Members (admitted under paragraph (3) below)

3 (4) ~~Junior Members and~~ Honorary Members are not entitled to vote at General Meetings, but have all the other privileges of membership.

15 (1) Every Member, **other than Current Student Members**, shall receive without charge one copy of each issue of the Kipling Journal (or in the case of two Members subscribing jointly, one such copy between them) starting with the issue current on the date on which their membership begins.

We also have two members standing for election to Council: Mary Hamer, who was a co-opted member this year (and so has to stand for election under our rules) and Andrew Scragg who will be a new member of Council.

## LORD WILLIAMS OF OYSTERMOUTH

Council has awarded honorary membership to Lord Williams of Oystermouth, former Archbishop of Canterbury, which he has been gracious to accept. Members may recall his wonderful address to us, ‘Rudyard Kipling and Dreams’ at the 2017 annual luncheon and his sermon, ‘Inspirations’, at the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary service in Burwash in 2006 (<https://www.kiplingsociety.co.uk/readers-guide/inspirations.htm>). There is also a report of a recent talk on Kipling he gave at St Nicholas, Arundel, later in this newsletter.

## FUTURE MEETINGS

- Wednesday 21 September – Online only meeting broadcast from Bateman’s, which will take the form of a narrated tour of the rooms and garden, followed by the opportunity for questions.
- Wednesday 16 November. Christopher Kreuzer will speak on “‘The King’s Pilgrimage’ (1922): tour, poem, speech and book”; *Royal Over-Seas League*, 5.30pm for 6.00pm and by Zoom.

Provisional dates for meetings in 2023 are as follows (all Wednesdays): 1 February, 19 April, 5 July (AGM), 20 September and 22 November. We currently intend that two of these will be on-line only and that three will be hybrid.

## APRIL MEETING REPORT – Alex Bubb

For April’s event, “Our Kipling Treasures”, we experimented with a new format conducted entirely via Zoom. The evening began with our honorary librarian, John Walker, describing to us the history and development of the Society’s library before, before John illustrated our unique holdings by presenting some particularly noteworthy items. Next we heard from Toby Parker, archivist at Haileybury, who joined us live from the Kipling Library itself (helpfully rotating the camera to allow viewers to get a sense of the dimensions and furnishings of that well-appointed room). Together John and Toby gave a highly entertaining and informative introduction to our book and manuscript holdings that will, I think, have been really valued by members who may lack the opportunity to see these treasures for themselves.

In the second half of the evening, a number of our members presented some treasures of their own. I always knew some enticing gems must lie in our assorted vaults, but I was astonished by the variety and novelty of what people brought to the (virtual) table in April. Steve Russ showed us some images of a handwritten letter of Kipling’s that he had recently obtained, and Maggie Washington told us about a unique copy of the *Definitive Edition* of Kipling’s verse given to her by her parents in childhood, which over the years she had embellished with postage stamps from around the world. Jim Fanning produced two remarkable volumes from his bookshelves: a *History of the Irish Guards* inscribed by Kipling to John Kipling’s brother office, Captain Mumford, and a copy of *Departmental Ditties* from the library of President John F. Kennedy. Like Maggie,



Bob Pettigrew had a pair of books to show that had been his faithful companions through many years and much travel: two unusual collections of quotations, titled *A Kipling Calendar* and *Kipling Day by Day*, before Rufus Vaughan-Spruce amazed us by producing two books from Lahore which we had all heard of but few of us had ever seen: a first edition of *Departmental Ditties*, and a Bikaner House *Quartette*. After a feast of books and manuscripts, we concluded with two decorative objects: a commemorative jug bearing the slogan 'A Gentleman in Khaki' (courtesy of David Forsyth), and an original copy of the bas-relief plaque given by the Society to the crew of the warship, *HMS Kipling*, in 1936 (with thanks to Harry Waterson). My gratitude to these individuals for helping to make the evening such a success.

## **ON-LINE READING EVENT - 11 MAY**

Once again, a delightful evening of readings, curated by our Chair Jan Montefiore, was enjoyed by readers and listeners alike.

### **Kipling on Russia/ public life**

Mike Kipling, from the 'Rhyme of the Three Sealers'  
Alda Milner-Barry, 'The Truce of the Bear'  
Andrew Scragg, 'The Greek National Anthem'

### **Kipling and Soldiers**

Pamela Morgan, 'Route Marching'  
John Walker, 'Boots'  
Sarah LeFanu, 'Lichtenberg'

### **Kipling and Sailors**

Christopher Morrison, 'The Song of the Dead' section 2 – We have fed our sea...  
Alastair Wilson, 'White Horses'  
Martin Powell, 'Song of Diego Valdez'

### **Kipling and Art**

Maggie Washington, from *The Light That Failed*. – Dick describing his best work  
Jan Montefiore, from 'The Eye of Allah': John of Burgos' illuminations

### **Poems from the 'Puck' books**

Tim Connell, 'A Smuggler's Song'  
John Radcliffe, 'Cities and Thrones and Powers'  
Harry Ricketts, 'The Thousandth Man'

### **Kipling and Women**

Fred Lerner, 'Ave Imperatrix'  
John Gatiss, 'The Vampire'  
Christine Wozney, 'Three- and an Extra'

### **Kipling and nature**

Janice Lingley, Trees in *The Light That Failed* and 'Marklake Witches'  
Valmai Holt, 'The Glory of the Garden'

## CAPTAIN CODRINGTON AND THE LOSS OF HIS FAMILY IN SIMLA 1841

James Crowden

The other day I was very interested to see reference to the demise of the Codrington family in Simla April 1841 which was commented on by Kipling in his Civil & Military Gazette article dated 14th August 1886 [https://www.kiplingsociety.co.uk/journalism/rg\\_sketches\\_31.htm](https://www.kiplingsociety.co.uk/journalism/rg_sketches_31.htm)

I thought your readers might like to know a little bit more about Captain Robert Codrington 49th Bengal Native Infantry (NI). The grave he erected to his family was the finest tomb in the Simla graveyard with a *pukka* shed and masonry walls though when Kipling saw it the roof leaked. Maybe the memorial is still there. The family consisted of four children and his wife Susan Elizabeth Codrington née Matthew. They all succumbed to fever, either typhoid or cholera:

Charles Codrington died 6th April 1841 aged 4

Lucy Elizabeth Codrington died 8th April aged 3

William Codrington died 18th April aged 2 though (he is not mentioned by Kipling)

The distraught wife Susan Elizabeth died six weeks later on 21st June 1841.

A fourth child Katherine May died eleven months later on 27th May 1842 aged 2

This was at the time of the First Afghan War when Captain Robert Codrington of the 49th NI was Deputy QMG down in Karnaul. Robert was born in 1805 the son of Christopher Codrington an army surgeon. Robert first served in Chittagong in Burma with 2/20th NI and was lucky to survive the disaster at Ramu in 1824. He then became Brigade Major to the Light Brigade in Arakan and subsequently moved to the QMG department where he undertook boundary surveys in Oudh & Nepaul, as well as survey work in Jubbulpore, Saugor, Karnaul and Ferozepore.

In a letter to his brother Captain Christopher Codrington, who was in Kabul in March 1841, Robert expresses grave concern about his family, not least the expense of keeping them there in Simla! Christopher had sent his family home to Cheltenham. But events overtook not only Robert's family in Simla but his brother Christopher who was commanding a regiment of irregular Gurkhas whose job was to defend a half-completed mud bricked fort at Charikar some 40 miles north of Kabul. They were all besieged and pretty well wiped out. Christopher died of wounds 5th Nov 1841. The only officers to survive were Lt Haughton and Major Eldred Pottinger.

After the massacre of the Army on their retreat from Kabul, Robert Codrington then accompanied Pollock with his 'Army of Retribution' in 1842 serving with distinction in the actions at Mammoo Khel, Jagdalak, Tazeane and Haft Kotal. He was also present at the sacking of Charikar. From then on Robert was involved with surveying at Subathoo. He again saw service in the Punjab during the Sikh Wars in the Sutlej and was awarded the Sutlej medal (which sold at auction in 2004 for £920). In December 1845, he was appointed Assistant QMG of the 2nd Infantry Division and was badly wounded at the Battle of Moodkee in Feb 1846. He spent one year recuperating in Simla where his family had died. Then he was granted sick leave to the Cape but died in passage on board HMS Wellesley in January 1847. So the Codrington family was



pretty well wiped out. The only male survivor was Christopher's son Edward who served on the NW Frontier with the 5th Gurkhas. If only Kipling had known all this.

## **WHY WE READ KIPLING**

Council would be very interested to hear why members read Kipling today. To encourage a response, we have drafted ten questions. If you have a moment, we would be most grateful if you could answer some or all of them as your fancy takes you and send them to the Secretary, Mike Kipling, by e-mail or post (his contact details are at the beginning of this newsletter). We will publish, either in the *Kipling Journal* or the newsletter, a summary of members' responses which will also include a selection of *verbatim* quotes (please say if you would like your response to be anonymised).

1. Are you reading any Kipling now? If so, which work (short story, novel, verse or non-fiction) is it?
2. What is the earliest Kipling you remember reading or being read to you?
3. Which book got you 'hooked' on Kipling?
4. Has any work of Kipling had a particular impact on your life?
5. Which Kipling book do you give as a gift?
6. Do you have an edition of Kipling that you particularly treasure?
7. If you could take one work of Kipling's to a desert island which would it be?
8. Who is your favourite character from Kipling?
9. Do you have a favourite scene or line from Kipling?
10. Are there particular reasons you read Kipling (sense of adventure, his humour, his language)?

## **POLICY ON DEROGATORY RACIAL TERMINOLOGY**

At the suggestion of a member of the public, Council has held two discussions this year on Kipling's use of derogatory racial terminology, particularly that which is now politely referred to as 'the n-word'. The matter is particularly pertinent, as unlike many other literary societies, we provide on our website the texts of all of our author's major works, and many minor ones too. Until now, it has not been our practice to edit them in any way, except in the case of 'How the Leopard got its Spots' where, in common with most modern editions of *Just So Stories*, we have edited out the n-word and also removed a couple of potentially offensive sentences from the caption to Kipling's final illustration. Nor have we included any warnings on other pages which contain words that are or potentially are racially offensive.

Kipling did not use racially offensive terminology particularly frequently, although when he did it was typically quite casually, reflecting the common conversational usage of either himself and his peers, or of specific characters he was describing (e.g. American colonists, British tommies). Such words would probably have been considered offensive at the time by those to whom they referred, as they would have been by the more enlightened of Kipling's contemporaries. They are far more likely to be considered offensive today. However, Council is very reluctant to edit Kipling's texts. Nevertheless, we do recognise the hurt that unexpectedly coming across the n-word can cause. We therefore agreed that we would identify those of Kipling's works which contain the word and include a warning along the lines of 'this poem/story contains offensive terminology' in a suitably prominent place, typically between

the title and the text. This warning will also include a link to a page setting out our policy on this topic.

On our website, we specifically recommend five of Kipling's collections for younger readers: *Just So Stories*, the two *Jungle Books*, *Puck of Pook's Hill* and *Rewards and Fairies*. Of these, the first and the last contain the n-word (in 'Ham and the Porcupine' and 'How the Leopard...' from the first and in 'Brother Square Toes' and 'A Priest in Spite of Himself' from the last). For these, we will edit the text to remove, seamlessly, the n-word, not replacing it with asterisks or ellipsis as these may lead to awkward questions to teachers or parents. In the accompanying notes, we will only include the generic comment 'This story has been edited to remove some offensive wording, as we specifically recommend it for young people'

Council also considered other racially offensive terminology in addition to the n-word, including some in languages other than English, but decided not at present to take any further action, pending feedback from members and the public on the actions we will be taking.

## IN KIPLING'S FOOTSTEPS



With the continuing political issues between India and Pakistan, the land border between the two countries has been closed for some time with no prospect of it opening again in the short term. As a result, Arcadia Expeditions has had to remove the Pakistan section of its January 2023 trip (which

pained them to do so given the importance of Lahore in the Kipling story) and has rejigged the itinerary within India a little too. You can see the updated itinerary here on their website <https://www.arcadiaexpeditions.com/expeditions/india-kipling-the-raj/>

What this has meant is that the trip is now shorter and at a lower price. The expedition leader is Harry Ricketts, one of the society's Vice-Presidents. As previously advertised, Society member are eligible for a 10% discount

## SUMMER POETRY READINGS AT BATEMAN'S

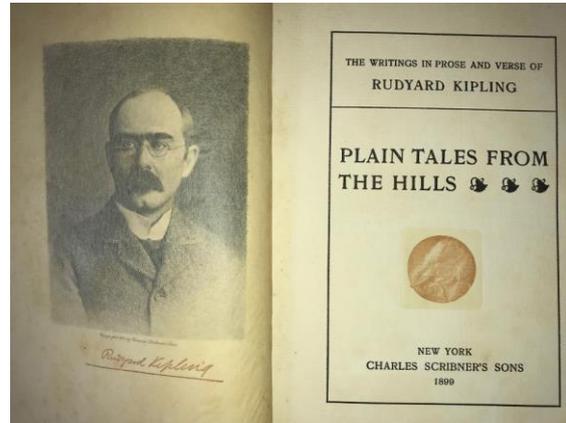
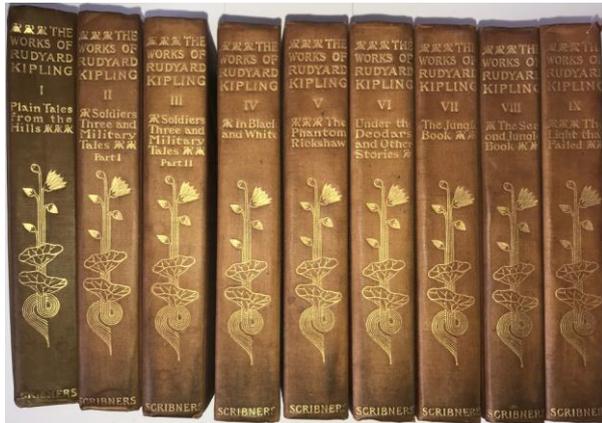
Once again, volunteers will be reading selections of Kipling's verse in the garden at Bateman's this summer. Readings will be on Sundays, Thursdays and Fridays, commencing with Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> July and will run until Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> August They last 20-30 minutes and are at 11.30, 12.30, 13.30 and 14.30. See [Poetry reading in the garden | National Trust](#) for further details

### KIPLING CLUED AGAIN

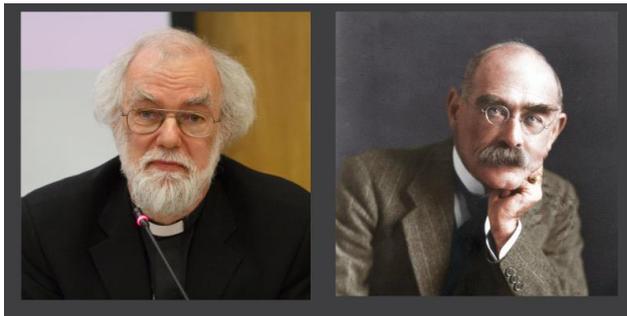
The Times Crossword 12 April 2022. "Jungle Book role's cut line in private (6)"  
*Answer at end*

## FOR SALE – Stow Lovejoy

I have a 28-volume collection of Kipling's works ... the Charles Scribners edition, with many published in 1899 and 1900, but stretching on to Volume XXVIII which was, I believe, published around 1920. While it is a lovely set, it is a bit of an albatross in our electronic book age. Are there members of the Kipling Society in New York or New Jersey who are looking for such a set, or know of individuals or libraries that would want them? I would be willing to transport them reasonably near my house in New Jersey. Contact: [h.stow.lovejoy@gmail.com](mailto:h.stow.lovejoy@gmail.com)



## LORD WILLIAMS' TALK AT ARUNDEL



*The Paradoxes of Rudyard Kipling  
with Bishop Rowan Williams*

*On the evening of 28 May, Lord Williams gave a talk in St Nicholas church Arundel at the invitation of the vicar (he was also due to preach there the following morning). His title was 'The Paradoxes of Rudyard Kipling'. Bishop Williams commenced by remarking that he was in no doubt that some in the audience would know Kipling far better than he did (which was doubtful) and that others would not know little about him (which was more credible). He therefore would try to address both audiences, which he most definitely managed to do.*

The first paradox was that whilst Kipling spent much of his life striving to be an 'insider', his writing speaks for and shows great empathy for the outsider. CS Lewis had pointed out that Kipling was fascinated by an 'inner ring' of people in the know. Bishop Williams gave the example of Strickland, deeply versed in Indian culture, which by reflection Kipling was claiming to be to.

Another paradox lay in Kipling's attitude to race. At the one level, he echoed the unthinking racism of the colonial club – yet he also wrote favourable of aspects of non-white Indian society and was conscious of their view of the friction. Was *A Pict Song* actually about

Indians versus the Raj, or about Irish experience of the British? Kipling often deployed unpleasant historical stereotypes – yet where better to go for insight into the mind of a nineteenth century mullah than *On the City Wall*? Or to understand the role of Jews in thirteenth-century England. His attitude to women was also paradoxical. In many cases it was stereotypical, yet he also recognises complex female personalities in *William the Conqueror* and *In the Same Boat*.

The autobiographical *Baa Baa Black Sheep* suggest a deep hurt at the root of these paradoxes, that all the love in the world will not take away. Kipling challenges the ways we use to exclude one another – and as long as that happens in the world, Kipling is still worth reading.

*The audience the played Bishop Williams with questions for a full 30 minutes, including:*

- *What Kipling would you recommend for a twelve-year old boy? (‘Puck’ or ‘Jungle Book’)*
- *What parallels are there with Belloc?*
- *How would Kipling have got on with (Sir) Mark Tully?*
- *What would you talk about with Kipling? (British History).*
- *What was Kipling’s religion? (he was Stoic, but yet reflected the Christian message well in ‘The Gardener’ and the two St Paul stories)*
- *How do Indian think of Kipling today? (some dismissive, some look favourably)*

*Dr Williams’ talk was delivered completely without notes, referring only to some of his Macmillian pocket editions for longer quotations. Several members of the Kipling Society were present (doubtless there would have been more had we been given more than a few days’ notice of the event) and all adjudged it to have been a most excellent evening, the hard pews notwithstanding!*

**AND FINALLY...**



*‘Naulakha’ in springtime – with rhododendron tunnel on left (Landmark Trust USA)*

**Crossword Clue Answer: Mowgli (Cut=Mow, Private = GI, with L for ‘line’ interposed)**