



THE KIPLING SOCIETY

FOUNDED 1927

Registered Charity No.278885

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NEWSLETTER – MAY 2021

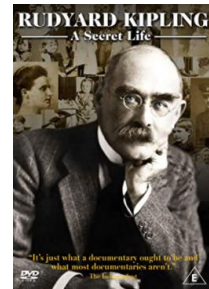
FUTURE MEETINGS

- Monday 14th June: 6.00pm. The Honourable Artillery Company is hosting a historical lecture and dinner jointly with the Kipling Society at Armoury House, City Road, London, EC1. After a two-course dinner, Professor Ian Beckett will address the company on 'Kipling's Army Revisited', with a finish time no later than 9.00pm. The event will be held in accordance with the 'rule of six', with guests seated six per table in a large banqueting hall.

Full details and an application form are appended to this newsletter.

- Wednesday 30 June, 5.00pm. (by Zoom) AGM. After which Adrian Munsey will address the Society on the production of his acclaimed documentary *Rudyard Kipling: a Secret Life*. Adrian will show some clips from the film and describe to us how it was conceived, planned and shot.

If you'd like to attend the AGM and/or meeting, please e-mail John Radcliffe at johnrad@btinternet.com for the Zoom link. Further details of the AGM will be circulated by e-mail closer to the time.



Future meetings at the Royal Over-Seas League, Park Place, London, SW1:

- Wednesday 22 September, **7.30pm for 8.00pm** – Starmers-Smith Memorial Lecture. Professor Harry Ricketts, Victoria University, New Zealand, 'Kipling and Trauma'.
- Wednesday 10 November, 5.30pm for 6.00pm - Madeleine Horton, 'Rethinking Rudyard Kipling: Genre, Value, and Reputation'.
- Wednesday, 9 February 2022, 5.30pm for 6.00pm - Richard Howells, 'One Spot Beloved Over All' - The Kiplings and the Bateman's Estate.'
- Wednesday, 13 April 2022, TBA

Members who cannot attend in person will be able to do so via Zoom.

The *Kipling in the News* Conference, being organised jointly by the Society and City University, will now take place on 9 and 10 September. Delegates will be able to attend either in person or on-line. For further details and the programme, see [Kipling in the News: Journalism, Empire, and Decolonisation • City University, London.](#)

A REQUEST

We have had a request from the Probus Club of St Helens in Lancashire for a talk on Kipling. If any member would be interested in doing this, please could they contact me using one of the means at the top of this page.

CIVIL & MILITARY GAZETTE - PART 4

Rudyard and John Lockwood were not the only Kipling journalists. Rudyard's mother Alice also turned her hand to the art. Writing as Will O' the Wisp, the first of a number of pieces as the paper's Simla correspondent was published in the 17th May 1882 edition a few days after her arrival at the hill station.

SIMLA.

(From our own Correspondent.)

May 14th.

There are some advantages in visiting Simla for the first time after years of residence in India. To the griffin all India is very much the same; his uncultivated ear detects little or no difference between the languages and dialects spoken, which are all alike in this, that he understands none of them; his uneducated eye finds no meaning in colours or shapes of *puggrees*, in caste marks or the cut of garments, and from Bombay to Thibet all is strange and unintelligible. As time passes he realises that there are broad distinctions, and subtle varieties in what at first seemed to him one brown uniformity, and almost unconsciously he acquires the power of distinguishing race and caste at a glance. Then, and not till then, India becomes interesting, he has gained an additional sense; and, as the idle stargazer to whom the heavens are a mere star-spangled banner nightly hung overhead, is to the patient astronomer who names the constellations and predicts the flight of a comet, so is the griffin to the full grown Anglo-Indian. Had I visited this city set upon a hill during the confused period of griffinage, I should doubtless have classed it in my bewildered mind with a dozen other places to which it bears no resemblance, and in so doing have committed a great blunder. Simla is not like other places, and in many respects is absolutely unique.

The clouds gathering heavily made it desirable to leave the happy valley long before sunset, and as the storm which they portended did not break till near dawn next day, it can have caused little inconvenience to sight-seers.

I have written of this interesting fair at such length that I have not space to say more of any thing else.

The death from sunstroke of one of the boys at the Bishop Cotton school, calls attention to the fact that before this no death had occurred there since the opening of the school 20 years ago, a convincing proof of the healthiness of the situation and of the care bestowed upon the condition of the pupils. A thunderstorm with very heavy rain this morning still leaves the sky covered with clouds, and there are not wanting among us the weather-foolish who say it is the *chota barsat*. The Gymkhana at Annandale this afternoon may suffer from the effects of this morning's downpour, but will not be postponed as at one time seemed probable.

WILL O' THE WISP.

How can we be fairly certain that Will O' the Wisp was Alice? Well, we know that she wrote 'Simla gossip letters' for the CM&G that year from a letter her husband wrote to Lockwood de Forest.¹ Also Barbara Bryant comments 'Will o' the Wisp as a pseudonym would be very apt for Alice - who was rather thin! Concerns about weather ... are also very "Alice"' Finally, the same pseudonym was used in a series of similar pieces posted from Dalhousie in 1884. Not only do we know that Alice was in Dalhousie that summer, Trix's first in India, but the

¹ Barbara Bryant, 'Alice Kipling as a Journalist', in Harish Trivedi & Jan Montefiore (eds), *Kipling in India: India in Kipling* (Routledge, 2021), p. 35.

piece in the 25th July edition contains four lines of verse from *The Cantelope* by Bayard Taylor, three of which Rudyard also used in the C&MG in 1886.²

It is certainly a good opportunity for writing to remind his landlord that the roof leaks, that the chimneys smoke, and that the stable and servants' houses are out of repair; but he has already done this half a dozen times, and the thing has lost its novelty. He feels so melancholy that he might almost attempt verse writing, if some one had not been before him and left him nothing to say. Who was the poet who so sublimely expressed his own sentiments when he wrote:—

“The sky is an inkstand upside down,
 “Splashing the world with gloom,
 “The earth is full of skeleton bones,
 “And the sea is a wobbling tomb.”

If he were but an architect he might make a plan for that new Anglo-Indian Wing to Colney Hatch, which will be wanted before long, with the padded room for Viceroy; for it is certain that another generation of Englishmen will be mad to come to this country, and raving mad when they leave it. But he is not an architect, and the beautiful vision fades unfixed. He

A WEEK IN LAHORE.

But for the honour of the thing it might just as well be treacherous England. To bed on Saturday night in the certainty of a month of glorious sunshine; and to breakfast by lamplight on Sunday morning with the pleasing conviction that the rain has set in for the day. What can you expect from such a country and such weather? By all the laws of nature and Mr. Blanford there ought to be a clear sky overhead and the *koil* should be thinking of rehearsing his summer operatic selections—instead of which:—

“The sky is an inkstand upside down
 Splashing the world with gloom,
 The earth is full of skeleton bones,”

and the rain is forcing them into unpleasant publicity. Everybody knows that Lahore is a cemetery of half a dozen cities at the least and that To-day builds its mud walls from the dust of the men of Yesterday—or the Day Before—but one does not care to be reminded of the fact every time it rains.

SOMETHING IN COMMON Part 4 – Harry Waterson

The room of Kipling memorabilia has been repurposed as a dressing room and the artifacts once displayed there are now stored around the Forest Lawn Glendale site. However, a visitor to the Church of the Recessional today would still see these images of Kipling. An unsigned bronze tablet of Rudyard Kipling on an outside wall and inside the well-known bust of Kipling by P. Syngé-Hutchinson in a space of its own.



Courtesy of the Forest Lawn Museum Photo Archives

In 1947 Hubert Eaton gave Evelyn Waugh a tour of Forest Lawn and he immediately saw it for what it was. He wrote *The Loved One, An Anglo-American Tragedy* to satirize the Forest Lawn business plan but Eaton always thought the book helped his business. The perverseness

² Thomas Pinney (ed), *Kipling's India: Uncollected Sketches 1884-88* (Papermac, 1987), p. 147. Pinney is however mistaken in attributing the verse to Kipling.

of the American consumer is never to be underestimated. Today Forest Lawn Memorial-Parks are spread over six locations all around Southern California.

The first wedding in the Church of the Recessional took place the evening of December 1, 1941 and joined together in holy matrimony Maxine Clear Upham and Walter Kenneth Neill. They planned an airplane honeymoon to South America. One wonders how that worked out after December 7th!

A simple quiet funeral for the King of Hollywood took place in the Church of the Recessional almost 20 years later on November 19, 1960. Two hundred mourners filled the Church of the Recessional to pay final honours to Clark Gable, the biggest film star of the 20th century. There was no eulogy. The funeral was short and quiet in accordance with Gable's wishes.



Photo Courtesy of the Forest Lawn Museum Photo Archive

Los Angeles had only three appreciable snowfalls in the 20th century. This was one of them.

The End

COINCIDENCES IN THE CAREERS OF RUDYARD KIPLING AND BRUCE BAIRNSFATHER Part 3 – Tonie and Valmai Holt

In early 1914 Kipling again helped Roberts by supporting his interest in the Irish Home Rule Bill, pledging allegiance to the Ulster Covenant which prevented the Catholic South from taking control of the Protestant North. He made a substantial financial contribution to the funds and made passionate, rabble-rousing speeches.

These services for Roberts, who felt obligated to Rudyard, took on what was to become a significant part in John's short life when the lad was unable to enlist because of his poor eyesight when applying to join the army as The Great War broke out. Roberts managed to get John accepted by his old Regiment, the Irish Guards, in September 1914. Three years later John, who would not have been allowed to join up had it not been for Lord Roberts' intervention, was declared missing in the Battle of Loos.

This sad news Roberts never knew as, on 11 November 1914, the Field Marshal travelled to France to visit his beloved Indian Forces (of which he had recently been appointed Colonel-in-Chief of Overseas Services) newly arrived at St Omer. The weather was bitterly cold and the 82 year old Field Marshal contracted a fever and died on 14th November. His impressive funeral was held in London on 17 November and on 19 November Kipling's tribute poem, *Lord Roberts*, was printed in the *Daily Telegraph*.

The Bairnsfather link with Simla was that it was there that they, too, were posted for several hot seasons where Bruce's artistic parents took an active role in the many social activities. Bruce's father, Thomas, produced several musical comedies (for several of which he actually

wrote the music) which were performed at the Simla theatre and his mother, Janie, painted many of her attractive birds on silk.

THE LOSS OF A CHILD

Another sad coincidence is that both the Kipling and Bairnsfather families lost a child at an early age. Rudyard lost his darling first-born, Josephine, in 1899. At the time the family were



in New York when Carrie was struck with a fever. As she improved, Rudyard too succumbed to the fever and inflammation of a lung. Then Josephine showed the same symptoms and Carrie, who was improving, moved her to the house of their de Forest friends. Carrie was then left to care for the seriously ill Rudyard, three year old Elsie, and eighteen month old John, both of whom had whooping cough. Meanwhile Josephine developed pneumonia and died on 6 March. Carrie decided that Rudyard was too weak to be told the news and, with incredibly bravery, kept it to herself until, on 30 March when she decided he was strong enough to take it.

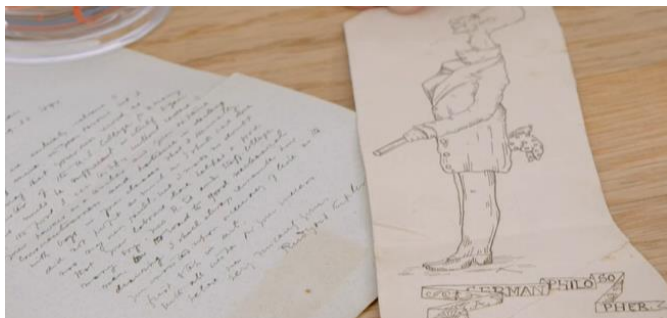
The effect on Rudyard was devastating. His cousin, Angela Thirkell, wrote, “Much of the beloved Cousin Ruddy of our childhood died with Josephine and I feel I have never seen him as a real person since that year”. Rudyard’s work was certainly affected and he wrote several tributes to his lost favourite child, notably in the *Just So* story, *How the First Letter was Written* and *How the Alphabet was Made*, in which the principal character was a little girl called Taffimai (Taffy for short). The accompanying poem, *Merrow Down*, ends with the line, ‘*The daughter that was all to him*’.

We know less about the Bairnsfathers’ loss, but in 1890, when the family were in the hill station Dalhousie, a brother to Bruce, Malcolm Harvey, was born on 2 April. An epidemic case of typhoid broke out and, although Malcolm survived the typhoid, he developed meningitis and died on 16 May 1891, one month after his first birthday. Like Rudyard and Carrie, Thomas and Janie were devoted parents and took an active part in their children’s upbringing. Their loss would have been as deeply felt as the Kiplings’.

To be continued

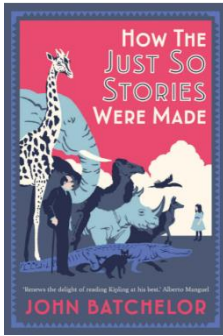
A KIPLING LETTER AND DRAWING

John Radcliffe writes: There was a most interesting story in a recent *Antiques Road Show*, a letter from Kipling dated August 1897 to Stephen Thomas, who had taught him drawing at



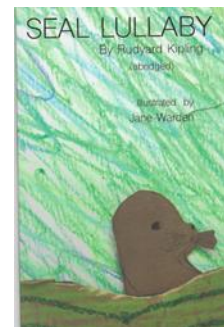
USC. Kipling recalls his teacher's insistence on strict accuracy of line, a quality one can well observe in his own illustrations to the *Just So Stories*. The letter is accompanied by a splendid caricature of a German Philosopher. If you missed the item, it can be viewed at [BBC iPlayer - Antiques Roadshow](#) around 24 minutes in.

TWO NEW BOOKS

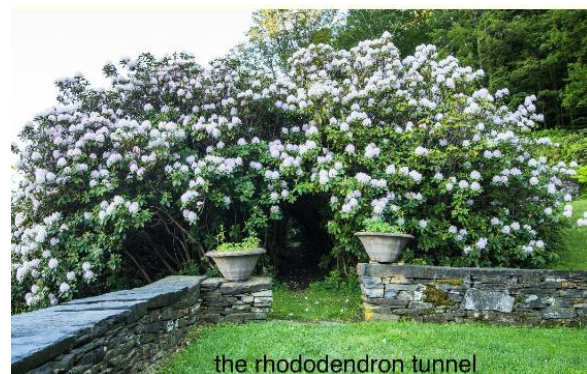


‘John Batchelor explores the artistry with which Kipling created the *Just So Stories*, using each tale as an entry point into the writer’s life and work—including the tragedy that shadows much of the volume, the death of his daughter Josephine. Batchelor also details the playful challenges the stories made to contemporary society.’ Yale University Press is delighted to offer Kipling Society a 20% discount on [How Just the So Stories Were Made by John Batchelor](#) . Please use the code Y2170 at the end of your checkout. The offer ends on 31st July 2021 and is available for customers in the UK only.

A slightly abridged version of Kipling’s poem from *The Jungle Book*, delightfully illustrated for young children by Jane Warden. The illustrations are photographs of a shoebox stage made using ordinary materials that can be found around the house (cardboard, holiday lights, cotton balls.) A free e-book or pdf download is available from [Wandermere Publishing](#). Or physical copy can be bought from Amazon.



FOR OUR US EAST COAST READERS



Reserve your ticket to take a self-guided tour of Naulakha, Rudyard Kipling’s former Vermont home, when the spectacular rhododendron tunnel is likely to be in bloom! See the authentically restored main house where Rudyard Kipling wrote *The Jungle Books* and *Captains Courageous*. Visit Kipling’s Carriage House where Kipling’s coachman Matthew Howard lived, and the Barn Museum—once home to Kipling’s horses Nip and Tuck—that now serves as a mini-museum of his family’s life in Vermont. Wander the grounds to see the irises in bloom and the clay tennis courts located below Naulakha, the first tennis courts built in Vermont! To get you into the mood here is a [link to last year's virtual tour!](#)

Tours are available on Sunday, June 6 from 1 p.m.–4:30 p.m. and Monday, June 7 from 10 a.m.–4 p.m. Tickets are \$25, must be purchased in advance, and will support the organization’s nonprofit mission to bring new life to heritage buildings. Further details at <https://landmarktrustusa.org/events>.

SPOTIFY UPDATE

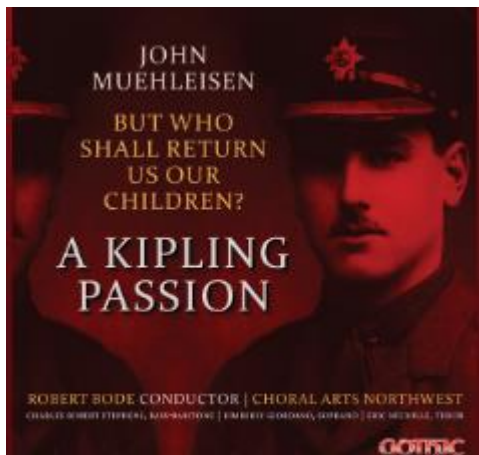
Prompted by reading Brian Mattinson's article in the September 2010 edition of *The Kipling Journal*, [KJ338.pdf \(kiplingjournal.com\)](#), I have added some more musical settings of Kipling's poetry to the Spotify playlist

https://open.spotify.com/playlist/25SzgST4RnE93z2Qxh7FZt?si=YRz1l_8mSpGcyuqeSn1XyQ.

These include:

- Frank Stroobants: *London Stone*
- Rutland Broughton: *The Price of Admiralty, Coastwise Lights*.
- Leslie Fish & Joe Bethancourt: *The Female of the Species, In the Neolithic Age, Helen All Alone*.
- Eric Whitacre: *Seal Lullaby*

And even *The Way through the Woods* by The Pet Shop Boys!



I've also added several of Kipling's Great War poems as set in the recent oratorio *But Who Shall Return Us Our Children: A Kipling Passion* by American composer John Muehleisen. This work "explores the costs of war from the point of view of the families left behind - specifically the loss of Rudyard and Carrie Kipling's son John during WWI. Robert Bode, directing Choral Arts Northwest, premieres this live concert recording". The 2CD set can be bought at [But who shall return us our children? A Kipling Passion \(gothic-catalog.com\)](#) price \$24.98 plus postage (a cheaper digital download is also available). Or listen to the whole thing on Spotify at

<https://open.spotify.com/track/5b2apAfaaBOGnWZJu8H1Sh?si=ede2696526ac436c>. The CD 'sleeve' including the full words can be found at [Layout 1 \(gothicstorage.com\)](#)

THE MEANING OF RUDYARD

Janice Lingley has drawn our attention to an interesting article by the philologist Andrew Breeze in the *Transactions of the Staffordshire Archaeological & Historical Society* (volume XLIV, 96-7) in which he discusses various theories for the origins of the name of the village of Rudyard, which gave Kipling his middle name. He dismisses not only fanciful ideas such as 'garden where rue is grown' or even 'pond where rudd are kept' but also the commonly accepted theory that it derives from the Old English *rudig gearð* ('red yard') in favour of the Celtic *rhudd garth* ('red ridge'), both relating to the red soil found thereabouts. He cites Lydeard in Somerset *llwyd garth* ('grey ridge') as having a similar origin.



**HAC HISTORICAL SOCIETY
AND
KIPLING SOCIETY
A JOINT LECTURE TO BE HELD AT ARMOURY HOUSE, CITY ROAD, EC1Y 2BQ
ON
MONDAY 14 JUNE 2021, STARTING AT 6.30PM**

The Honourable Artillery Company Historical Society extend a warm welcome to members of the Kipling Society to join us then to hear Professor Ian Beckett give a talk entitled ***“Revisiting Mr Kipling’s Army”***.

Ian Beckett will compare Kipling’s depiction of the late-Victorian Army with modern historians’ research into the institution, its campaigns and leading personalities. As one of the leading historians of the 19th century army Professor Beckett is particularly well-qualified to talk on this subject. He retired as Professor of Military History from the University of Kent in 2015. A Fellow of the Royal Historical Society, he has held chairs in both the UK and US and was Chairman of the Council of the Army Records Society from 2001 to 2014. His publications include *A British Profession of Arms: The Politics of Command in the Late Victorian Army* (2018), *Rorke’s Drift and Isandlwana* (2019), and *Wolseley and Ashanti: The Asante War Journal and Correspondence of Major General Sir Garnet Wolseley, 1873-74* (2009).

Attendance

In accordance with government regulations, those attending on June 14 will be expected to sit at the (same) six-member table of their choice in the Prince Consort Room throughout the evening, and to avoid congregating in alternative random clusters. **If you would like to sit with other members of the Kipling Society, please let Alex Bubb, the Kipling Society’s meetings secretary, know (alex_bubb@hotmail.com 07985 271826).** **Otherwise, on arrival head for any unallocated seat.** All food and drink will be brought to your table (not before 6.00pm) by suitably accoutred house staff.

The set Club Supper will include a starter of cured salmon, hung horseradish crème fraiche, dill cucumber, radishes, nasturtium leaves, and a main course composed of pork belly, smoked bacon croquettes, caramelised apple, carrot puree, turnip, cider jus. The price for supper remains £30, to be paid in advance - please indicate at the time of booking whether you have any special dietary requirements (vegetarian etc). Soft drinks, beer, and house wines will be available to order (wireless card payment only) and will be brought to your table by the staff.

Please return the application form below to Tim Davies by **Tuesday 8th June**. His email is daviestl@hotmail.com and his address is 93 St Marks Road, Henley-on-Thames, RG9 1LP. Payment is also to be made in advance please, either by bank transfer, or by posting a cheque to Tim.

Kipling Society members may invite **one guest** who is not a member of the Kipling Society. Additional guest places may subsequently be made available, depending on numbers—if you are eager to bring a second guest, please inform Alex Bubb.

Application Form: Kipling Society Member

1. I will attend the lecture and dinner at Armoury House on Monday 14 June 2021.
2. I enclose a cheque for myself and any guest at £30.00 per head, payable to HAC Historical Society/I have made a Bank Transfer of £_____ to Santander A/C – HAC Historical Society; A/C No – 90495704; Sort Code 09-01-55; Reference - your name.
3. The name and e-mail address of my guest, if any, is:-

.....
.....
.....

PLEASE INDICATE ANY DIETARY REQUESTS BELOW (e.g. Vegetarian or Non-Pork)

.....

Signed:..... Name:.....

Please send completed form to Tim Davies at daviestl@hotmail.com or 93 St Marks Road, Henley-on-Thames, RG9 1LP.