



# THE KIPLING SOCIETY

FOUNDED 1927

Registered Charity No.278885

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## NEWSLETTER – OCTOBER 2021

### NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Society will be held in the Wrench room at the Royal Over-Seas League, Park Place, London, SW1 on Wednesday 10 November, at 6.00pm, when Madeleine Horton will speak on 'Rethinking Rudyard Kipling: Genre, Value, and Reputation'. Madeleine is one of our youngest members and has recently completed a Masters degree in English Literature at Oxford. Coffee/tea and biscuits will be served from 5.30pm.

*Whilst we hope to welcome as many members as possible in person, the meeting will also be accessible via Zoom on the following link. <https://roehampton-ac-uk.zoom.us/j/88918591439?pwd=dS9Vc3NQZF13aEE3cGlMczFaSXpTQT09> (Passcode: 428602)*

*Those attending in person are invited to join Council and the speaker for drinks and dinner at a local restaurant after the meeting. If you would like to do this, please let the Secretary know in advance by one of the means at the top of this newsletter.*

### FUTURE MEETINGS

- Wednesday, 8 December, 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.*

- 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.

*Royal Over-Seas League, 5.30pm for 6.00pm and by Zoom.*

### A FACELIFT FOR THE WEBSITE – John Radcliffe

Over the past year we have been reviewing and extending the web-site and New Readers' Guide, before transferring it to the Wordpress platform, which will have many technical advantages.

Since 2001 we have developed the NRG, a work of many hands which builds on the efforts in the 1960s of Reginald Harbord and his colleagues. By 2020 we had annotated all the

published and uncollected verse, stories, speeches, and most of the known articles, including those recently disinterred by Tom Pinney.

To encourage more users of the web to read Kipling, we are now placing more emphasis on the writings themselves rather than the notes. We have added many illustrations, and created a new linking system, with many cross-references to the KJ archive. We have brought the text of some 450 works onto the site rather than linking to them elsewhere. We have extended the search facilities, adding a search of the whole site, and systems for sharing ideas through social media

This work is largely complete and we plan to launch the new site in November, at [www.kiplingsociety.co.uk](http://www.kiplingsociety.co.uk). In the meantime it can be seen on trial at [The Kipling Society demo](#). Between now and the end of October we are particularly keen to have comments from members on these changes, the newly laid out stories and poems, the links, the search systems, and the illustrations.



Please email any thoughts to [johnrad99@gmail.com](mailto:johnrad99@gmail.com). There will still be time to make tweaks and small changes in response.

## SEPTEMBER MEETING – Alex Bubb

On the 22nd of September we met once again in the Wrench Room at the Royal Over-seas League in London, for the first time in nineteen months. This was our first attempt at a "hybrid" meeting, with some members joining us in person and others via Zoom, and with the exception of a few sound problems, it was a success - much helped, of course, by a splendid lecture by Professor Harry Ricketts. Harry spoke on "Kipling and Trauma", focussing initially on the young Rudyard's harrowing experience in Southsea and tracing its ramifications across the breadth of his adult literary career. This was the second time Harry has given the endowed Starmer-Smith Lecture.

## COINCIDENCES IN THE CAREERS OF RUDYARD KIPLING AND BRUCE BAIRNSFATHER Part 5 – Tonie and Valmai Holt

### CONCLUSION

Finally, there is another powerful similarity. It is that Rudyard Kipling and Bruce Bairnsfather were both deeply loved and admired *and* disdained and dismissed.

**Of Rudyard Kipling** there are too many appreciations and vilifications to quote here but, typical of the former, H.G. Wells wrote in 1911 (during the period of his continuing popularity in the Boer War and before the outbreak of the Great War) that 'He got hold of us wonderfully, he filled us with tinkling and quotations... he coloured the very idiom of our conversations.' After Rudyard's death in 1936 Winston Churchill wrote, 'There has never been anyone like

him. No-one has ever written like Kipling before, and his work has been successfully imitated by none. He was unique and irreplaceable.' At the same time a vituperative attack was launched on Kipling by his nephew, Oliver Baldwin in *The Daily Telegraph*, *The Mail* and *The Mirror*. It virtually blamed Rudyard for his cousin John's death: 'After all didn't you want this war? Didn't you urge it on? Didn't you want people to go and wave flags and beat drums? And have you not paid for it?'

In 1941, in the difficult early days of the Second World War, T.S. Eliot dismissed his work as 'verse' and George Orwell claimed that 'During five literary generations every enlightened person has despised him ... Kipling is a jingo imperialist, he is orally insensitive and aesthetically disgusting'. Opinions fluctuated over the years until, in 1987, Marghanita Laski wrote a sympathetic biography, *'From Palm to Pine'*, followed by her complimentary series of BBC broadcasts extolling Kipling's verse. In 1996, *'If'* was voted the Nation's favourite poem in a poll conducted by the BBC and Kipling was once more in general favour and popularity for the various film versions of *'The Jungle Book'*.

Today, in the powerful wave of 'Black Lives Matter' following the death of George Floyd in May 2020 and the destruction of the Edward Colston statue in Bristol in June 2020, Kipling is once again being reviled as a racist and imperialist. On 15 August the BBC cancelled the singing of *The Road to Mandalay* - one of Kipling's most popular poems set to music - in the VJ Day commemorations. It was at the behest of opera singer Sir Willard Wright who complained about its 'cultural superiority'.

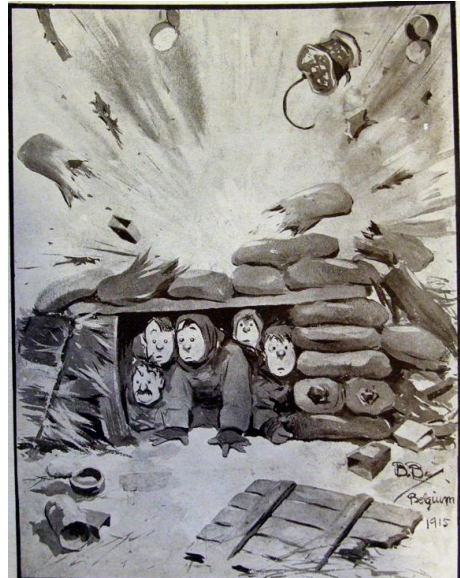
Preceding the current anti-slavery and imperialism mood, students have been actively protesting about characters who they deemed to represent such views. For instance, there have been frequent attempts to remove the Cecil Rhodes statue at Oriel College, Oxford where the well-educated Rhodes matriculated in 1874. The desire to take the statue down is strong, despite Rhodes's financial support of the College, notably by the initiation of the coveted Rhodes Scholarships to enable non-British students to attend the University. It started after Rhodes received a Doctorate in 1899, when he left the University £100,000 in his will. It now seems that, after several years of discussion, the statue may well be removed next year. Rhodes's generosity, of course, also extended to the Kipling family and for several years from 1900 they stayed in 'The Woolsack', the Dutch colonial house which Rhodes had built for them on his estate. When Rhodes, who had long suffered ill health, died on 26 March 1902, aged only 48, Kipling was devastated and wrote a fulsome elegy entitled *'The Burial.'*

In July 2018 Manchester University students defaced the country's favourite Kipling poem *'If'* inscribed on a new building, as he was now regarded as 'a racist and imperialist'. They wished to replace it with a poem by Maya Angelou, the American civil rights poet and pacifist – *'Still I Rise'*. Professor Emeritus of literature at Kent University, Jan Montefiore, the Kipling Society Chairman, was approached by the media to comment about the defacement of *'If'*. She said it was "... terribly crude and simplistic to dismiss Kipling as a racist... Certainly his politics were imperialist but that's only half of the story. He wrote some wonderful stuff and was a magical story-teller, but he wasn't always writing uplifting poems." She also commented, "Kipling wrote *The White Man's Burden* in 1899, urging America to administer imperial practices in the Philippines and its sentiment was "completely unacceptable now and fairly unacceptable then".

**Bruce Bairnsfather's** fame and admiration came from his World War One cartoons, drawn for the magazine *The Bystander*. As soon as his fingers could hold a pencil Bruce had drawn,

and he continued to do so after he arrived in England from India. After his six years at Westward Ho! it seemed that his future career should be in the Army and he was enrolled in an Army crammer, Trinity College at Stratford-upon-Avon. There he also attended an evening art class where his artistic talent was finally noticed. Bruce was now torn becoming an artist or a soldier. He passed his final exam at Trinity College at the second attempt and decided to join the Third Militia Battalion of the Warwicks. There he discovered that the army life, as he said, 'bored me to tears' and 'if there were a Fieldmarshal's baton in my knapsack it was way down at the bottom, buried under a pile of sketches and notes' and so he resigned. The next step was to attend the John Hassall School of Art in Earls Court. His efforts to make a living as an artist on leaving the School failed, so he returned to Stratford. When friends sympathised with his parents that they 'couldn't do something with Bruce' and '... he draws; it's such a pity', he took a job as an electrical apprentice for a company called Spencer's in Stratford-on-Avon. At the same time he continued to draw with some success, although the family joke was that, if he wished to continue a career as an artist, 'he would have to marry for money'. Spencer's sent him to Newfoundland in 1914 to sort out a malfunctioning machine and during his journey back to Liverpool the Great War broke out.

Arriving back to the UK, Bruce went to his old Regimental HQ at Warwick and on 12 September 1914 he was commissioned into the 3<sup>rd</sup> (Reserve) Battalion of the Royal Warwicks. In November, now with the 1<sup>st</sup> Bn of the Warwicks, he arrived at St Yvon, near Ploegsteert in Belgium. Horrified by life in the trenches, and the devastation of the landscape, but feeling a strong affinity with the soldiers underneath his command, he started drawing again to take his mind from the horror around him - almost as a tonic. He drew on walls, on scraps of paper, on ration boxes and soon his cartoons were amusing his fellow officers and his men. They caught the atmosphere, the feelings, the reality and the stoic humour of life in the trenches. A fellow officer suggested he send a drawing to a magazine. A copy of *The Bystander* happened to be lying around and Bruce duly sent off the cartoon *Where did that one go to?* to its editor. Little did he know that it was the beginning of his incredible career.



*To be continued*

## KIPLING'S LESSER-KNOWN UNCLES - Part 1

*Kipling's uncles by marriage on his mother's side, Edward Burne-Jones, Edward Pointer and Alfred Baldwin, are all well known. However, he had six other uncles. Three of these were the husbands of his Kipling aunts and were briefly described in the Kipling Journal of September 2009. The other three were Lockwood's younger brother, Joseph, and Alice's two brothers, Harry and Fred McDonald.*

Turning first to Joseph Kipling, he was born in 1840 in Horncastle, Lincs., where the Rev. Joseph Kipling was then ministering. He was educated, like Lockwood, at Woodhouse Grove near Leeds, a boarding school for the children of Methodist ministers. Like Lockwood, he



had then to find work, and at age 21 was working as a draper's assistant in Beverley, Yorks. A decade later, he had married Anne Boyes and was running his own drapery business in Malton.

**AUTUMN AND WINTER FASHIONS.**  
**JOSEPH KIPLING,**  
CASTLEGATE, MALTON,  
Begs to announce his return from London with a Selection of Novelties in  
SEAL, FELT, AND STRAW HATS,  
**MILLINERY AND STRAW BONNETS,**  
HEAD DRESSES, WIDOWS' CAPS, FRENCH FLOWERS, & FEATHERS,  
Of which he invites an early inspection.  
**WATERPROOF MANTLES OF THE NEWEST SHAPES.**  
LADIES' AND CHILDREN'S  
Cloth, Seal, and Dog-Skin Jackets, from the best makers.  
DRESS MATERIALS IN  
REPPS, FANCY MATERIALS, SATIN CLOTHS, PERSIAN CORDS, FRENCH  
MERINOES, WINSEYS, &c., bought early at old prices.  
WOOL SHIRTS and SHIRTING FLANNELS.  
**BLANKETS AND FLANNELS** at last year's prices.  
**THE LATEST DESIGNS IN DRESS & MANTLE MAKING.**

*Malton Messenger - 28 October 1871*

Joseph and Anne remained in Malton all their lives, both dying in 1915. Their only child was a son, Joseph Boyes Kipling, who was a chemist (pharmacist). In 1901, he was in Skipton working as an assistant to Annie Crump, one of Lockwood's sisters, who was then running the business of her late husband. By 1911 he had established his own business in Leeds. He died in 1953, leaving four children.

**Mr. J. B. Kipling**  
A Leeds link with Rudyard Kipling has been broken this week by the death of Mr. Joseph Boyes Kipling, Hill View Avenue, Chapel Allerton, a cousin of the poet. He was 63.  
Mr. Joseph Kipling's father and Rudyard Kipling's father were brothers, sons of the Rev. Joseph Kipling, a Wesleyan minister in Skipton about 1860.  
A native of Malton and a member of the Pharmaceutical Society, Mr. Kipling was for more than 30 years manager of Reinhardt's, chemists, formerly of Queen Victoria Street and York Road, Leeds. He leaves a widow, three sons and one daughter.

*Yorkshire Post and Leeds Intelligencer - 10 October 1953*

As far as I know, there is no record of Rudyard ever meeting or writing to either his uncle or his cousin.

*Next time: Harry McDonald.*

## The CIVIL AND MILITARY GAZETTE –PART 5

Most of Kipling's work in the C&MG was published anonymously. The first mention of his name in connection with writing does not occur until 10 April 1886, some three and a half years after he started working on the newspaper. It is a reference to the contents of the *Calcutta Review* for the second quarter of that year.

human nature." The poet's corner is occupied by Mr. Rudyard Kipling, in whose hands the Talmudic theory of the origin of all evil things is presented in an Indian shape, as supposed to have been told by "Yusuf, the potter, in the cool shadow of the Blatti Gate." The usual editorial

The reference is to the poem, 'The Seven Nights of Creation' [Poems - The Seven Nights of Creation \(kiplingsociety.co.uk\)](http://Poems - The Seven Nights of Creation (kiplingsociety.co.uk)). The next mention of Kipling is a review of his first book on 6 July 1886. It is, unsurprisingly, favourable.

As most of Mr. Kipling's verses were originally printed in the *Civil and Military Gazette*, lengthy and laudatory criticism would be out of place; but we may call attention to one or two of the more characteristic pieces. The story of Jack Barrett—

"Who went to Quetta  
Because they told him to,  
He left his wife at Simla  
On three fourths his monthly screw,"

—is eminently Anglo-Indian.

"He didn't understand  
The reason of his transfer  
From the pleasant mountain land  
\* \* \* \* \*

Jack Barrett went to Quetta,  
And there gave up the Ghost,  
A doing two men's duty  
In that very healthy post;  
And Mrs. Barrett mourned for him  
Five lively months at most."

To tell the "Story of Uriah"—for the title adumbrates what Jack Barrett didn't understand—to tell it in this vein, and to include it within the limits of becoming mirth, needs a delicate touch and a sympathetic audience; but the writer's practised cunning may be seen in the verses quoted, and his audience is—Anglo-Indian.

A more diverting episode, told with equal felicity, is the account of how Ahashuerus Jenkins—Mr. Kipling's nomenclature is assiduously comic—was posted to a department, at Simla, controlled by the husband of—

"Cornelia Agrippina who was musical and fat."

For another highly successful attempt to show, by facetious insinuation how we are governed, *vide passim* the account of the "hoisting of Potifar Gubbins": in other words that gentleman's advancement to a high post for which he had no qualifications, save the personal charms of his wife, the "lovely Mehitabel." "Should I have riz," the poet asks her, with the license of speech which, luckily for his rhyme, is colloquial in Anglo-India—

"Should I have riz  
To what Potiphar is,  
Hadst thou been mated to me?"

Yet another alluring type described in the same lively strain is Lieutenant Sleary, who obtains an appointment in the Political Line through the influence of his prospective father-in-law, Mr. Justice Boffkins, and then succeeds in breaking off his engagement to the learned Judge's unattractive daughter, by the laughable expedient of feigning epileptic fits.

But the reader will do well to find out for himself further specimens of the rich vein of humour which Mr. Kipling is working so successfully. His exuberant raciness of diction, mainly attained by a dexterous use of what may be called subalternative slang and fashionable flippancies, suits the class of subjects chosen admirably; and we may safely predict for the *Ditties* a wide popularity with a public ever ready to forget the pathetic and troublous side of its existence in a contemplation of whatever can be made diverting. Our private life contains so much to sadden and dismay, that the consolation we seek abroad must be of the most invigorating flavour. Tenderness, of course, is the very last sensation we want; and its absence from the quaint looking volume before us will be enthusiastically recognized as a merit.

\* *Departmental Ditties and other Verses*, by Rudyard Kipling: Lahore, Civil and Military Gazette Press, 1886.

A later mention is of the first of his series of ‘Abaft the Funnel’ stories.

<p>OUR readers will, we trust, be pleased to see a familiar name signed to our “Turnover” to-day. Mr. Rudyard Kipling is now on a six months’ special tour for our Allahabad contemporary ; but he has at the same time undertaken to supply us regularly with the sketches written in his lighter moments.</p>	<p>LAHORE :—SATURDAY, MAR. 30, 1889.</p> <p>[All Rights Reserved.]</p> <p>ABAF THE FUNNEL.—No. I.</p> <p>(BY RUDYARD KIPLING.)</p> <p>It was <i>pyjama</i> time on the <i>Madura</i> in the Bay of Bengal, and the incense of the very early morning cigar went up to the stainless skies. Everyone knows <i>pyjama</i> time—the long hour that follows the removal of the beds from the saloon skylight and the consumption of <i>chota hasri</i>. Most men know, too, that the choicest stories of many seas may be picked up then—from the long-winded histories of the Colonial sheep-master to the crisp anecdotes of the Californian ; from tales of battle, murder and sudden death told by the Burmah-returned subaltern, to the bland drivel of the globe-trotter. The Captain, tastefully attired in pale pink, sat up on the signal gun and tossed the husk of a banana overboard.</p>
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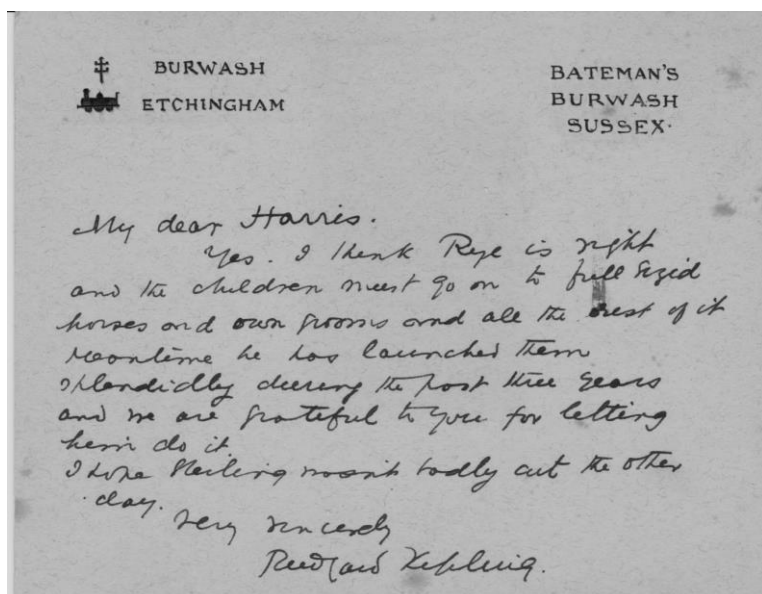
## THINGS THAT KIPLING DIDN'T WRITE – #2

This verse was in 2018 – and may still be – on an interior wall at Portsmouth’s Spinnaker Tower, alongside other quotations from people associated with the city. It was nice to see Kipling’s time as a child there recognised, although it would have been better had the quote been genuine!



## A CARD FROM RUDYARD – John Walker

A recent acquisition for the Library, bought on e-Bay at a very reasonable price. I offer the transcription below.



My dear Harris<sup>1</sup>,

Yes, I think Rye<sup>2</sup> is right and the children must go on to full sized horses and own  
grooms(?) and all the rest of it.

Meantime he has launched them splendidly during the last three years<sup>3</sup> and we are grateful to  
you for letting him do it.

I hope Sterling<sup>4</sup> (?) wasn't badly cut the other day.

Very sincerely

Rudyard Kipling

<sup>1</sup> Colonel Alexander Sutherland Sutherland- Harris: a neighbour, at 'Burwash Place'.

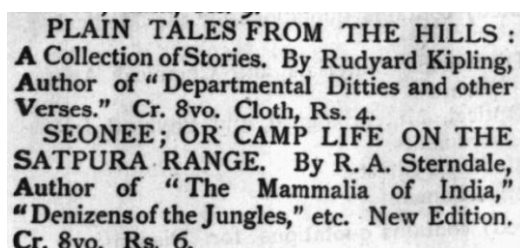
<sup>2</sup> Presumably Colonel Harris's groom. Harris was Master of the local hunt for a period.

<sup>3</sup> No date is offered, but Elise was presumably young enough for a pony, and John old enough (1905?).

<sup>4</sup> Another possibility recently suggested is 'Sheiling' – from the hunters huts on the Isle of Harris!

## AND FINALLY....

An interesting juxtaposition five years before the first *Jungle Book* stories appeared,



Civil & Military Gazette - 19 May 1888