



THE KIPLING SOCIETY

FOUNDED 1927

Registered Charity No.278885

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NEWSLETTER – JANUARY 2026

NEXT EVENT

Wednesday 4 February Nick Higham, author and journalist. ‘Mavericks: Lionel Dunsterville and the Caspian campaign of 1918’. *Army & Navy Club, 5.30pm for 6.00pm, and by Zoom* <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84855159084?pwd=LHVhYU8SwlOpaoWYiNa6sTbIbbKTMF.1>
Meeting ID: 848 5515 9084 Passcode: 381700

Tea/coffee and biscuits will be served from 5.30pm for those attending in person.

For security purposes at the venue, please can any members intending to attend in person let me know no later than Monday 2 February (contact details at the top of this page). Please also note the Club's dress code <https://therag.co.uk/club-dress-code/>. Members are welcome after the meeting to dine in the Coffee Room at the Army & Navy Club with the speaker and members of Council. If you would like to do so, please let me know at least one week in advance.

OTHER FUTURE MEETINGS

Wednesday 22 April. Prof. Tai-Chun Ho, Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures, National Chung Hsing University, Taiwan. ‘The Returned Soldier in Kipling's poetry’. *Zoom only. 2.00pm (Please note earlier time).*

Wednesday 1 July AGM and talk (TBA). *Army & Navy Club, 4.30pm for 5.00pm, and by Zoom*

Wednesday 23 September. TBA. *Zoom only. 6.00pm*

Wednesday 25 November. TBA. *Army & Navy Club, 5.30pm for 6.00pm, and by Zoom*

OTHER EVENTS

Saturday 23 May Alliance of Literary Societies (ALS) AGM hosted by the Edward Thomas Fellowship. Bedales School, Steep, nr Petersfield, Hants. The Kipling Society will have a stall promoting ‘our’ author and the Society. All members are welcome to attend. *Details will be posted on the ALS website in early February.*

Saturday 16 May Heathfield Choral Society. A concert of music set to some of Rudyard Kipling's poems. State Hall, Heathfield, East Sussex. *Further details to follow.*

Saturday 3 October. ALS Open Day, Birmingham. To be held a few days before the start Birmingham Literary Festival, this will be a public event to attract new audiences and new members to ALS writers and societies. The Kipling Society will be officially represented and all members are welcome to attend. *Further details to follow.*

VISIT TO HAILEYBURY SCHOOL

It is hoped to arrange a visit to Haileybury School in Hertfordshire this summer, the school so fundamentally linked to Kipling's United Services College, where the Kipling collection

(formerly the Society's library) is kept. Further details will be included in future newsletters and posted on the website.

NOVEMBER MEETING REPORT - Alex Bubb, Meetings Secretary

At November's meeting the annual Stammers-Smith lecture was delivered by Kipling Society stalwart, Professor Danny Karlin, on the theme of "How Mowgli Became a Monkey, and other Un-just So Stories". Danny's starting point was the Mowgli restaurant franchise, with its monkey logo and apish conceits (customers perch on swings suspended from the ceiling), which seem to tap into some corrupted memory of *The Jungle Books* in which the hero is not a boy but a member of the *bandar-log*. Danny gave several other examples of this strange effect, including a number of brands that have adopted the name "Akela" without apparently considering either the name's meaning ("the solitary") or the nature of the character, and several species of Amazonian spiders named after characters in the novel by a pair of American naturalists. Danny's suggestive evidence led to some lively discussion about whether Kipling has been more affected by this dynamic of collective misremembering and commercial exploitation than other authors, and how we as a Society might address the issue. The talk was attended by just over fifteen people at the Army & Navy Club with about twenty attending online, and was followed by dinner in the club dining room.



The talk can be viewed on the Society's YouTube channel at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eP_oQyJ63YM

DECEMBER READING EVENING

Hosted by Jan Montefiore, members listened to or read the following extracts:

Young Kipling in India

Andrew Scragg - As the Bell Clinks

Richard Maidment - Between the Gum-Pot and the Shears

Mike Turner - The Mother Lodge

Warnings (i)

Martin J Powell - The Dykes

Harry Ricketts - Bonfires

Wise Rulers

Janet Montefiore - Akbar's Bridge

John Walker - King Henry VII and the shipwrights

Warnings (ii)

Christopher Morrison - Dane-Geld

Alda Milner-Barry - from The Islanders

Animals

Mike Kipling - the death of Shere Khan, from The Jungle Play

Tim Connell - Dinah in Heaven

Janet Montefiore - Eddi's Service (*in memoriam* John Radcliffe)

CENTENARY NEWS

The Kipling Society was founded in 1927, so next year will be our centenary. Council is now giving some thought to special events to commemorate this significant milestone. Ideas so far

include a collection of the best article from one hundred years of *The Kipling Journal*, a conference or exhibition, readings at Bateman's, a Society meeting in North America, a lunch or dinner in London, and a repeat of last year's successful wine-tasting. Council would be grateful for any other suggestions, or indications of support for the ideas above. Please email them to michaelrkipling@gmail.com

COUNCIL VACANCIES

At the AGM in July, four Council members will retire by rotation, and may not stand for re-election for a further year. This provides the opportunity for other members to come forward and stand for election. Council meets immediately before each of the five speaker meetings each year. Meetings are either fully on-line or hybrid, depending on the format of the speaker meeting following. If helping to run the Society in this way is appealing, please contact me, Mike Kipling, or any other member of Council, for a preliminary discussion. All prospective volunteers will be very welcome, from any part of the world.

EDITOR REQUIRED

After 15 years in the editor's chair, Jan Montefiore wishes to step down from the role at the end of our centenary year, 2027. If you might be interested in taking over the editorship of *The Kipling Journal*, please contact Jan for a preliminary discussion at J.E.Montefiore@kent.ac.uk

ASSISTANT ONLINE EDITOR APPOINTED

Steve Russ, who has been doing some tremendous work on the Society's website, assiduously checking and editing the NRG in a very professional manner, has now been appointed Assistant Online Editor, in which role he will continue to help Ian Bell maintain and improve the site. Congratulations Steve!

JOHN RADCLIFFE



It with great sadness that we announce that John Radcliffe, one of the Society's Vice Presidents, died on 5 December 2025. After Cambridge, John was a BBC producer for some thirty years: in current affairs at the General Overseas Service, making historical documentaries for schools, running the BBC Computer Literacy project in the 1980s, and heading the BBC Production Centre at the Open University. John became a member of the Kipling Society in 1983 and joined Council in 1998 as 'Electronic Editor', a title which later morphed to Online Editor. He also served as Chairman from 2005-2007. His main work for the Society was to take the website from its humble origins as a shared site with the

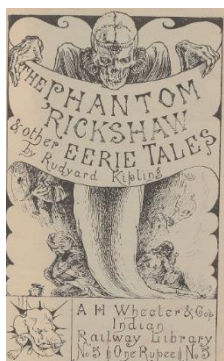
Grange Museum at Rottingdean, to the glorious stand-alone asset we have today. It was initially coded in HTML by John himself. He subsequently maintained the site, continually developing and expanding it, working closely with the team which compiled the New Readers Guide, and providing regular quotations for members to identify. This decade, he was the driving force behind moving the website to a WordPress format, presciently future-proofing it for when he could no longer maintain it, eventually stepping down as On-line Editor in 2024. A fuller obituary will appear in a future edition of *The Kipling Journal*.

IMAGES ON THE WEBSITE AND COPYRIGHT – Ian Bell, Online Editor

Members who regularly use the website may notice omissions or changes to the images displayed there. These are being reviewed in terms of crediting their source and ensuring compliance with applicable copyright laws and authorities as well as any licensing restrictions and permissions. The process is a lengthy one and will take years rather than

months to complete. Any help members can offer as regards identifying non-internet sources of uncredited images is more than welcome. Please email the Editor at iantks@icloud.com.

THE JOHN MCGIVERING WRITING PRIZE 2026 -THE SUPERNATURAL



“Kitty,” I cried, “there are poor Mrs. Wessington’s *jhampanies* turned up again! I wonder who has them now?”

Kitty had known Mrs. Wessington slightly last season, and had always been interested in the sickly woman.

“What? Where?” she asked. “I can’t see them anywhere.”

Even as she spoke her horse, swerving from a laden mule, threw himself directly in front of the advancing ’rickshaw. I had scarcely time to utter a word of warning when, to my unutterable horror, horse and rider passed *through* men and carriage as if they had been thin air.

The Phantom ’Rickshaw (1885)

“There wasn’t ’ardly no one in the streets ’cept the cats. ’Twas ’ot, too! I turned into the gate bold as brass; up de steps I went an’ I ringed the front-door bell. She pealed loud, like it do in an empty house. When she’d all ceased, I ’eard a cheer, like, pushed back on de floor o’ the kitchen. Then I ’eard feet on de kitchen-stairs, like it might ha’ been a heavy woman in slippers. They come up to de stairhead, acrost the hall—I ’eard the bare boards creak under ’em—an’ at de front door dey stopped. I stooped me to the letter-box slit, an’ I says: “Let me take everythin’ bad that’s in store for my man, ’Arry Mockler, for love’s sake.” Then, whatever it was ’tother side de door let its breath out, like, as if it ’ad been holdin’ it for to ’ear better.”

“Nothin’ was *said* to ye?” Mrs. Fettley demanded.

“Na’un. She just breathed out—a sort of *A-ah*, like. Then the steps went back an’ downstairs to the kitchen—all draggy—an’ I heard the cheer drawed up again.”

The Wish House (1926)

Rudyard Kipling, famous for the realism of his fiction, was from first to last a master of the uncanny and of the terrors (often, as in the quotations above, associated with women) shadowing apparently familiar things. The Competition this year is open to **tales of the supernatural** which should be also connected, whether directly or obliquely, with Kipling’s writings and/or his life. Entries are now invited: **First Prize £350, Second prize £100, Third Prize £50**. The Kipling Society also offers a **Competition for Younger Writers** aged between **12 and 17 years**, for stories of supernatural, which should likewise be connected with Kipling’s writings and/or his life, for which the Kipling Society offers a **prize of £75, and £25 for the runner-up**. The judges will be Jan Montefiore, Mary Hamer and Sarah LeFanu.

AUSTEN 250 KIPLING 101 – David Alan Richards, President

The Grolier Club, America’s largest and oldest book collectors’ club headquartered in NYC has mounted a show called “Paper Jane: 250 Years of Austen”, opening on Dec. 4 and running through Feb 14, 2026.

One of the curators is a dear friend, and I brought to her attention the pamphlet version of *The Janeites*, which was omitted from the Morgan Library show on Austen years ago in similar ignorance of its existence. The Grolier publicity flyer reads in part about Our Man: “In Rudyard Kipling’s 1924 short story *The Janeites*, World War I soldiers read Austen’s novels in the trenches and name their guns after some of her characters. Adoption of the term ‘Janeites’ cements the growing Cult of Jane.”



KIPLING IN TRANSLATION

Loup Hanning writes from France: I am currently preparing French translations of the complete poetic works of Rudyard Kipling. They will be available on a website and each poem will have the same presentation: English title / French title / link to the poem on the Kipling Society website / short presentation of the poem's context and a small glossary / French translation(s) / original English text. This is a non-profit project — my only aim is to provide readers with easier access to Kipling's poetic work, as French translations are rare and, for the most part, quite old.

The site is now online for poems beginning with the letters A and B, which is just over a hundred. It will be updated regularly <https://surlapistede.fr>. To guide French readers, the site offers poems in alphabetical order, by work (not all of which are available in French) and by theme. I also include translations that are in the public domain. The name of the site, "Sur la piste" (On the Trail), refers to a passage from *The King's Ankus* that I find particularly interesting. The site is mainly devoted to Kipling, while another section (Baldred) deals with my experience as a literature teacher. This work would not have been possible without the richness of the Kipling Society website, for which I thank you once again.



sur la piste...

KIPLING SETTINGS AND INSPIRATIONS

Jure Brkinjač writes: Rudyard Kipling has been one of my favourite poets and I decided to turn some of his poems into modern songs, [Mandalay](#), on Spotify. I hope you enjoy it. I especially recommend *Mandalay*, *London Town* and *If*, the three emotional anchors of the album.

Members are reminded that the Society maintains a Spotify playlist which now contains 124 tracks of settings of Kipling's works and music inspired by Kipling.

<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/25SzgST4RnE93z2Qxh7FZt?si=71279c405e804431>

A VOICE FROM THE PAST – Fred Lerner, member of Council

In March 1963, during my freshman year at Columbia University, I served as assistant producer (i.e., general dogsbody) for "The Printed Word", a weekly program on the university radio station WKCR. As a reward for many hours labouring in the editing booth I was allowed to conduct a couple of interviews myself. One of these was a discussion of Kipling with Carl Naumburg, who was the American Secretary of the Kipling Society. A recording of that interview has surfaced, which can be heard online at <[https://fanac.org/Recordings/Lerner-](https://fanac.org/Recordings/Lerner-Interviews/LERN5-1963-03-27_Interview_w_Carl_Naumburg-KiplingSociety-30m02s.mp3)

[Interviews/LERN5-1963-03-27_Interview_w_Carl_Naumburg-KiplingSociety-30m02s.mp3](https://fanac.org/Recordings/Lerner-Interviews/LERN5-1963-03-27_Interview_w_Carl_Naumburg-KiplingSociety-30m02s.mp3)>.



IMPERIAL WISDOM, MODERN WARFARE – KIPLING’S LESSONS FOR THE 21ST CENTURY (PART 1) – Major Laurence Thomson

(First published in the British Army Review No. 196)



Superficially the 21st century battlefield – characterised by the proliferation of long-range precision munitions, artificial intelligence, autonomous systems and myriad technological marvels – bears little resemblance to the dusty imperial frontiers of Kipling’s era. Yet beneath the digital veneer, the essence of war remains one of human endeavour: visceral, passionate and uncertain. These are the very facets Kipling captured with brutal clarity revealing much that is as relevant in today’s wars as it was then.

To read Kipling is not only to escape into history, it is to gain a different perspective on the present day through a penetrating historical lens. His works provide an understanding of Britain’s geopolitical situation and the dilemmas facing its military and political leaders. But as the looming spectre of Great Power Competition returns what has he to say that is relevant in Britain’s “new era of threat”?¹ What does his writing add to a contemporary British Army focused on seeking to move data “horizontally, not just vertically, at light speed, with a precision focus on the defeat mechanisms to an adversary’s fighting system, from top to bottom, from back to front?”²

His works explore enduring themes related to the nature of war, its moral dimensions and the imperative to transform and adapt in the face of annihilation. Kipling’s was an unstable world punctuated by rising nationalist popularism, fragmenting world order and atavistic cravings which are both accelerated and enabled by rapid technological advances. This commentary will focus in considering his canon in three areas: institutional learning and strategic failure; the nature of the British soldier; and the soldier’s place in British society.

KIPLING IN CONTEXT

Kipling wrote and experienced conflict in a time of profound change amid an era of total war, societal division and global disorder. Richard Evans describes how such times draw “uncomfortable parallels” with today, giving “an ominous foretaste” of things to come.³ Whilst Lord Alton notes how the rise in today’s “extreme forms of nationalism, imperialistic ambitions... [and] a depressed air of inevitability” mirrors conditions at the turn of the 20th century that preceded the two most destructive wars in human history.⁴

Rudyard Kipling was born in Bombay, now Mumbai, in British crown-ruled India on December 30th, 1865. After briefly returning to England for school, he spent his early career in India before travelling extensively across the wider British Empire. He was variously a journalist, war correspondent, writer and historian. Poor eyesight prevented him from becoming a soldier but he was a chronicler and critic of military life: a paradoxical figure who contrasted the romanticised ideal of empire with the gritty reality of frontier soldiering. Many will recognise the name of Rudyard Kipling from ‘Plain Tales from the Hills’ (1888), ‘Barrack-Room Ballads’ (1892) and most famously ‘The Jungle Book’ (1894).

¹ Ministry of Defence, *Strategic Defence Review 2025 Making Britain Safer: secure at home, strong abroad*, (HMG, 2025).

² Gen Sir. R. Walker, ‘Chief of the General Staff Speech at RUSI Land Warfare Conference 2025’, (HMG, 17 June 2025).

³ Richard Evans, ‘Before the First World War: what can 1914 tell us about 2014?’, (Newstatesman, 23 January 2024).

⁴ Lord D. Alton, ‘Global Tensions: Parallels between the past and present’, (GIS AG, 21 February 2025).

His works can be broadly categorised in three periods: British imperial (1886-97), the Boer War (1900-1903) and the First World War (1915-32). Each differs in subject and temperament but all go some way to describe the ‘lived experience’ of soldiers and soldiering in their time. This is the foundation of Kipling’s enduring popularity and can be credited for his ability to provide a window into a past that, despite distance, reveals timeless the many characteristics of a soldier in general and a British Army soldier in particular.

INSTITUTIONAL LEARNING AND STRATEGIC FAILURE

Modern militaries operate in a world of accelerating complexity: hybrid threats, contested domains and rapid technological change. The imperative to learn, especially from failure, remains. The steep learning curve of warfare is a common theme of Kipling’s writing and he frequently discusses lessons and failures. Parallels are revealed with today in areas such as military doctrines of adaptive learning, post-conflict review and organisational reforms.

The British Army suffered repeated disasters in the early stages of the Boer Wars before re-learning its previous hard-won lessons. ‘Recessional’ (1897) and its constant refrain “lest we forget – lest we forget!” was published at the end of Queen Victoria’s jubilee celebrations as a call for reflection and humility. Writing at a time when the global might of the British Empire seemed unassailable, Kipling was seemingly out of step with the popular mood.

Kipling’s calls for temperance and caution in victory – as a challenge doctrinal complacency at the exact moment of its vindication – were only subsequently recognised as sound advice when it was too late. Katharine Gerould noted in *The Atlantic* (1919) how Kipling’s warnings had been ignored before the First World War.⁵ She concluded that he had “the disadvantage of telling the truth prematurely” and “if England had been prepared in 1914, there would have been no war in 1914”. For today’s defence organisations, it echoes the need to remain humble in the face of evolving threats and to resist the seductions of legacy thinking. As the UK seeks to lead within NATO and modernise its force structure, Kipling’s caution remains relevant. Britain must channel this approach to ensure it has strategic credibility: this demands humility and hardware, not just rhetoric and hubris.

In his poem ‘*M.I.*’ (1901), Kipling captures the frustration of tactical learning being delayed by institutional inertia. His verse reminds us that adaptation must be anticipatory, not solely reactive. This sentiment resonates with current efforts to absorb lessons from Ukraine on munitions stockpiles, dispersed command and drone warfare. The SDR’s £1.5 billion investment in an ‘always-on’ munitions pipeline and the proposed Defence Readiness Bill reflect a recognition that institutional adaptation is key. Principally, so Britain does not have to learn lessons the hard way:

*“I wish myself could talk to myself as I left ‘im a year ago;
I could tell ‘im a lot that would save ‘im a lot on the things that ‘e
ought to know!
When I think o’ that ignorant barrack-bird, it almost makes me cry.
I used to belong to an Army once
(Gawd! What a rum little Army once),
Red little, dead little Army once!”*



1st Battalion, Canadian Mounted Rifles

⁵ Katharine Gerould, ‘*The Remarkable Rightness of Rudyard Kipling*’, (*The Atlantic*, January 1919).

'*The Lesson*' (1901) is Kipling's exploration into the consequence of learning from others' mistakes. Despite being over 120 years old it has remained an iconic poem because its sharp criticisms are recognisable to modern readers. It is regularly drawn out of retirement and has most recently been shared in relation to the 2021 fall of Afghanistan.⁶ Kipling's description of how the British had been defeated "*conclusively, comprehensively, and several times and again*" by a technologically inferior enemy aptly described the coalition's ignoble defeat by the Taliban. As does his condemnation of an "*Army in our own image*" that has ill-suited structures, tactics and equipment which too closely "*mirrored its makers' ideals... and mental attitude*" rather than reality on the battlefield.

Kipling's strategic lens naturally applies when turned to the human level. If institutions must learn, so too must individuals. The next section explores Kipling's portrayal of the soldier as more than a system component but as a moral actor.

To be continued

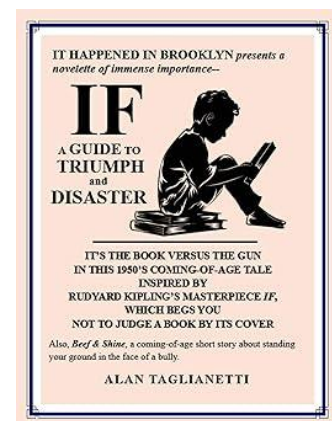
Major Laurence Thomson is the Chief of the General Staff's Visiting Fellow at the Royal United Services Institute. As part of the Military Sciences team, his research is focused on land power lethality, contemporary conflict and British Army modernisation.

IF, A GUIDE TO TRIUMPH AND DISASTER

Alan Taglianetti writes: I am a lifelong reader of Rudyard Kipling, with great respect for the work you do in preserving, contextualizing, and celebrating his literary legacy. I recently published a short novelette on Amazon titled IF, A GUIDE TO TRIUMPH AND DISASTER, a coming-of-age story set in Brooklyn in 1957. The work is not an adaptation of Kipling's poem, nor a reinterpretation, but rather a fictional meditation on the enduring moral and emotional power of "If—" when placed in an unexpected setting.

The story follows a nine-year-old boy, Joseph "Little Joey" Napoli, who dreams of becoming a writer while navigating the harsher realities of his neighbourhood. Over the course of one pivotal day, he encounters an older man who uses passages from great literature—including Kipling—to impart lessons about courage, restraint, humility, and moral clarity. In this context, "If—" becomes less a recited poem and more a lived philosophy—tested not in abstraction, but against fear, violence, and choice. My hope was to explore how Kipling's words, so often associated with ceremony, leadership, and public life, might resonate when filtered through a child's eyes in a world far removed from Empire or battlefield—a reminder that the poem's wisdom remains timeless and universally human. Words that have navigated me through some tough waters throughout my lifetime

Copies of Alan's book can be downloaded from Amazon for £1.79 at [IF, A GUIDE TO TRIUMPH AND DISASTER eBook : Taglianetti, Alan : Amazon.co.uk: Kindle Store](https://www.amazon.co.uk/dp/B0C8J8J8J8)



⁶ Spencer Jones, '*The British Army and the Lessons of the Boer War*', (War on the Rocks, 11 March 2024)

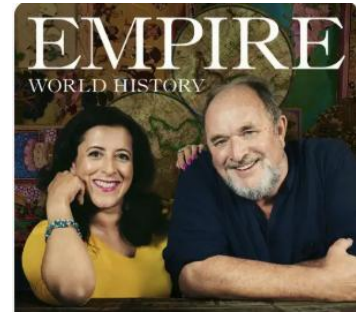
EMPIRE PODCAST - Andrew Lycett, Vice-President

I spent the best part of a day recently being interviewed by William Dalrymple on Kipling for his very successful Empire podcast. His co-presenter Anita Anand was unfortunately unwell. So it was just Willie and me covering Kipling's life, career and reputation over three episodes of the podcast.

[Rudyard Kipling \(Part 1\) Son of Empire](#)

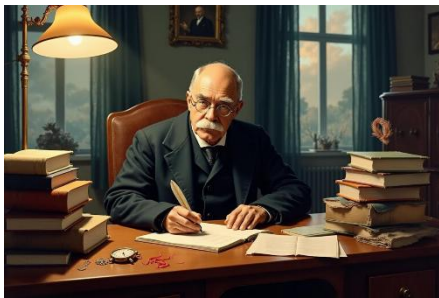
[Rudyard Kipling \(Part 2\) Escaping India & Writing The Jungle Book](#)

[Rudyard Kipling \(Part 3\) Villain or Visionary?](#)



MORE KIPLING SETTINGS

Jared Hamilton writes: I am a former Educational Technologist who has admired Kipling for a long time. About 6 months ago I had a life changing experience relating to poetry which started me on a journey to merge AI technology with the wisdom found in the great poets of the past. It turned out better than I could have hoped for and I have been transforming my favourite old poetry into music ever since. I started making these songs just for myself, but, after some prompting by friends, I decided to put some of them online. Kipling's poems are my favourite to work with and, as I was looking for more material online, I discovered your organization.



I know the style(s) are radically different from what most people expect, especially given the subject matter and demographic normally interested in classical poetry. As I mentioned, Kipling has been my favourite poet since I found him decades ago and I made an entire album devoted to him. Feel free to share it or not, but I couldn't pass through this site without telling the people carrying on his legacy that he still continues to inspire. You can listen on Spotify <https://open.spotify.com/album/1YJZXXoHkbY4N9une728Bx> or on YouTube [timeless-ones.com](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCqj0K0000000000000000)

Jared has also created some AI image of the poets he features. There's an example above. More will follow in future newsletters.

LETTER FROM AMERICA #3 – Steve Russ, Assistant Online Editor

A cemetery visit

While in the Brattleboro area, we stopped by the graves of Kipling's Vermont friend Dr. James Conland, Balestier family members and Mary ("Molly") Cabot. Beatty Balestier, first wife Mai, daughter Marjorie, and mother Anna Smith Balestier are buried in the same cemetery (Morningside Cemetery), with Conland's grave a short distance from the Balestier's burial plot. Conland's gravesite memorial, as explained in the Vermont Phoenix newspaper (8 July 1904), was erected with funds contributed by his friends, with the design of "an old English table", a "most fitting and satisfactory" choice. Mary Cabot was buried at Prospect Hill Cemetery.

A photo of the Conland memorial is attached (with me in the distance at the Balestiers' gravesite to give you some idea of the distance between the two). It reads "DR JAMES CONLAND / 1851-1903 / ERECTED BY HIS FRIENDS / MATILDA MCGUIRK / HIS WIFE / 1858-1931". I also took a photo of the Balestier gravestone. I didn't realize, until this visit, that

Beatty's birthday was 6 March, the same date on which Josephine Kipling died. That must have been a bitter coincidence for the Kiplings, considering their troubles with Beatty.



CLOCKING KIPLING'S CAR

Nick Moynihan wrote: In the 1930's Kipling's Rolls Royce went back to the factory for an overhaul. After the work was done the dashboard clock which had been taken out was not to be found. So a new clock was fitted and the car was returned to its owner. Later the original clock was found and, as it was not listed in stock, it was "spare". The factory apprentices built a walnut case for it and presented it to the Chief Engineer at the time Mr Lee Evans. Mr Evans died and the clock was part of his estate that was left to his wife Eileen Evans who lived in The Old Cottage in Shalden in Hampshire. Our family lived opposite and my younger brother was a car enthusiast (indeed he owned his own Rolls Royce in later years). Mrs Evans passed this clock to him and I inherited it when he died. The clock, alas, has no inscription.



John Walker, Librarian, replied: A splendid story. The Rolls-Royce cars owned by Kipling which could reasonably have been the source of the AT (Paris) car clock are the 1928 40/50 Phantom, 20AL, and the 1932 20/25, GKT27. They were purchased in 1928 and 1932 respectively. I think that a surface mounted 30 hour unit, supplied by Smith's I expect (then *Smith's Motor Accessories*), would have been on a 40/50 open drive car, so I suspect that we would find that it would fit the dash on 20AL - currently at Bateman's (and indeed might be the twin of the one now fitted).

Hannah Miles, House & Collections Manager at Bateman's, then kindly supplied the picture below of the dash of the Bateman's Rolls Royce (20AL).



John Walker continued: I believe that this excellent photograph suggests that the clock given to Lee Evans could have come from 20AL. The clock currently in 20AL, signed as a 'Watford' would have been supplied by North and Sons Ltd and probably dates after 1928. However, we must admit that we may never know the dashboard style chosen by Kipling for the 1932 car. Most early 20/25's seem to have the clock, and other instruments, in separate holes in the veneered dash, which would have made the winding and setting knob on the Lee Evans clock unsuitable. There would, instead, have been a rear-mounted winder knob, accessed from under the dash (once a week!).

I would be happy to accept the story of the lost clock. The Society has the original record for many successive trips to Rolls-Royce for 20AL during Kipling's ownership - any of which could have been the fateful visit. In comparison, Chichester, who dealt with Kipling's cars for R-R said of the 1932 20/25 'This car has given Mr K and ourselves greater peace than we have ever known with him before'.

BATEMAN'S MULBERRY GARDEN RESTORATION – Len Bernamont, Estates Manager, Bateman's

The National Trust are developing a project to recreate the Mulberry Garden (Kitchen Garden) as it would have been during Kipling's time. When I say recreate, it will be a new planting design inspired by the core principles of:

- Capturing the spirit and planting style that will look and feel like the original garden
- Creating immersive densely planted borders for people to walk through or sit in
- Using plants to tell the story of global travel on Kipling
- Creating an accessible space
- All this whilst selecting plants that will thrive in our changing climate - either with plants that may have been available at the time of its original planting or new/different plants that perform the same function

Further news on this project will follow.

... AND FINALLY

Alex Bubb has been in Bombay recently and dropped into the Sir JJ art school campus. The buildings were closed for the holidays, he reports, but the Kipling bungalow and bust were in good shape.



The Inscription above the bust reads 'Rudyard Kipling, son of Lockwood Kipling, first principal of the Sir JJ School of Art, was born here 30 12 1865'