



THE KIPLING SOCIETY

FOUNDED 1927

Registered Charity No.278885

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NEWSLETTER – MARCH 2026

NEXT EVENT

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).*

This meeting is being advertised more widely to attract potential new members. So that we may be aware of who attends, everyone (including members) must first register using the following link <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/JULYZV9tQuyevuOy0ZvdmQ>; you will then be e-mailed with the link to join the meeting (this can be done at any time before the event).

OTHER FUTURE MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Wednesday 10 June. Members’ reading (and listening) evening curated by Jan Montefiore. *Zoom only. 8.00pm. Further details in the next newsletter.*

Wednesday 1 July. AGM, followed by Dr Paolo D’Indinosante, University of Rome, ‘Kipling in/and Italy: Representations, Readings, Rewrites’. *Army & Navy Club, 4.30pm for 5.00pm, and by Zoom*

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

Wednesday 25 November. Mike Kipling, ‘Kipling and the Cinema’. *Army & Navy Club, 5.30pm for 6.00pm, and by Zoom*

VISIT TO HAILEYBURY

Saturday 11 July 2.00pm Guided tour of Haileybury school, including the Kipling collection and the chapel. Haileybury is housed in and around the former East India Company College buildings in rural Hertfordshire. It merged with the Imperial Service College in 1942, which had itself subsumed Kipling’s United Services College. The school is home to the Kipling collection (formerly the Society’s library). One of its boarding houses is named after Kipling.



*There is plenty of car parking on the school site, and lifts will be available from Broxbourne station. Arrangements are being made for a pub lunch beforehand. **If you are interested in joining the tour, which will be limited in numbers, please contact the Secretary at michaelrkipling@gmail.com to reserve a place and receive further details.***

ALLIANCE OF LITERARY SOCIETIES - EVENTS AND NEWS

Saturday 23 May AGM hosted by the Edward Thomas Fellowship at Bedales School, Petersfield, Hampshire. The Kipling Society will have a stall promoting ‘our’ author and the Society. All members are welcome to attend.

Saturday 3 October. Fair, 'A celebration for book lovers', in 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 of both events can be found in the ALS Spring newsletter at*

<https://allianceofliterarysocieties.wordpress.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/also-spring-newsletter-2026.pdf>

A KIPLING CONCERT



Heathfield Choral Society
present
Rolling down to Rio
generously supported by The Kipling Society
Rudyard Kipling's poems set to music
by Edward Elgar, Karl Jenkins, Percy Grainger, Eric Whitacre and others.
Conducted by Sebastian Charlesworth ~ Accompanied by Gavin Stevens
Readings by West End actor Richard Henders
16th May 2026
7.00pm
STATE HALL, STATION ROAD, HEATHFIELD
Tickets £15 (advance) £18 (on the door)
Under 16s FREE
- INTERVAL DRINKS AVAILABLE TO PURCHASE -
GEMINI CARDS, HEATHFIELD
SCAN THE QR CODE /
VISIT heathfieldchoral.org.uk
or CALL 01435 812233
Registered
Charity No.
295293

Kipling Society members are entitled to a 10% discount on tickets, reducing the advanced ticket price from £15 to £13.50. If you would like to attend, please contact the concert manager, Jeni Woodhouse (email: jeniwoodhouse@gmail.com tel. 01435 812233).

THE JUNGLE BOOK AT THE NATIONAL THEATRE

The National Theatre in London has announced that a play of *The Jungle Book*, directed by Indhu Rubasingham MBE (the current Artistic Director at the NT), will be performed between 13 November 2026 and 6 February 2027. 'Audiences will be transported into the jungle as the Olivier is transformed for this timeless, classic tale of family, courage and loyalty'. The Society is considering organising a party to see the play, possibly also eating nearby before or afterwards. *If you are interested in attending, please could you make yourself known to the Secretary at michaelrkipling@gmail.com as soon as possible, mentioning whether you have any preference between a matinee and an evening performance.*

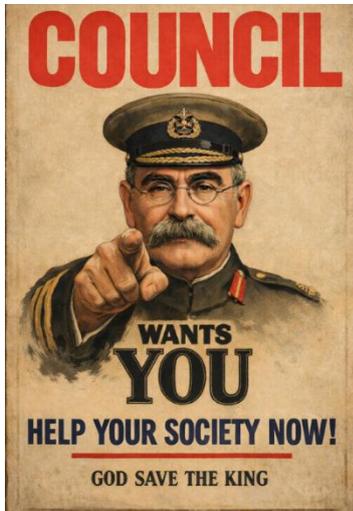


KIPLING AT THE DEAD POETS SALON

David Reid will be giving a talk on Kipling's poetry at the Dead Poets Salon in the Petersfield Bookshop [The Petersfield Bookshop | New, Used, and Antique books](#) on at 7.30pm on Thursday 30th April.

YOUR SOCIETY NEEDS YOU ... Andrew Scragg, Chair of Council

For nearly a century the Kipling Society has been leading the way in enjoying and exploring the life and works of Rudyard Kipling – that is why we are all members and why we all care about the Society. The effective running of the Society is directed through its Council; from here is organised the publication of the *Kipling Journal*, management of membership and its



finances, the website etc.

There are 14 places of Council, members are elected at the AGM each July and serve for three years, retiring in rotation. There will be 5 vacancies for members of Council at the AGM in July this year and I am asking members to step forward and volunteer to fill these vacancies.

There are 5 Council meetings per year, a mix of zoomed online and physical meetings held in London (but all meetings are accessible online, so distance need not be an issue), these meetings last around 60 – 90 minutes, so the time demands are not excessive. There are no specific skills or qualifications required – I am sure that you have the kind of abilities and enthusiasm we need.

It is important that we have a steady mix of experienced and newer members of Council so that new ideas and new ways of managing and developing the Society can be embraced and we all can ensure that the Kipling Society continues to flourish into its second century – it's also a great way of giving something back to the Society and its members. If you are interested in helping the Society on Council, please contact Mike Kipling (michaelrkipling@gmail.com) or if you would like to know more please contact me or any of the other members of Council (details are at the front of the latest *Kipling Journal*) – we are looking forward to hearing from you!

THE JOHN MCGIVERING WRITING PRIZE 2026 -THE SUPERNATURAL

This competition, announced in the January newsletter, is now open for entries Full details and instructions of how to enter can be found on our website at [The SUPERNATURAL – 2026 Writing Prize – The Kipling Society](#).

FEBRUARY MEETING REPORT - Alex Bubb, Meetings Secretary

February's meeting marked two years since our move from the Royal Over-seas League to the Army & Navy Club, and I think all with agree that the new venue has turned out most satisfactorily. A particularly large audience turned out to hear our guest, Mr Nick Higham, lecture on "Mavericks: Lionel Dunsterville and the Caspian campaign of 1918".

Nick, who used to work for BBC Radio, gave an animated and entertaining account of Dunsterforce, a small force under the command of Kipling's friend, Lionel Dunsterville, that was tasked with securing the Baku oil fields at the end of the First World War. Owing to the presence in the unit of an American photographer, the expedition was visually very well documented and Nick showed us a number of these fascinating images. Besides learning what the model for Stalky (though Dunsterville disliked being linked to the schoolboy character) was really like as a commander in the field, we were also able to add another novel to the canon of *Kim*



imitations. This was written by another fascinating character, the intelligence officer Reginald Teague-Jones, who named his protagonist "Jim". Nick's book *Mavericks: Empire, Oil, Revolution and the Forgotten Battle of World War One* came out last year and is available in hardback from all good bookshops.

A recording of the meeting can be viewed on the Society's YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hq7TDQuylou>

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

VALMAI HOLT M.B.E.

Long-time member, occasional speaker, and renowned battlefields author and tour guide,



Valmai Holt was awarded the M.B.E. in this year's New Year's honours 'For services to Military History and War Commemoration'. Valmai worked throughout with her late husband, Tonie. To our Society, they are perhaps best known for 'My Boy Jack?' (1998, revised 2007), but some will also be aware of Major and Mrs Holt's Battlefield Guide series. Valmai tells us that she regards this honour as recognising Tonie's work equally with hers.

JUNGLE BOOK PODCASTS

Last summer, three Apple podcasts in the series 'The Literary Life' were recorded (mainly) discussing *The Jungle Book* and other aspects of Kipling's life and works. They can be heard at [Mowgli's Brothers](#), [Kaa's Hunting](#), [Tiger! Tiger!](#)



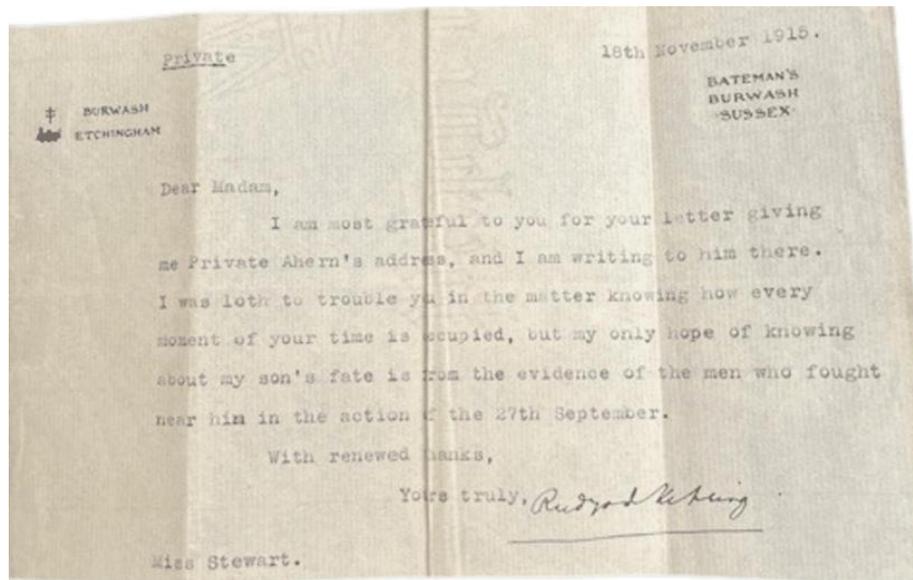
BATEMAN'S NEWS – Hannah Miles

Two new acquisitions are to go on display at Bateman's this Spring It has been a busy and exciting time for the House and Collections team, with two new acquisitions joining the collection. The first is the stunning watercolour *Baloo in the Forest* by Edward Julius Detmold. The acquisition was made possible thanks to a fund established by the late Simon Sainsbury, alongside contributions from several others. This painting is one of sixteen original illustrations created by the Detmold brothers for *The Jungle Book*. The watercolour is on display in the Detmold Room, opposite *The Return of the Buffalo Herd*, also by Edward Detmold.



The second acquisition is the generous donation of two letters written by Rudyard Kipling during his search for his son, John, who went missing in action at the Battle of Loos in 1915. The letters, addressed to the matron of the City of London Military Hospital, ask whether a wounded Irish Guardsman, Joseph Ahern, who had been under her care, might hold any eyewitness information about John. Kipling writes that no report has emerged from Germany or Belgium confirming his son as a prisoner or hospital patient, and that his 'only hope' lies in gathering accounts from men who fought beside him. The gentleman who donated the letters had acquired them at auction and felt strongly that they should be put into the care of the

National Trust and returned to Bateman's. The letters are on display in the John Kipling case in the Exhibition Room, alongside his last letter home from the front.



THE WRECK OF THE BIRKENHEAD

On our website, the fifth stanza of 'Soldier an' Sailor too', Kipling's paean of praise to the Royal Marines, bears a footnote, 'In 1852 the Birkenhead transport was sunk off Simon's Bay. The Marines aboard her went down as drawn up on her deck.'. The stanza itself reads:



To take your chance in the thick of a rush, with firing all about,
Is nothing so bad when you've cover to 'and, an' leave an' likin'
to shout;
But to stand an' be still to the Birken'ead drill is a damn tough
bullet to chew,
An' they done it, the Jollies—'Er Majesty's Jollies—soldier an'
sailor too!
Their work was done when it 'adn't begun; they was younger
nor me an' you;
Their choice it was plain between drownin' in 'eaps an' bein'
mopped by the screw,
So they stood an' was still to the Birken'ead drill, soldier an'
sailor too!

Di Kilpert wrote to us from Cape Town: 'No, it was sunk off Gansbaai. The ship was travelling from Simonstown carrying troops to the Eastern Cape to fight the Xhosa. Perhaps you might correct the note.¹ My great-grandfather Thomas Hemy painted the famous picture ['Wreck of the Birkenhead', Williamson Gallery, Liverpool (above)]. On 26 February 2022, with my son and grandson, I attended the 170th anniversary commemoration at Gansbaai. Three boats went out to the reef where the ship sank, and rockets were fired and roses thrown into the sea. A hymn was sung on one of the boats. A service was held at the Danger Point lighthouse. The

¹ The footnote is actually Kipling's own; added when the poem was collected in *Inclusive Verses*. Our comprehensive notes on the text do point out Kipling's geographical error, although overstating the distance from Simonstown to Gansbaai. This has now been corrected.

chaplain read part of the poem at the service: his text was 'Stand firm'. The ceremony is held every year on 26 February'.

My other great-grandfather, Stanley de Brath, went with Kipling on a pony trek in the Himalayas in 1885 (mentioned in the Carrington biography). *Editor's note: One is tempted to suggest that Carrington was the main beneficiary of another 'wreck of the Birkenhead', when he was commissioned by Elsie Kipling to write the official biography of her father, she having rejected the text she had earlier commissioned from Lord Birkenhead.*

CENTENARY NEWS

John Walker asks: In March 1938 the Kipling Journal reported production of a 'new badge' for members of the Society, in gold for 15 shillings (75p today), silver for 3 shillings and 6 pence, or gilt for '2/6'. We have an historic example of the first badge - an open book with a central swastika emblem - but not the later version. Does any member have an example of the 1938 form that we could use to investigate production of new badges for members, as we approach the centenary of the Society?

Thanks to all of those North American members who expressed an interest in a centenary event 'across the pond', possibly in New York, Yale or Vermont. We will be taking this forward and provide more details in future newsletters.

THE ANGRY BAKER

Celeste Goulding writes: I was reading the Kipling Society website page about the poem "The Attainment" ([The Attainment – The Kipling Society](#)) to which Kipling gave the cryptic subtitle "known to the initiated as 'The Angry Baker'". He had sent a copy to Mrs Tavenor Perry, a family friend and mother figure, and the website suggests that the subtitle refers to a shared joke, based on a misreading of the poem's line 'An angry breaker beating on the beach'. I am part of the extended family of Mr John Tavenor Perry, the husband of Mrs Tavenor Perry and am wondering if you are aware that in Mr John Tavenor Perry's family there were many bakers?

Mr John Tavenor Perry's mother Christiana Nash had two brothers that were bakers in Chelsea, George and William Nsash. Additionally, her father Mark Nash was also a baker in Chelsea. And his father William Nash was a baker in Deal, Kent. It is quite possible that the family may have used colourful descriptions relating to bakers and baking in their daily language, to being pushed and pulled like dough, to be emotionally stretched and pummelled, then to rest and rise. Perhaps, when Kipling confessed his struggles to Mrs Tavenor, she may have used such language with him. I imagine that Kipling, as a teenager, hearing it may have internalised these descriptions and decided to use them in his poem. What do you think?

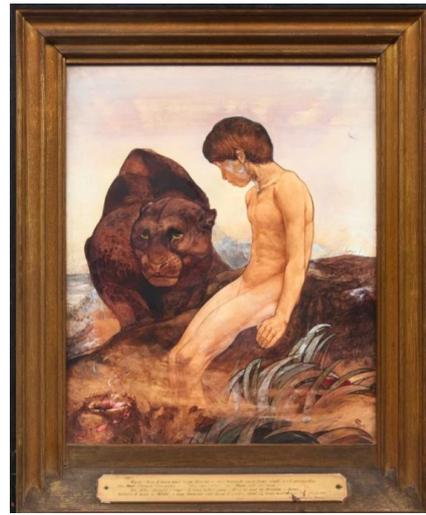
TOMORROW, AND TOMORROW, AND TOMORROW – AND NOW NEVER?

Council member Fred Lerner writes: The monthly science fiction newsletter ANSIBLE contains the following "Award Shortlist. Prometheus Hall of Fame (libertarian classics): The Star Dwellers (1961) by James Blish, Brave New World (1932) by Aldous Huxley, That Hideous Strength (1945) by C.S. Lewis, Salt (2000) by Adam Roberts, Singularity Sky (2003) by Charles Stross. Perhaps Rudyard Kipling's 'As Easy as A.B.C.', shortlisted seventeen times for this award (2006-2025) without ever winning, has at last been put to rest."



MORE DETMOLDS

For decades, two watercolours hung unassumingly in a family home in London. Only recently did the residents discover the works' storied pedigree: they are original illustrations created for a 1903 edition of *The Jungle Book*, which were long thought lost. The illustrations were the work of British twin brothers Edward and Maurice Detmold, commissioned by Macmillan & Co. for its deluxe, limited-edition portfolio *Sixteen Illustrations of Subjects From Kipling's "Jungle Book."* They were auctioned at Rosebery's in London earlier this month, where they had an estimate of £15,000-£20,000 each. 'The Cold Lairs' sold for over £36,000 and 'Mowgli and Bagheera' for over £93,000 (hammer price plus buyer's premium including VAT).



In the Cold Lairs the Monkey people
were not thinking of Mowgli's friends at all.
The Jungle Book

Good! Now, I have seen men thrust a dry branch into that stuff, and presently
the Red Flower blossomed at the end of it. Art thou not afraid?
No. Why should I fear? I remember now - if it is not a dream - how
before I was a Wolf, I lay beside the Red Flower, and it was warm and pleasant.
The Jungle Book

Only five other originals are thought to have survived. Two, *The Return of the Buffalo Herd* and *Baloo in the Forest* are at Bateman's. *Kaa the Python* belongs to the Natural History Museum in London, although has been on loan to Bateman's in the past. *The Monkey Fight* is in private hands and was exhibited at Dulwich Picture Gallery in 2007. According to Rosebery's one other, unnamed, is in private hands.

DEPARTMENTAL DITTIES

Dr Jenny Mayhew wrote: I'm writing to share with you a recent discovery about Rudyard Kipling, in case it's of interest (although you may already know, of course). After posting a piece in my Substack newsletter, "Bossy Little Books", <https://jennymayhew.substack.com>, about a humorous book on manners called *Departmental Ditties*, published in 1909 (see link below), I learned that it was inspired by Kipling's *Departmental Ditties*. What fun those comic writers had! I'd love you to take a look at the article, if you have time - and I'm keen to welcome new readers to my small but growing group of book-loving followers on Substack, so please consider joining me there!

John Walker (KS Librarian) replied: I had heard of this one, but never found a copy. In my own collection (not perhaps important enough for the Kipling Society Library), I have *Not So Stories* and *Sandman's Might Be So Stories* (as for Kipling's *Just So Stories*), *Captions Courageous* (a book of cartoons as against Kipling's *Captains Courageous*), *Poolorn and the Elephants* (Kipling published *Toomai of the Elephants*). *Plain Tales from Flanders* (moving tales from the First World War linked to *Plain Tales from the Hills*, and several others. One is reminded of the very many novels and plays taking their titles from Shakespeare's texts. (Calling 'To the Manor Born' "that Hamlet series" did not go down well with one of my neighbours). My word - there is an entire Wiki entry on this:

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_works_titled_after_Shakespeare. Nothing similar on Kipling? Something to do, when there is time. Thank you for this interesting aside, and for the link to your own material. The verse on 'tact' is my favourite - and what a pleasure to read in full meter, with some clever flourishes.

FLANNELLED FOOLS AT THE WICKET

Peter Danby writes: I live close to Matfield, the home of Matfield Green cricket club and of Siegfried Sassoon. As a result of those connections, I am now on the Sassoon Fellowship committee. Until two years ago, we played Burwash at the beginning of the season. We had talked about a Sassoon v Kipling match and this year, in June, we are renewing our much valued relationship and playing two T20 games, home and away, labelled Sassoon v Kipling and Kipling v Sassoon. The first game is Tuesday 9th June at Matfield and the second is on Thursday 18th at Burwash. In July, on the green, we play The Flower Show Match in memory of Sassoon. It is based on Chapter 2 of his *Memoires of a Fox-Hunting Man*. We read poems at the end of the game and I reckon we'll do the same in June.



The editor writes: One poem recited may well be 'Cricket' from *An Almanac of Twelve Sports* (from which the William Nicholson illustration above is also taken).

*Thank God who made the British Isles
And taught me how to play,
I do not worship crocodiles
Or bow the knee to clay.*

*Give me a willow wand, and I,
With hide and cork and twine,
From century to century
Will gambol round my Shrine*

Peter adds: Also, in June, I am running a pilot programme for young men in London. At the moment, I'm calling it The Path to Manhood - The Galahad Trail. There will be many different elements in the schedule and one will be linked to the creative arts. To help define the qualities we are looking to develop in the young men, I use 'If'. Just thought I'd let you know the impact of the great man's work.

THE WHITE SEAL

Garrett Pletnikoff writes: Aang (Greetings). I hope this email finds you well. I am an Aleut from St. Paul Island, Alaska (USA). As you know, Rudyard Kipling wrote a story about our island and its residents and published it in *The Jungle Book*. I am a direct descendent of Chief Kerrick Buterin who is the Aleut chief Kipling mentions in the story. I am writing because my partner, Hannah Zimmerman, and I are working on a project to retell 'The White Seal' from a

modern perspective, and I wanted to talk about the original publication in the foreword to our book. While I have been able to find lots of information about how Kipling wrote the book, I have not been able to find anything about why he wrote this story, as he had never been to our island, nor (that we know of) communicated with anyone from here. If you don't mind and happen to know why Rudyard Kipling decided to tell this story, please share! It would be of great interest to myself and our community. Txin qağaasakuqing (Thank you very much).

The Secretary replied: Thanks very much for contacting the Kipling Society. It's great to hear from someone who lives in a place known to me only from Kipling's writings. You are correct about your ancestor being named in 'The White Seal'. I assume you have seen the page on our website which gives the background to the story [The White Seal – The Kipling Society](#). A recent contributor to our journal wrote that in 1893 there was tension between America and Great Britain over the rights to hunt fur seals in Alaska, and that it was this which prompted Kipling to write 'The White Seal' as a literary intervention into this dispute. I have no reason to doubt this - and as an experienced journalist, Kipling was skilled at crafting a story by taking details and names, including that of Chief Buterin, from non-fiction books by others. I attach a contemporary newspaper report which probably refers to this dispute which you might find of interest.

Garrett replied: Thank you for your fast and informative response. It was interesting to read this article and think about the global politics surrounding our island and its residents in Kipling's time. The full context of why I emailed you is that in August of 2024, Hannah Zimmerman and I began a project to retell 'The White Seal' from a local Indigenous Aleut perspective. The original text, while quite popular with Western readers, is not looked upon favourably by our people. Some of Kipling's descriptions of us – "not clean," "black-haired men with flat red faces" – are offensive to most of our tribal members. In addition, it's important to note that these seal harvests (or "killings," as Kipling describes them) were not done by Aleut free will. The Aleut people of the Pribilof Islands were subjected to forced labour, often described as slavery, under both Russian and United States rule, lasting for nearly 200 years. At the time *The Jungle Book* was published, the Alaska Commercial Company held us as wards of the state who were required to slaughter tens of thousands of fur seals every summer. We were allowed to keep just 3% of the total profit they created for the company, and any refusal to harvest was met with cruel and extreme punishment. When we read Kipling's story today, it can feel like our ancestors are presented as villains; in reality, we were victims ourselves. The Aleut people of Saint Paul had no say in the publication of this story, and despite *The Jungle Book* going on to become one of the most famous English-language children's books of all time, we do not feel that we have benefited from its publication.²

Rather than just abandoning the story, we are decolonizing it through this retelling. In our text, the story of the white seal will unfold from an Indigenous perspective. We hope that this text will bring readers into the wondrous culture and community of Saint Paul Island, while also using some of Kipling's original language and paying homage to his work. Our forthcoming book is titled *Sergie and the White Seal* [<https://www.tukuuludaa.design/portfolio-collections/my-portfolio/sergie-and-the-white-seal-rewriting-rudyard-kipling>], and will be published this June through the



² For more information about the enslavement of the people on the Pribilof Islands, see *Slaves of the Harvest* by Barbara Torrey.

Alaska Native Language Center [<https://www.uaf.edu/anlc/>] (though it is written mainly in English, and any non-English words are explained in the glossary and/or footnotes). We hope you might be interested in the book, not as a replacement for Kipling's story, but as a modern-day tribute to the world he described but never saw for himself. You can pre-order our book by filling out this form [<https://forms.gle/LktdpiiiiSj7guCH8>] (we already have 40 pre-ordered copies). Txin qağaasakuqing.

The Society was subsequently invited to write a short explanatory piece for inclusion in the book, which will be featured in a future newsletter.

FLANNELLED FOOLS AGAIN

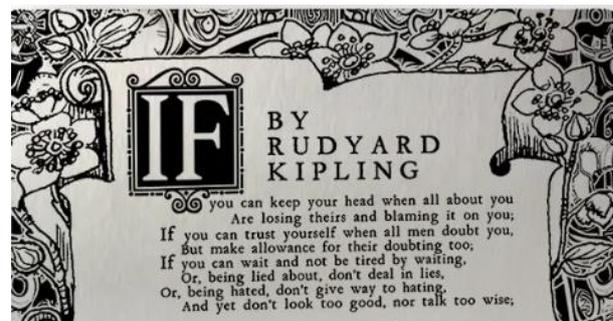
On what would have been Shane Warne's 55th birthday, former England cricket captain Nasser Hussain made a recording of 'If' in tribute to the great Australian spin bowler. View it on YouTube at [Nasser Hussain recites 'If'](#)

IMPERIAL WISDOM, MODERN WARFARE – KIPLING'S LESSONS FOR THE 21ST CENTURY – Major Laurence Thomson

PART 2 - THE NATURE OF THE BRITISH SOLDIER

Even though the 21st century of British soldier is called upon to operate drones, navigate a cyber battlefield and coordinate joint fires the essence of their make-up appears surprisingly unchanged. Stoicism in the face of adversity, irrepressible humour and that uniquely British acceptance of anti-establishment individuality. This latter one being something that, from personal experience, our allies frequently find bewildering. Especially in relation to our eclectic mix of regimental traditions and dress policies.

For many, the poem which most fittingly describes the emotional and moral resilience of the British soldier is 'If' (1910). Addressing the reader in a steady litany of tests, each conditional 'if' becomes a virtue drill essential to good soldiering. Kipling frames the soldier's greatest battle as the one fought within. The need for professional self-control to master fear, pride and impatience to be able to operate in chaos and execute with clear decision-making. Kipling's work offers a rich portrait of the British soldier, shaped by humour, hardship, and resilience.



In today's media-saturated environment, where soldiers are scrutinised and celebrated in equal measure, he reminds us that integrity must be defended, not just in combat, but in culture. The poem's structure mirrors the psychological demands of command and endurance. For soldiers navigating decentralised missions, ethical dilemmas and high-pressure environments, ranging from urban combat to cyber and the EMS, it is a blueprint for composure, integrity and perseverance.

Alongside the individual is the communal, which Kipling explores in his collection of short stories in *'Stalky & Co'* (1899). Set in a boarding school, the short story follows the formative years of young officer cadets learning to outwit authority and adapt under pressure. The stories are light-hearted and mischievous but relates to serious lessons on adaptability and the importance of peer learning. Modern soldiers must do more than orders – they must think, adapt and mentor. Yet courage and camaraderie remain their indelible bedrock. Framed by moral clarity, Kipling defines the British soldier as an equilibrium of self-mastery, adaptive leadership and collective learning.

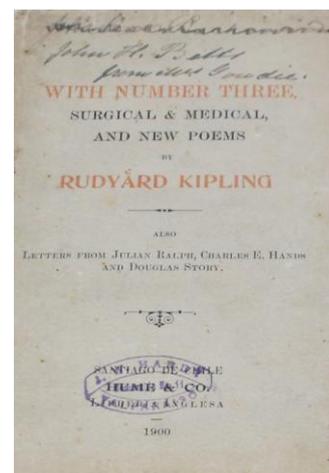
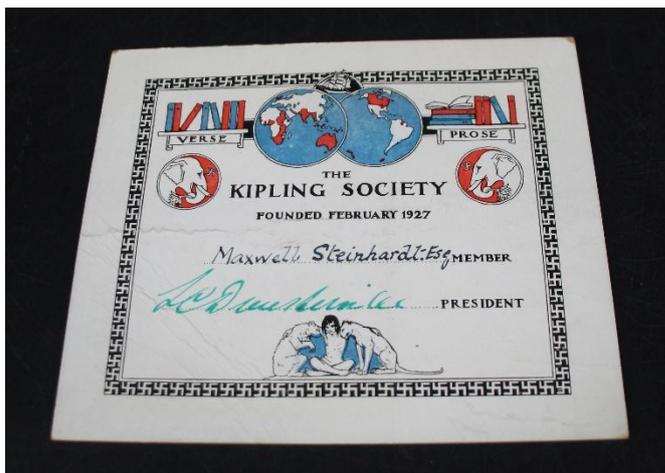


As the UK develops its formations with ever increasing amounts of Robotics and Autonomous Systems (RAS), Kipling's emphasis on peer bonds and informal leadership offers a counterweight to technological determinism. The human element of cohesion, trust and humour remains irreplaceable. Kipling's soldier is not just a fighter – he is a citizen, a comrade, and a bearer of moral weight. But what happens when the war ends? The final section will explore Kipling's reflections on the soldier's return, and the societal tensions that follow.

To be concluded

MORE AUCTION NEWS

Andrew Malin writes: I'm a cataloguer here at Clarke Auctions in NY. In our February sale we had a small but interesting lot of Kipling material, including an early Kipling Society membership card signed by Dunsterville, together with a copy of *Stalky's Reminiscences*. There was also a Chilean edition of *With Number Three* and other titles as well. Finally, I have been promised a *Schoolboy Lyrics*, but the consignor cannot at this time locate it.



David Richards (President) comments: The interesting thing about the example of *With Number Three* is that it seems to have been purchased where it was published, in South America, and is not one of the suspiciously pristine sets "remaining" after most of the originals were purportedly pulped.

WW1 CATHEDRAL MEMORIAL TABLETS



Christopher Kreuzer writes: I am sending you links to a podcast that may be of interest (it features me talking about my war memorial research): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VxV5WfCrT0c>

I do mention Rudyard Kipling, but only briefly. I am afraid I failed to include the snippet of biographical information that Rudyard Kipling did apparently make sure to visit these cathedral tablets whenever he was passing by the locations.

THE FIRST EMPRESS OF THE EAST

Michael Tracey writes: While working through Rudyard Kipling's journalism, I noticed the review published in the *Civil and Military Gazette* on 28 February 1887 of *The First Empress of the East*, by Cameron J. F. S. Macdowall.

[*Ed. Note.* The review can be read on our website at [The First Empress of the East](#). Its opening paragraph indicates the sense of the whole:

‘We have received a ‘story in dramatic form’, from the hand of Brigade Surgeon Cameron Macdowall, entitled ‘The first Empress of the East’. Dr Macdowall has appeared in print before. Last time, if we recollect aright, he was — in print, bien entendu (*evidently*) — engaged in kissing the hands or feet of a female relative; his cousin was it, or aunt? This time he is murdering a young girl, in a few hundred lines of blank verse.’]

I am one of the last surviving members of the medical and scientific Goodsir family of Edinburgh, and for some months, I have been reconstructing, in detail, the careers of students taught by my kinsman Professor John Goodsir (1814-1867) at the University of Edinburgh. Macdowall's name emerged repeatedly in this work, and it became clear that the author reviewed by Kipling was not a minor or eccentric literary figure, but a senior imperial medical officer with a long and unusually varied professional and literary career.

Because Kipling's review necessarily treats Macdowall only as the author of a single dramatic work, I thought it might be useful to share a consolidated biographical summary, with citations, setting out who Macdowall was and how his literary output fitted within a much broader career. I include the summary below purely as contextual material, in case it is of interest or use in relation to Kipling's journalism.

Cameron Joseph Francis Stuart MacDowall (1832–1892) trained in medicine at the University of Edinburgh, where he studied anatomy under Professor John Goodsir during the mid-1850s. Although he did not graduate there, he went on to qualify as a Licentiate of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh and entered imperial medical service. By the early 1860s he was serving as a surgeon in India, where he became known not only as a practitioner but as a medical writer, publishing on subjects ranging from climate and clothing in the tropics to epidemic disease.

The defining episode of his career came during the Franco-Prussian War. In 1870–71 The Volunteer with the Besieged Armies MacDowall travelled to Paris and volunteered his services during the Siege of Paris, working under bombardment with the besieged forces. His experiences produced two substantial books: *Parisiana; or, The Volunteer with the Besieged Armies* and *On a New Method of Treating Wounds*, the latter addressed as an unofficial report to the Indian Government and dealing with hospital organisation, pyæmia, antiseptic practice, and the treatment of mass casualties. These were not the productions of a dilettante, but of a seasoned medical observer operating under extreme conditions.

PARISIANA;
(THE REAL TRUTH ABOUT THE BOMBARDMENT)
 OR,
 THE VOLUNTEER
 WITH
 THE BESIEGED ARMIES,
1870-71.
 ADVENTURE, ANECDOTE, AND
 ACTIVE SERVICE.
 BY
 CAMERON STUART MACDOWALL,
INDIAN ARMY,
 (3RD BOMBAY LIGHT CAVALRY.)
AUTHOR OF "VIA DOLOROSA: OR, THE HALF-SIX OF LADY MARGARET."

In later years MacDowall continued to publish serious medical work. He contributed to debates on scurvy, cholera, and beri-beri in leading medical journals and learned societies, consistently arguing for complex physiological explanations rather than simple or fashionable theories. At the same time, he maintained a parallel literary career, publishing poetry and historical drama that attracted sustained critical attention in the British press.

MacDowall died in Paris in 1892, the city that had marked the most intense period of his professional life. His career, spanning Edinburgh, India, Paris, and London, places him at an unusual intersection of medicine, empire, and literature. Seen in this fuller light, Kipling's encounter with MacDowall represents not merely a fleeting literary judgement, but a momentary crossing of two very different imperial lives.

The Secretary replied: Thank you for sending us your biographical study of Dr MacDowall. The young Kipling could be cruel in his assessment of those whose poetic abilities he felt somewhat lacking. He would no doubt have respected MacDowall as a doctor, had he known of the story you have discovered.

TREASURES OF BATEMAN'S #2 – David Forsyth



The portrait of Kipling's daughter Josephine was painted in 1894 shortly after the family moved from Bliss Cottage to the newly built Naulakha near Brattleboro, Vermont. The artist, Emmerline Holbrook, was a well-known local portrait painter who had stayed with the Kiplings. The portrait originally hung over the fireplace in Carrie's office in Naulakha. Josephine's birth followed a 6-day labour but was greeted with great joy by the family. Their first born, she appeared just a day before Rudyard's 27th birthday. Her tragic, short life is well documented. The family had returned to England in the fall out from the internecine

family argument with Beatty Balestier and moved to Rottingdean. This was an idyllic period, well recorded by Kipling's cousin, Angela Thirkell, in her autobiography *Three Houses*.

The Kiplings returned to America in 1899 to visit Caroline's family, but they all developed a respiratory infection from which Carrie, Elsie and John recovered but Rudyard and Josephine required urgent medical attention. Rudyard recovered with intensive care, but Josephine died in the house of a family friend on 6 March attended by Dr James Conland (the main information source for 'Captains Courageous') who had previously been their family doctor in Brattleboro and had come up from there to New York to care for Josephine. She was cremated but there is speculation as to the ashes. There is no record of them being interred in New York. Apparently, Carrie was seen to have a pot (?urn) on her return to Rottingdean so perhaps the ashes were scattered in St Mary's opposite the Elms. There is no known memorial.



The Kiplings, having returned to England in a very equivocal state of mind about ever returning to America, arranged that their former coachman and now house caretaker, Mathew Howard, should bring this much treasured portrait over to England so that it could be reunited with the family. Presumably it hung at The Elms before coming to Bateman's.

The *Just So Stories* were written for Josephine, the first three were published in 1898 before her death and the complete series in 1902. The effect on the Kipling's was devastating, and their grief was compounded by the death of John in 1915. Angela Thirkell wrote 'much of the beloved Cousin Ruddy of our childhood died with Josephine.' Rudyard always felt the presence of Josephine in the house and garden of The Elms. This must surely have been a contributing factor in the decision to move to Bateman's. The short story 'They', which appeared in *Traffics and Discoveries* (1904), is the unbearably poignant statement of her father's grief. As C. A. Bodelsen observed 'He [the protagonist of the story] has come to a territory which it is forbidden the living to explore...he realises that his own little daughter is one of the dead children in the garden.'

Thanks to the National Trust for the main picture and to The University of Sussex Library Special collections for the other.

... AND FINALLY

Can you guess what this mystery object found at Bateman's was once used for?



Thanks to David Forsyth for the photo. Answer in the next newsletter.