



THE KIPLING SOCIETY

FOUNDED 1927

Registered Charity No.278885

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NEWSLETTER – JANUARY 2021

FUTURE MEETINGS

We will be continuing to hold virtual meetings for the time being, which gives us an excellent opportunity to continue to invite speakers from outside the UK to address the Society. The following three dates have now been arranged:

Wednesday 10 February, 6.00p.m. The fourth collective reading event, organised once again by our Chair, Jan Montefiore. *If you would like to read, or prefer just to watch, please email Jan at J.E.Montefiore@kent.ac.uk for the Zoom link, giving her details of what, if anything, you would like to read.*

Wednesday 24 February, 6.00p.m. Professor John McBratney of John Carroll University, Cleveland, Ohio will speak on *Kipling Studies in the 21st Century*.

Wednesday 21 April, 6.00pm. Professor Tricia Lootens of the University of Georgia (USA). Title to be announced.

If you'd like to attend either of the two above meetings, please e-mail John Radcliffe at johnrad@btinternet.com for the Zoom link

Wednesday 30 June. AGM. Details to be announced.

We still hope that we will be able to go ahead with the previously announced joint event and dinner with the Honourable Artillery Company on 7 June when Prof. Ian Beckett will be speaking on *Kipling's Army Revisited*. There will be an update on prospects in the next newsletter.

We also still hope that the *Kipling in the News* Conference, being organised jointly by the Society and City University, will be able to take place in September. Watch out for further details.

KIPLING READING - 9 DEC 2020

The third reading event, organised by Jan, attracted 25 readers and 10 listeners from many parts of the globe. The readers and readings were:

1. **Places (i) Verse**

Ray Crosby 'The Roman Centurion's Song'.

Alastair Wilson: 'Song of French Roads'.

Pam Morgan Song of the Wise Children

2. **Christmas**

Harish Trivedi from 'A Merry Christmas' (in *The Causes of Humanity*)

Mike Kipling 'Christmas in India'

Meredith Dixon 'Eddi's Service'

3. **Places (ii) Prose**

John Radcliffe from 'First sight of Monadnock' (from *Letters of Travel*)

Danny Karlin from 'The Knife and the Naked Chalk'

4. **The Army**

Tonie Holt 'Bobs'

Sarah Lefanu 'Bridge-Guard in the Karroo'

Alex Bubb 'Follow me 'ome'.

5. **The Sea**

Alda Milner-Barry 'Poseidon's Law'

Martin Powell 'The Dykes'

Christopher Morrison 'Minesweepers'

6. **Comic Kipling**

Harry Ricketts 'Jane Smith'

Richard Maidment '*Donec gratus eram*'.

7. **Kipling and the English Countryside**

Maggie Washington from 'My Son's Wife'

Fred Lerner from 'An Habitation Enforced'

8. **Kipling's public Poems**

James Mulcahy 'Recessional'

Howard Booth 'The Storm Cone'

9. **Kipling the master of narrative**

Harry Ricketts from 'The Elephant's Child'

Andrew Scragg 'The Three Decker'.

10. **Kipling's 'Puck' poems**

Judith Plotz 'A Pict Song'

Jan Montefiore 'The Looking-glass'.

Valmai Holt 'The Way through the Woods'

KIPLING SPOTIFY PLAYLIST

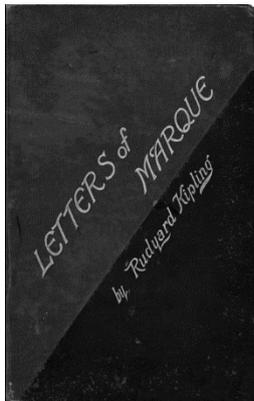


A Playlist has been set up on Spotify with a selection of Kipling's poetry set to music and music inspired by Kipling's works. The musicians range from Elgar to Iron Maiden and from Frank Sinatra to Billy Bragg. Favourites like Peter Bellamy are there, as are German, Grainger, Sullivan and Karl Jenkins. Why not dip an and listen.

https://open.spotify.com/playlist/25SzgST4RnE93z2Qxh7FZt?si=6rHt2I_jTomBp9b_LbqiA

Suggestions for further additions please to michaelrkipling@gmail.com

LETTERS OF MARQUE



Tom White has produced a third annotated Kipling e-book, *Letters of Marque*, to add to accompany his *Plain Tales* and *Soldiers Three* mentioned in previous newsletters. It can be bought in the UK at [Letters of Marque eBook: Kipling, Rudyard, White, Tom, Page, David, Radcliffe, John: Amazon.co.uk: Kindle Store](#) for £2.25 and in the USA at [Letters of Marque - Kindle edition by Kipling, Rudyard, White, Tom, Page, David, Radcliffe, John. Literature & Fiction Kindle eBooks @ Amazon.com.](#) for \$2.99. Proceeds are kindly donated to the Kipling Society.

CIVIL AND MILITARY GAZETTE - Part 2

Rodney Attwood wrote to say that Kipling was present and reported for the Gazette on the meeting of the Viceroy Lord Dufferin and the Afghan Amir at Rawalpindi in 1885 (After which he wrote 'Her Majesty's Servants'). To greet the Amir the bands of the British regiments played Gilbert and Sullivan's *For he is an Englishman* ('He might have been a Roosian, a French or Turk or Proosian, or perhaps Ital-ian. But in spite of all temptations to belong to other nations, he remains an Englishman' to show that the 2nd Afghan War had been a success in spite of blood and tears and that our man was in control at Kabul. He wonder if Kipling remarked on the humour of this. I doubt the Amir was a fan of Pinafore.

Well, a quick search of the on-line archive at the British Newspaper Library showed that he did indeed ...

The barouches are trotting away, and the K.D.G.'S, the 14th B.L., the 18th B.C. and the guns form the escort in front and behind them. Neither rain, nor mud can destroy the beauty of British Cavalry, or prevent their presence from impressing the bystander. In spite of mired horses, and soaked colaks, the escort was an impressive sight and it is to be hoped that the Ameer looked at them as he passed. They have all gone away to the Commissioner's house—pro tem the Ameer's bungalow, the Guard of Honour playing "for he might have been a Roosian" &c. Ribald, is it not? At the bungalow the third *zafut* of Rs. 21,000 will be presented. As the umbrellas descend from the roof of the the Station, the welcome news goes round that to-day is a *dies non*. There will be no durbar, and the review is postponed till Saturday. "So home" as Mr. Pepys said "which pleased me mightily to change my filthy raiment, and thank heaven that the king comes not thus everie daye."

C&MG. 2 April 1885

Michael Watson wrote about one of the C&MG clippings in the December Newsletter. 'I was particularly struck by the Railway Theatre cast list as I have a friend who is a Begbie. I sent it to him, making a facetious comment about his ancestor, which it turned out is exactly what he was. He was apparently very involved in the development of the heliograph, which I have confirmed on several websites. So, it seems quite likely that, as RK knew Begbie, this provided some of the inspiration for the poem *A Code of Morals*.'

And here, from 26 September 1884, are the first and last parts of the first fiction Kipling had published in the Gazette, albeit under a pseudonym (see, for example, KJ 372 p26 for an explanation of 'E.M.')

"THE GATE OF THE HUNDRED SORROWS."
 BY THE JANITOR.
 It lies midway between the copper-smith's Gully and the *necha*-sellers' quarter; within a hundred yards, too, as the crow flies, of the Mosque of Wazir Khan. I don't mind telling anyone this much, but I'd defy them to find the Gate, however well they may think they know the City. You might even go through the very Gully it is in a hundred times, and be none the wiser. We used to call the gully, the "Gully of the Black Smoke," but its native name is altogether different of course. A loaded donkey couldn't pass between the walls, and, at one point, just

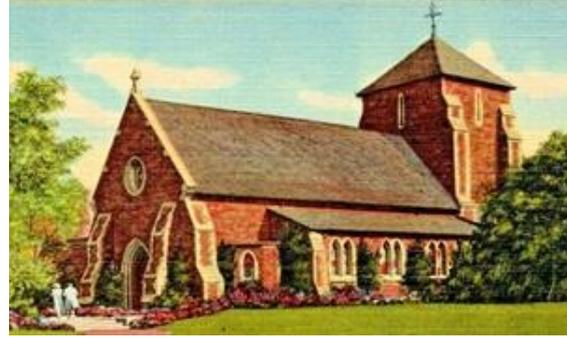
and she died on a clean mat with a nicely wadded pillow, and the old man hung up her pipe just above the Joss. He was always fond of her, I fancy. But he took her bangles all the same. I think I should like to die like the Bazaar woman—on a clean cool mat, with a pipe of good stuff between my lips. When I feel I'm going, I shall ask Tsin-ling for both, and he can draw my sixty rupees a month, fresh and fresh, as long as he pleases. Then I shall lie back, quiet and comfortable, and watch the black and red dragons have their last fight together, and then. . . . Well, I'm trying to recollect something I heard a long, long time ago, when I was a little boy in Mangoe Lane—but I'm too sleepy to make head or tail of it. Besides, it doesn't matter. Nothing matters much to me—only I wish Tsin-ling wouldn't put bran into the Black Smoke.
 E. M.

You can read the whole tale, and about it, in the Society's New Reader's Guide at [The Gate of the Hundred Sorrows \(kiplingsociety.co.uk\)](http://The Gate of the Hundred Sorrows (kiplingsociety.co.uk)) or, if you have it upon your bookshelf, in *Plain Tales from the Hills*.

SOMETHING IN COMMON Part 1 – by Harry Waterson



St. Margaret's, Rottingdean - 13th Century



Church of the Recessional, Glendale 1941

The church pictured on the left above is just across the road from The Elms where Rudyard Kipling lived from 1897 to 1902. That on the right is in Forest Lawn Memorial Park in Glendale, California.

Before moving into The Elms, the Kipling family had the loan of his aunt Georgiana Burne-Jones holiday home, North End House which was across the green from The Elms and St. Margaret's. It was here that Kipling spent the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria on June 22, 1897. At the end of the day, he wrote some seven verses but then tossed them aside as not being good enough. Family members intervened and insisted they be published. Kipling reduced the poem to five verses and called it *Recessional*. It first appeared in *The Times*, July 17, 1897. For a proper exegesis of the poem read Mary Hamer's notes in the *Readers' Guide*. The purpose here is to note that over time the poem began to be identified with the church in Rottingdean, some considering it to be the church Kipling would have been looking at as he composed his verses, geography and timing notwithstanding. Kipling would not move into The Elms across from the church until September 1897. Michael Smith's notes on Kipling's five years at The Elms in the *Readers' Guide* are recommended for a thorough look at the period.

The church in Glendale was built from drawings of St Margaret's by Hubert Lewright Eaton (1881-1966). In 1917, Eaton conceived the "memorial-park" concept and Forest Lawn Cemetery became Forest Lawn Memorial-Park. He envisioned Forest Lawn as a place for the living, having sweeping lawns and noble architecture, stained glass, and a place that uplifted the community rather than being a place of sorrow. – and to that end he banned headstones. Eaton became noted as, and referred to himself as, 'The Builder' of Forest Lawn Glendale.. Eaton looked to England for inspiration for non-denominational chapels he could build in Glendale. He first built in 1918 a replica of the 600 year old Stoke Poges Church in Buckinghamshire. This was the site where *Elegy Written In A Country Churchyard* was composed by Thomas Gray in 1750. Eaton named his replica The Little Church of the Flowers after the 15th line of Gray's *Elegy*, 'Full many a flower is born to blush unseen.'

In 1929 Hubert Eaton followed his passion and built a copy of Annie Laurie's Church, The Wee Kirk o' the Heather of Glencairn, Scotland. This is an architect's reconstruction of a chapel that was destroyed in 1805. *Annie Laurie* is an old Scottish song based on a poem said to have been written by William Douglas (1682?-1748) of Dumfriesshire, about his romance with Annie Laurie (1682-1764). The words were modified and the tune was added by Alicia Scott in 1834/5. Other than the fact that the people are real, little else is known for sure.

In the spring of 1937, Hubert Eaton visited England seeking further inspiration to add a third church to his memorial-park. As Michael Smith wrote in 1997 (KJ283, p55) ‘He tried in vain for some time, and then by chance was dining in London with two old friends: Oliver St. John Gogarty, a former senator of the parliament of the Irish Free State, and Frank Owen, a newspaper editor and writer. In the course of conversation, he recounted to them how he had disciplined his son by making him learn by heart famous passages in literature. He suddenly realized that one piece that remained in his son's memory was Kipling's *Recessional*; and with a flash of inspiration wondered whether he could locate its place of origin. Happily, both Dr. Gogarty and Mr. Owen knew that it had been written in Rottingdean.’ This story of *Recessional* discipline is confirmed in a 1946 article by Elizabeth Birnie called *Kipling in California* (KJ80, p16).

The day after the dinner, Hubert Eaton and his chief architect Anson Boyd (1896-1975) went to Rottingdean and visited St. Margaret's. Eaton found his inspiration fulfilled. To slightly paraphrase Michael Smith, Eaton was enchanted with St. Margaret's for he reasoned that the village church of Rudyard Kipling would be perfect for his plans. According to an article in the *LA Times*, Eaton visited Kipling's widow at that time and got her approval for the project. Prior to her death in December, 1939 Carrie Kipling had helped Forest Lawn officials in compiling data to insure accuracy in every detail.

The first mention in the Journal of a Kipling memorial at Forest Lawn occurred in the December 1937 News and Notes; the Vicar of St. Margaret's reported in the *Morning Post* of August 6th that Anson Boyd an American architect had called on him and asked permission to reproduce the church in America. Boyd told the Vicar he had been to Burwash but the village church there would not lend itself to reproduction. The Vicar approved Boyd's request and allowed Boyd to take accurate measurements of the entire structure.

The Eaton story and the Boyd story don't quite match, but then these stories rarely do. The fact is Eaton got his character English church with a major literary connection as he had done twice before. And his architect got enough measurements to do an architectural rendering and a set of plans.

To be continued

COLLECTED DOG STORIES

Natraj Books (www.natrajbooks.in), an independent publishing firm based in New Delhi, is bringing out a new edition of *Collected Dog Stories*. Its blurb runs ‘rare gem from Kipling for his ardent fans, along with his collections of poems, is our forthcoming publication in 2021 titled *Collected Dog Stories*. It is a collection of heart-warming stories about man’s best friend. The stories about Private Learoyd, Toby, Dina and Hervey written with Kipling’s charming wit in old world English are every dog lover’s ultimate delight. The charming illustrations by G L Stampa bring the stories alive!’. The tentative cover design is illustrated at left.



ST AUBYN'S

Kipling's son John attended St Aubyn's school in Rottingdean, where his name is inscribed on the war memorial in the school chapel. The school closed several years ago and developers have acquired the site. The chapel is, however, listed and the parish council are in discussions with the developer over its fate and that of the memorial. The Kipling Society is keeping in touch with the council and has offered financial assistance is needed.



KIPLING SCULPTURES FOR SALE



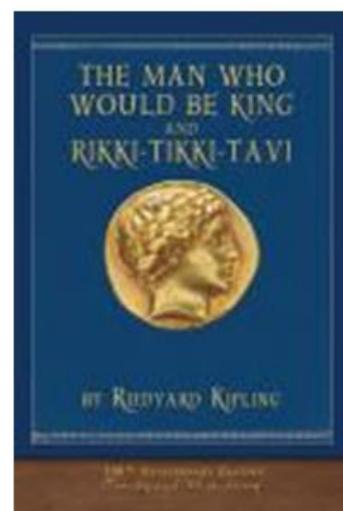
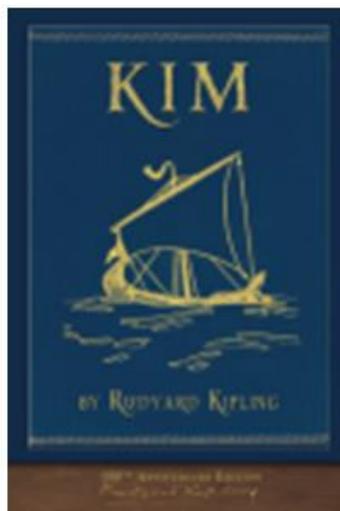
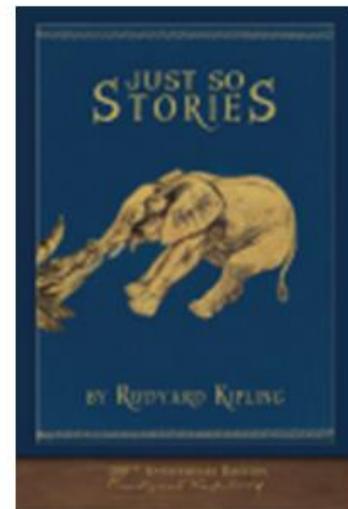
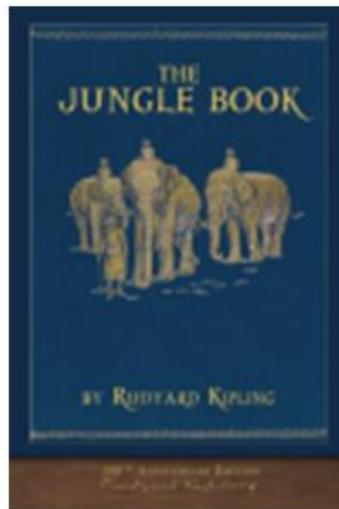
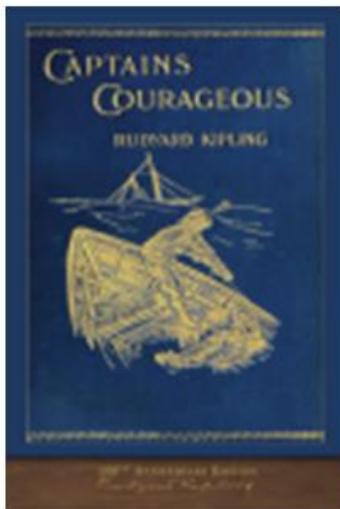
Vicki Atkinson, sculptor of the seated Kipling statue at Burwash, has created a limited edition of eight bronze busts of Kipling from her original design, of which four have now been sold. Should you wish to acquire one of them, they cost £3,200. One is available for immediate delivery but thereafter it would take about 8 weeks to get further ones cast and delivered. Vicki can be contacted at atkinsonvicki@aol.com or +44 (0) 1435 882843. Her website is www.victoriaatkinson.co.uk

ON OUR WEB-SITE

As you will have seen we have added two new pages, on 'Great reads' and 'On writing'. We need now to tell the world about them and encourage a dialogue with our readers. If you have any thoughts about promoting Kipling's stories to members of book groups, or to writers and would-be writers, we will be very glad to have them. Please email johnrad99@gmail.com

NEW KIPLING EDITIONS

Robert Etheredge of SeaWolf Press writes, 'We are a publisher of classic literature located in the United States. We recently released a number of Kipling titles in paperback format that might be of interest to your members and readers. Most are illustrated. Right now they are available on Amazon sites and through Ingram. You should be able to see them on Amazon by searching for 'kipling seawolf press' or contact Robert at support@SeaWolfPress.com



Best wishes for 2021