



*The*  
**KIPLING JOURNAL**

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**KIPLING SOCIETY**



SEPTEMBER 1965

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## THE KIPLING SOCIETY

THE Society was founded in 1927. Its first President was Major-General L. C. Dunsterville, C.B., C.S.I. (" Stalky") (1927-1946). who was succeeded by Field-Marshal The Earl Wavell, G.C.B., G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E., C.M.G., M.C. (1946-1950), Lt.-Gen. Sir Frederick A. M. Browning, G.C.V.O., K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O. (1951-1960).

Members are invited to propose those of their friends who are interested in Rudyard Kipling's works for election to membership. The Hon. Secretary would be glad to hear from members overseas as to prospects of forming a Branch of the Society in their district

The Subscription is : Home Members, 25/- ; Overseas Members. 15/-; Junior Members (under 18, anywhere), 10/-; U.S.A. Branch. \$3.50 per annum. These include receipt of *The Kipling Journal* quarterly.

**Until further notice the Society's Office at 323 High Holborn, W.C.1, will be open once a week, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Please be sure to telephone before calling — HOLborn 7597 — as the day is not always the same.**

# THE KIPLING SOCIETY

## Forthcoming Meetings

### BIRTHDAY COMMEMORATION SERVICE

By courtesy of the Dean, a commemoration of Rudyard Kipling will be held in Poets' Corner, Westminster Abbey, at 12 Noon on Thursday, 30th December, 1965. After the laying of a wreath, readings from the Works will be given by Mr. Michael Hordern, and the ceremony will conclude with a commemorative prayer spoken by the Dean.

Members and friends wishing to attend should notify Mr. J. H. McGivering, 17 Addlestone Park, Addlestone, Weybridge, Surrey, not later than first post Wednesday, 1st December.

### COUNCIL MEETING

The next Council Meeting will be held at 323 High Holborn on Wednesday, 17th November, 1965, at 2.30 p.m.

### DISCUSSION MEETINGS

**September 15th, 1965**, at the Ulster Room, Overseas House, Park Place, at 5.30 for 6 p.m.

Lieut.-Colonel A. E. Bagwell Purefoy will lead a discussion on "The Dog Hervey" ('A Diversity of Creatures'), "The House Surgeon" ('Actions and Reactions'), and "They" ('Traffics and Discoveries').

**November 17th.** Same time and place.

Mr. P. W. Inwood and Mr. R. L. Green will lead a discussion on "The Church that was at Antioch" and "The Manner of Men" ('Limits and Renewals').

### CENTENARY LUNCHEON

The Centenary Luncheon will be held at the Connaught Rooms, Great Queen Street, W.C.2, on Wednesday, 27th October, 1965. The toast to 'The Unfading Genius of Rudyard Kipling' will be proposed by Nevill Coghill, Merton Professor of English Literature in the University of Oxford.

Application forms will go out in September.

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## NEWS AND NOTES

### THE CENTENARY KIPLING JOURNAL

Various manifestations in honour of the centenary of Kipling's birth are described under their appropriate headings in this number of the *Journal*. Besides the Centenary Luncheon at which Professor Nevill Coghill is to be the Guest of Honour, and the Birthday Commemoration Service in Westminster Abbey, a special Centenary number of *The Kipling Journal* is in preparation. This will be at least three times the size of any *Journal* so far issued, and will contain contributions by Mr. Edmund Blunden, Professors Carrington, Cohen, Dobrée and Gilbert, Doctors Tompkins and Rutherford, and Miss Rosemary Sutcliff. By the kindness of Mrs. Bambridge 'Proofs of Holy Writ' will also be included in the Centenary Number; and there will be reviews of recent books on Kipling and, if possible, Professor Coghill's speech at the Luncheon. This number will be circulated as usual to all Members at the beginning of December; and *after* that date additional copies will be available at 12/6 (post free) direct from the Editor. It is hoped that members will help towards the rather high cost of this special Number by purchasing as many extra copies as possible. As the issue is limited and will not be reprinted, and as the contents will make it an essential item for any Kipling collector, it is likely in time to become a rarity.

### NEW JUST SO STORIES

While so many scholars and critics are paying tribute to Rudyard Kipling in books and periodicals, on wireless, television and in exhibitions, it seems only right that his younger readers and admirers should be allowed to add their no less valuable mites of gratitude. With this idea in view, the annual 'Lancelyn Green Story Contest' at Bebington, Wirral, open to school children in two age groups, 9-11 years and 12-15 years respectively was announced in January as follows: 'As 1965 is the centenary of the birth of Rudyard Kipling, the contest this year is for a new story in the style of his *Just So Stories*. These, ignoring 'Natural' history, tell "How the Camel got his Hump", "How the First Letter was written", and so on. You are asked to make up another myth on these lines about the 'origin' of anything ancient or modern with which Kipling has not already dealt.'

The response was enthusiastic, and more entries were received for this than for any of the previous contests. But relatively few of the entrants managed to write a new Just So Story: most wrote fairytales

with no suggestion of Kipling, or Kipling parodies with no suggestion of original invention. There were notable exceptions, however, the best being the prize winner in the Senior Class whose story of 'How the Chimpanzee lost his Tail' appears in full later in the present *Journal*.

The winner in the Junior group, Miss Lindsay Porter, aged eleven, told 'How the Unicorn got his Horn' at too great a length for the whole of her story to be included here—and indeed the later part drifted away rather far from the pleasantly Just So style of the opening :—

' In olden times, unicorns didn't have those long horns that stuck out of their foreheads. There was once a baby unicorn who lived with his Mummy and Daddy in the Spookytree woods. His name was " Tabolonuts " but most people call him Mutty for short. Now Mutty was always telling storyfibs. His Mummy and his Daddy who were called Unimum and Unidat respectively were always trying to stop him telling these storyfibs. Mutty's favourite hobby was fishing in the Deep-Shallow-Salticated-Watercated River . . . '

Miss Porter develops a pleasant new myth, but soon forgets about the style in which she had begun. Several writers thought so much about style that they produced the strangest travesties of accumulated epithets in the manner of ' The House that Jack Built '. Miss Katherine S. Davies, also aged eleven, was the closest ' runner-up ': she invented many delightful epithets, but repeated them so many times in her account of ' How the Manx Cat lost its Tail ' that her story soon became unreadable :—

' . . . Now there lived on the Isle of Man when it was close to Ireland and covered with dense jungly jungle except for the beaches an inquisiable kittenlike kitten full of naughtiosity and adventurality with his mum-like-cat Mum named Tabbitongtailor and his dad-like-cat Dad named Tommietoobilay. The kittenlike kitten who was an inquisiatable kitten and full of naughtiosity and adventurality was called Kittiewattewon. Now Kittiewattewon who was an inquisiatable kitten and full of naughtiosity and adventurality had heard that on the Calf of Man there were many, marvellous, mutitious, munchious, michoty, micelike mice . . . '

## CREATIVE ADVENTURERS

Mrs. Seon Manley's technicolour biography for ' young adults ' *Rudyard Kipling : Creative Adventurer* has at last reached this country, and it is possible to answer its admirers whom I have been so unfortunate as to offend by criticising at second-hand — in default of being able to do so *in propria persona*. While I might not have criticised it as harshly as the American correspondent whom I quoted in the *March Journal*, I am bound to say (since he has been accused of ' an obviously biased judgement ') that his strictures are perfectly correct. My own judgement is obviously biased from one point of view, since I have always disliked books parading as biographies which put invented conversations into the mouths of their characters : this can be done well, and can certainly be justified in a book intended for young readers—but they must surely be in character and in period. Yet in the first chapter

Rudyard at Southsea is saying : ' I didn't mean it. Honest I didn't ' ; Auntie Rosa is remarking ' This will fix you ! ' and Trix commenting ' Auntie Rosa would be terribly mad. ' As for the ' many elementary mistakes of fact ' , these are no matter of opinion but are facts themselves, and they do abound — though few are of great importance. Their presence tends to invalidate the book for the older or more knowledgeable reader : but they can easily be corrected. On the credit side it must be admitted that Mrs. Manley is herself a creative adventurer of skill and daring : she has made a book which should catch the interest of teenage readers at least and lead them on to explore Kipling's works for themselves — and if her book does this, it achieves its obvious and most commendable purpose, and thereby justifies her adventurousness in attempting so difficult a literary form.

### FURTHER ADVENTURERS

It would ill become me to criticise another writer's book on Rudyard Kipling were I not ready to submit one of my own for her and others to criticise in turn. *Kipling and the Children* by Roger Lancelyn Green, published by Elek Books Ltd. at thirty shillings, is likely to be out by the time this *Journal* appears. It is a study (for adults young and old) of Kipling as a writer for and about children, with as full an account as possible of his own childhood and boyhood, and the background and inspiration of those of his books and stories which we are most likely to have read first in childhood or youth.

It will shortly be followed into the world of print by two other books by Members of the Kipling Society. Morton N. Cohen's *Rudyard Kipling and Rider Haggard : The Record of a Friendship* will be published by Hutchinson & Co., at two guineas, and later in the United States. Besides the actual letters, this volume contains an admirable study of both writers and a detailed account of their friendship. Also in August will appear *Kipling and the Critics*, edited with an Introduction by Elliot L. Gilbert. This will be published by the New York University Press at \$1.95 in paper and \$5.00 in cloth; and an English edition is to be issued by Peter Owen Ltd., in January 1966.

Last *Journal* mentioned a paper by Harry C. Baur on *The Centenary of Masonry's Cherished Verbalist, Rudyard Kipling in Masonic Papers* for December 1964. Now an even fuller study of Kipling's career as a Mason, containing much new biographical material, is in the press : *Kipling and the Craft* by Harry Carr, to be published in the *Transactions of the Quatuor Coronati Lodge*. It is not certain whether this will be issued as a separate book (it runs to some forty large pages), or only in the *Transactions*, but it will be reviewed in a later number of the *Journal*.

Another small volume which seems to have escaped much notice is an admirable selection of verse, *A Kipling Anthology*, edited by W. G. Bebbington and published by Methuen & Co. Ltd. Though dated 1964, it seems only to have appeared this year, and is well worth adding to every Kipling collection for Mr. Bebbington's excellently enlightening — and enlightened — Preface.

## CENTENARY EXHIBITIONS

On page 10 of the June *Journal* there was a brief note about the Exhibition at Stratford-upon-Avon. This was opened on Saturday, 3rd July, by the Right Hon. The Viscount Radcliffe, P.C. G.C.B., when the Trustees and Guardians of *The Shakespeare Birthplace Trust* entertained Mrs. Bambridge and some forty other distinguished guests to tea in the garden at Hall's Croft — in which ancient and historic house the Exhibition is on view until 3rd October.

Our President attended, and he writes :—

'Lord Radcliffe, after thanking Mrs. Bambridge and others for lending so many interesting and valuable items, paid Kipling the greatest public tribute it has ever been my delight to listen to. Speaking without notes, he gave a most accurate and detailed description of the life and works of our author, analysing some of the greater works, and all in just half an hour or so. It was wonderful.'

The Exhibition consists of 58 items, being 'A selection of manuscripts, books and pictures chosen and arranged by John Carroll (as part of the Twelfth Stratford-upon-Avon Poetry Festival and for the Commonwealth Arts Festival Year).' Owners of Exhibits consisted of Her Majesty the Queen (a presentation copy to Queen Mary of *Debts and Credits*), Mrs. Bambridge (many MSS and rare editions), The India Office Library, The British Museum, The National Maritime Museum, The University of London Library (many first editions) and The National Trust.

Mr. Carl T. Naumburg, Secretary of the Kipling Society for the United States, sends an interesting list of Exhibitions in America, which are being held at :—

The Pierpoint Morgan Library  
 The Princeton University Library  
 Dartmouth College Library  
 Cornell University Library  
 Syracuse University Library  
 Chopin Library (Williams College)  
 City College of New York  
 Dalhousie University Library (Canada),

and adds 'I hope that we will add to this entirely preliminary list.' He also tells us that 'there was a very well-attended loan exhibition of Kipling's works at the Princeton University Club of New York Library. The books, letters, illustrations, etc., were from the Magin collection and largely from my own collection. The "show" was opened by an excellent address by Mrs. Seon Manley, author of *Rudyard Kipling : Creative Adventurer*, on "Kipling in America".

'Also, The Grolier Club had a small and very excellent Kipling exhibition of the collection of Dunscombe Colt preceded by tea to which members of the Kipling Society were specially invited. This collection is outstanding — one of the very best.'

We would be grateful for any notes about the various Exhibitions in the United States, and anywhere else, with special reference to very rare printed or unique manuscript items — a most valuable knowledge for Kipling scholars, biographers and bibliographers, as well as of interest to all enthusiasts.

R.L.G.

## HOW THE CHIMPANZEE LOST ITS TAIL

BARBARA A. WILLIAMS (Aged 13)

ONCE upon a time, O Best Beloved, the Chimpanzee had a beautiful tail like any other sensible prehensile mammal. The Chimpanzee lived in a great forest in Africa, full of tree trunks 'sclusively specked and sprottled and spotted. All the day long, each day and every day this sociable animal swung from creeper to creeper, branch to branch and tree to tree, in the deepest sector of that unpenetrable part of the jungle, amongst the splotchy-blotchy shadows. He was not alone either, for all other types of sociable Primates and other animals came to join in the hilarious games to be played. It did not matter how many animals came, or what size or shape or colour they were as their general motto was, 'The more the merrier.'

They played 'tag' and 'you-can't-catch-me' and 'follow-my-leader' and 'hide-and-peek' and 'who-is-it-now, little one' and many other sorts of games. There was a very happy atmosphere in all the jungle; the like there had not been since the Creation. The only creatures who did not enjoy these happy games and frolics were the Sloth and the Grumpy'un. The Sloth lived in his own, slow but sure, upside-down world. He could not understand why the other animals loved such exhausting games; such as they played. The Grumpy'un was another slow creature, but he was a slimy, slippery and smug animal. He was as grumpy as his name implied. He was positive that if he rushed about he would melt, so he only went ever so slowly.

This kind, friendly and generally happy atmosphere lasted for many years until . . . (Listen carefully, O Best Beloved, for this part is ever so 'portant.)

One fine morning a Man and a Woman and a Baby came trudging through the great forest, full of tall trees and splotchy-blotchy shadows. At the head of this little convoy was a large ferocious-looking beast — a Dog. At the sight of this beast, who was snarling and growling, all the animals fled in terror. All, that is, except for that Curious Chimpanzee, who was the Seventh son of a Seventh son and so was bound by Fate to be curious. He was fascinated, and intrigued by the peculiar Primates, who lacked the graceful tail, that all prehensiles had. He cautiously followed the little family, but he kept a safe distance between himself and that tenacious Dog. At last the Man and his Family disappeared and so the Chimpanzee went back to rejoin the other monkeys and apes. (That, O Best Beloved, is the first part of this tragic tale of truth.)

For a few weeks after this incident, life for the Chimpanzee continued as usual, except the games of the animals in the jungle seemed, to him, a little trivial. Then quite by accident, while searching about for food the Chimpanzee came across a group of small, dark-skinned, jet-black haired Men! They were dancing around a large, open fire, and chanting incantations to various spirits. The Chimpanzee was fascinated by the easy, loping pace of these Men. Because he was the Seventh son of a

Seventh son he dragged his body a little nearer to the swirling group of men. He was in a trance when one of the men beckoned to him. He went nearer, and hastily swallowed a piece of partially-cooked meat. The Chimpanzee then gambolled away in fright, but he eyed them cautiously from a distance.

The Chimpanzee from then on, lived in a continuous trance. During the night he would sleep in solitude, away from the members of his clan. In his sleep he would murmur about the "natural delicacy of Man's diet," and the "graceful, swinging walk of his friend, Man." He became the source of many a sarcastic remark, and all his relatives thought he had a severe touch of the sun : or a severe case of apathic animus.

At last, the poor Chimpanzee, who was by now utterly convinced that Man was his natural cousin, decided he must rid himself of his tail, which made his new loping walk look most ugly. He went to his uncles and aunts to ask them if they could remove his tail in some way. However, they flatly refused saying that it would be a sin to do such a thing.

The crocodile also refused to bite it off, saying that his tail, and other tails like it, were all the fashion in the jungle. The poor Chimpanzee wept bitterly and then sat down on a large flat stone to think.

He thought for days and days and then the Hairy Hippopotamus gave him an inspiration. The Chimpanzee went to the Baviaan, the dog-headed, barking Baboon, who was, and still is, quite the Wisest Animal in All Africa.

He said to the Baviaan, 'O Great Baviaan, you are quite the Wisest Animal in all Africa; can you tell me how I may rid myself of this tail, so that I may become like all the other animals in the tribe of Men?'

After a moment of thinking, the Baviaan said, 'Firstly, are you quite sure you do not want your tail as you will never be able to regain it.' and, as the Chimpanzee nodded, the Baviaan continued. 'This is what you must do.' (Listen, O Best Beloved, as this is most 'portant.)

'Go to the dark cave in the red rocks and sit in the sun, waving your tail now and again. At nightfall your desire will be granted.'

The Chimpanzee murmured his thanks and scampered off. He did as he was bid and —

The sun was just setting and the Chimpanzee stretched himself. He relaxed again and he waved his tail every so often. It just so happened that the mongoose, Riki-Tiki-Tavi was taking the air. He was feeling rather hungry when he saw a large brown snake, gliding silently up to the Chimpanzee, and it was preparing to strike ! Riki-Tiki-Tavi pounced — and bit off the snake's head.

The Chimpanzee yelped and scuttled away — at least nearly all of him scuttled away. (O Best Beloved, do you understand? The Chimpanzee's dearest wish had been painfully fulfilled !)

But, O Best Beloved, even without his tail, the Chimpanzee never became Man's brother. He was certainly not a Man but he was not quite like other monkeys. Yet to this day, the chimpanzee still tries to copy Man's ways and that is, perhaps, why, O Best Beloved, Man shows a friendly, if amused, affection towards his hairy cousin.

## THE KIPLING QUESTIONNAIRE

by **Elliot L. Gilbert**

**I**N the Cornell University Kipling Collection at Ithaca, New York, there are, in addition to the conventional first editions and the many exciting manuscript stories, poems and letters, a number of quite unusual items, some amusing, some deeply moving, and at least one capable of throwing light on the opinions and prejudices of Kipling as an adolescent. It will surprise no one that Kipling emerges from this collection as a quite skillful cartoonist and illustrator. (Many of the drawings at Cornell — including those which consist only of a few scribbled lines — are delightfully witty.) What not everyone may know, however, is that some of R.K.'s work has also been immortalised in ceramic. At the Cornell library there are several hand-printed poems fired on china fruit plates, souvenirs of the two months Kipling spent with Mrs. Hill's parents in Pennsylvania in 1889. Among the manuscripts and facsimiles at Ithaca are dozens of invitations, clippings, programmes, menus, portraits and photographs. Of these, the two most touching items are the letter R.K. wrote for a wounded soldier in South Africa and the Royal Flying Corps notification of the death of John Kipling.

Most enlightening of all the pieces in the collection, however, is a questionnaire which the young Rudyard filled out at the age of fifteen. The document itself is a printed form with the answers inked into the blanks that have been left, and of these answers, a few seem especially amusing or informative. Next to 'favourite poets', for instance, Kipling has written 'Whittier, Emerson, Browning, Tennyson, Poe', a fairly conventional list, perhaps, though the fact that three of the five are Americans may come as a small surprise. It is widely supposed that British interest in American writers is of fairly recent date. On the other hand, Kipling's choice of poets may have been dictated by requirements of metre and rhyme.

Whittier, Emerson,  
Browning, Tennyson,  
Poe

makes up into quite a neat little stanza for a future master of the ballad.

Next to the word 'fiction' Kipling notes that it 'is generally not so surprising as the truth, it pays well and requires much labour to produce.' The first part of the answer seems to represent a typical schoolboy solution to a typical schoolboy problem: the student, obliged by a foolish adult to wax instantly eloquent on a hopelessly general subject, gets off the hook by producing a paraphrase of some fatuous cliché of the adult's own devising. The part about fiction paying well may have brought a smile to the lips of the questionnaire's first reader, but it is plain that Kipling knew what he knew. He was assuredly right about the hard work. Still another question, this one requiring comment on 'country life', inspires the young R.K., perhaps under the influence of

Oscar Wilde, to offer the opinion that such a life is 'detestable in every state for me. London is the best place in the summer and the only place in the winter.' Pressed to enumerate the charms of London, however, he is not so ready with an epigram. It 'gives you', he lamely assures us at last, no doubt after much frantic casting about, 'experiences of all sorts.'

The most prophetic of the responses to the questionnaire are the ones having to do with music. Next to the phrase 'most delightful composers,' for example, Kipling has written 'Rossini, Meyerbeer and Wagner.' The choice of operatic composers exclusively, of 'literary' musicians, is of real interest, a reflection, perhaps, on the young man's own literary bent. A second musical reply is, however, even more prescient. Beside the word 'music' is the remark 'varies inversely with the temper of the listeners,' a cryptic and not altogether logical statement, followed by what seems the freshest and the most deeply felt comment on the page: 'Street organs and street music are not to be despised.' Kipling was to write little verse in his life that could not be traced back to the sentiment expressed in that line.

## GENERAL GORDON and the NILE EXHIBITION of 1884-5

by Margaret Newsom

*(In writing Chapter II of 'The Light That Failed', Kipling appears to have made use of the official history and eye-witness accounts of the Nile Expedition 1884—5, which the British Government undertook in order to raise the siege of Khartoum and rescue General Gordon and the garrison, and failed.)*

GENERAL GORDON was born at Woolwich in 1833, and in 1852 received a commission in the Royal Engineers. His tragic end was, to a considerable degree, brought about by his own unusual character. He was quite fearless, a born leader of irregular troops, resourceful, unconventional, and an individualist. He acted from the noblest motives, but showed little respect for higher authority and the official conduct of government. He was also an earnest evangelical. His sister, Augusta, was the prime influence in his strong religious beliefs which, for most of his life, affected his reasoning and behaviour.

General Gordon was already a legendary figure before he went to the Sudan. In 1863 the British public followed, in the newspapers, his daring exploits in China when he led an irregular Chinese force to astonishing victory against the Taiping rebels. Thereafter he was known as "Chinese Gordon".

In 1873, General Gordon was invited to serve the Khedive (or Viceroy) of Egypt as Governor of the Equatorial Province of the Sudan, where he, with extraordinary energy and stamina, stayed for three years, extending the Khedive's domains towards Lake Victoria. Later, from 1877 to 1880, he was Governor-General of the whole Sudan. In each of these offices he showed remarkable courage and perseverance in putting an end to the traffic in slaves, but his achievement

only tended to increase the general discontent which prevailed among the people of the Northern Sudan against their domination by Egypt.

In the summer of 1881, when General Gordon had left the Sudan, a Berberine from Dongola, a devout Mohammedan, proclaimed himself to be the Mahdi, the "Expected One" of Islam. He demanded a return to the purity of the early faith, and declared a holy war against the "heretical Turks". This allusion to their Egyptian rulers, Egypt at that time being under Turkish sovereignty, was not lost on the Arabs. The Mahdi's following grew into a sizeable army, equipped almost entirely with arms which were captured from Egyptian troops and garrisons, until, in November, 1883, the Egyptian Army of the Sudan under General Hicks, an English retired Indian Army officer, was totally destroyed by the Mahdi near El Obeid in Kordofan. It then became clear that the Sudan was in grave danger of being lost to Egypt. In due course, the Mahdi advanced to take Khartoum, It was the main garrison of the Egyptian Government in the Sudan and a strongly fortified town, well situated for defence at the junction of the White and Blue Niles.

Meanwhile, in 1882, the British Government had taken control of Egypt, but it did not wish to take responsibility for the remote and wild dependancy of the Sudan, which the Egyptians had conquered some sixty years earlier, their misgovernment of which was now becoming apparent. Egypt being, at the same time, on the verge of bankruptcy, the British Government advised the Khedive to abandon all his domains south of Wadi Haifa, except for the ports on the Red Sea coast, in particular Suakin. This course of action the Khedive's ministers were reluctant to follow : Cherif Pasha, the Egyptian Prime Minister, resigned, as he had intimated that he would do, rather than be responsible for giving up so vast a possession, and, on January 8th, 1884, Nubar Pasha took office to carry out the prescribed policy. At the same time, as a result of some Egyptian defeats by the Mahdists close to Suakin, the British Government proposed to the Khedive that General Gordon, on account of his knowledge and experience of the Sudan, should be sent to that port, in a peaceful capacity, to *report* on the military situation in the Sudan and to advise upon the best method of evacuating the Egyptian garrisons, officials, and their families from the interior of the country. In the opinion of Sir Evelyn Baring, and others, the British Press (chiefly W. T. Stead of the *Pall Mall Gazette*) roused public opinion to such an extent that the Government was forced to employ General Gordon, but Sir Charles Dilke, one of the four ministers who hurriedly saw General Gordon in London and decided on sending him to the Sudan, wrote in his memoirs : " The fact was that it was [Lord] Wolseley, Gordon's friend, who suggested that he should be sent and who induced him to go ".

General Gordon helped in the drafting of his own instructions and was in full agreement with them, and, while in London, declared that no British force should be engaged in aid of his mission. Later, at his own request, General Gordon was re-appointed Governor-General of the Sudan by the Khedive who gave him firmans containing his authority to arrange the evacuation of the country and the withdrawal of Egyptian troops. The British Government agreed to the Khedive's

appointment, not realising the extent to which it might conflict with its own commission to General Gordon, the main purpose of which was to report and advise. It is generally thought that through these ambiguous directions most of the subsequent difficulties arose.

General Gordon's instructions from London also directed him to take his orders from Sir Evelyn Baring, the British Agent and Consul-General in Egypt, whom he met on arriving in Egypt. He then proceeded to Khartoum, instead of to Suakin, apparently with the acquiescence of Sir Evelyn Baring. The Government in England did not learn of the change of plan until General Gordon was already on his way to Khartoum. He arrived on 18th February, 1884, and had a tremendous welcome from the mass of the inhabitants. He immediately sought to conciliate the tribes by revoking some of the more oppressive laws of Egyptian rule. At first, he was hopeful regarding the future. The British Consul (*The Times'* correspondent) at Khartoum, Mr. Frank Power, reported to Sir Evelyn Baring on 19th February that General Gordon had "ordered all white troops to leave for Cairo". (There were in fact no European troops in Khartoum and the reference appears to be to Turkish mercenaries.) But General Gordon's policies changed as he became aware of the Mahdi's strength. He telegraphed his ideas, as they occurred to him, to Sir Evelyn Baring in Cairo, who had some difficulty in understanding General Gordon's requirements from the sheer quantity and divergence of his suggestions. One telegram which particularly shocked the Consul-General and the Cabinet in England was sent by General Gordon eight days after his arrival in Khartoum and contained the following statements: "Mahdi's agents active in all directions . . . If Egypt is to be quiet, Mahdi must be smashed up . . . If you decide on smashing Mahdi, then send up another £100,000, and send up 200 Indian troops to Wadi Haifa. At present it would be comparatively easy to destroy the Mahdi." The Liberal Government in England had no desire to intervene in the Sudan against the Mahdi, and General Gordon received no promise of troops. He found that he required military backing to endorse his authority from the Khedive: without it he saw no way of effecting a successful evacuation. He also begged the authorities to send Zobeir, a notorious and once powerful slave-dealer in the Sudan but at that time in exile in Cairo, to take over the governorship of the Sudan from him. This suggestion became known in England and public opinion took exception to it. Sir Evelyn Baring, commenting on this turn of events, later wrote: "It is certain that the action of the [Anti-Slavery] Society [in England] in connection with Sudan affairs in 1883-4, though well intentional, was mischievous". General Gordon's proposal to evacuate southwards through the Equatorial Province was forbidden by Sir Evelyn Baring; a decision which he regretted in later years. By March 5th, 1884, no progress had been made in extricating any of the outlying garrisons.

On March 12th, 1884, the Mahdi's men cut the telegraph line to Cairo (and the outside world). From that moment all reliable communication between General Gordon and the British or Egyptian Governments ceased. Messages thereafter had to be sent by hand, but very soon these were rarely able to get through the closely guarded approaches to Khartoum. It is known that, between the second week in March,

1884, and the last week of July, only one of Sir Evelyn Baring's messages reached General Gordon. Mr. Gladstone, the British Prime Minister, was convinced that General Gordon was in no danger within the walls of Khartoum, and at first presumed that he was making preparations to come away with the garrison and as many as wished to leave. When there was no mention in General Gordon's messages of his attempting to do so, Mr. Gladstone enquired, on 12th April, 1884, the "cause and intention" which kept him at Khartoum. But, such were communications, General Gordon's answer ("I stay at Khartoum because Arabs have shut us up and will not let us out") was not received until 28th September, 1884, by which time the relief expedition was on its way.

General Gordon felt bound to stay in Khartoum until he had accomplished the evacuation of all the garrisons, and he was sure that only by his remaining there would the British Government send troops to help him. These deliberations he recorded in his Khartoum Journals. In the process of maintaining the town, what had begun as a peaceful mission turned into an active campaign against the Mahdi. As might have been foreseen, the situation soon arose in which General Gordon's militant Christianity came into personal conflict with the fanaticism of the Mahdi's cause. By degrees, he found himself becoming more deeply committed to fighting and waiting with the people of Khartoum. He had no thought for his own safety, but trusted, as he had done before in times of danger, in the guidance and protection of God.

From as early as 8th April of that year, 1884, British ministers had begun to confer with the military authorities on the best course to take for the relief of General Gordon, should the necessity arise. Their problem, at first, was one of deciding on which of three immensely long routes to take. A great part of all three lay through a barren and little-known countryside, the perils of which England had yet to realise. The route from Cairo to Khartoum was 1,250 miles. The Government did not send an expedition at once for various reasons: among them, it considered that the precipitate expeditions to Egypt and Suakin in 1882 and 1883 had placed the severest strain on the resources of the country, but, its more pressing concern was with the Russian threat to the borders of Afghanistan which the British Government was pledged to protect. From 7th April, 1884, during the three months of complete sealing off, by the Mahdi, of all communication with Khartoum, the uncertainty of General Gordon's whereabouts and his plans (further confused by conflicting rumours) made it difficult for the Government to know what action was necessary.

At last, on 20th July a message, dated 22nd June, arrived from General Gordon. It stated that he was still holding out at Khartoum, and was still waiting for British troops to help with the evacuation of the Sudan. Lord Hartington, the Secretary of State for War, insisted that the Government should keep a pledge, made by himself in the House of Commons in the spring, to send help to General Gordon if it became known that he was in danger. Accordingly, it was decided before July was over to send an expedition as far as Dongola with the general intention of marching on Khartoum, unless in the interval General Gordon and Colonel Stewart, his only supporting British officer,

had been extricated by other means. In this way, preparations were begun for the Nile Expedition, already planned, under the command of the impatient Lord Wolseley. It consisted of a force of 10,000 men and a fleet of 800 whale-boats which were assembled and despatched to Egypt with remarkable speed and skill, having regard to the conditions of those times.

The expedition advanced southwards from Egypt up the Nile to Korti. From there it moved in two columns. One, the River Column, continued up the Nile in whale-boats with the two-fold object of taking Berber and, on the way, seeking retribution for the murder of Colonel Stewart, Mr. Power, and their companions who had been attacked when their boat struck a rock near Hebbah in September, 1884. This Column, with supreme effort and incessant toil, negotiated the many rapids of the 4th Cataract and the Monasir country, and, at Kirbekan, it trapped and destroyed a large force of Arabs which threatened to block its way. The other, the Desert Column, proceeding on camels, took the more direct route to Khartoum across the Bayuda desert towards Metem-meh. On the way, while approaching the wells of Abu Klea, the spear-head of the column valiantly withstood a ferocious attack by a force of the Mahdi's army five times its own strength. (There are many similarities between this battle and the great battle scene in *The Light That Failed*.) From the Nile at Gubat, a detachment of officers and troops in two small steamers advanced to Khartoum, only to find, on arriving at the junction of the two Niles, that the enemy were in possession of the town. General Gordon had been killed two days earlier, on 26th January, 1885, after the Mahdists had made a sudden attack at dawn and entered Khartoum through a gap in the defences unconverged by the receding Nile.

In England, the news of General Gordon's death aroused strong popular emotion and bitter recriminations, which were by no means stilled five years later, at the time when Kipling was writing *The Light That Failed*, nor indeed were they for many years afterwards.

References : 'The Journals of Major-General C. G. Gordon at Khartoum' (1885), 'Modern Egypt' by the Earl of Cromer (1908), 'The Life of William Ewart Gladstone' by John Morley (1904), 'Second Earl Granville' by Lord Edmond Ritzmaurice (1905), 'Life of Sir Charles Dilke' by S. Gwynn and G. M. Tuckwell (1917), 'History of the Sudan Campaign' by Colonel H. E. Colville (1889), 'The River Column' by Major-General H. Brackenbury (1885), 'From Korti to Khartoum' by Sir Charles Wilson (1886), 'Gordon and the Sudan' by Bernard M. Allen (1931), etc.

## CENTENARY EXHIBITIONS

1. **Bateman's, Burwash.** To 31st October (except Fridays).
2. **Windsor Guildhall.** Daily till October, 1 - 6 p.m. Details from Mr. F. M. Underhill, 32 Eton Road, Datchet, Slough (Slough 41885),
3. **Stratford-upon-Avon.** At Hall's Croft, Old Town. Details from the Director, the Shakespeare Centre. See page 5.

U.S.A. MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE that at least 10 Kipling Exhibitions are being held in U.S.A. this year. Details from Mr. Carl T. Naumburg, 210 West 90th Street, New York 24, N.Y. See page 5.

## A MISSING 'PLAIN TAIL'

OUR President, who was himself stationed at Raniket for a short time during the hot weather of 1916, when he was a Captain in the 4th (Territorial) Battalion of The Buffs serving in World War I, sends us three extracts from —  
*'THE DRAGON* — East Kent Chronicle, a paper for men of The Buffs'

The first extract is from No. 19 dated October 31st 1888 from Raniket which was one of the lesser Hill Stations in the United Provinces of India : but first let us quote from the Editor's notes about the Chronicle — he was we gather the Regimental Schoolmaster.

'This number of the paper marks the end of the second year of its existence and we are glad to say, that, as time has gone on, The Dragon, which commenced very modestly two years ago with four pages, has now, like Topsy, growed, and has settled down steadily to sixteen pages. We have again to thank our correspondents and contributors who have always been well to the fore, and have saved the Editor from the cruel necessity which in despair at lack of copy he contemplated, of printing the Regimental Muster Rolls.'

A. First reference to a lost Kipling story contains a mistake in the author's first name — Rudolf for Rudyard.

It reads — 'We hope in our next issue to be able to give our readers an original story by Mr. Rudolf Kipling the well known author of 'Departmental Ditties' and 'Plain Tales from the Hills'. Some time ago we wrote to Messrs. Thacker and Spink, the publishers, asking if we might republish one or two of the stories from 'Plain Tales'—a book we can strongly recommend any of our readers, who have not seen it, to read as soon as they get a chance. Messrs. Thacker and Spink replied that they had made a rule that none of the stories were to be reprinted ; but that they had sent our letter on to the author. We heard nothing more, and imagined that a busy man had either forgotten about the matter or cared not to be bothered. However the other day we learnt by chance, that this was not so, but that Mr. Kipling, not being able to give us permission to excerpt any of the 'Plain Tales' had, with kindly thought and act, sent us another Military Story with permission to publish it. We have now to rescue it from that Maelstrom of muddle, the Post Office, and when it appears our readers will know how it came into our possession.'

B. The second extract from *The Dragon* No. 23 is dated February 28th 1889 from Dum-Dum (Calcutta) and reads —

'When we heard that the well known author Rudyard Kipling, had kindly written a story expressly for *The Dragon*, expectation was at its height, and consequently the reaction was extreme, when, through some blundering on the part of a blockhead of a Baboo, the manuscript was lost in transmission, and we are sorry to say has not yet been recovered, however, another story may come, and we shall enjoy it all the more, from being obliged to possess our souls in patience.'

C. The third extract — from *The Dragon* dated Dum-Dum 31st Dec. 1889.

'A year ago we told our readers that Mr. Rudyard Kipling had promised to write us a story for *The Dragon* and that we trusted that it might appear immediately. Mr. Kipling was too busy to put pen to paper for us ; but when he was leaving India — all now of course know that the articles headed 'From Sea to Sea' in the *Pioneer* are an account of his voyage home — he sent a message that, as far as he was concerned, we were welcome to use any of the stories in his book, 'Plain Tales from the Hills'.'

'Armed with this promise we went to interview the powers that direct the publishing house of Thacker and Spink, and they, on their part gave leave for the transcribing of any of the Soldier stories in the book. So from time to time we shall give our readers a taste of the adventures of Privates Ortheris, Mulvaney and Learoyd as told in his inimitable style by Mr. Kipling.'

Whether *The Dragon* ever published any of the stories we shall hope to find out later for Major J. H. Davison a serving officer in the 4th (T.A.) Battalion of the Regiment will continue his researches through subsequent numbers of *The Dragon*, and let us know the result through Mr. Harbord, who is now more usually known to the officers of his old Battalion as 'Major Reggie'.

*The Dragon* continued regular monthly publication until two or three years ago when it was merged into *Invicta* the journal of THE QUEEN'S OWN BUFFS, THE ROYAL KENT REGIMENT at the time of the amalgamation of the ROYAL EAST KENT REGIMENT—THE BUFFS with THE QUEEN'S OWN ROYAL WEST KENT REGIMENT.

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NOTES. In 1888 Kipling was already at the age of 22 described as 'the well-known author.'

All three copies of *The Dragon* quoted, give the date when The Buffs first became a unit of the English Army as 1572 when Queen Elizabeth I was on the throne and James VI was King of Scotland — 31 years before the union of England and Scotland in 1603 under James I and VI. It is now only 7 years to the Regiment's 400th anniversary.

### HON. SECRETARY'S NOTES

Members who have any suggestions as to which passages from Kipling's works, prose or verse, should be read at the Birthday Ceremony in Westminster Abbey are asked to send them to the President at 323 High Holborn before November 1st. The total time taken by the readings must not exceed 15 minutes.

## REPORT ON DISCUSSION MEETING

*May 12th, 1965, in the Ulster Room, Overseas House*

Before his reading of 'The Bonds of Discipline', the subject of this evening's discussion, the chairman said: This subject has been chosen for a variety of reasons, one being that I think it one of the greatest farces Kipling, or any other writer for that matter, has ever written. 'The Wrong Box' is not to be mentioned in the same breath. Moreover, it is best enjoyed when read aloud—even without an audience. Another reason is that members of the audience not associated with the Royal Navy can be given an explanation of obscure points for their greater enjoyment, and lastly because of the possibility, now realised, of having at this table Rear-Admiral P. W. Brock, C.B., D.S.O., the greatest living authority on Kipling's naval writings.

The reading having been concluded, the chairman hoped that Admiral Brock would accept as his main function in this discussion the explanation of the many esoteric points of naval customs, phrases, traditions, etc., so skilfully embodied in the story, for the enlightenment of listeners not acquainted with them. 'But', he continued, 'in the first place I would ask your critical opinion as a professional naval officer of this story, with particular reference to the suggestion I now make that, granted the premises, there is nothing recorded in it that could not in actuality have occurred, excepting always the playing of the Dead March (any Dead March) on a bugle of the type supplied to the Royal Navy, which is the same as the regulation army bugle. Also, it has been said that no petty officer ever spoke like Pycroft. My reply to this is that Pycroft speaks as a petty officer might speak who had Kipling's powers of expression and vocabulary. His speech, though wildly extravagant, has the authentic ring. Am I right?'

Admiral Brock agreed generally and went on to say that very little in the story is impossible: the whole, perhaps, takes a bit of believing but it is not beyond the bounds of artistic licence—it is much less overdrawn than Smollett, for instance, who is quite often credited with a faithful picture of life afloat in the eighteenth century. Much the same goes for Pycroft. 'Characters' were more numerous and more individual before the days of mass education spread thin. Pycroft of course owes much to the author's imagination—there are pre-Raphaelite touches of colour about him—but on a smaller and dimmer scale I can think a number of Chief Petty Officers and Petty Officers of character, resource and vocabulary to whom I (and the Service) have been deeply indebted. In this Admiral Brock was joined by Commander Owen, whom we were glad to welcome among us again, and they exchanged reminiscences, most gratifying to their audience, of the characters they had met in their respective service, and of incidents, known and authenticated, well nigh unbelievable to the shore-going reader. One example was the mastication by the *Warspite's* llama of the Commander-in-Chief's epaulettes while they were being worn by him on his own quarterdeck, which led to the llama being discharged with ignominy to the London Zoo. This incident has usually been ascribed to Admiral

'Pompo' Heneage, but further consideration of dates now suggests that the victim must have been his successor, Rear-Admiral Charles Hotham.

With regard to Pyecroft's authenticity, a naval officer has recorded his opinion that Kipling's reproduction of his speech is 'impeccable', but Admiral Brock thought that this illustrated what might almost be called a confidence trick not uncommon with the author: Kipling's general effect — his tune, so to speak — was so vivid that some 'ad-libbing' in the words was apt to escape the reader's notice. His letter to Pyecroft that introduced 'Steam Tactics' when it first appeared in the *Windsor Magazine* stressed his interest in general effects and unconcern about minutiae.

Asked his opinion on the publication referred to at the beginning of the story as being beneath contempt as literature, Admiral Brock felt pretty confident that 'it' refers to the whole mass of printed matter (*not* literature) produced in Europe (and the U.S.A.) as a result of the international tension towards the end of the nineteenth century, the great progress in naval *materiel*, and the fact that the practical effects of this were never tested in war between two reasonably efficient and well-matched navies until 1914. This created a market for *Jane's Fighting Ships* and *Brassey's Naval Annual* and their foreign contemporaries, to which and from which information was added and abstracted, by the 'experts', the journalists, the professional intelligence agents, and 'zealous amateurs' like M. de C. As a safe assumption the reader may suppose that the pocket-book of the last-named, impounded by Pyecroft, was unobtrusively returned to him when he was shanghaied to the collier, since the immortal story it contained had to survive in full, in particular the detailed analysis of the practice firing with specially reduced charges in the guns.

Colonel Purefoy asked what was the special significance of the term Red Marine, and it was explained that it referred to a member of the Royal Marine Light Infantry, which wore red uniforms, as distinct from the Royal Marine Artillery, which wore blue, and were called Blue Marines. The distinction ceased to exist after 1923, when the two branches were amalgamated as the Royal Marines, whose uniform, as is well known, is blue.

More questions began to come from the audience about the meaning of many of the words and technical expressions so amusingly used in pages 49 and following, and were of course answered with exactitude by our two experts. Colonel Purefoy, however, had another question; on the meaning of 'bonnets in a needlecase', in relation to the extemporised sails, which it fell to the chairman to answer, he having tracked this down to its source: whether he was alone in that he was unable to say but doubted it. He thought it fairly clear that Kipling was enjoying a private joke in making the narrator unable to translate correctly, for he would not have invented it if he had been ignorant of the following definitions:

- Bonnet (English) = Additional canvas laced to the foot of a sail.
- Bonnette (French) = (1) Bonnet (fortification), (2) Studding pail.
- Etui (French) = (1) Needlecase, box, sheath, (2) Tarpaulin (naut).

From this we may conceive that the phrase was intended to be in its original form 'bonnettes en etui', that is, stuns'ls made from tarpaulins (or awnings).

The reference to the (sounding) lead being 'garnished with suet' is another amusing and deliberate mistranslation, since *suif* means either tallow or suet. The lead is 'armed' by placing tallow in a recess at its base in order to obtain a sample of the sea-bottom at the point of sounding — often a valuable identification of the locality.

On the question of the playing of the Dead March, Admiral Brock confessed that he had never tried to perform it on a bugle, but could well believe it beyond the scope of the instrument. Here, as a diversion, the President announced his intention of endeavouring to play the Dead March (presumably in *Saul*) on a bugle, to find out whether it could be done, at a forthcoming visit to his old Regiment, The Buffs. He was dissuaded, on the grounds that the performance at inappropriate times and occasions of this music by any means (e.g. whistling) is severely discouraged in the Services, and that it would be impossible for him to play it on a bugle even if he could play the instrument, a point on which no information was forthcoming. In any event, it seems to be established that he is nearly if not quite tone deaf. From Pyecroft's remark 'You never 'eard the Dead March on a bugle?' it may be inferred that the author had his tongue in his cheek. For those who are interested, the regulation bugle as used in the services, has eight notes, only five of which are employed in bugle calls and marches. Roughly speaking they are the notes of the major common chord (doh so doh me soh). So that although a bugle band can provide an obbligato on occasions to a marching song played by a brass band, as for instance 'Marching through Georgia', the solo performance of a tune outside the notes of the common chord is out of the question.

Regarding the reference to 'Elphinstone and Bruce in the Portsmouth election when I was a boy,' Admiral Brock said that *Hansard* showed that Sir James Elphinstone and the Hon. T. C. Bruce were elected as Conservative members for Portsmouth in the general election of February, 1874, Sir James retaining his seat and Bruce capturing one from a Liberal. The *Hampshire Telegraph* stated that Sir James had afterwards addressed his constituents from the windows of the famous George Hotel that stood in Portsmouth High Street until abolished by the *Luftwaffe*, but unfortunately the paper did not feel obliged to report one of Mr. Gladstone's opponents *in extenso*. At the time Kipling, aged eight, and his sister were living in nearby Southsea in the conditions that prompted 'Baa Baa Blacksheep', and the reference to the election must have been a childhood memory. Unless Pyecroft was unusually precocious, he could hardly have been younger.

The chairman's concluding remarks were to the effect that with this evening's reading of this magnificent farce he must have read it twenty times or even more, and of all Kipling's short stories this one most deserves to be regarded as a *tour de force*, especially when it is remembered that Kipling's association with the Royal Navy prior to the 1914/18 war amounted to a few weeks in two successive years on manoeuvres with the Channel Fleet and some desultory contacts on the South Africa

Station at Simonstown. From these he emerged, on the evidence of 'The Bonds of Discipline', replete with as much naval lore as many of us could boast of having spent a lifetime in, with and alongside H.M. Ships.

In Admiral Brock, he continued, you have a worthy exponent of Kipling's prowess in this respect, as he has demonstrated this evening in a most entertaining manner. I ask you to show your warm appreciation of his considerate action in coming here at all from his home a long way off, and of the diligent research over many years which has resulted in our entertainment this evening.

To judge by their applause, the audience needed no prompting.

P.W.I.

## SOME LOCKWOOD KIPLING ILLUSTRATIONS

Some hitherto unknown work by John Lockwood Kipling has come to light in an obscure book by Frederika Macdonald entitled *The Iliad of the East*, which John Lane, Bodley Head, published in 1908.

It carries seven illustrations designed by Lockwood Kipling in the same form as those in *Kim*, which they much resemble.

The scenes are all typically Indian and depict legends from the Sanscrit poem, *The Ramayam* by Valmiki and reveal the illustrator's knowledge of his subject.

One is reminded by them of his own book *Beast and Man in India*, that delightful series of sketches of Indian Animals and People which he illustrated himself and published in 1891.

The *Iliad* itself is not particularly interesting to any but the student of Indian Spiritual Religion, but the writer's copy has the virtue of being a Review Copy and therefore a First Edition.

The seven bas-relief plaques prepared in the same way as in *Kim* range from *The Birth of Sita* to *Sita on the Pyre with Rama* and three Monkey Gods in attendance: the detail of this final scene is quite exquisite.

Hanuman also appears in the illustrator's portrayal of the burning *Pyre of Lanka*, the Evil Isle which, according to legend, was totally destroyed by fire.

Of the remainder the most interesting is, perhaps, the plaque depicting Vashista and his cow, Sabala.

Apart from the illustrations in *Kim* with which everyone is familiar the other work Rudyard Kipling's father undertook is to be found in the *Birthday Book* compiled by Joseph Finn and published in New York in 1896 for which he made twelve sketches — one for each month.

The First Edition of *Plain Tales From The Hills* — and only the "First" which Thacker Spink produced in 1888 has a further example of his work in an embossed picture of hills and plains on the front cover.

This particular decoration was rather unfortunately dropped from all subsequent editions.

There is, of course, Flora Anne Steel's book of Fairy Stories, *Tales of the Punjab*, which he also illustrated. WILLIAM MAITLAND





## OBITUARIES

We report with profound regret the deaths of our Ex-President, one of our Senior Vice-Presidents and also of a former member of Council—all three distinguished men.

### **LIEUTENANT GENERAL SIR FREDERICK BROWNING, G.C.V.O., K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O.**

Succeeded Field Marshal Earl Wavell as (3rd) President and remained in office for eleven years helping the Society in many ways and giving us as much as possible of his little free time. He took the Chair at the Annual Luncheon on nearly every occasion.

Son of Colonel F. H. BROWNING, C.B.E., he was educated at Eton and R.M.C. He was 68 when he died.

The following details are quoted from the newspapers announcing his death.

He received his knighthood (K.C.V.O.) in 1946 and was promoted to G.C.V.O. on retiring from the Royal Service in 1960. He was the war-time leader of Britain's airborne forces. From 1952 to 1959 he was treasurer to Prince Philip.

He was the husband of Daphne du Maurier, the novelist, whom he married in 1932. They had one son and two daughters.

He landed with the Allied airborne troops in Holland and made contact with the Arnhem force—the 'Red Devils' of the British 1st Airborne Division—before it was withdrawn.

The Army knew him as 'Boy' Browning because of his youthful appearance and enthusiasm.

Since 1959, he had been extra equerry to the Queen and Prince Philip. He was Comptroller and Treasurer of Princess Elizabeth's household from 1948 until her accession.

Sir Frederick was a Grenadier Guards subaltern of 18 when he went to France in September, 1915. There, in the winter mud, he contracted trench fever and conjunctivitis.

Recovering at home, he returned to France in July, 1916, and was in all the Guards Division's battles to the end of the war. As a lieutenant he won the D.S.O. for taking command of three companies whose officers had all become casualties.

He was given command of the 2nd Bn. Grenadier Guards in 1934. In 1936 the battalion went to Alexandria. One of its tasks was a survey of the Qattara Depression.

Afterwards he put forward the view, which history has confirmed, that El Alamein and not Mersa Matruh was the position that could be held in the event of trouble in Libya.

*" Real task of life "*

At the beginning of the 1939-45 war he was in command of the Small Arms Schools, but was soon given command of the 24th Guards Brigade Mechanised Group.

After his appointment as commander of the 1st Airborne Division in 1941 Sir Frederick declared that the real task of life had begun. He was convinced that airborne forces would become the strongest of all instruments of war.

He took command of the British Airborne Corps in 1944. Later the same year he was appointed Deputy Commander, First Allied Airborne Army, and then Chief of Staff, South-East Asia Command.

He remained in this appointment until 1946. He then became Military Secretary, War Office, until 1948.

*Japanese surrender*

As Chief of Staff, S.E.A.C., he signed the preliminary agreement in Rangoon for facilitating the surrender of the Japanese troops in South-East Asia.

Sir Frederick was for several years a noted all-round athlete, winning the English high hurdles three times between 1924 and 1926. He was a member of the English bobsleigh crew at the winter Olympics.

In LONDON DAY BY DAY ' Peterborough ' of the *Daily Telegraph and Post* wrote —

A Prize Denied.

Gen. SIR FREDERICK 'BOY' BROWNING will always be associated with the most spectacular and one of the shortest military operations of World War II — ' Market Garden,' the airborne landing at Arnhem in 1944.

The operation lasted eight days — Sept. 17-25. From his appointment as commander of the 1st Airborne Divn. in 1941, followed by command of the Airborne Corps in 1944, Browning had devoted his energies to what he believed would be a decisive instrument.

But reward eluded him. Sir Winston Churchill wrote of Arnhem : ' Heavy risks were taken, justified by the great prize so nearly in our grasp.'

Browning bore the disappointment with dignity. He remained one of the few senior soldiers never to record — publicly — his own version of what separated failure from success at Arnhem.

**MAJOR SIR BRUNEL COHEN**, K.B.E., who had been a Vice-President of the Society since 1951, died in May, aged 78. He was a regular attendant (in his chair) at the Annual Luncheons and a generous supporter.

He was treasurer of the British Legion for 23 years and former chairman of Remploy Ltd., an organisation which employs disabled people.

In 1917, at the age of 30, Cohen was badly wounded at Ypres, and had both legs amputated above the knees. Although he spent most of his

adult life in a wheeled chair, he went on to become a Conservative M.P. for 13 years and served on more than 30 Government committees and voluntary bodies concerned with the welfare of ex-servicemen and women and the disabled.

Cohen was born in 1886 a son of Alderman Louis Cohen, one-time Lord Mayor of Liverpool. He was educated at Cheltenham College, and joined the 1st V.B. of the King's Liverpool Regiment in 1906. He was on the Reserve at the outbreak of war and served until wounded in 1917.

He entered Parliament a Conservative M.P. for the Fairfield Division of Liverpool in 1918, retiring in 1931.

He was a member of the original committee which framed the constitution of the British Legion in 1921, and became its first honorary treasurer that year, a post which he held until 1946, with a two-year break from 1930-32 when he was vice-chairman.

He was connected with most of the Legion's activities, and at the time of his death was President of the Legion's village, Preston Hall, near Maidstone.

Despite his disability, Cohen was a keen swimmer. In 1956 he published his autobiography called, characteristically, *Count Your Blessings*. He was knighted in 1943 and made K.B.E. in 1948.

He married in 1914 Vera, daughter of Sir Stuart Samuel, Bart. They had two sons and one daughter, and celebrated their golden wedding last year.

### **BRIGADIER A. MASON, MC.**

Alec Mason was born in London on 19th November, 1891, the son of John Martin Mason. He was named after his uncle, Lieut.-Colonel Alexander H. Mason, C.B., D.S.O., a famous Sapper Officer who distinguished himself in countless campaigns on the N.W. Frontier of India and who died of typhoid during an official tour of inspection on the Frontier in 1896. Even during his lifetime his name had become almost legendary and after his death his brother officers, headed by General Sir George Stewart White, V.C., G.C.I.E., K.C.B., opened the Mason Memorial Fund, the proceeds of which founded an endowment in connection with the Mayo Orphanage, Simla, in the welfare of which school Mason was much interested.

From boyhood Alec was told that he should follow his uncle's footsteps and continue the work he began; and that he always strived to do.

Commissioned into the Royal Engineers in July 1911, he was posted to India after his Young Officer training at Chatham. His first appointment was with the Military Works Service, but on the outbreak of the 1914-18 War he went with the Indian Expeditionary Force to the Western Front and in January 1916 he accompanied the Expeditionary Force to Mesopotamia. In March of that year he was awarded the Military Cross for gallantry and devotion to duty in the field.

He retired in 1946 after thirty-five years' service during which he had fought as a young officer in France, Flanders and Mesopotamia in the First World War, between the wars he had seen active service in

Egypt and in Palestine and in the Second World War he had served with distinction in the withdrawal through Burma and in Persia.

After leaving the Service Mason retired to his farm near Battle, Sussex, where he bred pedigree Guernseys. Early in 1958 he joined the Kipling Society and became a member of Council, and being convinced that Kipling had his uncle in mind when he created the character ' Colonel Creighton ' in *Kim* he certainly made out a very good case for the identity of the Head of the Frontier Secret Service.

Mason married twice, in 1917 and secondly, in 1930, to Eva, second daughter of Karl Alexander Malmberg of Stockholm, Sweden. In 1962 he went to live at Vensberg Gård, Tösse, and travelled widely in Sweden. He returned home, due to failing health, on 19th January, 1965, and he died on 5th February in his 74th year.

R.E.H.

### MAJOR J. A. BOARD

With deep regret we learned of the death of Major J. A. Board, author, illustrator, and sporting writer on *The Times* staff, aged 69, who became a member of the Society early this year. In portraying horses in action, he was a draughtsman in the Munnings and Cecil Aldin class, as his illustrations to his own book, a standard work on polo, clearly demonstrate. A Kipling admirer for most of his life, he had also illustrated 'The Maltese Cat'. His connection with the game, as player and spectator, extended over many years and for the past thirty years he had been at the centre of polo affairs, and recognised as the leading writer on the subject in the world.

The compilers of the Reader's Guide to 'The Maltese Cat' owe him a special debt for exploding the long-established myth that the Archangels' back in the last incident of the game was either guilty of, or risking, a foul, which was said to constitute one of Kipling's major mistakes. In this he was supported by Brigadier J. Gannon, the Secretary of the Hurlingham Polo Association.

It is gratifying to be able to relate that one of his great pleasures when death was imminent was reading the *Kipling Journal*.

P.W.I.

## NEW MEMBERS:

We heartily welcome the following : *U.K.*: Mrs. A. C. Patterson, Miss P. A. R. Bruce; Messrs. N. MacGregor, C. T. Priestley, R. E. Tuffley. *GERMANY*: Frankfurt University. *INDIA*: F. Turner. *MELBOURNE*: J. Moloney. *U.S.A.*: Mmes. S. M. Burke, P. McGinnis, L. N. Zelle; Miss C. S. Boardman; Messrs. D. Randall, N. Stevenson, L. N. Zelle; Emerson College, Boston; N.Y. State University, Buffalo.

**Have you recruited YOUR Centenary New Member yet**

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