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978-0-521-19972-8 - The Cambridge Companion to Rudyard Kipling

Edited by Howard J. Booth

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THE CAMBRIDGE COMPANION TO
RUDYARD KIPLING

Rudyard Kipling (1865–1936) is among the most popular, acclaimed and controversial of writers in English. His books have sold in great numbers, and he remains the youngest writer to have won the Nobel Prize in literature. Many associate Kipling with poems such as ‘If-’, his novel *Kim*, his pioneering use of the short story form and such works for children as the *Just So Stories*. For others, though, Kipling is the very symbol of the British Empire and a belligerent approach to other peoples and races. This Companion explores Kipling’s main themes and texts, the different genres in which he worked and the various phases of his career. As well as examining the ‘afterlives’ of Kipling’s texts in postcolonial writing, and illustrations and film adaptations of his work, it also features a chronology and a guide to further reading.

HOWARD J. BOOTH is Lecturer in English Literature at the University of Manchester.

A complete list of books in the series is at the back of this book

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DAVID BRADSHAW is Reader in English Literature at Oxford University, a Fellow of Worcester College and Chair of Oxford's English Faculty Board (2010–13). Among other volumes, he has edited *The Hidden Huxley* (1994), *A Concise Companion to Modernism* (2003), *The Cambridge Companion to E. M. Forster* (2007) and, with Kevin J. H. Dettmar, *A Companion to Modernist Literature and Culture* (2006). He has also edited a wide range of novels and other texts from the modernist period and written many articles on authors such as Conrad, Huxley, T. S. Eliot, Woolf and Yeats. Current projects include a book on Woolf, a book on Huxley and, with Rachel Potter, a commissioned collection of essays on obscenity, censorship and fiction called *Prudes on the Prowl*.

PATRICK BRANTLINGER is James Rudy Professor of English (Emeritus) at Indiana University. A former editor of *Victorian Studies* (1980–90), his books include *Rule of Darkness: British Literature and Imperialism* (1988), *Crusoe's Footprints: Cultural Studies in Britain and America* (1990), *Dark Visionings: Discourse on the Extinction of Primitive Races, 1800–1913* (2003) and, most recently, *Victorian Literature and Postcolonial Studies* (2009).

LAURENCE DAVIES is Professor and Honorary Senior Research Fellow in English Literature at the University of Glasgow. For many years he taught for the Comparative Literature and other interdisciplinary programmes at Dartmouth College. He is co-author of a critical biography of R. B. Cunninghame Graham, the Scottish author and political campaigner. He succeeded the late Frederick R. Karl as general editor of *The Collected Letters of Joseph Conrad* (1983–2007), served as a volume editor for all nine volumes, and is president of the UK Joseph

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Conrad Society and a member of the editorial board of the Cambridge edition of Conrad's works. Other academic interests include science and literature, speculative fiction, international Modernism, and the interactions of oral and literate cultures.

ROBERT HAMPSON is Professor of Modern Literature in the English Department at Royal Holloway, University of London. He is the author of three monographs – *Joseph Conrad: Betrayal and Identity* (1992), *Cross-Cultural Encounters in Joseph Conrad's Malay Fiction* (2001) and *Conrad's Secrets* (forthcoming) – and co-editor of *Conrad and Theory* (1998), *Ford Madox Ford: A Re-Appraisal* (1995) and *Ford Madox Ford and Modernity* (2003). He has edited Kipling's *Something of Myself* and *Soldiers Three* and *In Black and White* for Penguin.

JOHN MCBRATNEY is Professor of English at John Carroll University in Cleveland, Ohio. He is the author of *Imperial Subjects, Imperial Space: Rudyard Kipling's Fiction of the Native-Born* (2002) and several articles on Kipling. He has also published articles on Dickens, Tennyson, Conan Doyle, Forster, Orwell and Paul Scott. His main scholarly interests include race, empire, ethnography, and detection in nineteenth- and twentieth-century British literature. He is currently working on a book on Victorian cosmopolitanisms.

JAN MONTEFIORE is Professor of Twentieth Century English Literature at the University of Kent, where she has taught in the School of English since 1978. The author of *Feminism and Poetry* (1987, 2004), *Men and Women Writers of the 1930s* (1996), *Arguments of Heart and Mind* (2002) and *Rudyard Kipling* (2007), she has edited *The Man Who Would Be King and Other Stories* for Penguin Classics (2011) and is currently editing a new collection, *In Time's Eye: Essays on Rudyard Kipling* (2011).

BART MOORE-GILBERT is Professor of Postcolonial Studies and English at Goldsmiths, University of London. He is the author of *Kipling and 'Orientalism'* (1987), *Postcolonial Theory: Contexts, Practices, Politics* (1997), *Hanif Kureishi* (2001) and *Postcolonial Life-Writing: Culture, Politics and Self-Representation* (2009). He has also edited *Writing India: British Representations of India, 1757–1990* (1996) and numerous articles and chapters in books on Kipling and colonial and postcolonial literature and theory.

KAORI NAGAI teaches at the University of Kent. She is the author of *Empire of Analogies: Kipling, India and Ireland* (2006) and has co-edited a collection of essays with Caroline Rooney entitled *Kipling and Beyond: Patriotism, Globalisation and Postcolonialism* (2010). She has also written an introduction and notes to

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Kipling's Plain Tales from the Hills for Penguin Books (2011) and edited a special issue on 'Dream Writing' for the *Journal of European Studies* (2008).

JUDITH PLOTZ is Professor of English at George Washington University and a former president of the Children's Literature Association. She is the author of *Romanticism and the Vocation of Childhood* (2001) and has written frequently on children's books, nineteenth-century childhoods and Kipling. The editor of the forthcoming Penguin edition of the *Just So Stories*, she is currently completing a book on Kipling's non-canoncity entitled *Kipling and the Little Traditions*.

HARRY RICKETTS is Associate Professor in the School of English, Film, Theatre and Media Studies at Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand, where he teaches nineteenth- and twentieth-century literature and creative non-fiction. His work on Kipling includes *The Unforgiving Minute: A Life of Rudyard Kipling* (1999), an edition of Kipling's poems, *Rudyard Kipling, The Long Trail: Selected Poems* (2004), and articles on Kipling's literary influence and on his parodic verse. He has also published a number of personal essays and eight collections of poems, most recently *Your Secret Life* (2005). His composite biographical study of a dozen First World War poets, *Strange Meetings: The Poets of the Great War*, was published by Chatto & Windus in 2010.

HARISH TRIVEDI is Professor of English at the University of Delhi, and has been visiting professor at the universities of Chicago and London. He is the author of *Colonial Transactions: English Literature and India* (Calcutta, 1993; Manchester, 1995) and has co-edited *The Nation across the World* (New Delhi, 2007; New York, 2008), *Literature and Nation: Britain and India 1800–1990* (London, 2000), *Post-colonial Translation: Theory and Practice* (London, 1999) and *Interrogating Post-colonialism: Theory, Text and Context* (Shimla, 1996; rpt. 2000, 2006). He has undertaken the introduction and notes to the new Penguin edition of *Kim* (2011) and contributed a chapter to the *Cambridge Companion to Gandhi* (2011).

MONICA TURCI is a Lecturer at the University of Bologna. The author of *Approaching that Perfect Edge: A Reading of the Metafictional Writings of Michael Ondaatje* (2001), she also co-edited *Language and Verbal Art Revisited: Linguistic Approaches to the Literature Text* (2007). She has written many articles on the relationship between text and image, and on literature and linguistics.

CHRONOLOGY

- 1865 On 30 December Joseph Rudyard Kipling born in Bombay to John Lockwood Kipling and Alice Kipling, born Alice Macdonald.
- 1868 Birth of sister Alice ('Trix'). Kipling's first visit to England.
- 1871 Kipling and Trix boarded in Southsea with the Holloway family. Kipling later called it 'The House of Desolation'. Kipling drew on this period in 'Baa Baa, Black Sheep', *The Light That Failed* and *Something of Myself*.
- 1877 Alice Kipling takes her son away from Southsea. Rudyard starts school at the United Services College, Westward Ho!, in Devon, later using his time there as the basis for the Stalky stories.
- 1881 A year of transition. Made editor of the school magazine. A first collection of his poems, *Schoolboy Lyrics*, privately printed by his parents without his permission. Returns to India and gets a job as assistant editor on the *Civil and Military Gazette* in Lahore.
- 1883 Verses published in *The Englishman* of Calcutta and in the *Civil and Military Gazette*.
- 1884 *Echoes by Two Writers*, a series of parodies by Kipling and Trix.
- 1885 *Quartette*, a Christmas Annual by all four members of the Kipling family.
- 1886 *Departmental Ditties*, comic poems about the English in India.
- 1887 Moves to work on the *Pioneer* in Allahabad. Some articles from this period later collected as 'Letters of Marque' (1891) in volume 1 of *From Sea to Sea*.
- 1888 *Plain Tales from the Hills* and the Railway Library series of short stories: *Soldiers Three*, *The Story of the Gadsbys*, *In Black and White*, *Under the Deodars*, *The Phantom Rickshaw*, *Wee Willie Winkie*.
- 1889 Kipling leaves India, travelling to Burma, Singapore, Hong Kong, Canton and Japan before crossing the Pacific and the United

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- States and arriving in London. Takes rooms in Villiers Street, off the Strand, and resolves to earn a living from his writing.
- 1890 After a nervous breakdown brought on by overwork and a broken engagement to Caroline Taylor, Kipling becomes very close to Wolcott Balestier. Writes the novel *The Light That Failed*.
- 1891 *Life's Handicap*, new and republished short stories. Collaborates with Wolcott Balestier on a novel, *The Naulahka*. After a further breakdown, travels via South Africa, Australia and New Zealand to spend Christmas with his family in India. Hearing of Wolcott Balestier's death, he returns straight away to London.
- 1892 Marries Wolcott's sister Caroline on 18 January. Decide to settle near the Balestier family in Brattleboro, Vermont. First child, Josephine, born in December. *The Naulahka* and *Barrack-Room Ballads and Other Verses* published.
- 1893 *Many Inventions*, a volume of short stories. The Kiplings move to 'Naulakha' – the word spelt correctly this time – a house they have built on land purchased from Beatty Balestier.
- 1894 *The Jungle Book*.
- 1895 *The Second Jungle Book*.
- 1896 Second child Elsie born. Leaves Brattleboro after a row with Beatty Balestier. A volume of verse, *The Seven Seas*.
- 1897 The Kiplings settle in Sussex, living first in Rottingdean. Son John born. American novel 'Captains Courageous' published.
- 1898 Travels in South Africa and Rhodesia. Begins friendship with Cecil Rhodes. Volume of short stories *The Day's Work* published, as is *A Fleet in Being*, a series of articles about the Navy.
- 1899 On a trip to New York Kipling and Josephine develop pneumonia. Josephine, 'the Best Beloved', dies. Becomes involved with charitable work for those in the British military on the outbreak of the Second South African War (Boer War). Collected travel articles *From Sea to Sea* (2 vols.) and school stories *Stalky & Co.* published.
- 1900 In South Africa observing and writing about the war.
- 1901 *Kim*.
- 1902 The Kiplings buy and move into Bateman's at Burwash in Sussex. *Just So Stories for Little Children*.
- 1903 *The Five Nations*, a volume of verse. Includes 'Recessional' and 'The White Man's Burden'.
- 1904 *Traffics and Discoveries*. Short stories including "They", "Wireless" and 'Mrs Bathurst' show Kipling becoming a Modern in theme and technique.

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- 1906 *Puck of Pook's Hill*. Children's stories and poems.
- 1907 Awarded the Nobel Prize in literature. Visits Canada.
- 1909 *Actions and Reactions*, short stories. *Abaft the Funnel*, previously uncollected early work.
- 1910 *Rewards and Fairies*, a sequel to *Puck of Pook's Hill*. Includes 'If-'.
 1911 RK collaborates on *A School History of England*, with the historian C. R. L. Fletcher.
- 1913 Visits Egypt. Publishes *Songs from Books*.
- 1915 John Kipling missing in action during the Battle of Loos. Kipling becomes ill with what is diagnosed, many years later, as a gastric ulcer. War journalism collected in *The New Army in Training* and *France at War*.
- 1916 Further war journalism: *Sea Warfare* and *The Eyes of Asia*.
- 1917 Joins Imperial War Graves Commission. Volume of short stories, *A Diversity of Creatures*; includes 'Mary Postgate'. Articles about the Italian Front, *The War in the Mountains*.
- 1919 *The Years Between*, the last collection of poems. It includes 'Epitaphs of the War'. The Imperial War Graves Commission's *The Graves of the Fallen*, written by Kipling, appears.
- 1920 *Letters of Travel, 1892-1913*. Pieces on Japan, the United States, Canada and Egypt.
- 1923 *The Irish Guards in The Great War* (2 vols.), regimental history. (John Kipling was a Second Lieutenant in the Irish Guards.) *Land and Sea Tales for Scouts and Guides*, previously uncollected, and some new, fiction and verse.
- 1924 Surviving child Elsie marries George Bambridge.
- 1926 *Debits and Credits*, short stories. Includes 'The Wish House' and 'The Gardener'.
- 1927 Visits Brazil, where he writes a number of articles.
- 1928 *A Book of Words*, a volume of collected speeches.
- 1930 *Thy Servant a Dog*, narrated from a canine point of view. Spends an extended period in the Caribbean for Caroline Kipling's health.
- 1932 *Limits and Renewals*, final collection of short stories. Includes 'Dayspring Mishandled' and 'The Church That Was at Antioch'.
- 1933 *Souvenirs of France*, essays exhibiting Kipling's love of France.
- 1936 Dies after a short final illness on 18 January.
- 1937 *Something of Myself: for my Friends Known and Unknown* published posthumously. Written in Kipling's final year and edited for publication by Caroline Kipling and Alfred Webb-Johnson.

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- 1937–9 Publication of the *Sussex Edition* of Kipling's works, which includes many of Kipling's own final revisions. Now rare, as many copies of the anyway limited edition were lost to bombing in the Second World War.
- 1939 Caroline Kipling dies. Bateman's left to the National Trust for Places of Historic Interest.
- 1940 The 'Definitive Edition' of *Rudyard Kipling's Verse* published.