Rudyard Kipling’s Letters to His Agents, A. P. Watt and Son, 1889–1899

Kipling, Rudyard, Pinney, Thomas

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To A. P. Watt 3 January 1894

ALS

Naulakha / Brattleboro / Vermont
Jan. 3. 1894

Dear Watt,

Sir Douglas Straight\(^1\) has written me to say that he wants *The Servants of the Queen* changed to *Her Majesty’s Servants*.\(^2\) This I have said that he can do. He seems to attach some importance to it and it will make no difference in book form but, it may affect copyright over here and I want you kindly to attend to it if that is the case.

Very sincerely

Rudyard Kipling.

Notes 3 January 1894

1. Straight (1844–1914), after a long legal career ending as Judge of the High Court of Judicature in Allahabad, 1879–92, was now editor of the *Pall Mall Magazine* and its sister periodical, the *Pall Mall Budget*. He later edited the *Pall Mall Gazette*. RK had known him in Allahabad: see Letters, I: 160–61.

2. The story appeared under this name in the *Pall Mall Magazine* and in *Harper’s Weekly*, 3 March 1894. In the American edition of *The Jungle Book* it is “Her Majesty’s Servants” but “The Servants of the Queen” in the English. In the Uniform Edition of *The Jungle Book* (1899) it becomes “Her Majesty’s Servants” and so remains.

To A. P. Watt 20 January 1894

ALS

Naulakha / Brattleboro / Vermont
Jan: 20: 94.

90
Dear Watt,

I am sending with this the revised typed copy of the last rhyme of True Thomas together with the Macmillan contract for the Jungle-book signed. The Methuen one can wait until the book of ballads is in better shape.

Apropos of your letter of the 30th December I agree with you entirely in regard to offering the book of ballads first to Appletons. They would by present indications give us far the longer price and the ballads would lift along Many Inventions wh they say has sold about 7,000 in the states.

In your letter of the 6th inst—I see you are trying to work a double sale—Jungle book and Ballads—Appletons. Now my notion is this. The Century illustrations to the Jungle book are worth more to us in sales than an increased royalty this side because it is by those illustrations that the Tales are known and Drake who does them is a rising man. That gives us four tales illustrated already and the other three tales will not take long to do. A new artist might make a mess of the whole business. Therefore I say let MacM. swap pictures with the Century and we’ll take the £300 advance and their royalty sooner than delay the book or risk the new illustrations if the Century will publish in the spring.

The ballad book must certainly be offered first to Appletons for that firm are doing well and the Jungle book must go to the Century on the terms above.

I met McClure in New York the other day and he told me apropos of the Town Topics tale that he had cabled over to get your leave to publish it in that paper! I really think we must avoid S.S. McClure in the future. His imagination runs away with him.

I find that unless all copyrighted poems are marked “copyright in America” they get stolen right and left by an enterprising press. “Bobs” was stolen that way and I have already told you of the fate of the Three Sealers. Will you please ask the papers that publish copyrighted poems of mine to mark them so.

I have nothing more to write about this week but agree with you that arrangements for the Jungle book should be pressed swiftly.
Ever yours sincerely
Rudyard Kipling

P.S. I am sending next week a short magazine sketch of winter in these parts called “from a winter note book.” I shall not need a proof of it and to be timely it should be published as soon as possible. It is purely descriptive and hardly worth syndicating in the States. One of the English mags might like it.  

R K

Notes 20 January 1894


3. They were in New York, 11–17 January, staying with the Lockwood de Forests (CK Diary).

4. “Bobs” was published in the Pall Mall Magazine, December 1893; an unidentified broadside printing, without printer, place, or date, is described in Richards, Bibliography, 76–77. There are American piracies of the poem, but none is known at this early date.

5. “Leaves from a Winter Note-Book” was difficult to sell. Watt presumably sent it out to the English magazines promptly, without success. RK was trying to interest Robert Barr, of The Idler, in July 1894 (Letters, II: 136–37). It was not published until May 1900, in Harper’s Magazine.

To A. P. Watt 21 January 1894

ALS

Naulakha / Brattleboro / Vermont
Jan. 21. 94.

Dear Watt
I send herewith the concluding poem of the Jungle book—to follow Servants of the Queen: and also the Chapter headings for the various tales. You should now be in receipt of all the tales and poems as under

Mowgli’s Brothers

Hunt Song of the Seeonee Pack (poem)

Kaa’s hunting

Road-Song of the bandar-log (poem)

Tiger, Tiger

Mowgli’s Song (poem)

The White Seal

Lukannon (poem)

Rikki Tikki Tavi

Darzee’s song (poem)

Toomai of the Elephants

Shiv and the grasshopper poem

Servants of the Queen

Parade Song of the camp animals (poem)

Very sincerely
Rudyard Kipling

To A. P. Watt 1 February 1894

ALS

Naulakha / Brattleboro / Vermont
Feb. 1. 94.

Dear Watt,

I have been fearfully busy of late or should ere this have acknowledged your draft of £100; making the second £100 that I have received from you the past month.
When, by the way, does MacM pay the royalties of £300 odd due in January?¹

I note what you write further about the Jungle book. No, it does not seem worth while to postpone publication and my own idea would be to keep to MacM’s and the Century on the lines indicated in my last letter on the subject. If there is no way of getting the Century’s pictures except by waiting couldn’t we split the difference with them and bring the book out in June? That seems reasonable.

If all goes well I leave New York on the 24th for a fortnight or three weeks in Bermuda.² I intend to write a descriptive letter in all probability as I want to study the garrison there.³

Very sincerely
Rudyard Kipling

Notes  1 February 1894
1. The payment is recorded in CK Diary, 15 February, in converted form: $1456.
2. They left Brattleboro for New York on 21 February, sailed on the S.S. Trinidad for Bermuda on the 24th, and were back in Brattleboro on 26 March.
3. No such letter is known.

To A. P. Watt  7 February 1894

ALS

Naulakha / Brattleboro / Vermont.

Feb. 7. 94

Dear Watt,

I have to acknowledge with very many thanks receipt of 1st and 2nd [illegible abbreviation] of the O.B.C. dividend for $1004 dollars.

By the way when do MacM pay the £300 and odd that they owe us from November last. It was due in January but I haven’t heard anything of it?¹

Very sincerely
Rudyard Kipling
To A. P. Watt  16 February 1894

ALS

Naulakha / Brattleboro / Vermont.
Feb. 16. 94

Dear Watt,

I have to acknowledge with many thanks yours of Feb. 3 with draft for £240 English, and MacMillan’s sale-account up to Dec. last. I agree with you that that is extremely satisfactory.

Kaa’s Hunting is also to hand, will be revised and returned to you at once by this mail.

Your cable announcing that the Century had accepted and would issue the Jungle book in May was delivered with the letter. I take it that the arrangements for exchanging illustrations in a sort of quadrangular way between the Pall Mall, St Nicholas and MacMillan and my father hold good. I am very pleased with this arrangement and I think you’ll find the book rather a beauty. Your proviso about the musical rights of the Jungle-book verses and [sic: is?] most thoughtful. I seem to spend all my spare time authorizing or not authorizing people to sing my verses.

N.B. Miss Sington’s statement as to the setting of Mother of Mine and There’s a whisper down the field¹ and Mrs. Sutherland-Harris’s in regard to the Free Lance² is quite correct.

The book of ballads will contain several songs expressly fit to be set to music and these I do not intend to give away to musical people for nothing.

Mr William Waldorf Astor has a touching belief in the laws of his own land.³ Bobs of course has been quoted in full and the New York Sun of Sunday Feb 11th has For to Admire⁴ in extenso. There are times when the copyright law amuses me not a little.
The cutting about the O.B.C. shows that some people still insist of [sic: on?] shutting doors after the horse is stolen. They should have gone for the directors before the Bank broke if they wanted to do any good.

Many thanks for the arrangement about the German translation of Many Inventions. I wonder why it is that the Germans take to my stuff so kindly.

Do not please forget to send the Century clean copies of the tales that they did not publish: i.e. Kaa’s Hunting: The White Seal and Servants of the Queen.

The arrangement with Appletons for the book of ballads seems all right. They could never have handled the Jungle book decently and I know that they will do their damnedest over the ballads. I don’t see that Brett will suffer much. The failure of the American sales of the Naulakha has sobered him but that book still picks up and sells quietly. Meantime the book of ballads has to be finished and it will give me a good deal of trouble.

In regard to the Continental Library if they are willing to pay £100 for each book they can have ’em. If not we had better try Tauchnitz. The C.L. is either solvent or insolvent and I should much like to know which.

We leave for Bermuda from New York on the 24th of this month and shall be there three weeks from that date. If anything important turns up in that interval please address to the Hamilton Hotel Bermuda. I hope to write a companion letter to A winter note book from Bermuda where the semi-tropic scenery and the garrison life should pay well.

We are badly snowed up just now—two feet of snow and a tearing wind which is filling up the roads as soon as they are broken so we have all the winter we want. I want to feel a little heat again and am taking my fishing tackle along.

I think this letter covers all the business up to date. Our young woman uses your cup now to wash down solid food—apples and eggs—with, and can stagger round the room like a drunken grenadier. She shows no taste for literature fortunately.
I rejoice to hear that Moreau is being reminded of things.

With best regards

Yours always sincerely

Rudyard Kipling

P.S. I enclose a note to Jerome about *Kaa’s Hunting* which refers to the St. Nicholas tales.\(^8\)

Notes 16 February 1894

1. The Singtons were perhaps family friends. RK corresponded intermittently with the mother from 1892 to 1925, and he indulged the daughter, Louie, in the matter of setting his poems. In a letter to Miss Sington, 30 January 1892, on the eve of his departure on his wedding journey, RK included this formal statement:

   I hereby authorize Miss Sington to set to music my song “Mother of Mine” and also my song commencing “There’s a whisper down the field.”

   I certify further that I have not authorized any other setting of the two songs aforesaid than those of Miss Sington and that all the musical rights of both songs are vested in Miss Sington.

This is signed and post-dated 1 February 1892 (ALS, Syracuse University). A setting of “Mother o’ Mine” by Louie Sington was published in *To-day*, 2 July 1904; I find no record of a setting of the poem titled both “The Long Trail” and “L’Envoi” (“There’s a whisper down the field”).

2. I cannot explain this reference. Mrs. Sutherland-Harris is presumably the wife of Lt.-Colonel A.S. Sutherland Harris (1865–1934), later to be one of RK’s Burwash neighbors.

3. Astor (1848–1919), 1st Viscount Astor, heir to an American fortune, was at this time the proprietor of the *Pall Mall Gazette* and the *Pall Mall Magazine*. I suppose that RK’s remark has to do with the failure of the *Pall Mall Magazine* to protect “The Rhyme of the Three Sealers” from American piracy.


5. The contract, calling for a 15% royalty, is dated 19 March 1894 (Watt UNC 451:49).

6. But, as the letter of [17? March 1894], below, and other, unpublished, letters show, they stayed at the Princess Hotel.

7. No companion letter to “Leaves from a Winter Note-Book” is known.

8. Since “Kaa’s Hunting” refers to stories published in *St. Nicholas* RK wondered how another magazine could “make it fit in”: see 25 December 1893. Jerome K. Jerome was editor of *To-day*, in which “Kaa’s Hunting” appeared.
To A. S. Watt [17? March 1894]¹

Princess Hotel. / Bermuda

Dear Alec

Your letter and enclosure of Feb 17. has just been forwarded to me here—where the sun and the air do not dispose any one to business. The draft agreement with the Century I am signing and forwarding direct to Mr. Scott² and I have written about illustrations to my father.

In regard to Mr. Warren’s letter—it takes 4/ a word from here to England so I shall wait till I get to the States to cable him and save nine shillings thereby.

This is the most interesting little land I have ever stumbled into—but its too lazy for anything.

With best regards to your father

Sincerely

Rudyard Kipling

Notes [17? March 1894]
1. Received 27 March 1894 (office date stamp).
2. Frank Hall Scott (1848–1912), president of the Century Compnay.

To A. P. Watt 11 May [1894]

[Tisbury, Wilts.]¹ Friday. / May 11.

Dear Watt

Yours of the 11th. No. I do not think £100 is enough for A. S. H.² to give for McAndrews Hymn and agree with you that we should hold it. I return herewith the Methuen contract for the poems signed and the H[einemann]. and B[alestier]. contract for the Jungle book signed. The H and B contract for the poems must be kept open awhile in case anything happens to H and B in the course of the summer.

The draft came all right. Many thanks.

Rudyard Kipling
Notes 11 May [1894]

1. After their return to Naulakha from Bermuda on 26 March they left for New York (with Josephine) on 2 April and sailed next day to England, arriving on 10 April. They stayed at 84 Ebury Street, London, until the 23rd, when they went to Tisbury, Wilts., where RK’s parents had settled in 1893. In Tisbury they lived in a rented property called Arundel House until they left to return to America on 5 August (CK Diary). On this visit RK was lionized as never before, and responded as he would never do again. There were “demonstrations” at the Savile Club; he sat (or, rather, stood) for his portrait by “Spy” for the famous series in Vanity Fair; at a London dinner he proposed the toast to Lord Roberts and the English Army, after which “the dinner turns itself into an ovation for Rud” (Rees Extracts, 3 May 1894); he was a guest at the Academy banquet, dined with the Authors’ Club and with the London Scottish, and visited his old school at Westward Ho!, where he made a speech on the retirement of the headmaster Cormell Price, and was “very proud to return to his old school as a big man” (CK Diary 26 July 1894).

2. Not identified.

To A. P. Watt [25 May 1894]¹

ALS

Arundell House / Tisbury.

Dear Watt,

Three separate and distinct notes from you this Friday morning.

I have to acknowledge typed copy of “The Miracle.”² N.B. That tale is the second of the P.M.G. series so you will know what to do with it.

I’m glad you raised that point about M.S.S. All mine are Mrs. K’s perquisite and not the Queen of Sheba could get one. They are kept and bound and put away.³

Apropos of Bok.⁴ You may remember a few months ago writing me that there was nothing much to be got from the Ladies’ Home Journal!! Now I fancy E[dward]. W. B[ok]. must have proved to you that there is and he ought to take a whole lot of stuff from you. You ought to give me a swingeing commission on that little job. He’s a great Editor even in a land of sharp Editors and I am far too much amused and delighted with his methods to spoil the fun of looking on by writing articles about women—American or otherwise for him. Walter Besant ought to be
able to do him a beauty on the American girl and if you arrange beforehand to give him an article on the same subject by Conan Doyle after he has visited the land this autumn you’ll do well.\textsuperscript{5} \textit{Don’t forget to tell him about Lady Poore} now that he is within your reach.\textsuperscript{6} As regards myself his ways are not my ways and I’m not dancing his dance. The idea of “women who have influenced me most” is deliciously audacious and the entire business should be a gold mine for you. If I wasn’t an author by profession I think I’d turn my mind to agency work and enter the lists on your side.

The P. M. G. expect an interview thrown in with the tales.\textsuperscript{7} Their man is coming down today to attend to it. I suppose that will be all right. I do not see much in the “porcupine” letters which I return. I’m too busy on my book of verses just now to take new jobs. I am getting the Father to draw me an initial letter and a picture for each of the new beast-tales. Perhaps the P. M. G. would like them now that they have seen the illustrations in the book.\textsuperscript{8}

Very sincerely always
Rudyard Kipling

Notes \[25 May 1894\]

1. Received 26 May 1894 (office date stamp); Friday was the 25th.


3. After 1899, when RK first employed a secretary, the rule was that no manuscripts left the house, only typed copies. Before that some manuscripts escaped her control.


5. Conan Doyle, on an American lecture tour, visited RK at Naulakha, 28–30 November 1894 (CK Diary).


7. The interview appeared in the \textit{Pall Mall Gazette} and in the \textit{Pall Mall Budget}, 7 June 1894 (in the latter with illustration derived from a photo of RK seated in his Tisbury study) in connection with the publication of “How Fear Came to the Jungle” in the \textit{Budget} on 7 June and the \textit{Gazette} on 14 June. The unidentified inter-
viewer, who says that he had known RK earlier, writes that “I knew Mr. Kipling’s
aversion from being interviewed”; the interview is largely about RK’s impressions of
Bermuda and the local scene in Tisbury.

8. JLK’s illustrations do not appear in the Pall Mall Gazette.

To A. P. Watt [3? June 1894]¹

AL

[Arundel House, Tisbury]

Dear Watt,

I’m returning The Winter note book as you request and an enclosure from Dent.² He seems keen to do something—somehow. What do you think of letting him take the 4 new beast tales with special initials and borders drawn by my father. No full page illustrations but just initials and it may be tail pieces? I’d put in some verses to each tale and it might be a dainty enough little production—if he is sound and solvent.

He’s Yorkshire and therefore like to be close on a bargain—if I know my own county. By the way I’ve just done the third tale for the P. M. G. series.³ It will be nearly 10,000 long so they can’t complain of bad measure [rest of the letter cut away; probably closing and signature only].

Notes [3? June 1894]

1.Received 4 June 1894 (office date stamp).


To A. P. Watt 13 June 1894

ALS

Arundell House / Tisbury: / Wilts:
13.: 6: 94.
Dear Watt:

Will you please forward me as soon as may be a draft for £250 (two hundred and fifty pounds) on America in favour of Mrs Caroline Kipling.

I enclose copy of the 3rd tale for the P. M. G. to be typed in duplicate.

Sincerely
Rudyard Kipling.

To A. P. Watt 17 June 1894

ALS

Arundell House / Tisbury
17. 6. 94

Dear Watt:

I am sending herewith to be typed a tale which is exactly fitted for the Idler, and am writing Robert Barr of that paper to look at it. Please hand it over to him when it is typed and I think he will pay well for the same. Letter to Barr enclosed.

Very many thanks for the draft. What you write about Dent and his offers is pure wisdom and I see it the more acutely when I consider how Mac M. must have scored on the strength of reducing royalty because of the gilt edges. Even as the book is now it could not have cost him anything like as much as a regular 6/- one vol. tale to turn out; seeing how much he has saved in paper and type. Nor did his payments to my father for illustrations come to anything excessive.

I am not pleased with Gerard F. Cobb’s latest conglomeration but how can we stop it? I don’t deny his musical merits (if he has any) but he is running this B. B. business a little too hard for the money. Do we get any royalty for the last thing? Of course we ought to.

It’s curious to notice the difficulty there is in corkscrewing money out of publishers even with your machinery to back it. I wonder how men get on with nothing but their own signatures to help ’em. That is one side of the author’s business which even W[alter] B[esant]. has not dwelt on.
Don’t you think the best thing to do in regard to Dent wd be to explain to him that financially his proposals are not good enough and impress him with the fact that we can’t afford to chuck a few hundred pounds away in starting a series for him. This, delicately of course.

In regard to the dinner[,] The Authors Club are dining the father and me on the 9th 4 and it would be more convenient for me to dine with you on the 8th for town is far from [illegible word] us. Couldn’t we make it just a quiet little dinner?

There is no news from Wheeler—which is Moreau—who is an “enterprising burglar”—without prejudice.5

Very sincerely always
Rudyard Kipling.

Notes 17 June 1894

1. “My Sunday at Home,” published in The Idler but not until April 1895. Barr (1850–1912) founded The Idler with Jerome K. Jerome and was its editor. The origin of “My Sunday at Home” is described by CK: RK, she writes, is “now doing a story suggested to him last Sunday [6 May, returning from London] by the guard coming to the window of his carriage and saying ‘has anyone here got a bottle of medicine a gentleman has taken a bottle of poison’” (to Josephine Dunham, 9 May 1894: Dunham Papers).

2. The letter, now in the Kipling Papers at Sussex, is in Letters, II: 133.

3. See 6 December 1893.

4. At the Venetian Room of the Holborn Restaurant; RK, as one of the guests of honor, made a brief response to a toast (The Times, 10 July 1894).

5. Watt was now negotiating with Emile Moreau for the repurchase of the copyright to the Indian Railway Library series.

To A. P. Watt 24 June 1894

ALS
Arundell House / Tisbury
June. 24. 94

Dear Watt:
I have your last long letter with McClure’s accounts to acknowledge and at the same time a rather pathetic little note from McC. bewailing what he calls my “going back on him.”

But before we get to these matters I have a notion. What do you think of getting *McAndrews Hymn* back again from whatever port it may now be sojourning in and sending it in to one of the first class big monthlies—*XIX Century; National; Contemporary; Fortnightly* or something of that stamp. There wouldn’t be very much money in it but heaps of respectability and as I am a little sweet on the “*Hymn*” I should like to see it come out serially in good shape. Please tell me what you think of the matter.

Moreau’s accounts are very unsatisfactory. Why can’t he say what he owes instead of babbling vaguely of lump sums. However my idea is this. Try to get the books *en bloc* from his hands for as near £300 as he will [rest of line heavily overscored] with a signed sealed and delivered document handing ’em over to me absolutely. It’s a thing I should much like to see done and once in my possession I can revise them thoroughly and hand them over to Macmillan in good shape. Then I shall write or rather finish writing the death of Mulvaney which has long been on the stocks and close up the Soldiers Three Chapter once and for all.¹ I rather mistrust Marston² and that lot and so we must be very careful not to buy the books back with any sort of lien upon them.³ Please make the repurchase of the books a leading feature of your autumn campaign on my behalf. Write me the various terms on which Moreau will sell definitely without reference to Sampson Low. *They must be out of the deal together.*

I am annoyed with Gerard F. Cobbe because he calmly proposes that I should guarantee him the use of “the song of the camel”⁴ in the Jungle book and generally acts as though he expected to spread himself over all my works through time and for eternity. My reason for wiring you about Sheard was on account of something that he (Cobbe) had said in a letter hinting that Sheard was on his way to use Bobs. Now to make matters simpler I have decided (A) that Bobs will not be republished in any form of issue of my next poems (b) that it shall not be sung or set with any authority of mine to the back of it.⁵ I have a reason for doing this and it is because I don’t think Robert would like it. The song has served its turn and we’ll let it go.
For the rest, Gerard F. Cobbe must be content with what he has done. The poems won’t come out until the spring anyhow and then and not till then will I decide who sets ’em. Before I know where I am Gerard will be bolting off with the delusion that I exist for supplying words to his tunes—and now I’ve heard some of ’em I don’t like ’em particularly. I enclose Cobbe’s letter.

In regard to *My Sunday at Home* for the Idler we must keep to the terms of the original contract and let them have it at the prices first fixed. Another time we will not I think make contracts for so many stories ahead.

Very sincerely always
Rudyard Kipling

We will be there on the 10th—at what hour?

Notes 24 June 1894

1. F. N. Doubleday, writing in the 1920s, records that RK “has the concluding chapter of the Mulvaney stories in his mind. He knows just what happened, but I have never been able to get it out of him and I do not think he will ever write it. I may say that Mulvaney died in this unpublished and, I believe, unwritten story. I sincerely trust that even yet Kipling will write the final act in the form of a short story.” See *The Memoirs of a Publisher* (New York: Doubleday & Co., 1972), 72.

2. Edward Marston (1825–1914), director of Sampson Low, Marston, Searle and Rivington, publishers of the Indian Railway Library series in England. It is said that the arrangement for Sampson Low and Co. to be the English publishers of the Railway Library series was made by RK himself, “the only occasion in his life … when he negotiated directly with a London publisher. He visited Sampson Low’s office, at St. Dunstan’s House near the bottom of Fetter Lane, in November, and struck some sort of bargain, but not a good one for himself.” See Charles Carrington, *Rudyard Kipling: His Life and Works* (London: Macmillan, 1955), 133–34.

3. The reference is to the stock of the Indian Railway Library held in England, some 16,000 copies (Lycett, *Kipling*, 272) or perhaps 10,000: see 24 August 1894.

4. That is, the “Commissariat Camels” section of “The Parade Song of the Camp-Animals,” following “The Servants of the Queen.”

5. No setting of “Bobs” appears in the list of musical settings in Richards, *Bibliography*. The poem was not collected until *The Five Nations; The Seven Seas*, vol. 22 of the Bombay Edition, 1914. RK perhaps withheld the poem on account of its
“slighting reference to Wolseley” in line 47 (RK to H.A. Gwynne, 13 June 1904: ALS, Dalhousie University). By 1914 both Roberts and Wolseley were dead.

To A. P. Watt 28 June [1894]

*ALS*

Arundel House / Tisbury

June. 28.

Dear Watt:

Yours of the 27th to hand. I’ve sent off a wire to say that I can’t come up and we will now talk business. As you say, the projected purchase of Moreau’s books is rather a serious business.

But £1200 is preposterous—on the basis of his recent returns.¹ (You may remember that the same offer was made a year and a half ago when nothing was said about excluding the Indian copyright). Practically, the only book I really want, of course, is *Soldiers Three*. All that M. seems to be selling is the copyright in England (there is no American copyright) on these books.

I can see my way to giving £1000 down for the books though that is simply a scandalous price seeing that the first crop and the aftermath of the sales has been reaped and it will be a falling market hereafter year by year.

What I want to get at is the advance McM. are willing to make on account of royalties on the sale of these books.² I don’t need any advance on the security of my other books. They have nothing to do with case. I am perfectly prepared to pay the whole sum if necessary tomorrow but £1200 is too much and they can’t expect to get it. Make it £1000 and we’ll get to business. Of course Low³ must be squared absolutely. I should thoroughly revise the books from beginning to end and McM ought to be able to make a good little thing of them.

I enclose another “musical” letter which needs sitting on. Gerard F. Cobbe has sent in a long explanatory letter about things in general which I am not answering. Least said soonest mended. I have told him to confine himself and his billet doux to you.
Very sincerely
Rudyard Kipling

Notes  28 June [1894]

1. Moreau’s price for the Indian Railway Library copyrights.

2. RK planned to revise thoroughly the stories in the Indian Railway Library and to add to them once he regained the copyrights. He hoped that Macmillan might make a good bargain for them. Writing in January 1895, he says that he was enabled to buy back the copyrights because “Macmillan came in with a big offer of royalty and I’ve just got through the deal” (to Ripley Hitchcock, 22 January 1895: Letters, II: 170). In the event, the revisions were limited and no new stories were added to the English edition of Soldiers Three, The Story of the Gadsbys, In Black And White published by Macmillan in 1895; but in the American edition two previously-published stories are added in order to establish copyright: “Of Those Called,” CMG, 13 July 1889, and “The Wreck of the Visigoth,” CMG, 25 April 1889. The second collection of the revised stories in the English edition, Wee Willie Winkie, Under the Deodars, The Phantom ’Rickshaw, 1895, contains no added stories, but the American edition, under the title of Under the Deodars, The Phantom ’Rickshaw, Wee Willie Winkie, does: “The Track of a Lie,” CMG, 12 July 1888; “The Pit that They Digged,” St. James’s Gazette, 14 December 1889.

3. Sampson Low & Co; there was no longer any Low in the firm, which was run by Edward Marston.

To A. P. Watt  21 July 1894

ALS

Tisbury
Sat July 21. 94.

Dear Watt—

I am sending under separate cover an initial letter of my father’s which I want reproduced about 1 ½ inch—to judge of the effect. May I trouble you to find a “process man” and send him (my father) the proof as soon as may be. It’s for a story in “Black and White” and we want to see how the process suits his style of drawing before we go any further.¹

I am also enclosing for use in the market the following verses.
The Men that fought at Minden.

That Day all Barrack Room ballads

Birds of Prey March

The Miracles (this should suit Gilder of the Century)²

The Liner She’s a Lady (doubtful)

Mulholland’s contract (Cosmopolitan?)

The Story of Ung (this might serve the Idler in lieu of a tale. It’s timely).³

In each case we must be careful that the people to whom they are sold understand that the American copyright is reserved; and that the verses are properly entered at Washington. They must be typed for me as soon as possible.

What news of Moreau, Wheeler and Co?

Very sincerely yours

Rudyard Kipling

We’re sailing from Southampton on the 5th Aug.:⁴ so if there is any business pending let us begin early.

R. K.

P.P.S. Would you mind sending a boy to Sir E. Burne Jones’s

The Grange

47 North End Rd

Kensington W.

to take delivery of the proofs, which he has signed, of the Briar Rose.⁵

In regard to the pictures you’ve so kindly given me—how do you purpose to send ’em over. Cleveland still wars for his tariff and the custom house ramps as of old.⁶ Could my Briar Roses go with ’em?

Notes 21 July 1894

1. Not identified. If Black and White means the magazine of that name, then nothing by RK appeared in it until December 1898. If it means RK’s stories in In
Black and White for the Macmillan revised edition of 1895, then no initial letter by JLK is in that.

2. Richard Watson Gilder (1844–1909), poet, and editor of the Century Magazine since 1881. RK had known him since RK’s first visit to New York, 1892.

3. All of these poems, except “The Story of Ung,” were published in the Pall Mall Gazette between 25 April and 13 June 1895. “The Story of Ung” appeared in The Idler, December 1894. All were collected in The Seven Seas, 1896. I do not know why “The Story of Ung” was “timely.”

4. On the Kaiser Wilhelm II, arriving at Hoboken on 14 August. The ship is mentioned in “The Ship that Found Herself” (The Day’s Work).

5. Reproductions of (or studies for?) the four panels painted by Sir Edward Burne-Jones, 1885–1890, illustrating the story of the Sleeping Beauty. The panels are mounted at Buscot Park, Oxfordshire. Back in Brattleboro Mary Cabot was allowed to have the “Burne-Jones pictures, four of them, for a week and they have made quite a little sensation here” (letter of 18 April 1895: Mary C. Cabot, “Rudyard Kipling at Naulakha,” 38).

6. President Cleveland was at this time unsuccessfully attempting to lower tariffs.

To A. P. Watt 26 July 1894

ALS

Arundell House. / Tisbury. / Wilts

July. 26. 94

Dear Watt—

I’m just back from a visit to my old school in Westward Ho! where I’ve cheered myself black in the face. On my return I heard of my wife’s adventures in town. Thanking you both for looking after her so well. You see I’m not the only member of the family who gets hard up. Before you know where you are the Baby will be strolling in for a tenner.

By the way it was my fault for not telling you that the book of verses can’t possibly come out before the Spring. There’s nothing to be gained but a very great deal to be lost. So when I send back the typed verses you’ll have full time to sell.
Yes. B.B’s should go to Sir Douglas first.\textsuperscript{3} That man of Sir Edward’s\textsuperscript{4} was a fool. Those Briar Rose pictures were stacked ready in the hall to be taken away. The B. Jones’s will be back in town by now.

Many thanks for your excellent scheme of sending over the pictures. That is distinctly the best way and a great help to me.

After your daughter\textsuperscript{5} has had that peculiarly exhausting experience known as a good time in America it might rest and amuse her to come into the country to us. It would give us great pleasure to see her at any time, and we could show her a new side of American life.

Thanks for what you have done about Sheard. Another proof of what they’ll do even \textit{with} such an agent as you are. No wonder musical publishers grow fat.

\textbf{Ever yours sincerely}

\textit{Rudyard Kipling}

Notes 26 July 1894


2. CK went to London on 24 July “to see a dressmaker” (\textit{Letters}, II: 142) and had lunch with Henry James that day (CK Diary). She evidently had to borrow money from Watt.

3. Sir Douglas Straight of the \textit{Pall Mall Magazine}; he bought the new Barrack-Room Ballads.


5. Elizabeth Watt (b. 1874), the younger of Watt’s two daughters: CK’s diary does not record a visit from her.

\textbf{To A. S. Watt} 3 August 1894

\textit{ALS}

\textit{Arundell House: / Tisbury:}

\textit{Aug. 3. 94.}

Dear Alick,
Yes. All things considered we will accept Scribners £100 for McAndrews. I expect they need it for Christmas. Tell ’em to send proofs to me at Brattleboro.

In regard to A. H. Miles Elocution business,¹ returned herewith. I think it should be allowed. A German chap is translating Moti Guj and that also seems to me all right.

I suppose one of these days we shall come to the end of the Moreau business but it seems a dark and tangled web just now.

Ever yours
Rudyard K.

I send revised proofs typed and Letting in the Jungle.² But I want all P.M.G. proofs early.

P.S. You must impress it on the P.M.G. that I get the Jungle tale proofs in ample time to add head line poems as I think necessary.

R K.

Notes 3 August 1894

1. Alfred Henry Miles (1848–1929), editor and miscellaneous author. He made many collections of songs, poems, and stories, mostly intended for “recitations.” His New Standard Elocutionist was in a sixth edition in 1902. See also 14 April 1893, note 1.

2. Pall Mall Gazette, 12 and 13 December 1894 (Second Jungle Book).

To A. S. Watt 24 August 1894

AL

Naulakha / Brattleboro / Vermont.


Dear Alick:

With many thanks—yours of the 15th and 18th inst with the draft of the agreement.¹
I have already cabled “sign.” It seems to me a thoroughly satisfactory piece of business carried through in really brilliant shape and I owe untold thanks to you and your father—whether Moreau signs or not.¹

I have read and re-read your long letter of commentary on it and it satisfies me.

These are my only remarks.

In your comment on clause 3. you say that under the original agreement M. agreed to pay me only £4 in the thousand. To the best of my recollection it was always 1d a copy—and I can’t see how so close a business man as M. would have gone on paying even one superfluous 3s−4d.

Wheeler has behaved like a trump throughout and when the contract is signed I’ll write him a letter. I note that there is no 9th clause in the agreement. It jumps from eight to ten. Is that all right.

What you say about clearing off the mass of unsold shilling stock is very just, and I am quite willing to let M. have 5,000 (free of royalty) for use in India if he takes 10,000 in all. Anything is better than having the market loaded with old paper—He must take the full 10,000, though. That I think is all that need be said about the contract which your father will sign on my behalf.

I did not know that there was so much coming in: so I send a draft with this for £250 which, with what you will have in hand, will make up the first payment. The £700 shall be promptly forthcoming when the day required.

You have my authorization to conclude the arrangement with MacMillan. Do you think that the 6 books would make two six shillings. I don’t and Mc M. aren’t much given to padding.²

I shall revise ’em from beginning to end of course.

As regards the American markets, the books are pretty well fly-blown. I can put in a new tale (written at the same time as the Soldiers Three) with the military tales if you think that would do any good and I believe I can get another tale or two from the Weeks News in which they first came out. Who do you suppose w’d care to pay 15% on that edition in the States? Appletons?

[The rest is missing.]³
Notes 24 August 1894

1. For the purchase of the copyrights in the Indian Railway Library series. According to CK’s Diary, 9 July 1894, “Watt buys back the six railway books from Wheeler for £1200.” On 10 September she writes “Watt concludes buying back the six railway books.” A.H. Wheeler and Co. retained the Indian rights.

2. The two volumes of the revised Indian Railway Library series were both published at six shillings.

3. On a separate page CK has written “I find the draft can’t get off until the steamer of Thursday. / C. Kipling.”

To A. S. Watt 2 September [1894]

ALS

East Gloucester

Sept. 2.

Dear Alick

Yours of the 25th Aug has followed us to this place of ease by the sea where we are resting for a few days.1 We return to Brattleboro this afternoon.

I fancied there might be a little difficulty in the closing of the contract. I am entirely willing to forgo all royalty on 5000 copies of the Moreau books if he takes the 10,000 out of the country. I don’t know whether I made that clear in my last.

About the poems offered to the P.M.G. it doesn’t make much difference. My poems won’t be out much before June so Straight can take what he wants if he wants ’em before that date and the rest can be distributed. I don’t think there is anything else.

J. B.2 is surely a big haul. Who brought him in?

Ever yours

Rudyard K.

Notes 2 September [1894]

1. They left on 30 August and stayed at the Fairview Inn, where Mrs. Balestier and CK’s sister Josephine were staying (Rees Extracts, 30 August). This was the first of four visits that RK made to Gloucester between 1894 and 1896, the last two in
connection with work on "Captains Courageous." See David C. McAveeney, *Kipling in Gloucester: The Writing of Captain Courageous* (Gloucester, MA: Curious Traveller Press, 1996, 2). This letter may be misdated, since the Rees Extracts and the Brattleboro paper, the *Phoenix*, both report RK as returning to Brattleboro on Monday, 3 September.

2. The only male "J.B." among Watt's clients at this time was John Burnet (1863–1928), Professor of Greek at St. Andrews.

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**To A. S. Watt** 10 September [1894]

*ALS*

*Naulakha / Brattleboro / Vermont.*

Sept. 10.

Dear Alick,

Yours of the 1st inst with revised contract which is returned herewith signed, initialled and witnessed.\(^1\)

I entirely agree with M’s taking the 10,000 copies at 1/2\(^d\) royalty and see the justice of all the other provisions.

None the less if you can by any means get hold of the plates of the books it would be a good job. I didn’t suppose that in business contracts you could hurt any one’s feelings but publishing seems to be carried on a higher and more sensitive plane.

Many thanks for the draft.

Where by the way are Appletons accounts of sale of the Many Inventions?

Need I say again how indebted I am to you and your “parent” for the way you’ve put the job through. When you advise me that [name obscured by defect in paper: E.M.?] and Low have signed I’ll write a pretty letter to Wheeler who as you say has acted very squarely throughout.

Ever yours sincerely

Rudyard Kipling

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Note 10 September [1894]

1. See 24 August 1894.
To A. S. Watt  4 October [1894]

ALS  
Naulakha / Brattleboro / Vermont.
   Oct 4.

Dear Alick—

Here be four questions I’ve just thought of

(1) when does your sister come over and is there any chance of her coming our way.

(2) What has happened to the various “poems” of mine.

(3) Where is leaves from a winter note book and why doesn’t the Idler take it.

(4) Where is the “Briar Rose.”¹

That’s all at present as the children say but I hope to be sending the 6 books revised at the end of the week.

Yrs ever
Rudyard K.

Note  4 October [1894]

To A. P. Watt  18 October 1894

ALS  
Naulakha / Brattleboro / Vermont.
   Oct. 18. 94

Dear Watt

I’ve been doing a little business on my own account. Enclosed please find typed [copy] of a new Jungle story¹ the English and American rights of which I have sold to St Nicholas for March number. Will you sell him in Australia, India and Singapore for March 1895.
In future St Nick will have to buy through you and so will the Century. I’ve tried ’em both and it was curious to notice how after a little while they began to take liberties with the unprotected author.

I’ve seen Brett in New York\(^2\) and it seems best—things considered—that if there is any money to be made out of the American sale of the Moreau books MacMillan should handle them this side the water. Brett says he’ll give 15\% on sales. I have almost finished revising the English Edition of the Moreau books. For America I intend to run in some new tales—i.e. tales that have not been published in book form before but have appeared in papers in India—just enough to give the Edition a new tone.\(^3\) I have not heard from you for a long time and trust very much that there is nothing wrong with your health.

Very sincerely always,
Rudyard Kipling

Notes 18 October 1894


2. They were in New York, 20–26 September: “R. sees Mr. Brett” (CK Diary, 26 September 1894).

3. See 28 June 1894 n.2.

To A. S. Watt 22 October 1894

AL

*Naulakha / Brattleboro / Vermont.*

Oct 22: 94

Dear Watt:

Your long letter of Oct: 10\(^{th}\) with statements of royalties on the Macmillan books, and Heinemann’s statements to hand after a long silence which made me think something had happened.

What you tell me of Sampson Low’s little “mistake” is of course purely disgusting but I had a notion that Moreau and they between them would serve us some dog’s trick or another and the end shows I
was right. By the way didn’t you write me a few letters ago that some stipulation or other which I proposed in the contract would insult them? They don’t seem to have any honour worth worrying about.

But there’s no use in crying over spilt milk.

Please understand I do want the plates. In fact I shan’t be happy till I know they are in my possession and safe against further mistakes. I assume now that the books are mine.

I have given up a great deal of my time to revising them. It doesn’t show much in the book but I found as I got into it that unless I rewrote from end to end, and so lost the spirit in which the six books were written I could do but little.

The extra tales (not the death of Mulvaney) are of course only for the American Edition. As to the new Mulvaney tale my notion is that in a little time MacM. could bring out for such as care for the soldiers a book of all the Mulvaney tales collected together. They should have a good sale but that we can discuss later. The six books will go on the English market without additions, copyright being secure there.

As to America. As I remember my agreement with the United States Book Co. it was for three years. However in a country without copyright I am powerless to guarantee MacM. against anything but you may be very sure that Brett on this side will see that MacM’s interests are protected. Mac M. can take or leave the book in America as they please. I shall guarantee nothing this side the water.

The whole business about Appleton’s delay in accounts is bad and slack. I do not remember to have had any statement from them since the “Many Inventions” was first published; and the advance paid. They must be spoken to as well as the Century people or it is no use making agreements which are not kept. Also, I particularly desire that MacM’s should pay this year on time as they did not do last year by six weeks. You see we have to meet the note for £610³ this year and I do not wish to draw from my principal.

I shall be sending the six books (revised) to you in about a fortnight from the present date so that they will be in your hands about the middle of November and can be published as soon as MacM’s desire. I want to have my mind free of the business and go on with my verses.
I should be obliged if on receipt of this you would cable me how my bank acct in England stands. I do not want any money sent over here till I write for it.

What do you think of a Kipling Birthday book. I have been pestered with several applicants (some of whom you may remember) and at last have found one collection of quotations to my mind. It has been done by a person in whom I have the fullest confidence and should be ready for press by Xmas. I have to ask MacM. for permission to use extracts from my books and who do you think would be the best firm to undertake it both here [sic] and in America. I should get my father to design a cover and it ought to be a great success.

I don’t want any advance on acct of American sales of the 6 books [no closing or signature; the P.S. is written at the top of the first page].

P.S. I give this for what it is worth. $400,000 of the Harpers’ paper are supposed or said to be on the market and the firm itself in a somewhat tight place. This may be a good deal exaggerated but it is worth remembering.

The younger members of the firm are said to be pulling the older ones into all sorts of risky ventures.

RK

Notes 22 October 1894

1. See 10 September 1894.

2. This was not done. The closest approach is Soldier Tales, published in both English and American editions (the latter titled Soldier Stories) by Macmillan in 1896, in which five of the seven stories are Mulvaney stories: see 7 February 1896.

3. Part payment for the copyright of the Indian Railway Library volumes.

4. The Kipling Birthday Book Compiled by Joseph Finn, London, 1896, containing quotations from RK’s work under dates for the whole of a year and with facing blank pages on which to enter birthdays. “Joseph Finn” was RK’s sister-in-law Josephine Balestier (1870–1951), later Mrs. Theodore Dunham. RK evidently encouraged and assisted her work, for the quotations include many that come from his unidentified writings or from original texts that vary from the collected forms. These could have been known only through access to the scrapbooks that RK kept of cuttings of his own work.

5. JLK did twelve full-page drawings with Indian settings for the book, one for each month of the year, each one alluding to a sign of the zodiac.
6. Following the panic of 1893 the firm was in trouble but, after a reorganization in 1896, continued to operate until, in 1899, it went into receivership: see John Tebbel, *A History of Book Publishing in the United States* (New York: R. R. Bowker, 1975), II: 196–98.

To A. P. Watt  5 November 1894

*ALS*

*Naulakha / Brattleboro / Vermont.*

Nov. 5: 1894

Dear Watt:

I send to you all six books revised and gone through from beginning to end as I have told you. I have altered them as little as possible for now that their sales have been so large they belong almost as much to the readers as to myself.

I have not been able to get an English edition to correct from and the American somewhat inverts the order of the tales.¹ They will however be printed in the order in which they have appeared heretofore in the shilling books and the books themselves will keep their old order *but* and (this is important) the sub titles of the books will be dropped.²

I do not fancy that McM. will need any more instructions but if they do will you ask them to write me. I shall need to see proofs of the book of course.

Very sincerely

Rudyard Kipling

Notes  5 November 1894

1. At this point the only English edition to contain all the stories in the Indian Railway Library series was the two volumes published by Sampson Low, Marston and Co. in 1892. The American edition in one volume was that published as *Indian Tales*, 1890: see Richards, *Bibliography*, 593, 597–98.

2. *Soldiers Three* was originally subtitled in 18th century fashion “A Collection of Stories Setting forth certain Passages in the Lives and Adventures of Privates Terence Mulvaney, Stanley Ortheris, and John Learoyd. Done into type and edited by Rudyard Kipling.” None of the other volumes in the series uses this style. “The Story of the Gadsbys” was subtitled “A Tale Without a Plot,” and that was dropped.
To A. P. Watt  
14 November 1894

*ALS*

*Naulakha / Brattleboro / Vermont.*  
Nov. 14. 1894

Dear Watt—

I am sending with this for disposal one tale which is suitable to *St Nicholas* or any good boys paper; and another Barrack room ballad for sale where you will.\(^1\) What has been the sale of all those verses I handed in before I left England.\(^2\)

Also: pray you do not forget my N.Z. insurance premium and the English one.

Yours in haste  
Rudyard Kipling

The St Nicholas rates (for English and American rights only) are $100 per 1000 but they give me too much bother in correspondence about details of titles and such.

Notes  
14 November 1894  
2. See 21 July 1894.

To A. P. Watt  
25 November 1894

*ALS*

*Naulakha / Brattleboro / Vermont.*  
Nov: 25. ’94

Dear Watt

Very many thanks for your long letter of the 7\(^{th}\) inst: wh. I will now deal with in detail.

I return herewith the Macmillan contracts for the 6 books signed.
As regards what you say about the purchase of Low’s plates or moulds of my books, it seems to me we needn’t waste any money in that direction. The revised copy was sent to you long ago and MacM. should have that on the market so soon that the old forms will hardly be necessary.\(^1\) And I am quite willing to let diamond cut diamond—i.e. to let Mac M’s men see that Low doesn’t use ’em any more. Therefore let us save £10 and thank God we are “rid of a knave” as Shakespeare says.

The reason why new tales should not be added to the 6 books in their Mac M. form is briefly that they have sold in the aggregate about 250,000 copies. Very good. After such a sale the public looks on those books as its own property and rather resents any additions or illustrations, to those they have been accustomed to. Besides the new matter (which is really matter from old Pioneers etc.) is not good enough for London or England by a long sight. All I want is for it to “freshen up” the books this side as Brett issues ’em and get some sort of sale out of the thing. My own idea is that it is rather like flogging a dead horse so far as the U.S. are concerned but Brett is enthusiastic.

Of course the idea of a Mulvaney book for England would be unaffected and I agree with you that, if I wrote the two extra tales and turned the whole thing ready by October next, it should go.

I have counting the P.M.G. four tales five new tales \([sic]\) towards a new Jungle book.\(^2\) I don’t wish to bring that out before next Christmas. It will be a good book because I am taking trouble with the verse. You might cast round and see what offers are in the wind. \textit{But don’t pledge me to a date.}

I note what you say in regard to the \textit{Century} and \textit{Appleton} accts. It is a tough job to get in money. When next we meet I’ll tell you some of my experiences that will make you laugh—what comes of dealing with magazines single-handed. A man I rather want to get for the fold told me many times that he couldn’t see the use of chucking away ten per cent to—“let another man handle your correspondence” as he called it. I shall be able to prove to him that one loses 30% in time and friction.

With regard to MacM—I withdraw my base insinuations. They certainly are a straight firm and I shall be curious to see whether they rise at the idea of the Birthday book.
I hope to have the thing ready by the end of the year. It will contain a mass of stuff that is not generally accessible for I have given the man who did it exceptional facilities in that line. Let us get some terms and permission of the publishers and go ahead.

Apropos of the *Century*, to go back a minute—they are not going to have any book of mine at 15% if Brett can give that much for old stuff: 20% for a new Jungle book will be the lowest All the same they don’t appeal to me much. They consider themselves the first mag. in the world and perhaps they aren’t so far wrong. We must palaver them. I am glad about Boosey and *Shiv and the grass hopper*. Yes. I have settled Raymond Hunt and am perfectly willing to take the arrangement you propose.3

I am glad you find the accounts in good order for I’m sailing very near the wind for a month or two. There has been a good deal of good stock knocking about at low prices after these bad times and we’ve been putting all we could into them—under good advice of course.

I expect Conan Doyle here for Thanksgiving—from the 28 to the 30th. His man Pond4 has been knocking him about all over the country and a little rest will do him good. I can’t see why a man who isn’t hard up goes in for public readings.

The Spectator arrived. Many thanks for the same. I’m glad you liked the tale.5

Mrs. Kipling was not in any way hurt by her accident6 and our lassie thought it was rather amusing but—it is a risk I don’t care to run every day and it has shaken my wife a little. She sends greetings.

On reflection—the tale I sent you called a “qualified pilot” seems much more fit for Harpers young people than *St Nick*.7 I send now, a tale “The ship that Found herself” which is exactly what *St Nicholas* cares for.8 Pray you send it there—$100 per thousand if for America and England only and $135 for all serial rights.

This I think covers all in hand. I am very busy over my verses and consequently very happy and have done yet another barrack room on the strength of it.

Give my best salaams to Alick and with all regard from us both.
Yours [ever?] sincerely
Rudyard Kipling

Notes  25 November 1894

1. The American edition of the revised Indian Railway Library stories was published by Macmillan in New York on 9 February 1895.

2. These are puzzling numbers. Of the eight stories in the Second Jungle Book, four had already appeared in the Pall Mall Gazette. Only four more stories were added, and of those four, one (“The King’s Ankus”) had already been published. Thus only three “new tales,” all published in 1895, went into the Second Jungle Book. I have no idea what the other two new tales were. Nothing published by RK in 1895, apart from the three new tales included in the Second Jungle Book, would appear to qualify.

3. Raymond Hunt’s setting of “Shiv and the Grasshopper” was published by Boosey and Co. in 1896. “Raymond Hunt” was the pseudonym of the American May Catlin (Mrs. Otto R. Hansen), one of the daughters of the widowed Mrs. Julius Catlin. RK met the family in Bermuda this year and remained on friendly terms with them thereafter. The pseudonym combined the last names of May’s maternal grandparents, Seth Hunt and Frances Raymond.


6. Described at length in RK to Louisa Baldwin, 29 October 1894 (Letters, II: 156–57). One of the horses pulling the carriage with CK, Josephine, her nurse, and Howard, the coachman, in it, “got his leg over the pole and as the coachman was pulling them away from a hill the off hind wheel of the trap gave way—spilling C., Armstrong and the Baby.” No one was hurt. This happened on 27 October (CK Diary).

7. See 14 November 1894.

7. Published in The Idler, December 1895; McClure’s, March 1896 (The Day’s Work).

To A. P. Watt  24 December 1894

ALS

Naulakha / Brattleboro / Vermont.
Dec 24. 1894
Dear Watt—

I send you the enclosed which is going the round of the papers and it seems to me that it might be worth your while to jump rather heavily on Master Bok, and the “well known literary agent.”¹ My agent doesn’t leak and I don’t know whether you would care to have this nameless liar who writes to Bok masquerading under your name. It seems to touch your reputation rather more than mine and you might perhaps see a chance for telling as much to Bok and making him retract.

Yours in haste

Rudyard Kipling

I’ve never peddled tales to publishers in England in my life, any more than I’ve sold a tale for £3. RK

Note  24 December 1894

1. I have not found the item that RK describes in this letter. Evidently Bok had written something hostile about literary agency, naming both Watt and RK.