ILLUSTRATIONS

WHILE KIPLING traveled with Aleck and Ted Hill in the Far East, the Professor recorded their progress with black-and-white photographs, preserved with Kipling’s manuscripts at the Huntington Library. Some have Kipling’s hand-written captions. For example, a picture of Japanese visitors at a tea house in Arashimaya (a picnic spot near Kyoto that Kipling misspelled “Arashima”) featured a demure young woman. He wrote, “Oh brave new world that has such creatures in it.” The misquotation from Shakespeare’s The Tempest appeared as an epigraph to Letter XVI in From Sea to Sea and was later corrected.

There is no photographic record of Kipling’s journey across the States. As a result illustrations for Kipling’s America are scarce. John Collier’s portrait (Frontispiece) was done between Kipling’s two American sojourns. His wife called it “far and away the best” ever done. Kipling seated at a writing table in Simla (Fig. 1), an early example of what would become a familiar pose of self-confidence, was taken a year or so before his father’s sketch (Fig. 2), which was made shortly before he left India. Kipling described it to Mrs. Hill: “the Pater shot me as I was writing; and the result was a lovely pen and ink, and a blue stump sketch—just head and pipe; the former frowning and the later fuming. It’s a great deal more characteristic than any photo...” (Letters, I, 298). The photo of Kipling’s friends, Professor and Mrs. S. A. Hill (Fig. 3), serves as a reminder that “Ted” Hill played a central role in his development.

Recurrent concerns during Kipling’s travels give other illustrations their contingency. The Pioneer press works (Fig. 4) is a cue for Kipling’s frustration over Indian workmen who printed his work without understanding English. Again and again Kipling deplores American rail travel, neglecting to mention the furious pace of rail construction in the West before the 1893 Wall Street Panic. The Southern line over the Siskiyou Mountains into Oregon was barely two years old in 1889 (Letter Six). It turned out to be so steep, circuitous and uneconomical that the company relocated it eastward on a
safer grade (the Natron Cutoff). The two-mile Stampede Tunnel that frightened Kipling opened in 1888, a year before he went through. His ferry ride from Seattle to Vancouver, British Columbia, came about because the rail line between the two cities was not completed until 1891. Hasty construction explains many hazards of rail travel; and rail-connected accidents, injuries and deaths became a national scandal. The perils can be seen in the Marent Gulch Trestle, west of Missoula, Montana (Fig. 5), and the dramatic 900-foot “match stick” Alto trestle (back cover) that belonged to the Oregon Railway & Navigation Company, whose line ran from Pendleton to Spokane. The bridge collapsed on 4 August 1894, plunging sixteen freight cars into the ravine and injuring five crewmen.

The 1889 Yellowstone Park photo (Fig. 6) reminds us that Kipling often criticized the casual appearance and behavior of American soldiers. The officer (right foreground) is Captain George S. Anderson whom Kipling may have met. (Identified by Kim Scott, Special Collections Librarian, Montana State University.)

A copy of Letter One (Fig. 7) as it first appeared attests to the Pioneer’s subdued format, especially by comparison with the New York Herald’s gaudy headings. Letter One also provides an example of Kipling’s editing for republication in From Sea to Sea (XXII). He omitted the third and fourth sentences, perhaps because they were no longer relevant or because the prose seems cluttered. Letter One recounts Kipling’s wild voyage across the Pacific on the SS City of Peking (Fig. 8), the story contrasting starkly with the ship riding calmly at anchor.

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The Library of Congress owns the photos of the Pioneer press works and Professor and Mrs. Hill, both of which are in the public domain.

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Requests to the University of Oregon to reproduce the Alto trestle photo (back cover) went unanswered. This item is probably in public domain; but if this is incorrect, acknowledgment will be added in a subsequent edition.
Fig. 1  Kipling in Simla

Fig. 2  Sketch of Kipling by His Father

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Fig. 3  Professor and Mrs. S. A. Hill

Fig. 4  Pioneer Press Works

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Fig. 5  Marent Gulch Trestle, Montana

Fig. 6  Soldiers in Yellowstone Park
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Fig. 7  Pioneer  Saturday November 23, 1889

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