

Rudyard Kipling

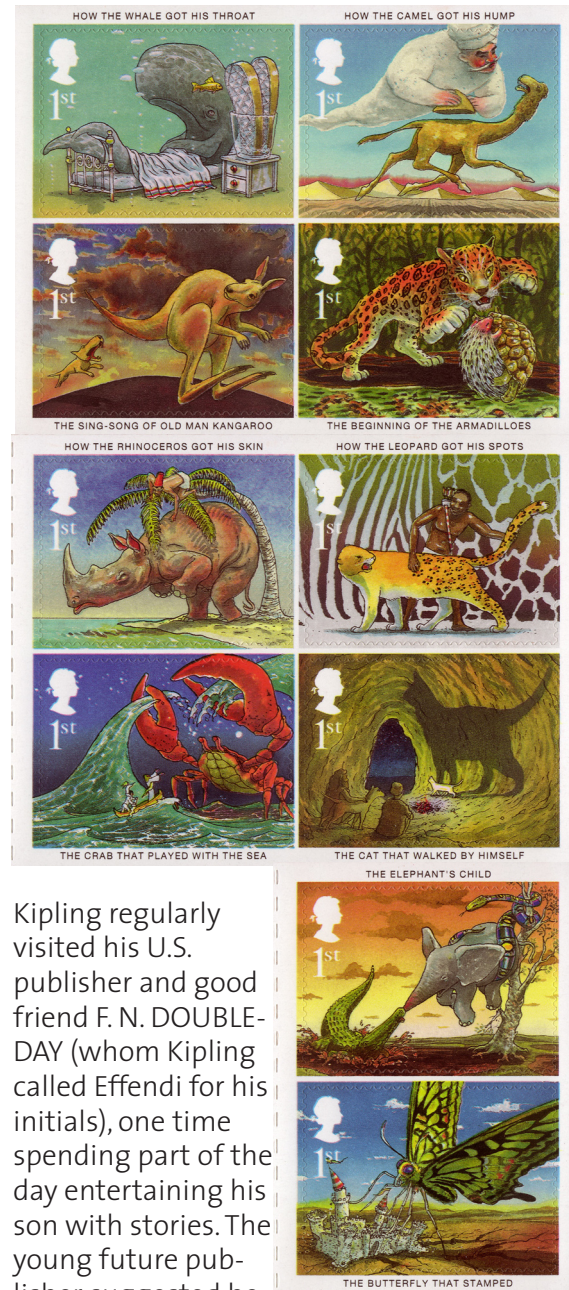
Author, Nobel Laureate (1865 – 1936)

Kipling was born in Bombay, British India, and when he was six, he and his younger sister were sent from his beloved Bombay to Southsea (Portsmouth), to be cared for by a couple that took in children of British nationals living in India. He stayed there six years, recalling it decades later with horror. After attending school in Devon, Kipling obtained a newspaper job in Lahore (now in Pakistan). Writing at a furious pace, Kipling published seven collections of short stories before leaving India in early 1889, eventually settling in England.

In London, Kipling met a young American writer and publishing agent, Wolcott Balestier, who subsequently died of typhoid fever in 1891 just after he and Kipling completed the novel *Naulahka*. *The New York Times* obituary noted that he was the grandson of ROBERT N. BALESTIER, “one of the founders of the Century Club.” [ed. note: Mr. Balestier did not join the club until 1856.] In January 1892, Kipling married Wolcott’s sister Carrie Balestier, whom he had met a year earlier. Henry James gave the bride away.

The couple settled on a farm near Brattleboro, Vermont, not far from the Balestier family estate. With the birth of their first child, the family relocated to a cottage nearer to Carrie’s brother, Beatty, and Kipling named the house Naulakha (correctly spelled) in honor of Wolcott. Naulakha was built by HENRY RUTGERS MARSHALL. Within four years, he produced the *Jungle Books*, a novel (*Captains Courageous*), and a profusion of short stories and poetry.

In 1896 the Kiplings moved to Devon, England, and in the first decade of the 20th century he was at the height of his popularity. In 1907 he was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature, the youngest writer ever to receive the award. Kipling kept writing until the early 1930s and died in January 1936. He joined the Century in 1895 and remained a member for 41 years.



Kipling regularly visited his U.S. publisher and good friend F. N. DOUBLEDAY (whom Kipling called Effendi for his initials), one time spending part of the day entertaining his son with stories. The young future publisher suggested he write them up and that is how *Just So Stories* came to be published in 1902. Kipling rewarded young Nelson a penny royalty per copy, a practice that continues today. Nelson Jr. and his sister Neltje split the legacy, which can vary from 15 cents to \$4.

On his election, Kipling wrote to Johnson saying the Club had asked him for an “Imperial Photograph for the Archives.” “What the deuce is an ‘Imperial Photograph?’ ..Something like this?” And then he added this sketch of himself.

Image provided by Great Britain Collectors Club

