

## TITLES AVAILABLE

Continued

“Red Spider” Paperback. Praxis Books 1993 £5.00“

“Mehalah” Paperback. Praxis Books 1998 £8.50

“Guavas the Tinner”. Paperback. Praxis Books. 2000. £7.50

“Cheap Jack Zita” Paperback Praxis Books. 2001. £8.00

“Kitty Alone” Paperback. Praxis Books. 2001. £9.00

“The Broom Squire” Paperback. Blackdown Press. 1996. £9.99

### *Biography:*

“Now the Day is Over” by Harold Kirk-Smith. Richard Kay.  
1997

“ ‘Half My Life’ The Story of Sabine Baring-Gould and  
Grace ” by Keith Lister. Charnwood Publications, 2002. £12.95  
(£2.00 P&P) Available from the author at 13 Grove Road,  
Horbury, Wakefield, West Yorkshire, WF4 6AG

### *Literary Criticism:*

“The West Country as Literary Invention” Simon Trezise.  
2000 University of Exeter Press. £13.99

### *Family History, centred on Lew House:*

“The Mana of Lew” by Cicely Briggs. Praxis Books. 1994.  
£5.00 Available from Sallie Briggs, Whispering Winds, Brentor,  
Tavistock, Devon. PL19 OLS

*A Bibliography is available from the Hon. Secretary.*

# SABINE BARING-GOULD APPRECIATION SOCIETY



## Newsletter No. 42

## June 2003

## AIMS OF THE SOCIETY

To enable those interested in the man and his work to share their enthusiasm and spread the interest among others. This is to be achieved by means of three Newsletters per annum (October, February and June), a membership list and an Annual Gathering at venues with some association with Sabine Baring-Gould. The annual subscription is £6.00. Members joining during the year will receive back copies of the Newsletter for the current year, which is deemed to start with the October issue, when subscriptions are due.

## THE COMMITTEE

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**Borders Representative:** *Becky Smith*, Crossways Cottage, Walterstone, Herefordshire HR2 0DX. E-mail: author@rebeccatope.fsnet.co.uk

**Newsletter Editor:** *Ron Wawman*, Stable Cottage, Lewdown, Okehampton, Devon EX20 4DQ. E-mail: ronald.wawman@medix-uk.com

- **Sabine Baring-Gould** was born on 28<sup>th</sup> January 1834 in Exeter and died on 2<sup>nd</sup> January 1924 at Lewtrenchard
- He was a hugely influential collector of folksongs at a time when such songs were being rapidly forgotten.
- Folklorist. Magpie collector of anecdotes, practices, beliefs.
- Archaeologist. Pioneer of over 60 excavations on Dartmoor.
- Loved and respected pastor to a widespread Devonshire community
- Reconstructor of buildings - he made enormous changes to both house and church at Lewtrenchard
- As well as 'Onward Christian Soldiers' he wrote other perennial hymns for example: 'Now the Day is Over' and 'Through the Night of Doubt and Sorrow'

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## Editorial

Great news. The next issue of the 'Transactions' is now available. Philip Weller tells us all about it overleaf. To secure your copy at a discount price, send away NOW.

The 'References in Print' this month are intriguing. This regular NL item is particularly valuable as it shows that, to this day, people research and quote from the scholarship of SB-G. The description of Dartmoor in a drought is as vivid and pertinent today as it was when it was written.

Not only are details of October's meeting at Kinver enclosed for your immediate attention, but, after protracted negotiations, Roger Bristow is also able to give us some advance details of the 2004 meeting in Cambridge. There's forward planning for you.

Another splendid bit of planning underlies the announcement by Becky Smith that Praxis Books has republished 'Bladys of the Stewponey' in good time for the Kinver meeting! Send for your copy now.

Quite a lot of this issue reflects the importance SB-G attached to folk music. While Martin Graebe follows an absorbing by-way as only he knows how, Paul Wilson gives us a timely reminder that the structure and content of the Baring-Gould Folk Festival and Study Break draws directly on SB-G's activities and beliefs. A leaflet about this year's festival is enclosed.

**TRANSACTIONS OF THE SBGAS**  
**ISSUE NUMBER TWO**

This second issue of the annual SBGAS *Transactions* contains an account by Ray Scott of the **geographical, historical and literary context of our Annual Case Study for 2001, Cheap Jack Zita**, as a summarisation of the extremely interesting talks which he presented for the weekend meeting at Ely, Prickwillow and Littleport. It is illustrated with pictures from the first edition of the book. The Special Supplement in this issue contains heavily **annotated transcripts of 31 letters (dating from Oct 1894 to Jan 1910) from SBG to John Davies Enys (1837-1912), taken from the private collection of David Shacklock and from the archives of the Royal Institution of Cornwall.** Enys was the one-time President of that Institution, and he carried out archaeological excavations with SBG, Burnard and Anderson. These letters touch upon numerous topics which were incorporated into some of SBG's books and articles, and they provide a fascinating and important source for further research. This is a bumper issue of the *Transactions*, with 50 large-format (A4-size - 210 x 197 mm) pages and card covers.

We have arranged a **discount price of £5.00** (plus postage – see later in this paragraph) per copy, but this is only possible through a large print-run, and we need to get our bulk **order in by 30 June** for printing and distribution during July. Copies ordered **after 30 June will be at the single-copy print-run cost of £6.00** (plus postage – see next paragraph), so we suggest that you **send off your order NOW, to avoid forgetting it at a later date.** Prices with the initial print-run, including postage, are as follows: UK - £6.00; Rest of Europe - £7.00/ €10.00; Rest of World - £8.00/US\$14.00. Cheques, drawn on a British bank, or through American Express, in British Pounds, should be made payable to "Sherlock Publications".

To avoid the extra costs of paying for a British bank draft or an American Express travellers' cheque, overseas members can pay in Pounds, Euros or US Dollars, as indicated above, in cash (currency only – no credit cards or overseas cheques of any sort). Orders, with payment, should be sent to: Philip Weller, 6 Bramham Moor, Hill Head, Fareham, Hampshire, PO14 3RU, England. If you are slightly late in getting your payment off, you can send a pre-order by e-mail, up until 30 June, to:

[sales@sherlockpublications.biz](mailto:sales@sherlockpublications.biz)

For those who do not get their order for *Issue Two* to the above address by 30 June, the single-copy print-run prices are as follows: UK - £7.00; Rest of Europe - £8.00/€12.00; Rest of World - £9.00/US\$16.00.

For those who may have forgotten to order *Issue One*, copies can still be ordered, at the single-copy print-run prices as follows: UK - £6.00; Rest of Europe - £7.00/€10.00; Rest of World - £8.00/US\$14.00.

Special loose-leaf binders are available for the *Transactions* at SBGAS meetings, at a cost of £5.00. They are very difficult to pack and very expensive to post, but any form of A4 loose-leaf binder can be used.

If you have any queries, please contact Philip at the above postal or e-mail address, but **don't forget to send off your order NOW if you want to save money.**

"Every rose has its thorn, every sweet its bitter, every advantage its drawback"

**Sabine Baring-Gould**

"Through Flood and Flame"

## The Enys & Cliff Castles Letters

By David Shacklock

Way back in issue 37 (p9-11) I gave a "taster" for a 'more detailed presentation' of these letters. Other projects have interrupted work on this correspondence, and it has also taken far more time than I envisaged - mainly spent in trying to get answers to teasing references from the internet.

However, well before the point at which I have now decided to close off, with a number of items remaining unresolved, it became clear that the outcome would be well beyond the scope of the Newsletter; and so it is now in the hands of Philip Weller with a view to publication in the Transactions. Unfortunately it appears that our computers are not compatible (I'm still bashing away with Windows 95), so that a lot of extra work is falling upon an already overstretched man, operating from my hard copy.

Meanwhile, to update my report in the Newsletter, I am glad to say that the Royal Cornwall Museum's Trustees have given permission to produce transliterations of the letters that belong to their collection, so that the total now stands at 31. Jane Marchand has provided most useful help with some points of handwriting interpretation, together with notes on some of the archaeological references. If any member or reader of the Transactions can offer information on any of the outstanding items, please let me or Philip Weller know, so that follow up notes can be published in future issues. So far no one has come up with other stray John Enys/SBG letters, or relevant correspondence with other friends of his.

However, on a somewhat different tack, I was fortunate to secure in another auction - via my mobile phone from a railway bridge in a remote spot in Cambridgeshire - a package of letters and artwork, dated July to November 1910, concerning the publication of Cliff Castles, together with the publisher's copy of that book.

There are 10 letters from SBG to 'Gentlemen' - the Directors of Seeley & Service - and one typed reply to the seventh in the series.

They mostly concern technical matters or reproduction and copyright, but nevertheless provide a fascinating insight into the negotiations between author and publisher. You might just conclude that there are good reasons why most publishers prefer to deal with artwork independently of their authors!

If problems with the Enys correspondence can be overcome, I will produce the Seeley letters also for the Transactions. There will be minimal annotation, but I hope it may be possible to reproduce at least the unused sketches, and possibly one or two of the colour originals, so that comparisons can be made with the published black and white or sepia versions. Clearly SBG was disappointed that Seeley & Co found his colour drawings unsatisfactory, and one wonders why he did not stick with John Long who managed eight excellent colour plates in 'A Book of the Cevennes' in 1907 - although it has to be admitted that these are unattributed. Also Methuen has managed eight colour plates by Trevor Hadden a year earlier in A Book of the Rhine, and in the same year that Cliff Castles<sup>4</sup> was published John Lane provided five colour plates in The Land of Teck. However these were reproductions from established artists: so maybe there was a problem with SBG's colour technique. The originals certainly have a charm lacking in the printed plates, and my own - inexpert - view is that the publishers were being rather feeble. Anyway by the time you will see them I hope to have canvassed some professional opinions.

An 'inventory' of the Cliff Castles box:

- A copy of Cliff Castles & Cave Dwellings of Europe in dust wrapper
- 9 letters & one postcard from SBG to the Publisher

(Continued overleaf)

### Enys and Cliff Castles Letters (continued)

- A typed letter from the Publisher to SBG
- A proof copy of the title page
- 13 colour sketches, mounted
- A black & white sketch, from the colour series, mounted
- Six black & white plates
- 14 black & white sketches on paper or card (2)
- Two 9.5"x12" black & white sketches by others
- Four black & white picture postcards

### ISSUE 43, OCTOBER 2003

The editor is always delighted to hear from any member with articles, snippets of information or whatever. Your help in reporting references in print and news of members, especially family members, is particularly welcome. The success of the Newsletter is very much in the hands of the membership. The editor can only work with the material you provide. That said, he finds it a rewarding job through which he gets to know a lot of people and gains a lot of knowledge about SB-G. The next issue will be published as soon as possible after the annual meeting and will include a report on the meeting as well as confirmation of next years subs. The editor would like copy in by mid-September but if that poses problems you will always find him flexible.

### NEW BOOK

#### 'BLADYS OF THE STEWPONEY'

'Bladys of the Stewponey' is the subject of our October gathering this year. An emotional story, featuring one of SBG's strong female characters in jeopardy, with the wrong man claiming her and the right one frustratingly missing during most of the story. A couple of extremely pleasing crones are added for good measure. **Praxis Books is reissuing the book, in plenty of time for you to read it before the event.** Copies should be available by mid-June. **Price £8.50, post free.** Apply to Becky Smith, Praxis Books, Crossways Cottage, Walterstone, Herefordshire. HR2 0DX.

## NEWS FROM THE MEMBERSHIP

**New members:** We welcome **Mr Jonathan Morgan** who writes that he 'has had, since reading Mehalah, a long standing concern for SB-G and his works. Now, in semi-retirement, he feels it is time to develop this interest and, having discovered the existence of the SBGAS, is keen 'to exchange views with other people sharing a liking for this fascinating author and character'

**The Rev. John Hunwicke**, another new member, has the unique distinction of being the only cleric, apart from SB-G, to teach at Lancing College and later hold a position at Lewtrenchard Church. John, and his wife Pam, who also taught at Lancing, have a particular interest in SB-G's time at the Woodard Schools, his spiritual life and Lewtrenchard Church itself.

Also welcome is **Mr Simon Goldsworthy**, son of Elizabeth Goldsworthy and great-great grandson of SB-G who shares Elizabeth's interest in SB-G and the family.

**Keith Lister**, our research co-ordinator is keen to get hold of a copy of *'Iceland: Its Scenes and Sagas'* Can anyone help?

**Roger Bristow** writes to say that he has confirmed arrangements for the **2004 Annual gathering** which will be held in the **Chapel of Clare College**, over the weekend **18/19 September**. Roger has made tentative arrangements at a nearby theological college (Wescott) for B&B for between 10 and 15 rooms (single and double). The cost for 2 nights accommodation (Fri. 17th and Sat. 18th) will be £50 per person for a double room (We do not yet know what a single room will cost), which, for Cambridge, is a bargain (some people may only want one night of course). They will also do us a 2-course evening meal on the Saturday for £7.50.

**Numbers will have to be confirmed by February 2004, as we then have to give a 50% deposit.**

## FURTHER MISCELLANEA

By Elizabeth Goldsworthy

Each of Sabine's children was given a minimal clothing allowance for the year. One year Granny spent nearly all of her's on a beautiful bonnet. One of the cats elected to have her kittens on it. The cat was warmly congratulated by Sabine, who loved animals. The bonnet was a write off and there was no re-imbusement.

Granny used to talk about the 'Blue/Grey' Lady, who came when they were in bed. They used to hurry the nursemaid away since the Lady's stories were so much better. The Blue/Grey lady was presumably the same ghost who woke the nursemaid sleeping beside the dying Beatrice. One is 'very matter of fact' as a child and I never queried it. Sadly, my father told me that the people who bought my grandparent's house had seen my grandmother in her bedroom.

It was Grace who made the vibrancy of life at Lew possible. To quote Irene "She was always the same: warm, interested and gently humorous". It was her mother's photograph that my Grandmother had in her room. When I had photographs of Grace copied for Image, I asked Irene how Grace got her little flowered toques. They came from Liberty's. Despite the responsibility and the workload, which fell on her, she never allowed her own lively spirit to be submerged.

Granny gave me the watch she had bought with the money left her by her Father. She gave me her copy of Ella Wheeler Wilcox's poems after eradicating the inscription and she also gave me the money to buy a writing case when she heard that I didn't have one at school where they were almost de rigeur. All these I treasured.

Bude was always the place for holidays as the Lew children grew up. I never heard of Sabine or Grace being there but I suppose Sabine might well have gone there when writing about Hawker. Certainly, at 2 and 3 years old, I was sent there with my grandparents. Sabine's daughter, Vera (Veronica) King and her doctor husband lived nearby at Stratton. I remember scandalizing the Kings by referring to my father as Jack on one of these occasions. While Vera and her brothers and sisters were growing up they went on holiday to Bude in relays, depending on how many could be squeezed into a wagon. 'Leven Cottages', just by Nanny Moore's Bridge, where they stayed, are still there. In those days bathing was segregated, different beaches for each sex.



Years later in London Veronica's granddaughter Mary lived near me at Mill Hill. Sadly she died shortly afterward Image's mother, Cicely, came to see us after the war when we had moved to Ivybridge. She was known as 'Cissy Sweet Lips.' I remember Margaret's daughter Eulalia (Shrimp), coming with her husband Guy Newman. He was the incumbent at Lew before Bick. (Rev. Bickford Dickinson.) At one time he had been the Vicar of Dartington and after inviting some of the staff to tea, he and Eulalia were said to have had some totally naked visitors. Dartington in the 30's was the source of some of the best Devon shock horror stories! I also remember Bick and Madge Dickinson coming to supper. They had met and married while both were teaching at Shebbeare. They were living in a caravan.

**A Hard Road to Travel**  
The Folk Process at Work  
Martin Graebe

*I looked in the East, I looked in the West  
I saw John Bull a-coming according  
With four blind horses driving in the clouds  
To look at the other side of Jordan  
Pull off my old coat and roll up my sleeves  
Jordan is a hard road to travel*

The history of the song that we know as 'Jordan' is fascinating. I followed its journey while researching a programme of Baring-Gould songs that was performed at the Cheltenham Festival in February 2003. Frankie Armstrong had recorded the song for a recording associated with the publication of Roy Palmer's book of songs called 'Room for Company' (Impact IMPS 104, 1972). This is the version that I have heard sung most often in folk clubs since. The sleeve notes describe it as 'curious and rare' and attributed it to the Baring-Gould collection. Checking against the versions that Baring-Gould collected and published I found some interesting differences and my curiosity took over

I asked Roy Palmer where he had got his version of the song and he had confirmed that he had found it in Baring-Gould's book, 'A Garland of Country Song'. He liked the tune that Baring-Gould had taken down from Thomas Darke of Holcombe Burnell in Devon but was not so keen on Baring-Gould's re-working of the text. He therefore chose to use some of the verses from a broadside published in the 1870s. Baring-Gould mentions the broadside ballad in his note to the song in the book and gives the first three verses. This corresponds closely with the words he actually took down from Thomas Darke and also from Sam Fone of Mary Tavy. Baring-Gould goes on to suggest in his note that the original was a negro song or a nursery rhyme.

(continued opposite)

I have looked at some of the broadside ballads of 'Jordan' from different printers and they seem to be similar to each other. Many include a reference in them to the Indian mutiny of 1857.

*There was such a dreadful shindy and mutiny in India  
Sir Colin Campbell's gone there according  
And with our British boys, we will tame the black sepoy  
And will drive them to the other side of Jordan*

The broadside also brings in St Patrick driving the snakes out of Ireland and a reference to Adam laying Eve down under a gooseberry bush in the Garden of Eden. Strange stuff!

Further study established that Baring-Gould was very close to the truth in his speculation about it being a negro song, though it came in fact, from the white minstrel movement that aped the negro style of singing. The song was written by Daniel Decatur Emmett from Ohio, who was one of the originators of the minstrel genre, and was responsible for a number of other well-known songs including, 'Dixie', 'Old Joe Clark' and 'The Blue-tailed Fly'. Emmett's version starts:

*I jest arrived in town fo' to pass the time away,  
And I settled all my bizness accordin'  
But I found it so cold when I went up de street  
Dat I wished I was on de oder side ob Jordan.  
So take off your coat, boys, and roll up your sleeves,  
For Jordan is a hard road to trabel,*

Emmett's version has no references to St Patrick, Adam and Eve or to the Indian Mutiny, though it does bring in David and Goliath, (not to mention Louis Napoleon!). The song was published in America in 1853. So the reference to the Indian Mutiny suggests that it took little more than four years to appear in its modified form in the British broadside press and for its origin as a written song to be lost. It was then collected from two country singers in Devon in 1890 and 1893.

### **A Hard Road To Travel (continued)**

A nice little twist to the story is that another well known recording of the song was that by Peter, Paul and Mary on their 1963 recording 'Moving', where the song acquired the title 'Old Coat'. Though the record notes don't give him credit, the words used are those written by Baring-Gould in place of the broadside version and published by him in 'A Garland of Country Song' in 1894.

*Frankie Armstrong's recording of 'Jordan' has been included as one of the additional tracks on the re-release of her 1972 recording 'Lovely on the Water' on CD by Fellside (FECD 151)*

### **REFERENCES IN PRINT**

#### **DARTMOOR DROUGHT**

**Western Morning News, West Country Farming: Wednesday 23 April:** Anthony Gibson writing about the droughts of 1976 and 2003 quotes SB-G, in his "Book of the West," on the crucial part Dartmoor played in surviving the droughts of 1893 and 1897: *"When grass was burnt up everywhere, and water failed, then the moor was green and twinkling with dancing streams. From every quarter the starving cattle were driven there in their thousands and tens of thousands. Drovers came from as far east as Kent, there to obtain food and drink unobtainable elsewhere."*

Sadly, possibly since the drought of 1976, the moor no longer seems to act like a giant sponge and Anthony Gibson doubts whether it could have been used in this way this year.

#### **THE LANCE OF LONGINUS**

**Sunday Times Magazine, 20 April:** Writing about St Longinus, said to be the Roman soldier who thrust a spear into Christ's side "Biblical accounts are inconsistent, and the Rev Sabine Baring-Gould, in his magisterial Lives of the Saints, argued that the name derived from a Latinised misreading of the Greek word *longche*, meaning simply 'spear' "

### **THE BARING-GOULD FOLK FESTIVAL AND STUDY BREAK By Paul Wilson**

Following the discovery of hundreds of unpublished folk songs from Devon and Cornwall collected by Sabine Baring-Gould, the traditional and community music organisation, Wren, has been busy with a programme of publishing, recording and teaching to interpret and promote the work of this important son of Devon. One of the most immediate and potent strands in this programme is the organising of live events, allowing the songs to live and breathe in just the way they did when Baring-Gould collected them.

The centrepiece of this activity is the Baring-Gould Folk Festival and Study Break which takes place over the Autumn half-term each year, based in the villages of Bridestowe, Bratton Clovelly and Lewdown. This short article goes behind the scenes of the festival and sketches some of the thinking and significant growth points which have led to this being its 5th successful year.

#### **The Background**

The first Festival proper was in 1999, but its origins could be said to be one year earlier in November 1998, when Wren ran a celebration day at Lewtrenchard House to mark the re-publishing of the complete collection of songs on microfiche and the releasing of the CD Dead Maid's Land to celebrate this occasion. The aim with this CD was to polish the rough stones of songs which Sabine collected in the field and make something that would take a lot of playing in people's front rooms and car stereos. For this, we took a dozen or so of the very best musicians, mixed with committed and skilful singers and involved a record label with high production standards. The result has indeed been endorsed by singers and listeners alike in the just the way we hoped.

#### **The Festival Itself**

One of the very special things about the event is its smallness, cosiness and friendliness. Linked with quality performances.



### **Baring-Gould Folk Festival (continued)**

The Festival specifically reflects the work of Baring-Gould in several senses.

#### **Strong songs**

First, it has a very strong song thread reflecting the fact that over 90% of Baring-Gould's collecting centred on songs - as distinct from dance tunes. This has meant maintaining a strong thread running through the festival around the very best traditional singers of English material both locally and around the country. John Kirkpatrick, Frankie Armstrong, Tim Laycock, Chris Foster have travelled from slightly further afield while superb singers like Vic Legg from Cornwall prove that not only is this repertoire hugely popular, it's also grounded in the area, too.

Wren then wanted to give people a chance to develop their own skills by learning from such experience and putting it's own considerable musical resources and experience into the mix. We aim always to have someone around to inspire and get really close to - this year's new tutor is Martin Carthy. Rumour has it that Frankie wants to come back as a student!

#### **Small IS beautiful**

Second, it links physically with the buildings and landscape that Sabine knew - we use his own family home as a venue for some festival events and pack into pubs and community halls around the area - just the kind of venues where he would have heard some of the singing. Reading accounts of Sabine's collecting he was riding on horseback from pubs to cottages with amazing energy over what for us seems quite a small geographical area.

More than this, the songs he was after - the story-songs in "the old gregorian modes" have been developed and enjoyed an environment on just this domestic kind of scale. The Festival sells out on 120 tickets and in some ways we wish that could be even smaller, but we need to have a critical mass to run financially.

### **Baring-Gould Folk Festival (continued)**

The special Saturday evening event, the largest of the whole weekend is the Feast, rather than the more common folk dance or ceilidh. We have developed this specifically to echo the old-fashioned harvest suppers where food, entertainment and sociability would mix in a heady cocktail. The event sits right because the entertainment is song-based - "party pieces" the order of the day.

#### **Developments and Inspirations**

Third, it draws on Sabine's own life as inspiration for the artists it books and the kind of programme it presents. As far as we know we were the first folk festival to book an Icelandic quartet of performers, reflecting Sabine's visit there in 1861 as a relatively young man. In 2002, a Breton woman who sings for dancing, echoes Sabine's jottings about fiddler William Andrews where he says the dancers would sometimes sing to accompany their own dancing.

#### **This year's festival**

This year's festival starts on Hallowe'en and features four musicians direct from Transylvania. The study day is bulging with black dogs, bats and the darker side of folklore. Connections and inspirations? Sabine wrote the definitive book on werewolves, taught with a pet bat on his shoulder at St. John's College, Hurstpierpoint and gave us the stunning image of Lady Howard's black dog in the song My Lady's Coach. In addition we have ballad-singer extraordinary Martin Carthy, favourite Tim Laycock and 4-part harmony stunners Regal Slip as visitors.

Come and be special - have a look at the leaflet enclosed. For further details please contact Wren on 01837 53754 or email [wrentrust@eclipse.co.uk](mailto:wrentrust@eclipse.co.uk)

PS - Tickets are already selling for this year's events!

### A DECIDED OPINION

*Of the Rev. Charles Baring-Gould (rector at Lew for 49 years): He was a man in whom the softer Christian Graces shone calmly and soothingly. No one ever heard a harsh word from his lips, nor would he pronounce judgement on any man...His caution was perhaps too extreme, so that it was not possible to obtain from him a definite and decided opinion on a mooted point.*

**Sabine Baring-Gould**  
*Further Reminiscences p. 100*

*Of Parson Robbins: He was too cautious a man to say "I consider it so"; he could always edge out of an "It may be so considered." Parson Robbins was the most inoffensive of men...It was his highest ambition to stand well with all men, and he endeavoured to gain his point by disagreeing with nobody and insisting on nothing.*

*But one day he said: "I express the unanimous opinion of the entire parish. On this one point, after forty opinionless years, I venture - ahem - to have an opinion, a decided opinion, an emphatic opinion."*

**Sabine Baring-Gould**  
*Red Spider*

### THE PICTURE ON THE COVER

A water colour sketch on the back of a small faded green library card. Inscribed on the reverse by Percival Martyn, one time carpenter of Lewdown "Drawn by the Reverend Baring-Gould. Sent to me September 1921. A late schoolmaster of Stowford, Lewdown falling down the Lydford Gorge. Luckily his top hat saved him and escaped only shaken but his hat smashed"

Reproduced by kind permission of Mr Albert Spry of Lewdown.

### BARING-GOULD TITLES CURRENTLY AVAILABLE

*This list is constantly expanding, and older titles are gradually being left out, to save space. There are, however, almost certainly some omissions. Bossiney Books and Llanerch are regularly producing books by or including SBG. If anyone is aware of additional titles, please let the Editor know.*

"Bladys of the Stewponey" Praxis Books 2003. £8.50

"Myths of the Middle Ages" Edited by John Matthews. Hardback. Blandford 1996. New illustrations. £16.99

"Yorkshire Oddities, Incidents and Strange Events" Smith Settle. Paperback. 1987

"Lives of the British Saints" Llanerch. 1990 onwards. Various volumes.

"The Book of Werewolves" Senate 1995. Introduction by Nigel Suckling. Paperback

"Five Devon Seafarers". Taken from SB-G's *Devonshire Characters*. Bossiney Books. 2000. £2.99

"Six Devon Rogues" Taken from *Devonshire Characters and Strange Events*. Bossiney Books. Paperback 2000

"A Book of Folklore" Paperback. Praxis Books 1993. £5.00

"Through Flood and Flame" Paperback. Praxis Books, 1997 £8.50

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