

Frank Kidson's 'Collector' articles in *The Choir*

Frank Kidson (1855-1926) had such a remarkable knowledge of tunes and of the development of English music, that he became known to his musical friends and associates as the 'musical Sherlock Holmes'. He was an independent scholar of great modesty who late in his life was honoured by the University of Leeds with an MA. He was a pioneer folk song collector although he lived to be overshadowed, in that field, by Cecil Sharp. His study of British music publishers is the basis of all subsequent scholarship in this field. He was an accomplished artist, photographer and pottery expert. He was a Yorkshire man, and proud of it, who lived all his life in Leeds.

What follows is a collection of Kidson's articles contributed to *The Choir*. These are interesting articles in which Kidson reveals more of his own views and ideas than he does in much of his other published writing. The somewhat laboured popular journalistic conventions of a bygone age should not get in the way of our appreciating the clarity and vitality of Kidson's thought. Kidson is interesting as a lively musical mind of the Victorian and Edwardian period that still has power to engage with us approaching a century after he wrote these articles. We also include a few articles from *The Choir* related to Kidson and his work, including a moving obituary by J. T. Lightwood, the periodical's editor.

Our thanks go to Dr John Francmanis whose extensive research into Kidson's life and work formed the basis for a PhD thesis and a number of articles on Kidson. John Francmanis uncovered these articles and has written a short introduction to them. Thanks also to Sheila Gammon who did editorial work on the articles and to David Cooper, Tim Banks and Nicki Sapero of the University of Leeds, School of Music, for their help with this project.

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Vic Gammon

International Centre for Music Studies, The University of Newcastle, January 2006