

KINGSTON, WILLIAM BEATTY (1837-1900)

Born in London, Kingston worked as a clerk in the Public Record Office from 1852-6. Kingston was appointed vice-chancellor of the Austrian consulate in London 1856 and in Cardiff from 1857 to 65. He began a career in special correspondence writing for the *Daily Telegraph* from Vienna and Berlin in 1866, before covering the Franco-Prussian war and the Siege of Paris from 1870. Kingston famously befriended Bismark and Von Moltke whilst staying with the German Headquarters staff at Versailles, and leveraged his contacts to obtain the terms of the capitulation of Paris much earlier than his peers. Subsequently, he covered the Russo-Turkish war, and was appointed foreign editor of the *Daily Telegraph* from 1886-7. From 1886, Kingston maintained a prodigious output of popular memoirs and reminiscences based on his years as a special correspondent, including *A Journalist's Jottings* (1880), *Monarchs I Have Met* (1886), and *A Wanderer's Notes* (1888). He also maintained a stream of contributions to *Lute* and other music journals throughout his writing career, wrote several librettos, and contributed verse to *Punch* from 1883-7. In 1893, Kingston joined the Institute of Journalists. He died on board the steamer 'Albatross' travelling from Bordeaux to England on 4 October 1900. **AD**

References:

- Kingston, William Beatty. *Monarchs I Have Met*. London: Chapman and Hall 1887.
— *A Wanderer's Notes*. London: Chapman and Hall, 1888.
— *A Journalist's Jottings*. London: Chapman and Hall, 1890.
— *Men, Cities and Events*. London: Bliss, Sands & Foster, 1895.
'William Beatty Kingston'. *Scoop Database*. 20 November 2013. <http://www.scoop-database.com>