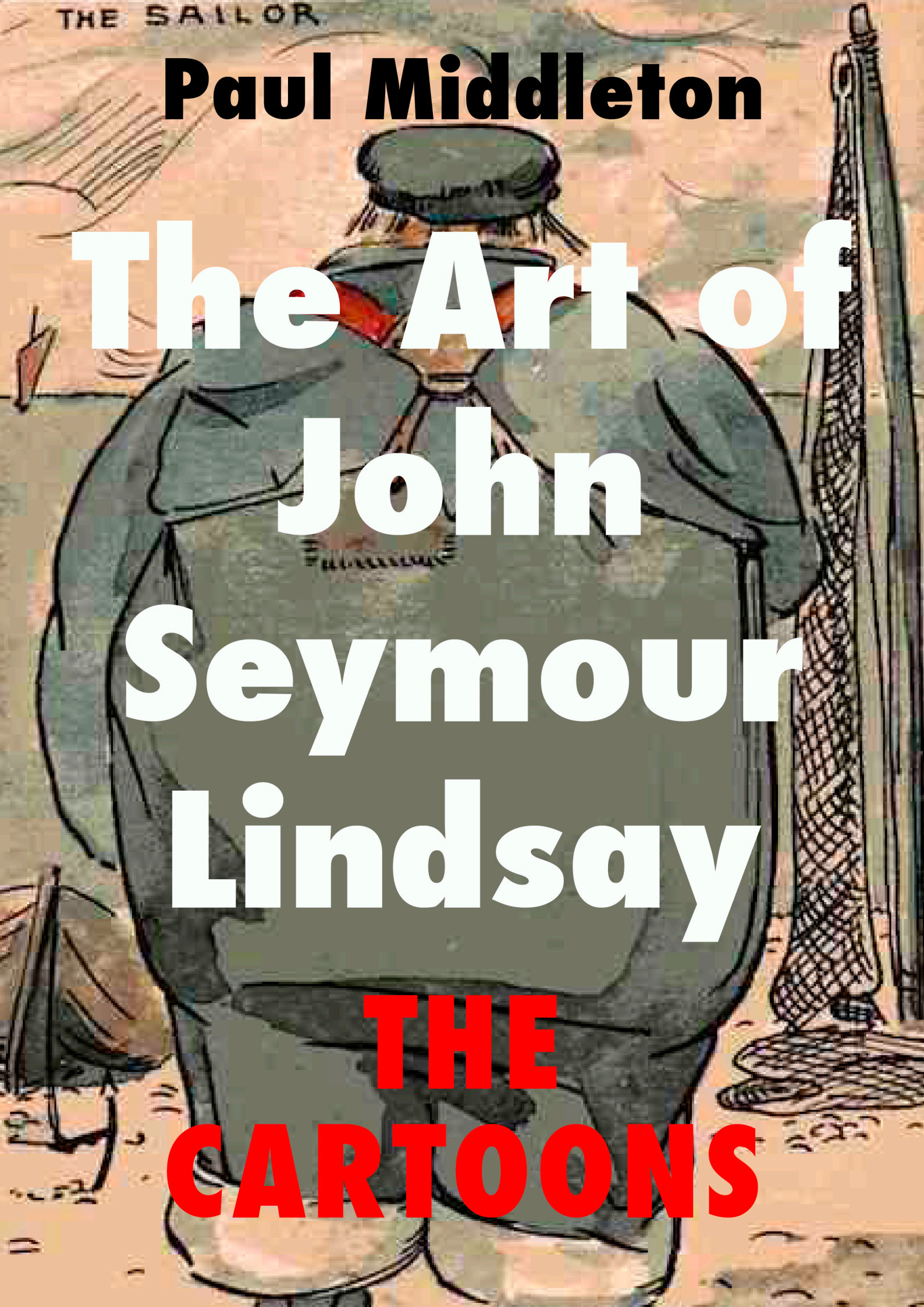


THE SAILOR

Paul Middleton

The Art of John Seymour Lindsay

**THE
CARTOONS**



The Art of John Seymour Lindsay

The Cartoons

Published by Paul Middleton
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Facts about this book

This copy of The Cartoons contains 72 images.

FOREWORD

JOHN SEYMOUR LINDSAY was a man of many parts, all of them fascinating, many of them important, some of them heroic.

His life has only just emerged in detail as the Lindsay family archive has lain dormant since his death in 1966. Only in the last few years has it been possible to examine his heritage in detail and the documents and artwork that emerged has painted a picture of a quite extraordinary man, with quite extraordinary talents.

There are a number of factors that make JSL (as we shall now call him) so special even in the context of the Great War. His age, his talent and his humility. He was born on 16 May 1882 in London. His talent was for drawing and painting. He was educated at home by his Aunt Esther after the early death of his mother and the estrangement of his father who owned an ironworks in Paddington. In 1899 he was apprenticed to a design studio in Adelphi, London. It was here that his talents developed. In the early 1900s he produced a series of cartoons in ink and watercolour on postcards which he sent to his family and to his girlfriend whom he married in 1915. They are full of humour and wit.

But JSL had such a prodigious output in so many areas of art, both before, during and after the Great War. This first book of cartoons will be followed by his building sketches between 1905 and 1910, his wartime art between 1914 and 1919, his mastery of the pencil illustration between 1920 and 1966, his watercolours, his designs for Westminster Abbey and other London buildings and his amazing model making. As you will see, he was a true polymath.

His entry in the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography* can be found at the end of this book.

Paul Middleton 2013

Chapter 1

Youth - John Seymour develops his artistic talents

Let us recap a moment on the state of John Seymour and his family in 1899. He was living with his Aunt Esther and brother Frank in the house of his birth in Kilburn. His mother had died after complications in the childbirth of his sister Norah Agnes in 1994 and Esther had taken over the responsibility of his care and education. She must have been some woman to cope with all these problems as John and Frank's father had finally washed his hands on the family's Ironwork business in Paddington, and his five surviving children, and gone to live in France where he gained a new wife.

One would think that John could have gone off the rails, but his obvious affection for his brother Frank, the strength of Esther and the other Garmans (his mother's family name), and his delight at finding a profession suited to his skills and talents kept him happy and contented. Also in about 1902 he met his future wife, Mildred Ethel Williams and became enveloped by her large family of 11 siblings down in Churston near Torquay in Devon.

The following pages illustrate in the best possible way his state of mind, his interests and hobbies and his talents. The majority of the cartoons were actually posted through the Royal Mail and actually arrived - sometimes more than one a day! We are so lucky to have this vivid and colourful record of this part of his life. So be prepared to be entranced!



*12 November 1903 A self-portrait in Rowing Club colours.
Is it Cheney Falcon Rowing Club, Oxford?*



13 November 1903 An enigmatic notice from a cross housekeeper?



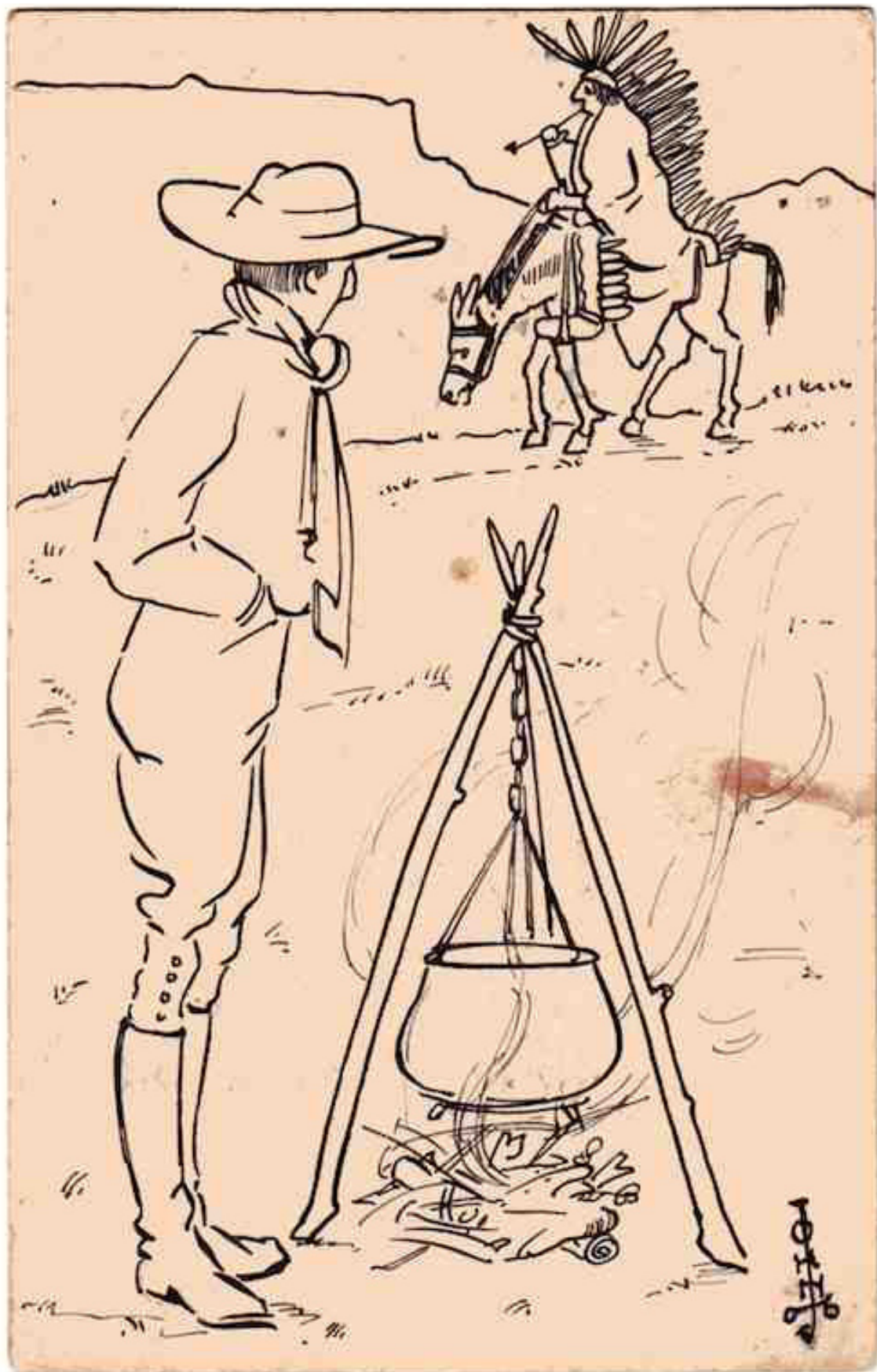
11 July 1904 JSL saw himself as gangly with unkempt hair and a prominent nose.



1906 Note the signature motif in the bottom right of the sketch, JSL usually signed all his art that way often adding month and even date.



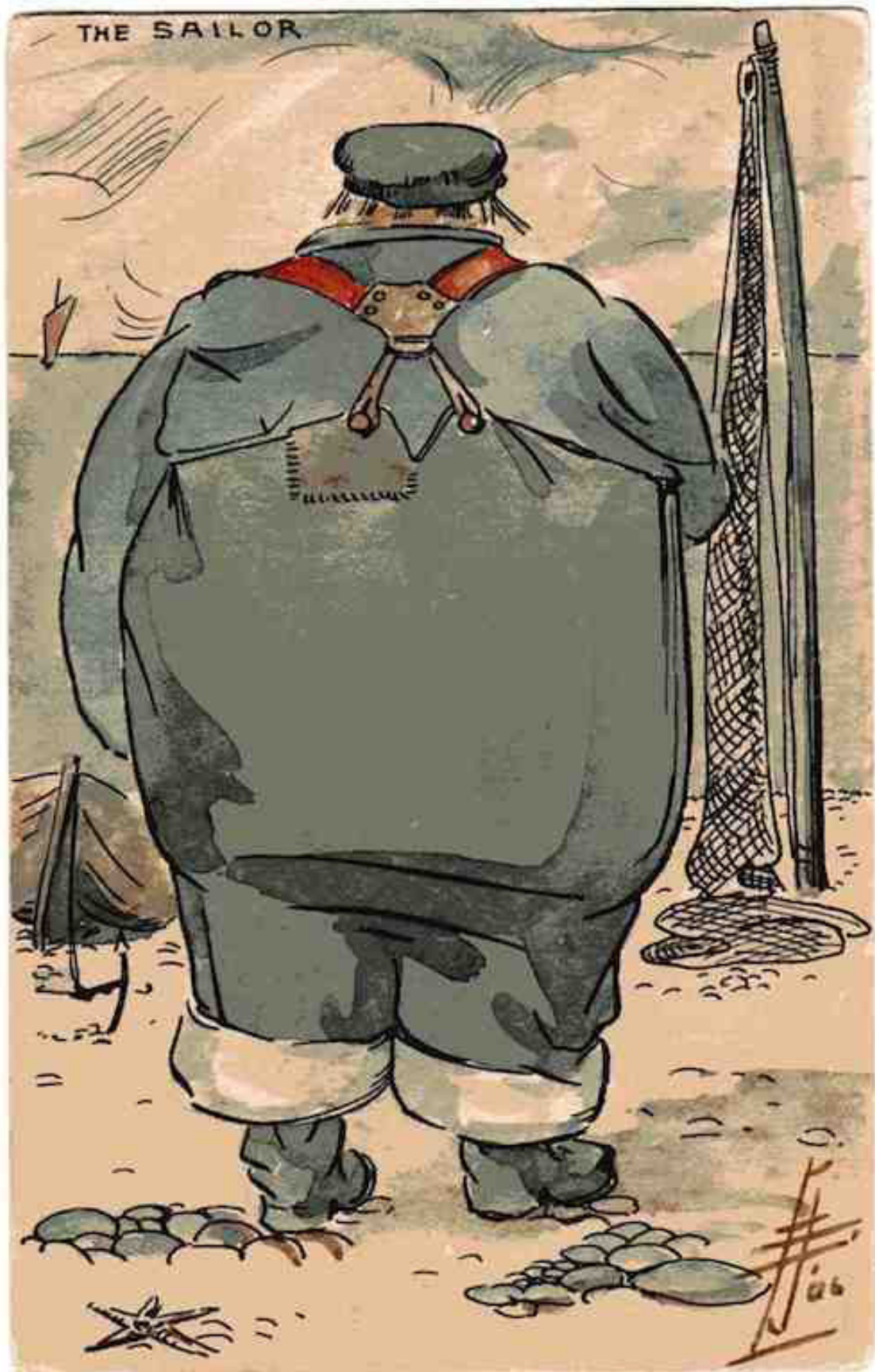
Probably 1906 celebrating a horrid day at the dentist.



1906



13 September 1906 These next two extraordinary cartoons show the consummate skill of JSL as an artist, humourist and acute observer.



13 September 1906 JSL always carried with him on his travels pen and ink, watercolours and board to record anything that took his fancy.



5 April 1906 The No 5 refers to St John Street, Adelphi where JSL first gained employment as a draughtsman. Leonard Ashton (the Governor) wears the glasses.



10 September 1906 JSL making bread with Leonard Ashton in his London flat.