

The Rees and Carrington Extracts
From the diaries of
Caroline Kipling

1906

1906

Jan.

At sea.

Princess Pat sketched Carrie.

They draw up a list of the First Fifteen [best society] at the Cape, for the Duchess.

The Kiplings were making their annual trip to the Cape to escape the damp rigours of an English winter. They were travelling on board RMS Armadale Castle. Also travelling in the same ship were the Duke and Duchess of Connaught, and their daughter, Princess Patricia (1886-1974) (See our entry for 23 Dec. 1905).



Princess Patricia

The Princess became an accomplished artist, and a member of the Royal Institute of Painters in Water Colours (RI).

We must hope that the list of the first fifteen drawn up by the ladies did not become public knowledge – the recriminations from those omitted would have marred Carrie's social life at the Cape forever.

Jan. 6

I sit for a couple of hours to Princess Patricia who does a very good portrait of me. Rud finishes his verses 'The Silent Sentries' and gives them to the Duchess.

(There is a partially-legible ‘sentry?’ under this entry – the poem was not collected until it appeared in PINNEY, Verse, Vol. III, p. 2072, with the title, ‘The Silent Army’)

9 Jan. The Woolsack.

Jan. 9 We arrive at 9.30 at the Woolsack.

Jan 11 The Governor with the Duchess and Princess come with the ADC and Lady-in-Waiting and spend an hour and a half – a pleasant time.

Jan 12 In bed with a doctor – Bell’s paralysis in left side of face. Go to garden party for an hour – talk with the Duchess and Duke – party at the General’s – perfect day (!) *(The exclamation mark is Rees’s)*

Bell’s paralysis, or ‘Bell’s Palsy’ is caused by a viral infection which induces partial paralysis on one side of the face, with partial closure of the eye and drooping of the lips on that side, resulting in very slightly slurred speech. It is usually temporary.

Jan 31 I have two cysts cut out of my head and am bandaged. Sore and unstrung.

Feb. Roderick Jones

Roderick Jones (later Sir Roderick, KBE) (1877-1952) was the chief correspondent for Reuters’ news agency in South Africa.

He later became the principal proprietor of Reuters, and married the writer Enid Bagnold.



Roderick Jones

(He recasts “Hal o’ the Draft” which was originally two stories.)

March Carrie ill.

This probably refers to the 'sore and unstrung' Rees entry immediately above

9 Mar. By train to Johannesburg.

Mar. 9 We leave at 10 a.m. for Johannesburg. I feel refreshed in the evening in the higher altitude.

*Kipling wrote two letters (PINNEY, **Letters**, Vol. 3, p. 206-11) which cover this visit. The first, to his mother-in-law, Anna Balestier, was more about family matters, and indicated that the tour did Carrie's health much good. The second was to H A Gwynne and was all about South African politics, in which Kipling was becoming very involved.*

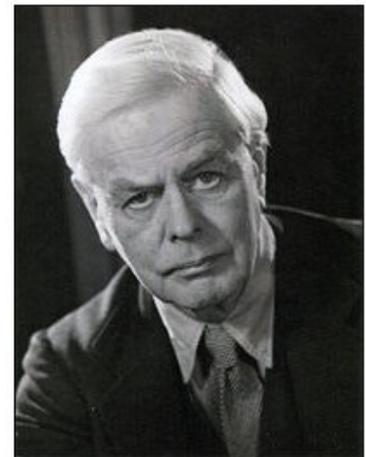
12 Mar. In Fitzpatrick's motor [to see Chinese](#).

*They were staying with the Fitzpatricks (see our entries for 3 Dec. 1899 and 25-29 Mar. 1903). The use of Chinese workers in the mines was highly controversial at this time. Kipling wrote a letter (PINNEY, **Letters**, Vol. 3, p. 205) to a Mr McFie (not identified) concerning this visit.*

16 Mar. To Pretoria. Mr. Lionel Curtis.

Mar. 16 We leave in the afternoon for Pretoria – met by Mr. Lionel Curtis whose guests we are.

Lionel Curtis (1872-1955) was an English barrister, working in the Transvaal as a member of the Legislative Council. A former Secretary to Lord Milner, he was working for a united self-governing South Africa.



Lionel Curtis

Mar. 19 We leave at 2. Mr. Curtis sees us off at Jo'burg.

Mar. 20 We stop at Richmond Road to be told of washouts on the line ahead and stop on, waiting news.

Mar. 21 Leave Richmond Road at 1 p.m.

Mar. 22 Reach home at 11.30

3 Apr. Rud finishes his last Puck story, "*Treasure and the Law*".
"*The Rowers*".

The Treasure and the Law" was published in the October issues of Strand Magazine in London and McClure's in New York. It was also collected in Puck of Pook's Hill, which had been published some days earlier – so the collected version preceded the magazine publication..

We are not sure why there is a reference to "The Rowers" here (see our notes for 19 Dec. 1902). The poem had been published in The Times, in December 1902, and nothing in CARRINGTON nor in Professor Pinney's notes cited in the 1902 entry suggest why Carrie should have referred to the poem now, nor why Carrington should have recorded that reference.

Apr. 12 A wire from Sir Edward Poynter asking Rud to speak for literature at the Academy Dinner this year.

18 Apr. Leave Cape Town (dates wrong here)
Arrives in time to speak on literature for Poynter at the Academy Dinner.

We are not sure why Carrington wrote "(dates wrong here)". PINNEY, Letters, Vol. 3, p. 208, in the letter to H A Gwynne cited in our note above on 9 April, quotes Kipling as writing "We should be coming home by the Kinfauns sailing 18th April and arriving May 5th." And Professor Pinney, in his note to this statement, says, "This was the schedule followed. The Kinfauns Castle docked at 4.20 a.m. on 5 May. That evening RK gave a speech at the Royal Academy, now presided over by his Uncle Edward Poynter (reprinted in A Book of Words as "Literature")." (See our notes in the NRG on the speech, by Leonee Ormond.)

Apr. 18 A good start Telegrams and friends to see us off.

May 5 We land very early. Arriving Waterloo met by Mr. Gwynne and Mr. Watt who takes speech to be typewritten. Rud off to his Academy Dinner at 6.30 returning at 12.15 (to Brown's). A great reception and much praise.

May 6 Arrive to find Bateman's very beautiful and in perfect order.

12 May *Puck* verses.

May 14 (?) A riotous time over Pater who is ill and travelling home and wishes to be met at Gib[raltar].

May 17 Rud leaves for Plymouth via London to meet his father who is expected by P & O tomorrow.

Presumably Pater had been globe-trotting in the Mediterranean or further east

May 19 Rudyard arrives at 6.31 having left his father safely in Tisbury.

21 May Henry James and Owen Wister.

See our notes for 4 Sep. and 8 Oct. '95 for Wister.

24 May Rud goes to the Milner dinner.

May 24 We go to own. Rud goes to the Milner dinner – a great success.

The dinner was held in the Hotel Cecil. This grand hotel, then the biggest in London, built in 1896-97, stood between the Thames and the Strand, immediately next door to the Savoy Hotel. It was largely demolished in 1930 and Shell-Mex House built in its place, though its façade on the Strand side still remains.

The guests were exclusively male, although in the words of the report in The Times of 25 May, "many ladies thronged the balconies during the evening." The function was held as a tribute to Milner to mark his return from South Africa.

In the words of The Times' report it was a "remarkable and brilliant demonstration, lacking nothing that could make clear and positive the high regard in which Lord Milner is held by his fellow subjects both at home and abroad, and their appreciation of his distinguished services which he has rendered to the King and the Empire."

The Times also reported that "It was Lord Milner's desire that the occasion should not be made one for any display of party feeling, and it will be apparent from the names of those attending that this desire was respected. It would be difficult to find a more representative assembly than that which filled the great hall of the Hotel Cecil last night, save for the absence of leading Liberal politicians."

Lady Poynter sinking.

Lady Poynter was Aunt Aggie, née Agnes Macdonald, Kipling's aunt and the wife of Sir Edward Poynter, Bart., PRA.

(Buying a Daimler car)



A 1906 Daimler

Although the name is associated with the German motor pioneer Gottlieb Daimler, the company was wholly British, having been set up in Coventry in 1896, and having bought the right to use the Daimler name from Herr Daimler and his company. Their radiator, in the days when each make of car was mostly distinguished by the shape of its radiator, had a top which was slightly corrugated in appearance.

Their engineering was good and they held the Royal Warrant to supply cars to the Royal household from 1902 until the 1950s. The car Kipling was buying lasted him until he bought his first Rolls-Royce in 1911.

May 25 To the Daimler Motor shop to investigate about a motor. To see Lady Poynter who recognises us though very ill and sinking fast.

May 26 Return home by the 4.50 from town,

12 June Lady Poynter's death.

June 12 We hear of Lady Poynter's death



There was an obituary to her in The Times of 13 June which noted that her name occurred frequently in the early pages of her sister (Georgiana Burne-Jones') biography of her husband (see our note for 25 November 1904). Her funeral took place at Kensington Cemetery, Hanwell, on 15 June, at which the Kiplings were present (report in The Times for 16 June).

June 15 Leave for funeral – home by 4.50 train. Meet Pater at Etchingam – he has been seeing Trix off.

**J
une 22** Pater leaves us for Tisbury.

26 June [They start to tear down the mill at Dudwell](#)

They had bought Dudwell Farm in December 1904, and were presumably disposing of redundant buildings.

June 30 I try the new motor which arrived at noon. (This sentence should have commenced “Rud and. . .”)

July 7 Mr. Middleton comes with his wife to lunch, proposing to buy ‘Amelia II’ our Lanchester motor which he wires from London in the evening he has decided to take.

A very gentlemanly way of conducting a second-hand car sale.

25 July Verses on South Africa to Associated Press

*This poem was the second entitled “South Africa” and was inspired by the decision of the Liberal government to restore responsible government to the Boer republics. PINNEY, **Poems**, Vol. III, p. 2287 gives details of its publication – Kipling had sent it to H A Gwynne, now Editor of the London Standard, for publication, asking him to give it to Associated Press as well.*

*Kipling also wrote to a journalist named Hannay, setting out the political thoughts behind the verses (PINNEY, **Letters**, Vol. 3, p. 218-220). Kipling saw that the Boer tradition would never be absorbed into English culture (as indeed it has not been), and it may be suggested that this marked the beginning of his disenchantment with – not so much South Africa, the country, but the politics of the country.*

July 28 We leave at 9.a.m. for the Stracheys at Guildford.

July 29 We leave after lunch and arrive home about 7.

July 30 John has a spill from his pony while riding. Result, 3 stitches. Brave and good. Takes nothing.

The first practical local anaesthetic was developed in 1903.

11 Aug. To Oulton Broad, sailing.

*This was at the invitation of H A Gwynne, and Kipling describes their trip in a letter to B H Walton (PINNEY, **Letters**, Vol. 3, p. 220-221). They went as a family; the boat they were in, a Norfolk Wherry, would have been quite big. (right)*

Barclay Walton was a former stockbroker who had given up business to sail round the world, but still managed to keep a finger on the financial pulse of the markets, and acted as Kipling's unofficial financial adviser (LYCETT, p. 390-1).



Aug 11 We leave for Chilton Broad (a mis-reading for Oulton Broad), Arrive at 5.30 to find Mr. Gwynne's wherry, *Bristol Queen*, ready to receive us.

Aug. 18 We leave the wherry at 11 for Lowestoft where we lunch at a hotel. Leave (for home) at 1.46.

Aug 21 Leave at 9.15 for Salisbury. First to Petworth for lunch, Winchester for tea and arrive at White Hart, Salisbury 7.40.

Aug. 23 Leave Salisbury 10 a.m. for Aldershot. Arrive Free Chase 7.

Their first tour in the new Daimler. It seems probable that they visited Tisbury on the 22nd. They spent the night with the Allens on the way home.

Aug, 24 Home for tea.

31 Aug. Manoeuvres at Newhaven in great heat.
Rud sees a new field-gun.

These were primarily army manoeuvres, but may have been combined with the Navy, exercising port defence. The new field gun would have been either the 13-pounder or the 18-pounder (the figures indicate the weight of the projectile), both of which were introduced in 1904. This was probably the 18-pounder, which equipped the Field Artillery, while the 13-pounder equipped the Horse Artillery.

2 Sep. The Bland-Suttons.



Sir John Bland-Sutton

See LYCETT, p. 400. John Bland-Sutton (later Sir John) (1855-1936) was primarily a gynaecologist, who was Carrie's doctor of choice, though he advised Kipling as well. He and his wife Edith became personal friends of the Kiplings.

Rud starts a naval story.

We cannot identify this story with certainty. The next naval story to be published, "The Horse Marines", did not appear until 1910. However, although we have suggested in the NRG notes on the tale that it appeared to be set in 1910, the combination of a recent visit to Portsmouth by a French naval squadron, and the manoeuvres he had recently watched at Newhaven may perhaps have planted the original seed.

Sep. 5 John and Elsie start to learn to ride a bicycle and progress swiftly.

- Sep. 19 Pater arrives at 5.30 for a week's visit.
- 20 Sep. *Puck of Pook's Hill* published.
- Sep. 20 The advance copies of *Puck of Pook's Hill* come and after the first and usual regrets at its not being better, Rud on the whole likes it.
- Sep. 28 A beautiful morning upset by a letter from Mr. Watt re the proposal of *The Times* to undersell the new vol. of stories in their library magazine.
- Oct. 2 *Puck of Pook's Hill* published. Reviews herald it with much joy.
- 9 Oct. Rud thinks over a reply to the 'Times Book Club'.
- Oct. 10 We go to town to see Mr. Gwynne about his leader on the Times Book Club.
- 20 Oct. [The Times Book Club means disaster to our income.](#)

LYCETT, p. 377-8 explains the significance of these two entries. The Times was in financial trouble, and was attempting to boost its income and circulation by setting up a book club whose subscribers could buy 'used' books cheaply. The used books had been bought by The Times direct from the publishers at a substantial discount: this in turn reflected on an author's income since his royalties were usually a percentage of the publisher's selling price. One outcome of the revolt by publishers and authors was to reinforce the net book agreement (NBA) which had been initiated in 1900, and which lasted until 1997. This agreement between publishers and booksellers set the price at which books could be sold to the public. The Times was forced to climb down and observe the agreement, as LYCETT explains.

Oct.20 Rud does no work. I feel miserable and ill. All of these days are harassed by the threatened Times Book Club which means disaster to our income.

30 Oct. “*The Children’s Song*” – arrangements for its general release – with Lord

“*The Children’s Song*” was the final poem in Puck of Pook’s Hill. It set out the ‘rules’ which ought to guide all right-thinking middle-class Edwardian boys and girls. (The poem might be described as “If” for younger children) Young John Kipling later complained that they had to sing it in chapel when he was at his preparatory school (LYCETT, p. 402).

The reference to “Lord.” is unclear – it may be suggested that it was Lord Northcliffe (as Mr. Alfred Harmsworth had become) who owned the Daily Mail’, and with whose paper Kipling had been associated when he wrote “The Absent-minded Beggar”. See the entry for 21 October 1899.

Nov. New set of ‘Puck’ stories begun.

These were collected in Rewards and Fairies, published in 1910.

Nov. 10 The senior Baldwins come for Sunday.

Nov. 12 Our guests leave.

Dec. 14 We leave dear Bateman’s for Brown’s where we spend the night.

Dec. 15 An easy start. We find our cabins larger and better than usual.

17 Dec. Away by the *Saxon*.



RMS Saxon,, Union Steamship Line

RMS Saxon was the last new ship built for the Union Steamship line, before it merged with the Castle line, to create the Union-Castle line which was for so long associated with travel to and from South Africa.

Dec. 17 We find the *Saxon* an excellent ship.

[C.K./D.R./C.C./A.J.W./J.R.]