

The Carrington and Rees Extracts
from the diaries of
Caroline Kipling

1922

1922

Jan.

At Bateman's, working at 'Irish Guards'



The Clarkes and the Roderick Joneses call [Lady Jones was 'Enid Bagnold'.]

Barrie gets OM which Rud did not take.

[Rud unwell and upset by newspaper rumours about his OM.](#)

Lord Stamfordham assures him that it was "offered by the King".

Enid Bagnold, a well-known author, had married Roderick Jones, the Chairman of Reuters, (see Index) in 1920 and they now lived in Rottingdean, in North End House, formerly the Burne-Jones' family home.

The Clarkes must have been their old Rottingdean friends, Commander and Mrs. Henry Clarke (see Index).



Enid Bagnold

Since membership of the Order of Merit is limited to 24 at any one time, Carrie is probably correct in implying that Barrie only received his OM at this time, because Kipling had refused it.

Lord Stamfordham (1849-1931) was King George V's Private Secretary.

He had been Queen Victoria's Private Secretary for the last six years of her life.



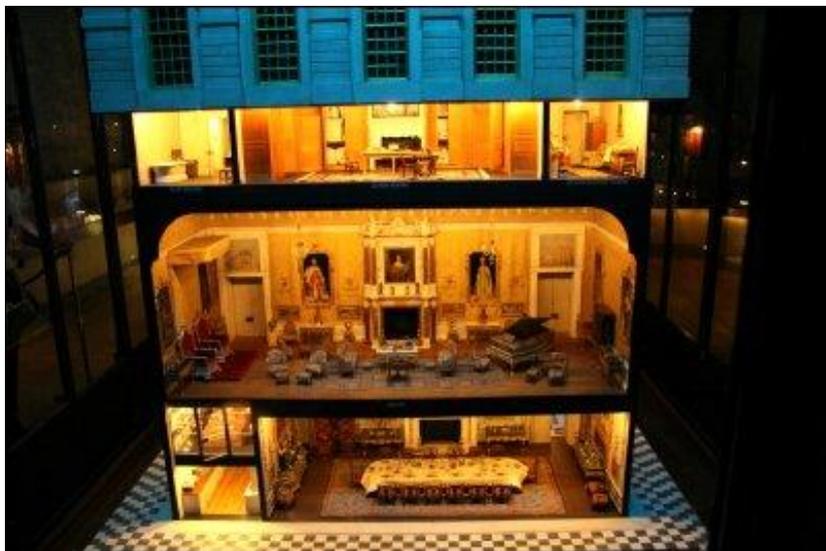
Lord Stamfordham

Jan. 3

Rud works at his Volume of printed verse for Queen Mary's Doll's House Library.

In 1921, Princess Marie Louise (a grand-daughter of Queen Victoria) met Sir Edwin Lutyens, the celebrated architect, and suggested that he should design a doll's house for the Queen.

Sir Edwin took up the idea, and the project was planned as a showcase of all that was best in British craftsmanship. The house was made to a scale of 1:12 and everything worked – down to the miniature electric lights. The library had miniature books by many authors, among whom was Kipling.

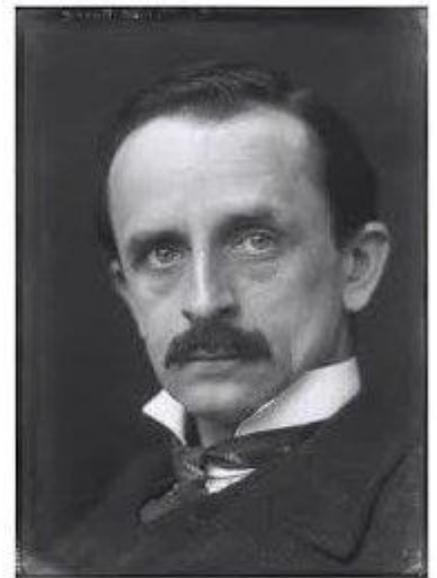


The verses he put into the volume, with an illustration, included If, The Children's Song, The Way through the Woods, The Fairies' Siege, A Charm, Recessional, The Prayer, Mother o' Mine and Eddi's Service.

Jan. 14 Rud is greatly upset by a wire, the second from newspapers, about his refusal of the OM. No word have we said to anyone and our disgust at it being let out, we suppose by the Govt, is great.

Jan. 17 A letter from Lord Stamfordham to say he is responsible for the newspaper's announcement that the OM was offered to Rud by the King. An amazing thing.

While one may sympathise with the Kiplings, something had to be said. Otherwise those not in the know might have assumed that Barrie (who had already been created a Baronet) had been preferred to Kipling, whose lack of Honours, to those who did not know of his principled stand, might have seemed a deliberate snub. But it must have been galling for Barrie, whose Honour was thus revealed to be, as it were, second-hand.



J M Barrie

25 Jan. Starts to read *Emma* aloud. The last time at Bath in 1915.

Jane Austen's novel, first published in 1815. See the poem "Jane's Marriage"; the last line runs "Glory, Love, and Honour unto England's Jane!"

28 Jan. He enjoys working for the Queen's Dolls' House.

The completed dolls' house was presented to the Queen in 1924. Today, it may be seen at Windsor Castle.

3 Feb. Mr. Watt gives him a couple of Horace books for his collection.

Quintus Horatius Flaccus (65BC-8BC), better known in the 19th and 20th centuries as Horace, was a Roman poet, whose works were studied in any British school teaching Latin and Greek.

Kipling greatly admired the poetry of Horace, and wrote a number of verses in his style.



Quintus Horatius Flaccus

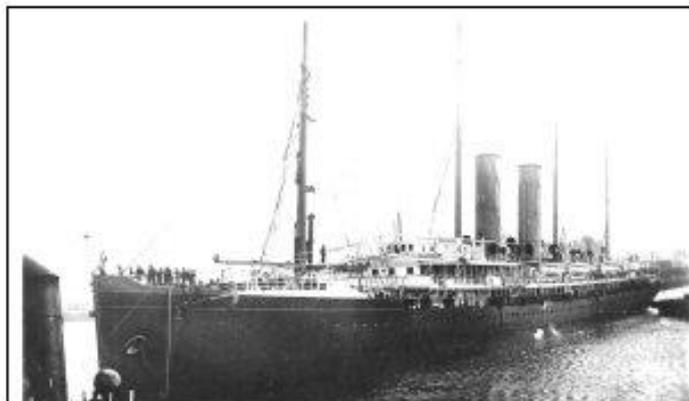
17 Feb. Rud (with a cold) writing a manifesto for the Conservative Party.

The war-time coalition between the Conservatives and those Liberals who followed Lloyd George was still in government, but would fall apart in some seven months' time, precipitating a general election. Some elements of the Conservative Party were looking forward to a break with the Liberals. The election was held in November 1922.

March. He finishes 'Irish Guards' in time to set out on a holiday to Gibraltar and Spain. They wish they'd gone earlier.

Mar. 17 Embark on SS *Ormuz*, *Orient Line*, for Gibraltar.

The Ormuz was a former German liner, handed over as war reparations: she was en route to Australia.



22 Mar. Gibraltar bitterly cold.



She complains bitterly that she has to do all the work – [can't get Rud to realise it](#). (There wasn't any work. CEC)

No indeed, since Carrie had a secretary and a lady's maid.

Carrie very rheumatic – in bed – and Rud writing *The Janeites*

“The Janeites” was first published in a number of magazines in May 1924, and later collected in Debits and Credits (see our NRG notes).

Mar. 22 Arrive Algeciras.

Mar. 23 To bed where I am likely to stop for some time. I am worn out and can't do these continental journeys doing all the work, their arranging plus the usual work but can't get Rud to realise it.

In a letter to Andrew Macphail (PINNEY, Letters, Vol. 5, pp. 110-113), Kipling wrote that “we hit Gibraltar in a high, hard, glaringly-lit wind that cut your liver out and sent the wife to bed with a chill from which she is but now recovering

He also wrote that “all these here southern climates are malignant frauds”



Algeciras, the Old Town

1 Apr. (Elsie danced with Prince George on the *Q. Elizabeth* and liked it.)

The Atlantic Fleet was visiting Gibraltar as part of its spring Cruise. The battleship Queen Elizabeth was the flagship, and Prince George (1902-1942), later the Duke of Kent, was a Midshipman in the flagship. As part of their return for hospitality offered, they held a ball on board, or perhaps an afternoon tea dance (such entertainments were popular at that time). Prince George later had a reputation as a ladies' man – clearly he charmed Elsie.



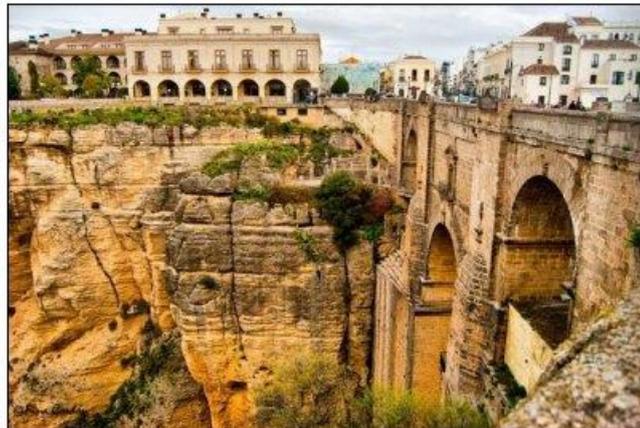
Prince George

4 Apr. Rud writing the King's speech for the War Graves pilgrimage.

Apr. 4 Rud sends off his notes for the King's speech for his trip to France and Belgium to War Graves. Letter with notes for announcement of King's visit as a sacred pilgrimage.

See our entries for 10 May-19 May.

Apr. 5 Leave for Rhonda.



Ronda

*Ronda is in Andalucia, in southern Spain. Kipling wrote to the four-year-old Hugh Fraser “**This is the most beautiful town I have ever seen**” (See PINNEY, Letters, Vol. 5, p.113)*

7 Apr. To Granada) with George Bambridge, who knows Spain.

)

Apr. 7 Granada)

)

10 Apr. Seville)

Apr. 10 Seville

See LYCETT, p. 509 for an account of George Bambridge at this time.

16 Apr. Easter Day to Mass and a bullfight with George Bambridge (no comment given).

This was not the first time they had seen a bull fight – see our entry for 16 Mar. 1920. Also “The Bull that Thought” (Debits and Credits) (See 23 April 1924)

19 Apr. Madrid, still very cold.

Apr. 19 Madrid.

*They had a slow journey by train from Seville to Madrid, and After a day in Madrid, a very long day’s journey overnight to Paris, changing trains at the frontier: Kipling wrote again to young Hugh Fraser (PINNEY, **Letters**, Vol. 5, pp. 115-6) describing his journey from Seville. He did not have a high opinion of Spanish railways, though, as always, he managed to extract information from casual acquaintances: in this case, the guardia civil (policeman) on the train – neither speaking the other’s language, but somehow achieving comprehension.*

21 Apr. Paris, Hotel Meurice.

Apr. 21 Paris.

27 Apr. To England – Bateman’s

Apr. 27 Home.

3 May Rud finishes his verses, 'The King's Pilgrimage'

*The poem was published in London and New York on May 15, at the same time as reports of the King's speech (see entries for 4 April and **April 4** above) appeared. See also our NRG notes on the poem.*

10 May To Calais with car. Picked up Larkin, H C for Canada.

May 10 Spend the night at Calais.

Rudyard and Carrie were making a tour of war cemeteries in northern France and Belgium and were to be present at the final event of the King's pilgrimage to the Imperial cemeteries at Boulogne. Taking their own car (the King travelled by train) they also took Hon. Peter C. Larkin (1855-1930), the newly-appointed Canadian High Commissioner in London.

11 May Rud changes into his blacks in a cottage at Vlamertinghe to meet the King, **very appreciative**, since Rud has written the speech which he is to give tomorrow.

*This meeting was evidently unscheduled – the High Commissioner was intended to meet the King – see the timing to the nearest minute in the entry below – but Kipling was not – hence the necessity for a lightning change (see Note 1 to PINNEY, **Letters**, Vol. 5, pp. 120, which gives more details of this hiatus, taken from Kipling's Motoring Diaries) Kipling had changed his shirt, tie, coat and trousers, but this photograph suggests that he had not changed his shoes.*



May 11 Pick up Mr. Larkin, High Commissioner for Canada and take him in our car to Flamertign in Belgium to meet the King at the cemetery gates at 3.49. We find the King expects to see Rud who changes from his grey clothes into black in cottage and was ready in time. On to Lille to sleep. The King very appreciative of Rud's help in writing the speech he is to deliver tomorrow.

May 12 Fabian Ware sends word to say Rud . . . [*There is an unexplained gap for the rest of this day's entry.*]



*Fabian Ware
as a Major-General*

Sir Fabian Ware (see Index) was Chairman of the Imperial War Graves Commission and in charge of the whole series of events..

13 May King and Queen meet Rud and Carrie at the Indian Cemetery (near Boulogne). Rud's speech.

May 13 Our car takes some of the High Commissioners to Etaples to meet the King and later Rud to meet him at the Indian Cemetery and after a hurried lunch takes us all to the cemetery where the King reads Rud's speech – excellent well done. A most wonderful ceremony. The King stops to talk to me and the Queen sends for me. So ends the King's visit. A most effective and impressive affair and Rud feels most useful as between France and England and the Empire. He is glad he proposed it and it was acted on.

LYCETT, p. 510 describes these three days, which were reported in detail in The Times, briefly on 11 May and more thoroughly on 15 May, with photographs, including one of Kipling, and Kipling's poem 'The King's Pilgrimage'.

This entry is the first suggestion in the diaries that the idea for the pilgrimage had originated with Kipling. The three days (Thursday to Saturday) came at the end of a short state visit by the King and Queen to Brussels.

15 May Crossed from Ostend.

May 15 Home. Rud greatly interested and pleased with the immense praise given the speech he did for the King and likes his verses '*The King's Pilgrimage.*'

May 17 Much telephoning – a tiresome muddle and offence taken where no offence was intended by Mr. Larkin, High Commissioner from Canada, not being asked to return home in the King's yacht. Rud spends an hour putting it right.

The King had returned from Boulogne to Dover on board the smaller Royal Yacht, HMY Alexandra. The report in the Court Circular of May 15 makes no mention of any of the High Commissioners having been given passage. It is not clear why it should have fallen to Kipling to smooth ruffled feathers.

19 May Randolph Lewis all afternoon [explaining they have not put *The Gate \[of a Hundred Sorrows\]* on the films.](#)

Note 3 to PINNEY, Letters, Vol. 5, p. 109 explains why nothing had happened.

May Anglo-French Society.(evidently a mis-type)

May 22 Rud's speech at the Anglo-French dinner a great success.

The text of the speech is published in A Second Book of Words, see NRG.

30 May Rud meets the King at Lord Ribblesdale's and talks to him for . . .

May 30 Rud to dine with Lord Revelstoke to meet the King. Rud has 20

minutes talk with the King who tells him how gratified he is about Rud's speech which has been praised in every quarter and given great satisfaction to high and low. He thanks Rud again.

Carrington's 'Ribblesdale' seems to be an error. The King's (and Kipling's) host must have been Lord Revelstoke (1863-1929), as in Rees, who had been awarded a GCVO (Grand Cross of the Victorian Order, indicating a connection with the Royal family), and – unlike Lord Ribblesdale – had a London house.



Lord Revelstoke

June They go to Ascot with George B(ambridge) and lose.

Ever since his time in India, Rudyard had been unenthusiastic about horse-racing, witness his verse in An Almanac of Twelve Sports (1897).

**The horse is ridden—the jockey rides—
The backers back—the owners own.
But ... there are lots of things besides,
And I should leave this play alone.**

July Elsie has a pearl necklace from Carrie's mother's estate.

4 July Ada Thompson, a servant in our employ for 21 years leaves our service to be married next week. An excellent worker and responsible but without heart and gratitude and always selfish and difficult with her fellow servants.

*It is assumed that Ada Thompson was the cook who had given notice, on **Sep. 30 1921**. Bateman's was not big enough to warrant a housekeeper, so the cook, with her long years of service, would have been in charge of the servants.*

July 12 Ada Thompson is married today. Utter confusion in the household.

Did they all have 'one over the eight'?

15 July A new cook comes.

July 21 At 3.15 to the Royal Garden Party. Saw over 70 people to talk to that we could remember and of course as many more that we only bowed to.

27 July The Irish Guards finished. Rud exhausted **yellow and shrunken**.

August Rud now very ill and being examined by specialists in London.

His recurrent pain over the years was almost certainly due to an undiagnosed duodenal ulcer, which eventually caused his death.

Aug. 7 Rud finishes the proof of the Introduction of the Irish Guards History.

Aug. 8 We come to London. Mr. Miles, surgeon, says there must be an X-Ray examination.

11 Aug. X-Rayed.

13 Aug. Nursing Home in Fitzroy Square.

14 Aug. **No sign of the always to be dreaded cancer.**
Ulceration of the colon.
Milk diet, enemas, and Epsom Salts.

Aug. 14 They discover no trace of any sign of the always to be dreaded cancer.

- 26 Aug. Oliver B. and Elsie still friendly.
(Carrie having continual servant trouble and complaining of their unhelpfulness.)
- 5 Sep. Home to Bateman's.
- Sep. 5 Home.
*A fuller account of Kipling's medical troubles at this time will be found in Note 1 to PINNEY, **Letters**, Vol. 5, p. 127.*
- 11-12 Sep. The *N Y World* blows up the Clare Sheridan stunt. The account of an interview with RK a year previously. She had called with the Frewens.
Rud too ill to do anything. Carrie does her best to smooth it down to discourage [anti-American propaganda](#).
- Sep. 11 Man from *N Y World* wants confirmation of an interview with Clare Sheridan who of course was never given an interview or said she was writing one when she came with her children in June last .
- Sep. 12 Reporters from London re what they suppose Rud said in an interview with Clare Sheridan about America. Clare's brother telegraphed in June asking me if he might bring Clare and her children to see us. I wired back "Yes Sunday". No word was said about interviews or of course she would have been told No. She must have made it up out of the talk, general for the most part of what she could remember and has remembered very badly. Rud concerned to save the position as much as possible for after all they, the Frewens, are old friends and she came to Bateman's first as a child herself - and to see as little capital as possible is made out of it for anti-English propaganda for the papers.
- Sep 14 Sheridan cables and telegrams continue to be a bother. Never was hospitality so basely returned

*See our entry and note for 1 May 1920. There appears to be some confusion as to when Mrs. Sheridan's visit had occurred PINNEY, in his note about a cable sent by Kipling (**Letters**, Vol*

5, p. 127-8) says that the visit had occurred 10 June 1922, citing the *Bateman's Visitor's Book*, though there is no corresponding entry in the *Extracts*. Carrie's memory, as given above, corresponds with PINNEY's entry, except that 10 June was a Saturday, not a Sunday. Carrington's entry above suggests that the event had occurred a year previously.

Mrs Sheridan's visit, in the course of which Kipling had made various uncomplimentary remarks about the United States, embarrassed the Kiplings, the more so since, at this time, there was tension between the USA and Great Britain. It seems likely that Kipling did say what Mrs. Sheridan wrote, which accorded with the views of those who felt resentment that Britain had been deprived of her dominant status by the upstart United States. On both sides of the Atlantic, in the Admiralty and the Navy Department, contingency plans were being made for war between the two nations – just in case. See CARRINGTON, pp. 459-60 and LYCETT, p. 511

19 Sep. Rud better. Reading I[rish] G[uards] proofs.

7 Oct. Stan Baldwin carries heavy side and is quite the cabinet minister, has lost his sense of humour.

Oct. 7 Stan Baldwin calls after breakfast – carries heavy “side” these days and is quite the Cabinet Minister – has lost his fine sense of humour – sad. At 1.30 to see the Boy Scouts Rally and review by the Prince of Wales. We meet the Prince and the Duke of Connaught.

Stanley Baldwin, Kipling's first cousin, had been President of the Board of Trade (a senior cabinet post) since April 1921, and by the end of the month would be promoted to Chancellor of the Exchequer. Within a year he would be Prime Minister

“Carrying side” was a schoolboy expression, for someone full of



Stanley Baldwin

their own importance.

*Kipling had been invited to the Boy Scout rally at Alexandra Palace, in north London, by Baden Powell (see PINNEY, **Letters**, Vol. 5, p. 128). The Prince of Wales was then seen as the ideal of a young Englishman. For the Duke of Connaught, see Index.*

10 Oct. [A young poet, Croft-Cooke, for tea,](#)
(Much more about [base ingratitude](#) of servants.)



Rupert Croft-Cooke

Rupert Croft-Cooke (1903-1979) was a poet and novelist, playwright and broadcaster.

Oct. 12 Cook (maid) gives notice having sprained her wrist, been useless for four weeks had her arm rubbed by me twice daily all the time. A quick temper and selfish to a fine art.

Oct. 23 My maid leaves, an utter failure and yet another case of base, the most base, ingratitude.

25 Oct. In London. Stan Baldwin to breakfast on his way to see the King

On 20 October, The Times reported the fall of the coalition government which had been in power since 1915. On 23 October, the formation of a new, Conservative, government was announced with Andrew Bonar Law as Prime Minister

and Stanley Baldwin as Chancellor of the Exchequer.

The King held a Privy Council that morning to approve the new government and afterwards the ministers, including Baldwin received their Seals of Office, took the Oath, and kissed hands.

- November Rud working at nothing but Inscriptions [*'Epitaphs of the War'*]
His pains return.
- Nov. 1 Rud has a night of his old pain and sickness.
- 11 Nov. Sir H. Rolleston is called in.
- Sir Humphry Rolleston (1862-1944) was a distinguished physician, President of the Royal College of Physicians, and shortly to become Physician-in-Ordinary to the King.*
- 12 Nov. To London. An operation is decided upon.
- Nov. 13 Rud goes with me to the nursing home. In the morning he sees his lawyer, destroys two codicils to his will and makes another, signs papers and finishes up his business affairs.
- 14 Nov. The *Daily Telegraph* gets wind of it but Carrie silences them.
- 15 Nov. Bland-Sutton operates.
- Nov. 15 Rud operated on by Sir John Bland-Sutton.
- 17 Nov. The King and Queen send a personal message of sympathy to Carrie.
- Nov. 17 The King telegraphs me "The Queen and I are distressed to hear of Mr. Kipling's illness. We sincerely hope he is making satisfactory progress and that his condition does not give you any cause for anxiety, George R.I."
- 29 Nov. Rud to Brown's Hotel. Carrie sees the Principal of St. Andrew's.

St. Andrew's University proposed to ask Kipling to become their Rector, which he did next year.

Nov. 30 Rud comes (to Brown's) with his nurse about 11.30.

CARRINGTON, pp. 460-1 and LYCETT, p. 512 cover this medical episode, LYCETT in greater detail.

2 Dec. Elsie to Chequers for weekend with the Baldwins.

Dec. 2 Rud and I to eat our dinner with Sir John and Lady Sutton-Bland (*sic*)
A great experiment.

Elsie to Chequers for Sunday with the Baldwins.

(Note. S.B. was recently made P.M. but there was no note to that effect in the diary)



Chequers Court

The country house, Chequers Court, in Buckinghamshire some 40 miles from London, had been presented to the nation as a country residence for the Prime Minister of the day, in early 1921. Rees's note is incorrect – Stanley Baldwin did not become Prime Minister until May 1923 when he succeeded Andrew Bonar Law. So, either Elsie was a guest of the Bonar Laws (whom she knew very well) or else Bonar Law, having invited the Baldwins to come to Chequers, added Elsie to the guests, knowing that she and Lorna Baldwin were close friends.

Dec. 4 The day nurse leaves. A good nurse perhaps but quite heartless and unyielding, obstinate and a bully.

5 Dec. **Rud still listless.**
G. Macdonald for Elsie's settlement. [Kipling's solicitor and cousin.]
Rud walks to the zoo with FND[oubleday]
The Bland Suttons entertain Carrie almost daily.

“A walk to the zoo” was not a short walk for a convalescent, – a good mile there and a mile back. Elsie's settlement probably refers to arrangements for administering a bequest to Elsie in Kipling's will ; at this date, she had not become engaged to be married, when a 'settlement' (dowry) would have been made for her.

15 Dec. To Bateman's.
Rud still low and depressed over Christmas but Carrie thinks he is improving

Dec. 15 Everything ready by 11.15 for our departure home by motor.

Dec. 25 Some presents for Elsie and a few for Rud but no Xmas spirit or heart.

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