

The Carrington and Rees Extracts
from the diaries of
Caroline Kipling

1924



- Jan. At Bateman's.
- 1 Jan. Elsie doesn't feel up to a children's party with her parents, but . . .
- 2 Jan . . . goes to town to dine with G, Bambridge.
- 11 Jan. Leave for Paris to stay with F.P. Stanley.
- Jan. 11** We leave Bateman's for Paris and are met by Francis Stanleys (*sic*).

Frances Park Stanley was a daughter of Julia Taufflieb (formerly Depew, formerly Park, neé Catlin – see Index). Her husband Peter, was a British surgeon, practising in France – LYCETT, p. 540, explains the connection with the Stanleys.

- 14 Jan. Rud. calls on President Millerand – [cordial reception](#).

*Alexandre Millerand (1859-1943)
was the President of the
French Republic, 1920-24.*



Alexandre Millerand

15 Jan. Lunch at the Senate with Gen. Taufflieb. (He is quite a friend. The name often appears.)

*Julia Hunt Catlin Park Depew
(see Index under Catlin and
Depew) had divorced Chauncey
Depew in 1916, and married
General Emile Adolphe Taufflieb
(1857-1938). After an active war
in command on the Western Front,
including having to suppress a
mutiny in one of his units in 1917,
he had retired in 1919, and become
a Senator for his home region of Bas
Rhin (Lower Rhine)*



General Taufflieb

16 Jan. A reception where they recite RK's poems to him in French.

17 Jan. The Chevrillons for lunch.
[Rud the better for his trip but depressed about politics \(the Labour Government\).](#)

See our entry for 7 Dec. 1923. The Labour government fell before the year was out.

18 Jan. Calais-Dover.

Jan. 18 Home.

19 Jan. [A letter from Stamfordham offering Rud the OM is a difficulty.](#)

Jan. 19 A letter from Stamfordham offering Rud the OM is a difficulty.

20 Jan. He declines it again.

Jan. 20 He writes to Lord Stamfordham declining the OM for the second time.

21 Jan. Stan writes pressing it. Rud declines.

Jan. 21 Letter from Stan Baldwin offering Rud an OM or rather to propose it to the King “in whose gift it alone is”.

Clearly the ‘powers-that-be’ were keen to reward Kipling for his work, not only as the National poet, but also for his work for the King, but more particularly for his work on the War Graves Commission.

Equally clearly, Kipling was consistent in his refusal to accept any public honours, other than academic ones.

26 Jan. Stan Baldwin for breakfast, [very clam-like](#), little in return for hospitality, except general agreement on trustee for Elsie’s settlement.

Jan. 26 Stan Baldwin for breakfast, proposed by himself. H is very clam-like and we get very little in return for our hospitality.

LYCETT, pp. 520-22 gives an account of this meeting, and speculates that Baldwin revealed to Kipling (but not to Carrie), that his son Oliver had homosexual tendencies.

28 Jan. Re-arrangement of investments. Elsie’s settlement [to meet the changes of the times](#).

The same passage from LYCETT cited above explains that the Kiplings were aware that Elsie was thinking of leaving home and was probably contemplating marriage with George Bambridge (see our entry for 23 May below),

29 Jan. Rud [quite hopeless with depression, nerves and nerves](#). But working at ‘The Wish House’

Jan. 29 Rud at his new story. Rud quite hopeless with depression. Nerves and nerves. (Story = 'The Wish House'.) Rud polishes *The Wish House* and thinks out *The Bridge*. Rud not as well as usual, a hint of the old pain.

Again, the LYCETT passage suggests a combination of the news about Oliver Baldwin and Elsie's likely marriage as being responsible for his depression.

Feb. 3 Rud depressed and seeing only our farm failures, decides to go to Bath tomorrow.

5 Feb. To Bath, Carrie has cysts removed from her head. Carrie in pain. Rud working at *The Wish House*, and seeing Saintsbury.

Feb. 5 Leave Wellington at 9.30. Arrive Bath at noon. Dr. Melsom starts to operate on my head and removes one large and two small cysts.

9 Feb. Home by way of Farnborough where they call on Massingberd-Montgomery. [a General. Afterwards CIGS (*Chief of the Imperial General Staff*)]

His name was Montgomery-Massingberd (see Index), and he commanded 1st Infantry Division at Aldershot.

11 Feb. In London. Business with Mr. Syfret and with Mr. Simons of the *NY Times*.

16 Feb. Elsie back from Paris, full of news. Rud polishing *The Wish House* and writing verses, *The Bridge*. [(?)]

It seems most likely that this poem was that published in Debits and Credits in 1932, under the title of 'Akbar's Bridge', as an accompaniment to the tale 'The Debt'.

Feb. 17 Rud wretched. He works on his *Wish House* corrections.

19 Feb. Jane Austen poem.

This was 'Jane's Marriage', the last verse of which appeared as a heading to the tale 'The Janeites', which appeared in various magazines in May this year. The whole poem appeared in Debits and Credits (1927).

Feb. 20 Home.

21 Feb. Newfoundland War Memorial Inscriptions.



The Newfoundland Memorial Park

The Newfoundland Memorial Park is at Beaumont Hamel, on the Somme; it was opened by Field-Marshal Haig in 1925.

22 Feb. Met Christopher Hussey.

Christopher Hussey (1899-1970) was the grandson of Edward Hussey, the owner of Scotney Castle (see Index, under 'Husseys of Scotney Castle'). He became a noted architectural historian.

23 Feb. Sir Archie Montgomery(-*Massingberd*) and Lady to stay. (Major Creighton of Wembley Exhib. often calls.)

See entry for 9 Feb. above and Index.

27 Feb. To reception for [Lord] Apsley's wedding.

Lord Apsley (1895-1942) was the son of the Bathursts of Cirencester Park, and was already an MP. He was well-known to the Kiplings. He married Viola Meeking, and died during World War II while commanding the Arab legion.

Mar. 5 Rud to London to have Bland Surrone vet him before he goes abroad. Rud returns for tea with a clean bill of health but strict orders re diet.

Mar. 6 A new gardener called Street comes into our service.

Mar. 11 To London. Major Creighton to dine.

(12 Mar. – 6 May a blank - in Paris.)

Mar. 12 A Graves Commission meeting.

(Note. There are no further entries in the diary until May 6th. A letter from RK to Bland Sutton says “*Leaving on 14th for Gib. and Algeciras*”. A letter to Fletcher, page 724 of the Kipling Correspondence, gives a description of their trip up to 30 March. (*It will be found in PINNEY, Letters, Vol. 5, pp. 162-63.*)

They went to Gibraltar and the south of Spain. In Gibraltar they were entertained by Fletcher’s son on board the destroyer, HMS Tourmaline, which he commanded

6 May Home. Rud giving up his work on the Wembley Pageant. (Entries scarce this year.)

May 6 Leave Paris 4 pm, Arrive home 9 pm. A delightful visit bar the bothers of letters and visits in connection with Rud giving up his work on the Wembley Pageant.

They had had their car with them and LYCETT, pp. 523-24 gives some description of their trip and the work which resulted from it. The journey back from Paris was undoubtedly swift – leaving Paris at 4 pm means 3 pm British time, but an overall time of six hours was good going, observing that their car had to be craned on and off the ferry, being emptied of fuel and refilled at the beginning and end of the Channel crossing. I doubt that one could better it today, even using autoroutes, channel tunnel and motorways in the UK.

23 May. Rud at his story of The Bull. [*The Bull that Thought*]. Elsie tells us that she wants to marry George Bambridge who is coming from Madrid for a few days to see about it. He is a nice man we have all great liking for but we don’t like losing her – and I am appalled at the changes it will make.

(Very few entries.)

May 23 Elsie tells us she wants to marry George Bambridge who is coming

from Madrid for a few days to see about it. He is a nice man we have greatly liked but we don't like the idea of losing (sic) her and I am appalled (*also sic*) at the change it will make.

George Bambridge and Elsie had known each other since at least November 1919 (see Index).

He was now an honorary attaché at the British Embassy in Madrid.



George Bambridge

6 June To Oxford to dine with the Rhodes Scholars. [Rud not feeling up to much.](#)

June 6 We motor to Oxford. Rud dines with the Rhodes scholars and makes a speech.

The dinner was an annual dinner for the Rhodes Scholars, and was a substantial affair, with Lord Milner in the chair and about 400 guests. Kipling's speech was reported in full in The Times of 7 June. The guest list comprised largely academic notables. Kipling's speech was later collected in A Book of Words, No. XXVI, with the title 'Work in the Future'.

June 7 We leave for home.

11 June Mr. Gwynne and the Duke of Northumberland to dine and sleep. (Rud working at *'The Bull that Thought.'*)

Lady Bathurst wished to sell the Morning Post newspaper (of which Gwynne was the Editor) and the prospective buyer was a consortium, headed by the Duke of Northumberland. It may be surmised that they met privately to thrash out the details of the sale agreement.

For Gwynne, see Index.

18 June Peggy Leigh to be bridesmaid. (She was the beauty. CEC)

Peggy Leigh (1891-1962) was the daughter of Hon. Rowland Leigh, whose wife, Mabel, was a relative of Carrie. LYCETT, pp. 572-73, gives some account of the Leighs.

19 June Motor to Aldershot to stay with the delightful Archie Montgomerys. A quite wonderful Tattoo.



a tank at the Aldershot Tattoo

The Aldershot Tattoo was an annual event, from which such spectacles as the Royal Tournament and the Edinburgh Tattoo have developed. It was more martial than present-day tattoos, with an emphasis on battlefield re-creations, and more bangs and smoke than music

20 June A morning with the tanks.

At this date, the armoured element of the army comprised the Royal Tank Corps, which comprised four battalions. (The wholesale conversion of cavalry regiments to armoured regiments began in the mid-late 1930s.)

21 June The Baldwins for the week-end.
(Sat.)

25 June Buck Palace Garden Party. [Rud enjoys himself.](#)

30 June Miss Wilman from S. Africa.

1 July Rud dines at The Club.

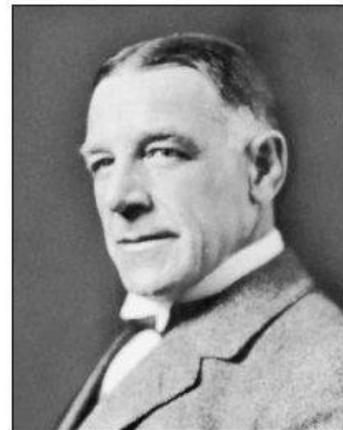
4 July The Verney children to tea.

We surmise that these may have been the three children of Sir Ralph Verney (1879-1959), who were aged 11 downwards: their father had been Military Secretary to the Viceroy of India (1916-21) and was also a keen motorist. At this time he was the Speaker's Secretary, and a connection would have been made through Stanley Baldwin.

5 July Mr. and Mrs. Bok and their son.

Edward Bok (1863-1930) was the Dutch-born editor of the American Ladies Home Journal from 1889 to 1919 and had published a number of Kipling's tales.

He and Kipling had corresponded since the 1890s and continued to the end of Bok's life.



Edward Bok

9 July Rud under 9 stone again. A detailed diet from Bland Sutton. (Several times to Gilbert and Sullivan plays.)

9 stone is 57.25Kg. As for "Gilbert and Sullivan plays", we can only assume that Carrington was not a 'G & S' enthusiast – they were light operas or operettas. And while Gilbert had been a comic playwright in his younger days, it is arguable that the G&S canon is remembered more for the music than for the libretto. Readers are referred to Brian Mattinson's 'Kipling and Music' article in the 'General Articles' of the NRG for Kipling's attitude to music.

18 July To the Baldwins'. Reception for Colonials.

The reception, and the Kiplings' presence (which included Elsie) was reported in The Times (Court Circular) of 19 July. The guests, who were not listed, were merely recorded as "overseas visitors", but were probably Dominion and Colonial representatives in London to see the British Empire Exhibition. This had opened in May, but the first performance of the pageant, on which Kipling had worked, was to be performed

on 21 July.

July Rud working at *The Eye of Allah*. Carrie servant-hunting. George Bambridge comes to stay.

The Eye of Allah was published two years later and collected in the same year (1926) in Debits and Credits. See the NRG notes.

30 July HE GETS A CLEAN REPORT FROM THE DOCTORS (*sic, in capitals*)
(Carrie is in a great fuss of work this year and usually short of servants.)

Aug. Rud likes Mrs. Florsheim, George's aunt. Dorothy Price and John Bailey visiting.

Mrs. Louis Florsheim was "not only agreeable but wealthy" (LYCETT, p. 526) and her late husband had left George Bambridge a substantial legacy.

For Dorothy Price, see Index. John Bailey was a son of Sir Abe Bailey, Kipling's old friend from South Africa.

19 Aug. Sir George Lloyd, late Governor of Bombay, for tea. Most interesting.



Lord Lloyd

Sir George Lloyd (later Lord Lloyd) (1879-1941) was an ultra-right-wing Unionist politician who had just completed a term as Governor of Bombay (1918-23).

During this time he had ordered the arrest of Mahatma Gandhi for sedition, as a result of which Gandhi was sentenced to six years' imprisonment.

*And while in the post, he had also been responsible for marking Kipling's birthplace with a memorial plaque. (PINNEY, **Letters**, Vol. 5, pp. 178-79, note 5.) In earlier life he had been an honorary attaché (as George Bambridge now was.)*

Aug. 25 Spend the night at Folkestone.

26 Aug. Folkestone-Boulogne-Beauvais.

Aug. 26 Beauvais.

27 Aug. Paris, Hotel Brighton.

They always stayed at the best hotels.

28 Aug. Rud to inspect cemeteries, Carrie and Elsie shopping.

29 Aug. To see the inscription, which Rud wrote, on the memorial in Notre Dame.

Aug. 29 See the inscription in the Notre Dame Cathedral that Rud wrote. (Memorial tablet).

30 Aug. Amiens, the cathedral.

Aug. 30 Amiens.

31 Aug. Doullens.

Aug. 31 Lille.

1 Sep. Inspecting cemeteries

2 Sep. Ditto.

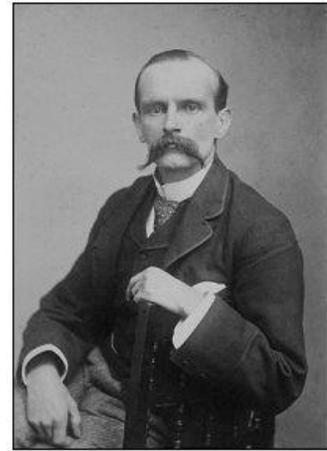
Kipling visited 33 cemeteries during this tour (list, taken from Kipling's unpublished Motoring Diaries, contained in Note 2 to a letter to Brander Mathews (PINNEY, Letters, Vol. 5, pp. 170-71.)

3 Sep. Brussels. George and Elsie house-hunting.

Sep. 3 Brussels.

4 Sep. Meet Sir F. and Lady Lugard in the hotel.

Sir Frederick (later Lord) Lugard was one of the great British colonial administrators of the 20th century, being particularly associated with Nigeria, but he had also served in east Africa and was Governor and CinC Hong Kong, 1907-1912. Lady Lugard was herself an author and journalist, and was made DBE for her work with refugees during the war.



Sir Frederick Lugard

6 Sep. Drove to Louvain.

Louvain, a Belgian university city between Brussels and Liège had been deliberately sacked and burnt by the Germans in August 1914, in pursuance of their policy of Schrecklichkeit, intimidating the civilian population of occupied territory (frequently referred to in the British press as 'frightfulness'). The event had attracted international condemnation.

7 Sep. Stayed at Calais.

Sep. 7 Calais.

8 Sep. London - Elsie shopping.

Sep. 8 London.

10 Sep. Asked to meet the King and Queen of Greece at Brown's

The King of Greece was George II (1890-1947), recently deposed, and living in London, at Brown's Hotel.

Sep. 10 Home.

September Rud has much talk with Landon, just back from China.

For Landon, see Index. He was an inveterate traveller, his Tour in 1923-24 having included China, Nepal and Egypt.

16 Sep. Called on W. Lawrence - interested in a book he is writing.



Sir Walter Lawrence

This may have been Sir Walter Lawrence (1857-1940) who had served in India. He published in 1928 two books: The Valley of Kashmir and The India We Served.

19 Sep. Something goes wrong at Brown's. [Too bad after all these years.](#)

29 Sep. 700 invitations sent out for Elsie's wedding.

Sep. 29 Elsie's wedding invitations go to the Post Office – over 700 of them.

1 Oct. They go to the Hotel Brighton. Rud working at his detective story.

There is a pencilled (?) alongside this entry, but as will be seen below (26 Oct.) it was undoubtedly 'Fairy-Kist' (NRG).

(He has pains. Elsie tries on her wedding dress. They go out with the Stanleys.)

For the Stanleys, see Index.

Oct. 1 Paris. (Note. RK in pain during the next few days.)

8 Oct. Home to Bateman's

Oct. 8 Home.

10 Oct. Settlements [on our side and George's upon Elsie.](#)

LYCETT, p. 526 confirms that George had used his legacy from Louis Florsheim (see August above) to make a substantial settlement upon Elsie (over £800,000 at 2016 prices).

20 Oct. After endless worry they go to London for the wedding. The Rolls has been refurbished by Hooper [Car body specialists.]

Hooper's was an old-established (1805) London firm of coachbuilders who had turned to bespoke luxury car-body building with the coming of the motor age. At this date, Rolls Royce cars and nearly all other luxury models were made as a separate body placed on a rolling chassis from the motor manufacturer. We assume that Hooper's had made the body for the Kipling Rolls in the first place. Hooper's went out of business in 1959 when Rolls Royce changed to integral body and chassis construction.

21 Oct. Francis Stanley from Paris joins them on their last day together.

22 Oct. 1924 [Elsie's wedding day – not fine except just as she goes to the church. All goes quite perfectly. She is a beautiful bride. We have over 1000 in the church and over 500 at the reception. Nearly 400 presents. They go off quite early . She quite charming in her pretty coat and hat.](#)



Oct. 22 Elsie's wedding day. She is a beautiful bride. We have over 1000 in the church and over 500 at the reception. Nearly 400 presents.*

We sadly return to face an empty side to our life and for the present are too weary to meet it. * Later additions make 450.

The wedding .which took place in St. Margaret's, Westminster was reported in The Times of 23 October. The reception was held in the Baldwin's London home, in Eaton Square. The guest list was extensive.

24 Oct. Elsie and George come to say good-bye at Brown's before leaving for Brussels.

25 Oct. At Home. Gwynne. Bland-Sutton. Both of us very sad.

Oct. 25 Home.

Both Gwynne and Bland-Sutton had attended Elsie's wedding.

26 Oct. Rud returns to 'Fairy-Kist',

28 Oct. Polling day. Rud at his Stationers' speech.

'The Stationers' refers to the Worshipful Company of Stationers and Newspaper Makers, a City of London Livery Company. The speech has not been collected.

30 Oct. Wonderful election news. Rud [sees Stan Baldwin and reports the club as fizzing.](#)

The minority Labour government having been defeated in a vote of 'No Confidence', a general election was held on 29 October (not 28th, as recorded by Carrie/Carrington), at which the Conservatives, under Stanley Baldwin, won a landslide victory, with the Liberals being virtually wiped out, except for rural Wales and the Scottish highlands. "The Club" was almost certainly the Carlton Club, the premier Conservative London club, of which Kipling was a member.

Oct. 30 To Cirencester to the Bathursts.

Nov. A house party at Pembury.
The Bathursts.

*Pembury was evidently a part of the Cirencester Park estate – in a letter to Elsie from Cirencester (PINNEY, **Letters**, Vol. 5,*

pp. 176-78.) Kipling wrote “This morn too, all the men have all gone off shooting at Pembury”

2 Nov. They went to church. Rud like his old self.

Carrie did not often record their church-going.

Nov. 3 Home for tea.

6 Nov. He gets a catholic point of view of *The Eye of Allah* from an old friend, Ellie Bridson.

LYCETT, p. 568 describes Ellie Bridson as “an old literary colleague”. Kipling mentions her in his letter to Elsie cited above, and in a note to the letter, Pinney tells us what little is known about her.

14 Nov. Baker comes to discuss plans for Rhodes House.

Rhodes House, in Oxford, is a meeting place for Rhodes Scholars, designed by Sir Herbert Baker (see Index) and was completed in 1928. Today it is also used as a public venue for events.

17 Nov. Rud goes to a Lodge dinner as a guest of Sutherland Harris which he greatly enjoys as he meets a lot of men he is not in the way of meeting.

Nov. 17 We go to London. Rud goes to a Lodge dinner as a guest of Sutherland Harris. (Note. This is the first mention in the diary of RK attending any Lodge.)

Colonel Sutherland Harris was a Burwash neighbour. See Index.

18 Nov. Rud dines with great pleasure at the Club.

Nov. 19 Home.

21 Nov. ‘Sussex Cattle verses.

This was the poem ‘Alnaschar and the Oxen’ which

accompanied the tale. The Bull that Thought', both first published in Debits and Credits in 1926. See NRG notes.

25 Nov. The Club.

29 Nov. He is greatly interested in the trouble in Egypt.

The immediate cause of his interest was the assassination of the British Governor-General of Sudan in Cairo, and pro-Egyptian riots in Sudan. (Then, as now, Sudan had a Muslim north, and a Christian/animist south.)

1 Dec. He has his little illustrated *Horace* out of the safe and does some more pictures.

2 Dec. An invitation from Lord Burnham to meet the King.

Dec. 2 An invitation from Lord Burnham to meet the King.

Lord Burnham (1st Viscount Burnham (1862-1933)) was at this time the proprietor of the Daily Telegraph.

3 Dec. A wireless set for the servants' hall.

*This was distinctly advanced. The first BBC radio ('wireless') broadcast had been on 14 November 1922. Kipling described its acquisition and fitting in a letter to Elsie (PINNEY, **Letters**, Vol. 5, pp. 182-84.)*

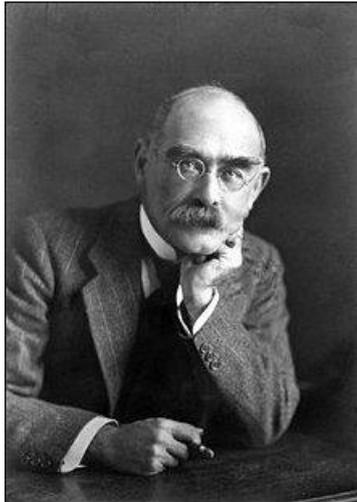
5 Dec. Miss Anderson [former secretary], a true friend [full of remembrances of Rottingdean and her experiences with the Burne-Jones and Ruskins.](#)

Sara Anderson (see Index) had been Carrie's secretary at the turn of the century (1899-1902), and had been about the only one with whom Carrie had a cordial relationship, both while in the post and afterwards.

9 Dec. The Club. Stan B. elected.

*PINNEY, **Letters**, Vol. 5, p. 188 has two letters from Kipling to Baldwin informing him of his election.*

10 Dec. Elliot and Fry take Rud's portrait



Elliott and Fry were a leading photographic studio, founded in 1863, which specialised in high quality photographs of social and public celebrities, particularly those in the arts and sciences, and politicians.

Met Hugh Walpole at the Cazalets.

Hugh Walpole (1884-1941) was a popular novelist.

'The Cazalets' were probably William Cazalet and his wife, a 'County' family from Kent, and with a London house (which is probably where the meeting took place.)



Hugh Walpole

Rud putting *Debits and Credits* together and attending a [rather bothering](#) Rhodes meeting.

Dec. 10 We leave for London. Rud to a rather bothering Rhodes meeting.

December Mostly in London.

17 Dec. He goes to the Burnhams at Hall Barn [Beaconsfield]. [16 men guests to meet the King.](#)

Dec. 17 Rud leaves at 4.30 for Hall Barn, Beaconsfield, Lord Burnham's. Sixteen men guests to meet the King.

In a letter to Elsie (PINNEY, Letters, Vol. 5, pp. 189-191), Kipling described the fog which nearly caused them to become lost on their way to Hall Barn. In the notes thereto, Pinney has listed all the guests.

18 Dec. Reports excellent time and good entertainment. Sits at the King's left at dinner, excellent talk.

To a Directors' meeting of the Morning Post.

See our entry of 11 June above. This board meeting was presumably to ratify the sale. Kipling would have been present merely as an observer – although he advised Lady Bathurst and Gwynne on editorial policy, he was never a member of the board.

G. du Maurier asks for an inscription for the Actor's Memorial at Stratford.

This was Sir Gerald du Maurier, the actor-manager, son of George du Maurier, the Victorian novelist and cartoonist.

The latter had been an acquainted with the Macdonald sisters when a student.



Gerald du Maurier

Carrie is now ill with insomnia.

Dec. 18 Rud reports excellent time. He sits at the King's left at dinner. Excellent talk. Rud to a meeting of *Morning Post* Directors. Leave for home at 4.10.

The letter to Elsie, cited above, gives more details of the dinner.

Dec. 23 We leave at 11 and reach Oxford at 4.

24 Dec. To the Baldwins at Astley for Christmas. A happy party and warm welcome. Rud and Stan go for long walks.
Aunt Louie and Aunt Edie.
(Lorna Howard is almost a daughter to them.)
No mention of Oliver.

'Aunt Louie' was Louisa Baldwin, Stan's mother (see Index)
'Aunt Edie' was Edith Macdonald (see Index)
'Lorna Howard' was the Baldwin's daughter (see Index, under Baldwin, Leonora). Oliver had stood as a Labour candidate in the recent by-Election, and had 'come out' (quietly) as a homosexual; he was living with his lifelong partner

Dec. 24 Leave at ten and arrive at Astley Court a little after twelve.

30 Dec. Home again.

Dec. 30 Leave at 10.45 for home.

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