

The Carrington and Rees Extracts
From the diaries of
Caroline Kipling

1929

1929

Jan. The Charles Strubens from South Africa.

See the entry for 16 October below.

8 Jan. Rud works on an old story, 'Heroes and Valets'. (*Can this be 'The Tie'? CEC*)

It seems more likely to have been "The Woman in his Life" which figures both a hero and a valet. The Tie includes neither. "The Woman in his Life" was first published in McCall's Magazine for September 1928 and collected in Limits and Renewals (1932). It may be that Rudyard was considering revising it ?

14 Jan. Lady Milner. Much talk of what to do with his letters and papers.

22 Jan. Rud sees Stamfordham at the Palace to hear the news about the King.

This was Arthur Biggs (1849-1931) who had been Private Secretary to Queen Victoria, and as now serving George V in the same role. The King's health was improving (like Kipling, he did not help himself – he was a heavy smoker) and in a fortnight's time, he was able to go to Bognor, on the Sussex coast, to recuperate.

23 Jan. The Cazalets give a lunch party, old friends – P G Wodehouse, Hugh Walpole, Lord Carson.

For Cazalets, Hugh Walpole, Lord Carson, see Index. P G Wodehouse (1881-1975) was the pre-eminent English literary humourist of the 20th century. He wrote lyrics for musical comedies, and plays, and had a prodigious output of novels and short stories. He created Jeeves, Bertie Wooster, and Lord Emsworth, to name but a few, all now legendary.



Hugh Walpole



P G Wodehouse

Rud working on a de luxe edition of his verses.

This was published by Macmillan later this year in a limited edition of 525, in three volumes, under the title Poems 1886-1929.

1 Feb. Leave for Tilbury.

Feb 1 We leave Bateman's for Tilbury.

They were off for their winter sunshine: they travelled out in the SS Orford, a new Orient Line passenger liner, calling at Gibraltar, Toulon and Naples before they disembarked at Port Said.

2 Feb. Down the river in a thick fog.

6 Feb. [To Gib in the Governor's yacht to see the Godleys, the old schoolmate of Rud's.](#)

Met Princess Pat.

*The Orford anchored in Gibraltar Bay, and they were met by the Governor's barge (its correct title – Carrie has referred to it as his 'yacht', while Kipling referred to it in a letter to Elsie as a 'launch'.) As in 1928, much of the detail for this trip can be found in a series of letters to Elsie (PINNEY, **Letters**, Vol. 5, pp. 471-72, from the Orford: pp. 473-75, pp.476-77 and pp. 478-79 from Cairo: pp. 479-80 from the SS Egypt at Luxor: pp. 480-81 and pp. 482-83 from Jerusalem: and finally pp. 486-87 on board the SS Ausonia en route from Alexandria to Genoa.*

Princess Pat was Princess Patricia of Connaught (see Index).

She was married to the Captain of HMS Furious, an aircraft-carrier in the Atlantic Fleet which was visiting Gibraltar at the time.



Princess Patricia of Connaught

7 Feb. The Balearic Islands. Discover by use of Rud's glasses looking at the islands that the sight of my right eye is nearly finished.

The ship did not call in the Balearics (Majorca, Minorca, etc.) but passed close enough to observe them with binoculars ('glasses').

10 Feb. Naples, Col. Elkington.
(They spend the voyage doing their accounts.)

Feb. 10 Naples.

They had called at Toulon (where they went ashore). Naples was their last port of call before Egypt. We believe that Col. Elkington may have been Colonel Robert Elkington of the Royal Artillery, who was Kipling's near contemporary and had served in India.

13 Feb. They land (at Alexandria I think) and dodge the reporters.

Feb. 13 (?) Port Said to (?) Cairo.

It was, indeed, Port Said where they landed. In a note to one of the letters to Elsie cited above, PINNEY states that "Kipling visited the Port Said cemetery on the day they landed", citing a report in The Times.



Port Said

15 Feb. Inspecting cemeteries at Cairo.

The campaign against the Turkish empire in Egypt, Sinai, Palestine and Syria (1917-1918) is seen as unimportant compared to the struggle on the Western Front, but there were many casualties, from disease as well as from enemy action, and there were War Graves Commission cemeteries which marked the line of the campaign through those countries.

17 Feb. To the Museum to see the Tutankhamen finds.

Tutankhamen's tomb had been excavated by Howard Carter and Lord Carnarvon in 1922.

Its treasures remain the most remarkable collection of artefacts from ancient Egypt.



18 Feb. Valentine Chjrol and B. Dobrée – Professor of English at Cairo.



Bonamy Dobrée



Valentine Chirol

B. Dobrée was Lieut. Colonel Bonamy Dobrée (1891-1971), at this time Professor of English at the Egyptian University in Cairo, and who went on to become the Professor of English Literature at Leeds, 1936-1955. In 1967 he published a biography of Kipling, seen through his attitude to empire, and examining his verse. He remains much respected among Kipling scholars.

The Kiplings had met Sir Valentine Chirol (1852-1929) just before the war, and shortly after he had retired as Foreign Editor of The Times.

19 Feb. The Zoo. Sir W. Willcocks.

Kipling had been elected as an Hon. FRZS, and enjoyed visiting Zoos.

For Sir William Willcocks – see Index.



Sir William Willcocks

20 Feb. Rud drives 250 miles to see cemeteries.

21 Feb. He meets the Egyptian cabinet.

Kipling described them in a letter to Elsie (PINNEY, Letters, Vol. 5, pp. 476-7) as "Fat solemn Pashas, all with an English education and about as false as they make 'em."

26 Feb. Dines with Russell Pasha.

Russell Pasha (1879-1954) was a Briton, a scion of the family of the Dukes of Bedford, in the Egyptian service. At this time he was the Commandant of the Cairo city police, but his great interest was the war on drugs and this year he was appointed as the Director of the newly-formed Central Narcotics Intelligence Bureau: it was estimated that out of a total population of 14 million, half a million were drug addicts.



Russell Pasha

27 Feb. Trip up the Nile.

(No entries 1-10 March)

Feb. 27 We leave on SS *Egypt* for our 20 days up the Nile.



The Egypt was a shallow draught paddle steamer, taking tourists up the Nile as far as the base of the Aswan Dam.

10 Mar. Assouan. Lord Belhaven. Rud much interested.

Lord Belhaven (and Stenton, to give his full title)(1871-1950) had been a career Indian Army Officer.

Mar. 10 Arrive Assouan.

11 Mar. To see in the cemetery at the dam – one war grave,

13 Mar. We start return journey.

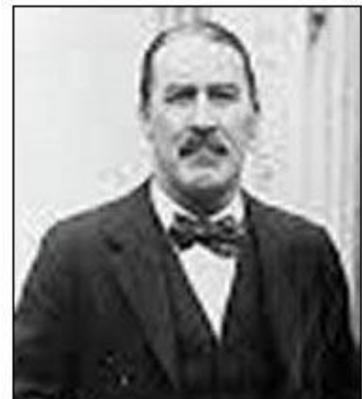
20 March The Residency. Lord and Lady Lloyd, Howard Carter, P. de Lazslo, Valentine Chirol, Bishop of Bombay.

This entry refers to a lunch with the British High Commissioner, Lord Lloyd (1879-1941), who after service in the Diplomatic Corps had served in the Middle East during the war, and had subsequently been the Governor of Bombay, and then an MP before being ennobled and sent to Egypt.



Lord Lloyd

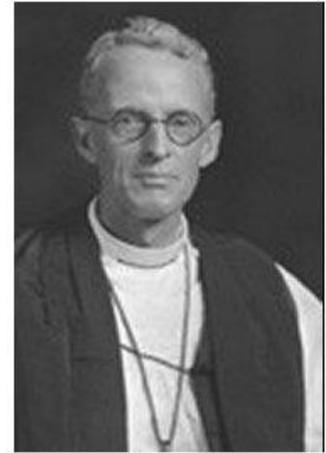
Howard Carter (1873-1939) was the celebrated archaeologist and Egyptologist who had made many discoveries in the Valley of the Kings as well as the tomb of Tutankhamen.



Howard Carter

Philip de Laszlo (1869-37) was a celebrated portrait painter. For Valentine Chirol, see 18 Feb above and Index.

The Bishop cannot be identified with certainty (there were both Anglican and Roman Catholic Bishops) but we suggest that he was Richard Dyke Acland (1881-1954) who had been a soldier before taking Holy Orders, and had just been appointed as Bishop of Bombay and was probably on his way out to India.



Richard Dyke Acland

21 Mar. Arrive in Jerusalem. Colonel Hughes takes charge.

Mar. 21 Jerusalem.

23 Mar. Rud off with Hughes inspecting cemeteries.

Colonel Hughes was an Australian, a representative of the IWGC, and Kipling praised his 'nursing' of them on their trip. round cemeteries in Jerusalem, Haifa, Beersheba and Gaza.

24 Mar. To the Dead Sea.

Mar. 24 Dead Sea.



Kipling was most impressed by their visit to the Dead Sea (an extension of their visit to the cemetery at Beersheba and described it in his letter to Elsie cited above.

There follows a gap in the diary – Carrington says “(No entry 24 Mar – 16 Oct.)”, while Rees records “(Mar. 24 is the last entry until Oct. 15)”. However, for continuity we have drawn on Kipling’s correspondence to fill in the gap, mainly from letters to Elsie. There is no obvious reason (eg, illness) for the gap in the diaries.

25/6 Mar. *They stayed at the High Commissioner’s until 4 April. While there they met Prince Henry, King George V’s third son, recently created the Duke of Gloucester, who made a brief stay with the Lloyds while on his way to Japan, as his father’s representative, to confer the Order of the Garter on the Mikado.*

4 April *The Kiplings left Alexandria for Genoa on board the Italian liner Ausonia, which Kipling described to Elsie as follows (PINNEY, **Letters**, Vol. 5, pp. 486-7): “**Here we are in the most meretricious Neo-Byzantine-Arabesque Wagon-Lit ferry boat that ever was. She resembles several floating houses of ill-fame all joined together but the grub is good, the service excellent and the pace swift.**”*

8 April *Genoa. They stayed at the Hotel Miramar. They had intended to pick up their car and chauffeur at Cannes to drive back via Paris where they were to meet George and Elsie, but the letter cited above indicates that all was not well. The son of Taylor, the chauffeur, had developed pneumonia and it was not certain if he would be able to travel out to meet them. In the event, it would seem that their plans worked out did since, in another letter (PINNEY, **Letters**, Vol. 5, pp.488-9), Kipling explained his non-receipt of a telegram by the fact that he had been “motoring in France”. They were back at Bateman’s by 23 April (date of letter cited above).*

All his letters in May, June and July were from Bateman’s which suggests that they stayed at home, other than for occasional visits to London. During these months he had sat, at Bateman’s, for two pencil portraits by William Rothenstein

and Francis Dodd, both speaking likenesses. In early August they were in London after spending a week-end at Chirk Castle, then the home of Lord Howard de Walden (1880-1946) a collector and author.

In mid-August Kipling was in correspondence with Sir Percy Bates for details concerning Mediterranean trading craft of the Roman period for “The Manner of Men”, which he was in the course of writing.

*In the same period, a letter to Elsie (PINNEY, **Letters**, Vol. 5, pp. 496-7) indicates that Carrie had been ill, with tonsillitis. She had had a high fever, but would not let go of the household reins. Kipling had been concerned about her health during their visit to Egypt – he expressed doubt as to whether she had received any benefit from the trip.*

29 Aug. At Bateman’s: Jervis Bey

Claude Scudamore Jervis (1879-1950) was a Briton in Egyptian Government service (Bey was an Egyptian honorific).

30 Aug. To tea at Lady Milner’s: Leo Maxse

For Lady Milner and Leo Maxse, see Index

*The same letter (PINNEY, **Letters**, Vol. 5, pp. 498-9) speaks of their letting Keylands and mentions a visit by Teddy Price. Kipling wrote, “**He has turned into a delightful man . . . He is a satisfaction.**”*

It may be suggested that Kipling was making a mental comparison with Oliver Baldwin, whose left-wing views and homosexuality would have been a grave disappointment to Kipling.

The Lewins (evidently rather dull) spent the night with them and then all the Milners, Lady Milner, Leo Maxse and Lady Milner’s daughter, Mrs. Hardinge came to tea, with all Mrs. Hardinge’s children

17 Sept A visit by French Ambassador

In another letter to Elsie (PINNEY, Letters, Vol. 5, pp. 500-1) Kipling described M. de Fleuriau's visit in some detail, after remarking that "(he practically asked himself)"



M. de Fleuriau

In the same letter, Kipling reported that the weather was 'drouthy' and that they had 150 sheep on the farm and 90 oxen (today we would say 'store cattle') and that watering them was a problem. He also recorded the visit of Edwin Morgan, the US Ambassador.

Also in that letter was a report of more cook trouble. Cook loved dancing, and was for ever going out in the evening to village 'hops', and returning at irregular hours, disturbing the household. In the end she gave notice and left, taking with her the parlour maid, while Carrie herself dismissed the kitchenmaid. So the Kiplings had to 'eat out' while the secretary, Miss Walford, recruited new staff. They had lunch with the Dutch Ambassador, Renée de Marees van Swinderen, who had an American wife and lived at the foot of the South Downs near Hurstpierpoint. They also had a visit from the Nelson Doubledays, Frank Doubleday's son and daughter-in-law. They paid a visit to Bath at the end of September, staying at Grand Pump Room Hotel, probably for about two weeks.

The diaries resume on 16 October.

16 Oct. Back at Bateman'. Edith Struben.

Edith Struben (1868-1936) was a South African artist. We think it probable that she was a sister of Charles Struben – see entry for January, above

18 Oct. Lunch at the Mansion House. Baden-Powell gets his 'freedom'.



Robert Baden-Powell

This was Kipling's old acquaintance, Robert Baden-Powell, the founder of the Scouts movement, which enthusiastically borrowed many ideas from the Jungle Books. (see Index. He had recently received a Barony and was now receiving the Freedom of the City of London.

19 Oct. Chevening. Lord Lloyd

Another visit to the Stanhopes at Chevening. It would seem that their recent host in Egypt was a fellow guest.

25 Oct. Rud to London to lunch with M. Baring.

Hon. Maurice Baring (1874-1946) was a scion of the Baring banking family, and a prominent man of letters: he was also a member of a number of Kipling's clubs.

28 Oct. To Paris by Golden Arrow to see George and Elsie. The Lloyds travel and dine with them.



Oct. 28 To Paris by Golden Arrow.

The 'Golden Arrow' was THE luxurious way to travel to Paris at this date. On each side of the Channel the railways provided an all-Pullman train, and the cross-channel steamer, the Canterbury was only for Golden Arrow passengers.

The Kiplings were going to visit George and Elsie: George had recently been appointed to the Embassy in Paris. The Lloyds were probably en route for Cairo

6 Nov. Left Paris for home.

Nov. 6 We leave Paris for home.

9 Nov. Rud dines with the Lord Mayor.

Nov. 9 To London. Rud dines with the Lord Mayor and has, I hear later a very splendid reception.

This was the annual Lord Mayor's Banquet, given on the occasion of the new Lord Mayor, Sir William Waterlow, assuming office. He was a Stationer, whose firm made bank notes. Kipling was probably invited as a prominent member of the Stationers' Company.

He had addressed the Stationers in July 1925 on "Stationery". See A Book of Words XXVIII.



Sir William Waterlow

18 Nov. A bad cold prevents Rud from dining with the P(ublisher's) A(ssociation) at Stationer's Hall.

*Kipling had reported on this cold – which does seem to have been a bad one – in a letter to Elsie (PINNEY, **Letters**, Vol. 5, pp. 504-5), which had required him to cry off several other engagements*

19 Nov. Dog Story,

Further work on Thy Servant a Dog.

In a letter to Lord Bathurst, as a Master of Fox Hounds, Kipling thanked him for details of fox-hunting procedure.

25 Nov. Dines with the Stationers' to meet the P. of Wales who thanks him for help with his V.C. speech.

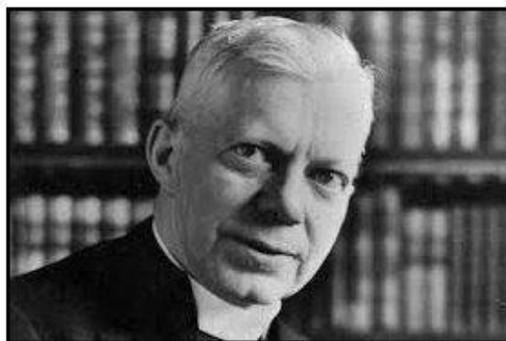
Nov. 25 Rud to dine with the Stationers to meet the Prince of Wales who thanks him for his help in doing the speech for the VC Dinner.

*In a further letter to Elsie, (PINNEY, **Letters**, Vol. 5, pp. 512-3), Kipling mentions this and Pinney notes that the speech had been made to a dinner of the holders of the VC in the Royal Gallery of the House of Lords on 9 November.*

27 Nov. Peggy Leigh brings Mr. Graves for tea.

Peggy Leigh was the daughter of Carrie's relative, Mabel Leigh, and had been a bridesmaid at Elsie Kipling's wedding in 1924. She was a journalist (writing as 'Jane Gordon') and was married to Charles Graves - the brother of Robert Graves the poet - who wrote a gossip column for Beaverbrook's Sunday Express. (See Lycett. p. 573)

1 Dec. Bishop of Chichester (Bell) for tea.



Bishop George Bell, of Chichester

For Bishop Bell, see Index.

Dec. 12 I to St. Clair Thomson who does an operation on my nose.

Dec. 18 I go for another nose operation.

Sir St. Clair Thomson was an eminent laryngologist. The operation must have been a fairly minor one – there is no mention of it in the various Kipling biographies, and two days later, Carrie was able to set out for their Christmas holiday.



Sir St. Clair Thomson

20 Dec. They motor west to spend Christmas at Torquay.

21 Dec. Bath – Miss Bridson.

Dec. 21 To Bath en route to Torquay to spend Xmas.

22 Dec. Hotel Osborn, Torquay,

Dec. 22 Meet Elsie and George at Exeter, taking them on to Torquay.

23 Dec. Rud to visit Dartmoor prison.

24 Dec. They see Rock House, Maidencombe, 'for sale'.



Rock House, Torquay

Dec. 24 To see Rock House at Maidencombe where we first lived after leaving America.

The Kiplings had lived in the house for from September 1896. to May 1897. Rudyard disliked it: 'a lovely place, but eight months damp, rain, sea fog, and mildew, were rather more than we could stand.' See also The House Surgeon (1909)

Dec. 26 Bath.

27 Dec. They reach home from Torquay.

29 Dec. Rud reads Elsie his dog story, *Thy Servant a Dog*, with which she is immensely pleased.

Dec. 29 Rud reads Elsie *Thy Servant a Dog*.

31 Dec. So ends a better year than last – in mind and body.

Dec. 31 So ends a better year than last – in mind and body.

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