

The Carrington and Rees Extracts
From the diaries of
Caroline Kipling

1931

1931

. No entry until 25 Feb, save a note of FND's birthday, 8th Jan. in RK's hand.

Undated (There is no entry until Feb. 25.)

Carrie had been bed-bound, by her rheumatism, for a number of weeks at the end of 1930. Kipling's letter to Elsie (PINNEY, Letters, Vol. 6, pp. 5-6) describes their journey to Bath on 5 January. Subsequent letters to Elsie reveal that they left Bath on 27 January, and returned to Bateman's for two weeks or so, before making their way to Marseilles to board the P & O liner 'Ranchi' on Feb. 21. She called at Malta before landing them at Port Said. Their aim was to find the sun and warmth which they hoped would improve Carrie's health. (From Kipling's commentary in the letters cited below, it would appear that the weather in England and Europe was uniformly vile.)

25 Feb. They arrive at Port Said, are met by Col. Hughes, go to a hotel at Helouan near Cairo. Carrie convalescent.
Rud doing [his verses](#) 'Akbar's Ford'
Many invitations, all declined.

For Hughes, see Index.

Feb. 25 Arrive Port Said a little after 8 a.m. Cairo at 2 p.m.

They were intending to stay at Helouan, on the western outskirts of Cairo. Kipling described their life at Helouan in a letter to his sister Trix (PINNEY, Letters, Vol. 6 pp. 11-16). In this letter, Kipling described how 'Akbar's Ford' came to him (as a memory of a tale told to him by his father) and also that "there are others, rising in the head (as they used to do) one behind the other."

10-11 Mar. To Assouan by train in search of sun.
Dr..Naylor of the British Council their friend.

Mar 10 Motor into Cairo, most amusing. Early for our train.



Their prime purpose was to find warmth, which seemed to do Carrie some good. They had not intended to go south to Assouan, but a few days of a northerly wind in Cairo had persuaded them. Kipling wrote two letters to Elsie (PINNEY, Letters, Vol. 6, pp. 24-6 and 26-8) describing their life of relaxation – though he himself was working hard at verses for Limits and Renewals – it was undoubtedly a creative period for him – as witness his letter to Trix, cited above.

The journey by the night train had been very luxurious. It is likely that Dr. Naylor was the “doctor who has given a new device in the electric line which I am trying as the Sun here is too fierce for long exposure to it. It all helps, I imagine.” This must have been an early form of ‘sun-lamp’.

Mar 11 Assouan

19 Mar. In the launch to see Bishop Gwynne and Mr. Innes who was in the Irish Guards with John.

The Kiplings had an acquaintance who lived on an island in the middle of the Nile, whom they visited on one or more occasions during this visit, On this occasion they met Howell Gwynne’s brother (see Index) who was Bishop of Egypt and the Sudan, and who had visited Bateman’s in 1908.

22 Mar George consults Rud about (*standing for*) Parliament

Kipling's response (PINNEY, Letters, Vol. 6, pp. 28-9) indicates that George Bambridge was attracted by the politics of Sir Oswald Mosley, of whom Kipling had no high opinion; in the letter cited, he described him as "a bounder and an arriviste". At this time Mosley had not yet formed the 'British Union of Fascists'

23-4 Mar. Back to Cairo by train.

Mar. 24 Mena House ?, Cairo.



The Mena House Hotel, below the Great Pyramid

They had planned to pay another visit to Palestine, but the weather there was reported as being wet and wintry, so, as Carrie seemed to be benefitting from the sun, they decided to stay in Egypt, but returned to Cairo since the hotel at Assouan was closing at the end of its season. The Mena House Hotel was another luxury hotel in Cairo.

Mar. 27 Sir F. Ware calls on War Graves business.

For Fabian Ware – see Index.

3 Apr. Rud works at a story.

11-12 Apr. Left Port Said

Apr. 11 Leave Cairo. Sail from Port Said.

The Kiplings took passage to Toulon on the Orient Line's Oronsay.

15 Apr. Naples. Lunch ashore.

Apr. 15 Naples.

17 Apr. Toulon. Picked up the motor – Hyères.
Long drives.

Apr. 17 Toulon.

They had intended to go west to Biarritz before turning north for Paris, but decided not to tire Carrie out with the long drive, and so stayed at Hyères, only 18 km from Toulon, for a week before setting off.



Hyères

24 Apr. To Aix.

Apr. 24 Aix-en-Provence.

25 Apr. Tain.

Apr. 25 Tain

The town's full name is Tain-l'Hermitage and it stands on the bank of the Rhone – they were coming north directly for Paris.

26 Apr. Nevers,

28 Aor. Paris. Hotel Pont Royal (south bank)
George and Elsie.
(As she gets a little better, Rud is in pain.)

Apr. 28 Paris. Gorge and Elsie come to dine. A great joy to see Elsie again since there were very few reasons to suppose I ever should.

Clearly Carrie's ill-health pre-disposed her to fear the worst whenever she was suffering.

3 May Amiens.

May 4 Amiens.

*Kipling took delight in telling Elsie (PINNEY, **Letters**, Vol. 6, pp. 34-5) that their hotel in Amiens ("most comfy") was in the same street as a brothel owned by the Mayor "who is a Socialist".*

5 May Boulogne – Calais (?) – Bateman's.

May 5 Calais and Home.

14 May Rud at a mixed French and English War Graves meeting.
Gen. Castelnau. Rud makes a speech in French.



General Castelnau

Edouard de Castelnau (1851-1944) was a French General who held several commands on the western front during WW1. He entered politics after the war and founded a short-lived political party. He was actively hostile to freemasonry.

Rud correcting proofs of his parrot story, and starting a new dog story, He sends his Aunt Hannah £30.

The 'parrot story' was 'A Naval Mutiny' which was based on his stay in Bermuda the previous year. The 'new dog story' was probably 'A Sea Dog', first published in 1934 in Collected Dog Stories.

'Aunt Hannah' was an unmarried younger sister of his father, aged 89 at this time

23-4 May Weekend at the Byngs, all Scotland Yard people.



General Byng in the Great War

General Byng – see Index – had recently become the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police.

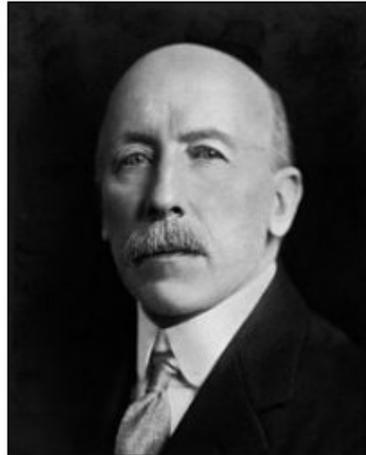
30 May Hugh Poynter.

See Index.

2 June Rud to Stationers' Hall. Makes a speech in honour of Sir F. Kenyon.

June 2 At the Stationers' Hall, Rud makes a short speech.

*The Lord Mayor of London (1929-30) had been a Stationer (see our entry for 9 Nov and **Nov. 9 1929**) and Kipling seems to have been ready to take more part in the livery company's social events.*



Sir Frederick Kenyon

Sir Frederick Kenyon, (1863-1952) had recently retired as Director of the British Museum, and was, we assume, the guest of honour at a Stationers' luncheon. The speech was reported in The Times of 3 June and is also to be found in the NRG 'Uncollected Speeches'. Sir Frederick was also known to Kipling as an adviser to the War Graves Commission.

3 June Admiral Chandler calls (Ref the Chandler Index, Lib. of Congress)



Lloyd Horwitz Chandler

June 3 Admiral Chandler, USA, who has made an amazing study of Rud's stories and poems and has done a book about it, to call

Rear-Admiral Lloyd Horwitz Chandler USN (1869-?) had published, in 1930, an abbreviated bibliography of Kipling's works, published in New York in a limited editions. His papers were deposited in the Library of Congress. While serving in command of USS Olympia, the Admiral had been responsible for the return to the United States of the USA's 'Unknown Soldier' of World War I.

June 6 Rud starts work on a speech to be delivered in Paris, July 2nd (*see entry below*)

June 8 A new secretary, Miss Stone, takes on. Miss Walford stays on for a week.

June 13 Miss Walford leaves after 4 years' service with us.

The parting was amicable – Miss Walford was going to become a breeder of Scottish terriers in the Cotswolds.

June 18 Rud dines with me at the Mayfair and we go on to Lady Bathurst's party. My first outing this year.

The May Fair Hotel, in Stratton Street in London's West End was the newest hotel in fashionable London, and in its own words "was London Society's playground. With Bert Ambrose and the hottest band in town, the young and affluent whirled around the grand ballroom alongside royalty, night after night. With a delectable restaurant and the finest rooms, it was the place for high society to meet." Brown's was a home from home – but the May Fair was the place for a night out. Perhaps Carrie was kicking up her heels!

23 June [Strawberries. Lord and Lady Dunsany for lunch.](#)

For Lord and Lady Dunsany – see Index.

It seems possible that Carrie remarked on the strawberries, because they were the first of the year. Today, of course, they appear in our supermarkets from April onwards.

27 June Joe Gilder, USA, for lunch.

*This was Joseph Gilder (1858-1936), an old acquaintance (see PINNEY, **Letters**, Vol. 6, Index, for various references). He had previously visited Bateman's in 1902.*

29 June To Paris to make a speech at the Association Franco-Grande Bretagne.

June 29 To Paris.

1 July To the Colonial Exhibition.



At the garden party that afternoon

2 July Rud's [reception overpowering](#). The [delivery better than I have ever heard him..](#)

July 2

The dinner and speech in the evening (? French Academy). Over 200 people. Excellent speech. Rud does his speech as to delivery better than I have ever heard him.

*See entry for **June 6** above. The speech, as Carrie had said in that entry, was to the Association Franco-Grande Bretagne, not to the French Academy. The text of the speech (in English) was collected in the Sussex Edition version of A Book of Words. (See our NRG notes). In the speech, Kipling opens by remarking that he had visited “**your wonderful Colonial Exhibition**” “**a few weeks ago**” – whereas in reality it was the previous day.*

July 3

Home (11-ish)

6 July

Mr. Hutchinson (*If Winter comes*).



Arthur Hutchinson

*A S M Huchinson (Arthur Hutchinson (1879-1971) was a prolific and popular English novelist. He had published *If Winter Comes* in 1921 and it had headed the best seller list in the USA for two successive years. His home was at Uckfield, only about 12 miles away.*

9 July Thalberg of Metro-Godwin (*sic*) about making our film.



Irving Thalberg

Irving Thalberg (1899-1931) was the 'boy-wonder' producer in Hollywood, working for Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer. LYCETT, p. 577 gives an account of this meeting, but nothing came of it, although Kipling had received \$50,000 for options on two of the four proposed projects.

12 July A very snob party at the Cazalets.

13July Mr. Woolley of Ur.



Sir Leonard Woolley

This was Leonard Woolley (later Sir Leonard (1880-1960) who had been engaged on archaeological excavations on the site of the ancient city of Ur since 1922.

15 July To a Joynson-Hicks wedding. *I quite dead with fatigue . . . Rud not fit and full of dislike for functions.*

The wedding, which was at St. Margaret's, Westminster, was of the younger son of 'Jix' (now Viscount Brentford). In the list of guests (normally arranged in order of social precedence) the Kipling appear very high up the list (appearing above, for example, Stanley Baldwin's wife and many titled people).

July 17 The arrival of 'Mike', a small black Aberdeen. A companion for James.

18 July 'Miki', Aberdeen terrier, companion for 'James', arrives.



*In a letter to George Bambridge (PINNEY, **Letters**, Vol. 6, pp. 45-6) Kipling gives the new puppy's name as 'Malachi' which was also the name he gave to the dog-protagonist of the tale A Sea Dog, which was written in the following year and published in 1934 in Collected Dog Stories; also to a dog in "The Dog Hervey" (1914).*

23 July Buck Palace Garden Party.

(Ellen the old parlour maid comes for a visit (every summer)

See Index – Ellen

July 23 Garden Party at Buckingham Palace.

In the letter to George Bambridge cited above, Kipling lists the great and good whom he and Carrie met at the garden party.

July 25 Under garden man engaged after much trouble and expense.

Aug. 5 In the early afternoon 28 Boy Scouts for 2 hours.

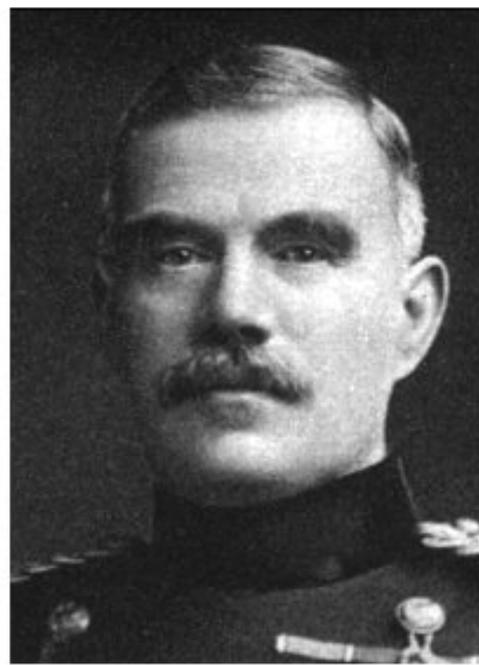
Aug. 7 Mrs. Brett, the “Hanky” of old days, the children’s first governess in a lot of trouble and comforting herself by her visit to her old life as almost a girl.

Mrs. Brett, see Index.

11 Aug. Lord Brentford (Jix) and F.M. Sir W. Robertson.



Lord Brentford



Sir William Robertson

*For Lord Brentford – see Index under ‘Joynson-Hicks’.
Field Marshal Sir William Robertson (1860-1930) had had a remarkable career. The son of a village postmaster, he joined the army as a private trooper in the 16th Lancers, rising to Troop Sergeant Major in only eight years, before receiving a commission in the 3rd Dragoon Guards.*

He became a staff and intelligence officer and rose swiftly. In 1915, by now a Lieutenant-General, he was appointed Chief of the General Staff, remaining in post until early 1918, until he fell out with Lloyd George. He was now retired.

13 Aug. C.S. Jarvis (Bey) tells of a book he is publishing this autumn.

This was *C.S. Jarvis, former Governor of Sinai. see Index.*

The book was Yesterday and Today in Sinai.

He brought the proofs with him for Kipling to see.



Major C S Jarvis in Sinai inspecting a guard of honour

15 Aug. To Lady Milner's. C. Headlam who has just finished the first volume of Milner's 'Life'.

Following Lord Milner's death in 1925, Lady Milner had left their home (Sturry Court, near Canterbury), donating it to King's School, Canterbury, and returned to her home before their marriage, Great Wigsell, some five miles away from Bateman's. Cecil Headlam (1872-1934) had undertaken to, in Kipling's words "put her book (the first vol. at least) about Lord M. into publishable shape" (PINNEY, Letters, Vol. 6, pp. 47-8). Lord Milner's papers were published this year, attributed to him as editor.

18 Aug. Phyllis Neilson-Terry. (She has appeared several times.)



Phyllis Neilson Terry

Phyllis Neilson-Terry (1892-1977) was a British actress, a niece of the celebrated Ellen Terry.

22 Aug. Sir L. Lawrence talks of finance and the present dreadful state of affairs.

*The Wall Street crash of 1929 had precipitated the Slump and the Great Depression which affected the world. Kipling had written to Elsie on 12 August (letter cited above) **“You may have gathered that things financial here are in a pretty rocky state.”***

27 Aug. To the Lygon Arms at Broadway



Broadway

They were on their way to Chirk Castle. Broadway is a celebrated beauty spot at the foot of the Cotswold escarpment, on the edge of the Vale of Evesham. In another letter to Elsie, Kipling reported that Miss Walford, their former secretary, dined with them there.

28 Aug. To Lord Howard de Walden's at Chirk.
Large party of young people. The Morsheads

*Again, Kipling's letters to Elsie provide the detail to flesh out the details of the Extracts. (in this case (PINNEY, **Letters**, Vol. 6, pp. 51-2). The letter makes no mention of Morsheads, but mentions a Mrs Moorhouse and her son, who arrived in their own aeroplane. Pinney, in a note to the letter cited, is unable to identify the Moorhouses, and suggests that Kipling himself got the name wrong: so maybe it was the Morsheads who were the aviators.*

31 Aug. Rud out with the Falconer. [Lord Howard's sport of falconry.]

Kipling wrote to Elsie at the end of this day (letter cited above) but makes no mention of falconry – but he did go with Lord Howard to a sheepdog trial (which impressed him) and later they played with model boats on the lake. It is suggested that Lord Howard's nickname was 'the Falconer'

Sep. 4 Miss Stone, secretary, gives notice. A calamity as I have been giving her intensive training all these weeks.

Sep. 8 I James (dog) to vet. Rud corrects proofs of 30 poems [*Selected Poems*] to publish by Methuen as a 1/- book

9 Sep. To London.

10 Sep. To White Lodge, Richmond Park. Lord Lee of Fareham gives [furnishes(?)] us with particulars of the budget [which will be the ruin of us.](#)

Sep. 10

Hear from Lord Lee of Fareham the particulars of the budget which is the ruin of us all



Lord Lee of Fareham

Lord Lee (see Index) was no longer involved in politics, but as a member of the House of Lords and still very much involved in public life, presumably was 'in the know' about such matters. Following the formation of a National Government to combat the financial crisis (see entry for 22 Aug. above) an emergency budget was introduced, which instituted a range of cuts in public spending and raised income tax (hence Carrie's comment about the 'ruin of us all').

They meet Josephine Dunham and her family unexpectedly in London.

Josephine Dunham was Carrie's sister – see Index.

13 Sep.

E.V. Lucas.

E V Lucas (1868-1938) was an English essayist and biographer (entry in the Dictionary of National Biography), but he was far more, being able to turn his hand to anything involving writing – he contributed to Punch, wrote poetry and plays, novels and short stories, and other works.



E V Lucas

18 Sep. To Oxford to see Rhodes House.
[The S. African life rushes over us in waves.](#)
Then to the Bathursts. Another Duchess of something (No! Two!)

Sep. 18 We leave for Oxford.

22 Sep. (At Brown's) Josephine Dunham.

See entry for Sep. 10.

Sep. 22 Brown's

Sep. 23 Home.

27 Sep. At Bateman's. Rupert Grayson, John de Salis, the Harry Grahams.



Harry Graham



John de Salis

For Grayson, see Index.

John de Salis (1864-1936) was a British diplomat and landowner "perhaps the greatest English authority on the Balkans". He features frequently in Kipling's correspondence, but has not previously appeared in the diaries.

Harry Graham (1874-1936) was a noted English writer of humorous, often rather black, verse, like his Ruthless Rhymes for Heartless Homes. He also wrote lyrics for operettas, including The Maid of the Mountains.

Sep. 29 Miss Warren the new secretary takes on her duties under the outgoing Miss Stone.

See entry for Sep. 4.

1 Oct. In London. Carrie meets the Dunhams. See Index
Rud to one of A. Bailey's big dinners – the P. of Wales. See Index

2 Oct. Stan for breakfast in good spirits.
(Rud again in pain and seeing the specialists)

There was a major, ongoing, financial and political crisis (see entry for Sep. 10). Stanley Baldwin had agreed to take the Conservatives into the National Government. At a general election held on 27 October, the National Government, preponderantly Conservative, was returned to power, though Ramsay Macdonald was allowed to continue as Prime Minister. Baldwin became Lord President of the Council, though as Ramsay Macdonald's health began to fail, Baldwin took over more of his duties.

Kipling was about to undergo a series of tests to try to determine the root cause of his long-running internal pains.

Oct. 4 Rud has far fewer cigarettes and his voice is better.

11 Oct. Rud revises his will, spends a last day [looking at everything indoors and outdoors](#) and goes to a nursing home. [No trace of cancer, always dreaded by Rud.](#)

Oct. 11 To London. Rud to the nursing home, (29 Wimpole Street) and I to Brown's to start my trial alone.

*A letter to George Bambridge (PINNEY, **Letters**, Vol. 6, pp. 59-60). reveals the extent of Kipling's anxieties over the possible outcome of this session with his doctors. The outcome was positive – no cancer, but a bland diagnosis which did not sort out the underlying problem. Kipling's anxieties were shared by Carrie.*

Oct. 12 Rud signed a new will.

- Oct. 14 Rud to the X-Ray man. So far the X-Rays have shown no trace of cancer always dread by Rud. (Not underlined in diary) and so he is greatly relieved.
- 20 Oct. The Dunhams still in London. Rud under X-Ray treatment. Elsie comes and is given her travelling expenses..
- Carrie did not, perhaps, fully understand the nature of X-rays: it was an examination rather than a treatment.*
- 22 Oct. .Dawson and Webb-Johnson agree against an operation.
- For Dawson, see Index.
Webb-Johnson was Alfred Webb –Johnson (later Lord Webb-Johnson (1880-1958), another noted surgeon.*
- Oct. 23 Bateman's
- 27 Oct. Rud at home and depressed.
- Although no proper solution to his medical problems had been found, there were enough other unsatisfactory matters to cause Kipling to be depressed: their wealth was under assault from the tax man, and he felt the situation in India was unsatisfactory. Also, he had been told by his doctors to take more exercise and to cut down his smoking.*
- Nov. 9 Rud works a little on his skit, but cutting his cigarettes is hard on his nerves also depresses him beyond normal.
- 11 Nov. We stand in the street at the Cenotaph **deeper feeling this year than ever before.**
- 21 Nov. They decide to 'put down' the cars, and give the chauffeur notice.
- Nov. 21 Rud gives Taylor, chauffeur, notice as we are putting down the cars on Jan. 1st..
- As will be seen shortly, this idea did not last long, though Taylor left their service. It is difficult to see why the decision was made nor how they expected to manage without cars, even though all the village tradesmen would deliver. There is no mention of this episode in the Pinney volumes of letters.*

Nov. 25 He manages to get to a big dinner for [our friend](#) Bennett, P.M. of Canada.



Richard Bennett

Richard Bennett, later Viscount Bennett (1870-1947), was a Canadian lawyer and politician, at this time Prime Minister of Canada.

This was a very 'high-powered' dinner at the May Fair Hotel in honour of Mr. Bennett, and the dinner and Mr. Bennett's speech were reported in The Times for 26 November. Bennett's view of the Empire accorded with Kipling's and his speech on this occasion was about 'The Bonds of Empire'

Dec. Talking with Chichester of Rolls-Royce about selling their car and finding a place for the chauffeur.

The Dunhams still in London.

Dec. 4 Mr. Chichester (Rolls-Royce) for lunch and a talk over a position for Taylor and the sale of our cars.

It seems probable that Taylor was a Rolls-Royce-trained chauffeur, for whom there would always be a vacancy with another owner.

12-13 Dec. The Dunham girls for the week end.

19 Dec. His verses 'Ionia'.

This poem was 'The Threshold', published in Limits and Renewals the following year.

21 Dec. His Bermuda verses.

A mild December in which he has frequent pains.

This poem was "The Coiner", published in Limits and Renewals the following year.

29 Dec. Lord Hailsham for lunch.

For Hailsham, see Index.

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