

The Carrington and Rees Extracts
From the diaries of
Caroline Kipling

1934

1934

1-5 Jan. At Bath. **Rud quite fit.** (*A rare entry.*)
George Bambridge ill.

Jan. 5 We leave Bath at 11.30. Brown's at 3.30.

6 Jan. The English pictures at Burlington House.



Burlington House

This was the Winter Exhibition of the Royal Academy, at Burlington House, Piccadilly. Its title was 'Exhibition of British Art' and it was advertised and reported on widely in The Times between 5 and 11 January.

Jan. 6 Home.

9 Jan. H(igh) C(ommissioner) for Australia comes to beg Rud to open the Melbourne Centenary. Rud just considers it but decides to send an Ode.

Jan. 9 High Commissioner of Australia tries to induce Rud to open the big 100 year Australian Melbourne celebration and to do an ode and an inscription for the building. Rud starts at once to think out the ode which he would much like to do.



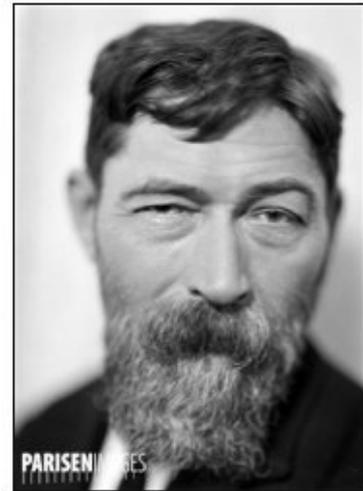
It must be doubted that Kipling was asked to open the centenary. In the event the centenary celebrations comprised many events, and Kipling's contribution was intended for the Melbourne Shrine of Remembrance (above), which commemorated the men and women of the State of Victoria who served in World War I (it now has a wider significance, including World War II and many other campaigns). The opening ceremony of the Shrine was performed by the Duke of Gloucester on 11 November 1934. Kipling's Ode was read, and today is to be found, cast in bronze on a plaque inside the shrine. (See our NRG notes on the Ode by Philip Holberton.)

11 Jan. Sec of the Académie Française (Gillet) to dine and sleep. He is delighted with Bateman's.

This must have been Louis Gillet (1876-1943), an art historian who had taught at the French University of Montreal before returning to France to direct a museum.

He also published works on English literature. In 1933 he had translated Kipling's Souvenirs of France into French.

However, he was not the Secretary of the Académie Française, though he was elected to the Académie the following year.



Louis Gillet

15 Jan. He helps Lady Milner with *National Review*.

Lady Milne had succeeded her brother Leo Maxse as the editor of the National Review (a Conservative political magazine) on his death in 1932.

She remained as editor until 1948.



Lady Milner

Jan. 18 Mrs Fisk, cook since May, gives notice.

20 Jan. We agree to give Elsie a light car.

See LYCETT, p. 575-6. The Bambridge's marriage appears to have been going through a rocky patch (see entry for 9 Mar.

below), but seems to have steadied by the end of the year when they became settled in Hampstead.

26 Jan. Elsie and George on a West Indies cruise.
(Rud giving much help with Pageant of Parliament.)

The Bambridge's cruise was paid for by Kipling. The Pageant of Parliament, which was to be performed in the Albert Hall in July 1934, had as Pageant Master (Director), Walter Creighton (see Index), with whom Kipling had been involved in the Wembley pageant, ten years earlier.

Kipling composed three pieces of verse for the Pageant of Parliament. Two were published under the same title 'Pageant of Elizabeth', while the third 'Non Nobis Domine' was set to music by Roger Quilter.

29 Jan. They set out for Paris, but muddle the tickets and have to go through the Customs at Calais.

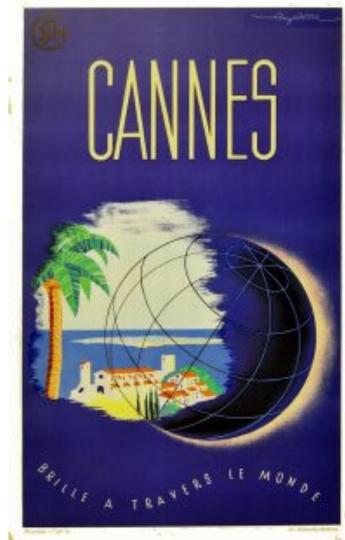
Jan. 29 We leave for Dover and Paris.

Usually, if you were travelling on the 'Golden Arrow' or 'Le Train Bleu' you cleared Customs on arrival at your destination. Due to a mix-up by Cook's, the travel agents, they travelled by the ordinary boat train, and had to clear Customs for their personal belongings at Calais

31 Jan. Cannes – to Villa L'Enchantement'
Dr. Roux sees him at Paris. V. satisfied.
(But they're soon both ill.)

They spent the day in Paris and Kipling was examined by the same doctors as he had seen the previous year. For Dr. Roux, see Index

Jan. 31 Arrive at Cannes. After lunch go to Villa L'Enchantement which we have taken.



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They travelled to the Riviera by Le Train Bleu The villa was at Mougins, a few kilometres inland from Cannes.

*Kipling was as assiduous a correspondent as ever, and this holiday is recorded in a series of letters: PINNEY, **Letters**, Vol. 6, pp. 243-270.*

Feb. Scenario of *Thy Servant*
(The Tauffliebs)

The letters cited above reveal that Julia Taufflieb (née Catlin), their old friend from New England days, and mother of Frances Stanley – see Index for both – was a frequent visitor.

She was now married to General Emile Taufflieb, who had commanded a French Army Corps on the Western Front in the Great War.



Julia Taufflieb

Feb. 9 Rud works at scenario of *Thy Servant a Dog*.

The film was never made.

Feb. 15 We hear by wire of the birth of a son to the chauffeur's wife at Bateman's and hope all will go well as it's inconvenient to have no chauffeur out here. [!!!???]

We suspect the plethora of punctuation marks was Rees's own commentary on the entry. However, by 23 February, Baskerfield and the Rolls had reached Mougins (letter to Baker, cited above.)

21 Feb. **Somerset Maugham asks us to tea to meet the King and Queen of Siam. We refuse.**

Feb. 22 The funeral of the King of the Belgians and everywhere sincere mourning.

King Albert I of the Belgians, an experienced alpinist, had died in a climbing accident in the Ardennes on 17 February. His funeral took place in Brussels on 22 February and was reported in The Times of 23 February.

Mar. 6 Tiresome news almost daily about the staff at Bateman's. Cattle man, carter and now gardener all leaving or left.

The carter was responsible for the farm's working horses.

9 Mar. Letters from Elsie in Jamaica greatly distresses us.

There is nothing in Kipling's correspondence to positively identify what it might be that distressed them

3 Apr. Rud, after a long idle period, starts a dog story.

Apr. 3 Rud starts a dog story. A great event as he has been idle for the time we are here.

This tale was "Teem – a Treasure-Hunter", first published, for copyright purposes, in the USA On 28 December 1935.

Apr. 21 I give my maid notice.

Her maid's name was Jerrom, and she seems to have been rather feckless, or perhaps reckless..

In one of his letters to the Bambridges (PINNEY vol 6 p.249) Kipling describes to Elsie how she had gone off to Cannes, walking, on her own. She was unable to speak French, but luckily found an English chauffeur who offered to bring her back – except that she didn't know the name of the villa.

25 Apr. Rud has been ill with rheumatism as well as the rest. They leave for Cannes. Then she is ill and they get away by train only on 10 May.

At some time they sent the car and chauffeur home, and came home by a night train in about 14 hours, rather than making the return trip by car, taking several days.

May 10 We leave for England.

11 May Bateman's looking very beautiful.

May 11
Home.



22 May She sees Sir Herbert Barker about her knee. Rud **greatly encouraged by his personality.**

May 22 The much anticipated day at last. We go to see Sir Herbert Barker who gives me a total anaesthetic and breaks down adhesions.



Herbert Barker

Sir Herbert (1869-1950) was a manipulative surgeon who specialised in alleviating many conditions without recourse to the knife.

One of his specialities was the cure or alleviation of derangements of knee cartilages.

Sir Herbert had no formal medical qualifications, but he received his knighthood (in the King's Birthday Honours, 1922) as a "Specialist in manipulative surgery" (Honours List, The Times, June 3, 1922). Today, he would probably be described as an osteopath.

24 May They visit Elsie, now at Hampstead.

25 May We give her £400.

That is, some £18000 at 2017 values.

27 May She actually has to unpack her own bag at Brown's. **No maid. Hard day's work.**

1 June At Bateman's. Rud arranges his *Pageant of Kipling* for the USA.

This was an anthology of 37 stories and 52 poems. It has not been published in the UK.

(B. Prentice, R.N. comes v. often.)

We have been unable to identify B. Prentice in any of the Navy Lists of the Royal Navy or any of the Reserves, Active List or

Retired List. The only possibility is that there was a Commander William Prentice of the RNR retired list whose name might have been abbreviated to 'Bill' without Carrie being aware that it was not his given name.

4 June Miki the Aberdeen has a family.

*In a letter to Trix (PINNEY, **Letters**, Vol. 6, pp. 277-8), Kipling reported that "Michael has sons (two were given me – Ham and Mikey - of three weeks old. Most adorable."*



A small mystery. If they had been pedigree pups, they would not have been weaned from their mother at three weeks - or did Kipling mean three months? Or had Miki been misbehaving with one of the other dogs around the farm buildings, and they were still with their mother. Certainly Kipling adored small dogs, particularly Aberdeen terriers.

26 June [The black-watch \(sic\) beetle in the 14th century part of Bateman's.](#)

Carrie meant death-watch beetle, of course – a most destructive nibbler of old timber.

June 26 Rud of his own idea stops smoking.

Nothing further is said as to how long the resolution lasted.

1 July Lockwood de Forest and his wife – our old friends.

For de Forest – see Index.

3 July He is offered, and declines, a high class of the Legion of Honour.

July 3 A proposal of an offer of a legion of Honour - High Rank, from the French Government via the French Ambassador. Declined as all English Honours have been. Rud pleased with the French gesture.

7 July Teddy Price brings his fiancée, a [gentle, charming and pretty girl](#).

For Price – see Index.

Rud weak, on a low diet.

2 Aug. He much enjoys a visit from the Dunsanys.

For Dunsanys – see Index.

10 Aug. Working on his Australian inscriptions.
Enjoys a visit from Col. Hughes, but still another specialist brings no comfort.

For Hughes – see Index.

14 Aug. To Southampton for Jersey. Hotel Palace [quite like Bermuda](#).
She goes because Sir Herbert Barker is there,

*See entries for 22 May and **May 22** above.*

Aug. 14 We leave by motor at 5 p.m. for Southampton and Jersey

They travelled by the overnight boat to St. Helier.

Aug. 15 Arrive at 9 at Jersey.



Jersey

19 Aug. A house where the Balestier family once lived.

Carrie was evidently exploring her family roots as well as seeing her doctor.

30 Aug. To Guernsey and Sark.
All the sightseeing and lionising there was.

Aug. 30 Start for Port Royal Hotel, Guernsey.

The trip from St. Helier, Jersey, to St. Peter Port, Guernsey took about three hours. Their visit to Sark was probably a day trip – two hours each way by boat.

4 Sep. Home again

Sep. 4 Leave by boat. Home.

The return trip would have been 6-7 hours to Southampton, where they were met by their car, and so home to Burwash in 3 hours..

5 Sep. The Austen poem finished and sent off [?]

The only poem that Kipling wrote about Jane Austen was 'Jane's Marriage', which appeared after the story 'The Janeites', in Debits and Credits in 1926. Kipling's published poems in these last two years of his life numbered only eight, none of which could be described as "the Austen poem."

11 Sep. Miss Chambers of the *Victoria County History* for Sussex comes and interests Rud.



The Victoria County Histories of England is a project which has been running since 1899. It is an on-going project, with some Counties' History having been up-dated once or more in the century since the project was started. The modern on-line Wikipedia entry for the series describes the early editions as being "a history for gentlemen largely researched by ladies"

Also Desmond Tuck, preparing a souvenir for the King's Jubilee next year.



Desmond Tuck was the grandson of Raphael Tuck who had started a business selling pictures, greetings cards and postcards in 1866. The company took the official photographs for the Jubilee.

15-16 Sep. Week-end with the Bland-Suttons near Deal. Rud enjoys the shipping.

Sep. 15 We leave to spend Sunday with the Bland-Suttons.



Sir John Bland-Sutton

Sir John and Lady Edith had become close friends of the Kiplings.

Their first visit to Bateman's was in 1906. See the Index.

1

Sep. 17

Home.

21 Sep. The Dunhams to stay [great welcome](#). Rud delighted with Theodore who reminds him of Wolcott.



Wolcott Balestier

Josephine Dunham was Carrie's sister:

Wolcott Balestier had been their brother. His death in 1891 had precipitated the Kipling's marriage – see the Index.

Sep. 26 *Collected Dog Stories* comes out today. Rud pleased with the make-up.



This collection contained one previously unpublished tale – 'A Sea Dog.'

11 Oct. Trix and Jack Fleming.

Oct. 16 A new parlour maid. Not very promising.

Oct. 18 The new parlour maid upsets the entire house including its mistress.

20 Oct. Rud starts a story.

Never finished, we fear.

25 Oct. He starts one of his not-to-be published poems on the Dutch and English Air Race.



Comet G-ACSS, the winning aircraft

As part of the Melbourne Centenary celebrations, an air race from England to Melbourne was organised.

The outright winner was one of three specially built De Havilland 'Comet' aircraft, which completed the course in 2 days and 23 hours. The second was a Dutch (KLM) regular passenger aircraft, a Douglas DC-2 (the precursor of the DC-3, or Dakota, the workhorse of WW2) which completed the course in 3 days, 18 hours and 13 minutes. The race had only finished two days earlier – indeed the last aircraft did not arrive until 3 November.

8 Nov. We dined at the Magic Circle. Gwynne, Bates, E V Lucas, etc.

The Magic Circle is the professional association of practitioners of magic, in the dictionary meaning of “the art of producing (by sleight of hand, optical illusion, etc) apparently inexplicable phenomena; conjuring.

Kipling wrote to Gwynne afterwards (PINNEY, Letters, Vol. 6, -. 304) saying “That was an amazing evening. I haven’t got over it yet . . .” It would seem that Gwynne was a member and their host, because Kipling asked Gwynne to propose him for membership, having ascertained from the Secretary that he could become an Associate (see Professor Pinney’s note to the letter cited.)

9 Nov. He has his photo taken for the National Gallery collection.
[A cable about *Kim* from Hollywood.]



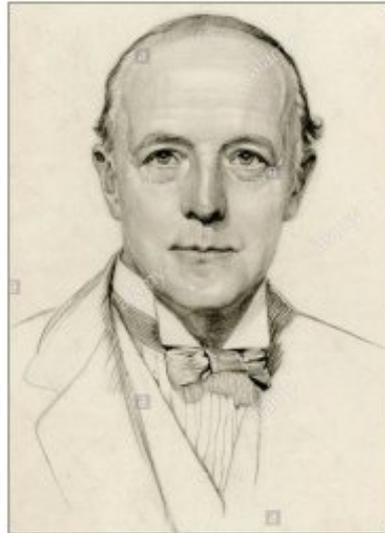
*Rudyard Kipling
by Walter Stoneman*

Nov. 9 Rud goes to Russell, 38, Baker Street to have a photo done for the National Gallery collection of celebrated men of his time.
I have Mabel Leigh to lunch re Rowley Leigh’s cable about *Kim* from Hollywood.

See LYCETT, p. 577 for more details about work on film scripts at this time.

10-11 Nov. Weekend at Chevening (Stanhopes). The Wigrams, the M-Massingberds, the Runcimans.

For the Wigrams, and Montgomery-Massingberds, see Index.



Walter Runciman

The Runcimans were Walter (1870-1949) and Hilda. He succeeded his father as Lord Runciman in 1937 and was advanced to Viscount on his own account in the same year.

At this time he was the President of the Board of Trade.

17 Nov. Rupert Grayson brings down Mr. Rawlinson to do the scenario for 'Soldiers Three'. Rud likes him.

Nov. 17 Mr. Rawlinson has undertaken to do the scenario for 'Soldiers Three'. Rud likes Mr. R. and thinks well of his ideas.

For Grayson – see Index.

Mr. Rawlinson was Arthur Richard Rawlinson (1894-1984), and a brother-in-law of Rupert Grayson. Both had been John Kipling's exact contemporaries in the Irish Guards. Rawlinson had become a reserve officer in 1919, and taken up a career as a script-writer and producer. In the event, 'Soldiers Three' never got made.

Nov. 19 I stay in bed in great pain. The doctor says the trouble is an old one.

20-1 Nov. Her diabetic trouble returns.
He has a 'Princess Marina' idea. He drops it.

Princess Marina of Denmark and Greece was to marry the Duke of Kent on 29 Nov. Kipling evidently intended to mark the occasion in some way, but decided not to.

- December Both ill, and not always easy to see whose symptoms are described. Christmas at home with George and Elsie.
- Dec. 2 Rud works on his film. (*Soldiers Three*)
- Dec. 8 A new parlour maid, more trouble and bother settling her in.
- Dec. 11 We leave for London.
- Dec. 22 Home.
- Dec. 25 Rud not up till 11 when he much enjoys his Xmas presents and we have a very happy day.
- 29 Dec. Distressed by a report of Rud's illness in the *Daily Express*. He has a kind message from the King and Queen on his birthday. (But no mention of help with the broadcast this year, and this was the most famous.)

*The King's speech emphasised the fact that **all** the peoples of the Empire should consider themselves members of one family.*

- Dec. 29 A report in the *Daily Express* saying Rud is ill causes endless bother.
- Dec. 31 Another good night: needed to face the telegrams and letters for Rud's birthday including a very gracious one from the King and Queen. Rud and John de Salis sit up to see the old year out. I am thankful to be done with it as it has been so very full of illness for Rud and hard work for me.

For de Salis – see Index.

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

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