

The Carrington and Rees Extracts
From the diaries of
Caroline Kipling

1935

1935

New Year's Day at Bateman's. Rud in poor health. Rud working on a scenario of *Soldiers Three*.

4 Jan. A Mr. Stewart, nephew of Jameson, asking for financial help to run loyalist candidates in the S. African elections.

There was no general election in S. Africa until 1938. Nor do there seem to have been any provincial elections.

7 Jan. A film of 'Aunt Ellen' proposed. He works on this to his great contentment.

This was another abortive project.

13 Jan. Tuck comes again about the Souvenir for the King's Jubilee. (This breaks down, 17th)

For Desmond Tuck – see Index.

Jan. 19 Rud starts on his 6th May speech.

6 May 1935 was to be the day of the King and Queen's silver jubilee celebration. Kipling had accepted an invitation to speak at the Royal Society of St. George on that day.

25 Jan. A new dog story.

*If this was a new tale, it was evidently never completed – or never published. But he was certainly about to start work again on Teem – see our entries for 3 Apr. and **Apr. 3 1934** – because he corresponded with a M. Menanteau in March and April this year about truffle dogs, and sent him a copy of the tale in January 1936, shortly before he died (see our NRG notes on 'Teem' giving the details of this correspondence.)*

31 Jan. To Cannes by 'Golden Arrow'

Jan. 31 Sad parting with our faithful servant Muddell who is leaving to be married after 12 years' service.
Easy journey by 'Golden Arrow' to Paris.

Feb. 2 Arrive (Cannes).

This year they stayed in an hotel, rather than hiring a villa, although at one time, about half way through their stay, they did view a villa or two, but nothing came of it.

5 Feb. A film company offers £5000 for the rights of *Toomai*.

Feb. 5 An offer of £5000 for the film rights of *Toomai of the Elephants*.

8 Feb. We accept Korda's offer.

Feb. 8 We wire accepting Korda's offer to film *Toomai*.

Toomai of the Elephants was a tale from The Jungle Book.



Alexander Korda

Sir Alexander Korda (1893-1956) was a Hungarian-born, British film producer and director, and a major figure in the British film industry at this time.

*The film was made and released in 1937, with the title *Elephant Boy*.*

14 Feb. He sends off the MS of *Buried Treasure* and starts a new story.

*This was probably "Teem – A Treasure Hunter". A letter to George Bambridge (PINNEY, **Letters**, Vol. 6, p. 333) confirms that it was merely sent off to Bateman's for typing. He continued to work on it later.*

Kipling was still exchanging correspondence with M. Mentaneau until April (see entry for 25 Jan. above) thanking him for information which, it is implied, he used in writing the story). The new story might have been "Ham and the Porcupine" – but see our entry for 27 Apr. below.

22 Feb. Sent supertax for £8448.

This is some 6% less than the tax they paid in 1933 – so he was still drawing a good income from the royalties on his work, even if he was producing little that was new.

(In March they live a social life, but in April, C is taken ill.)

Undated (There is a gap in the diary between Mar.27 and Apr. 7.)

*As before, Kipling's correspondence illuminates their stay (PINNEY, **Letters**, Vol. 6, pp. 333-348 - last letter dated 19 Mar.) There is then a gap until well after they reached Bateman's, so we have nothing to indicate the underlying cause of Carrie's depression (see next entry).*

Apr. 7 I am so wretchedly ill that I can neither read write or talk and all these days and many more I have existed, not lived. There had to be a smash some day.

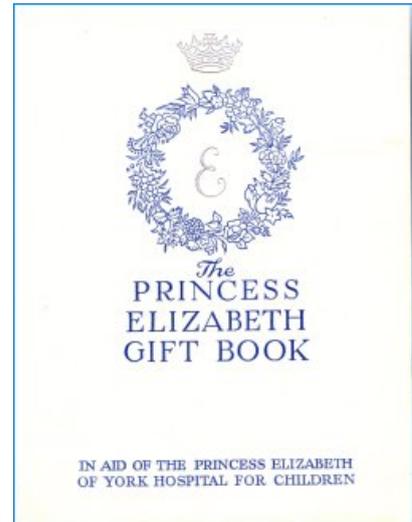
Clearly Carrie was afflicted by the depression which bedevilled her at intervals throughout her life. It is possible that her diabetes was at least a partial cause on this occasion..

20 Apr. She begins to take insulin.

Insulin, an artificial hormone, had been discovered to be a means of controlling diabetes in 1922, and was only now being used in general medical practice.

27 Apr. He begins a story for Princess Elizabeth's book, *The Porcupine*.

The Princess Elizabeth Gift Book was an anthology of contributions by various authors, poets and cartoonists, sold to raise funds for The Princess Elizabeth of York Hospital for Children, at Shadwell, in East London. Princess Elizabeth became Queen Elizabeth II in 1952 and it is now called the Queen Elizabeth Children's Hospital.



3 May Folkestone and home.

May 3 Home.

6 May Silver Jubilee of King George. Spent quietly. In the evening, Rud makes a speech.

May 6 A quiet silver jubilee. Indoors till 4 when we go to Elsie's to change for our dinner. Rud does his speech (? place). He speaks firmly and in good form.

Elsie and George were settled in Hampstead in north London. It was unusual for the Kiplings to have used their house rather than Brown's Hotel. The dinner was held in the Connaught Rooms. The Times report concludes "All the company stood to listen to the King's speech..." a striking illustration of how in the 1930s the British would show respect for the Monarch.

Kipling's own speech, entitled 'England and the English' was broadcast and reported, in indirect speech, in The Times of 7 May 1935.

7. May Letters pour in, congratulating him on his courage.

May 8 Home at 11 a.m. to find all the servants have given notice, except cook. She is given notice.

In a short letter to Elsie (PINNEY, Letters, Vol. 6, pp. 350-1), Kipling wrote “On arrival home the volcano was in full eruption. It appears the cook had been feeding them for supper on bread and cheese. Moreau (unidentified – possibly Carrie’s maid) added her fat self to the strife and the result was they all gave notice except the cook and we gave her notice.”

May 11 I settle with Miss Nicholson, secretary, to stop on for another year.

12 May Rud starts a story about a man who finds gold.

This tale remained uncompleted, and we presume was destroyed by Carrie after Kipling’s death.

22 May They go to Lady Bathurst’s ball.

For Lady Bathurst – see Index. There was a brief report of the function in the Court Circular of The Times of 23 May. The dance took place at Bathurst House.

24 May Sir P. Bates returns from the launching of the *Normandy* (sic) and brings news.



SS Normandie

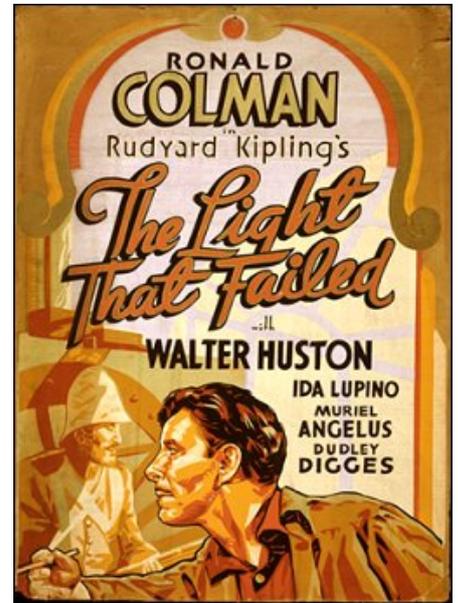
The Normandie was a French rival to the Cunard White Star Line’s Atlantic service, launched in 1932. Sir Percy, the Chairman of Cunard, had attended celebrations at Le Havre, attended by the French President, to celebrate her imminent maiden voyage. (The Times, 24 May).

25 May Paramount send their Mr. Hornblow about a film of *The Light that Failed*.

May 25 Mr. Hornblow comes from the Paramount folk about a film he is making of *The Light that Failed*.

This was the second version of The Light that Failed (there had been a silent film made in 1923, also made by Paramount).

This version was completed in 1939, with Ronald Colman as Dick Heldar. Kipling seems not to have been involved in the screenplay.



27 May Rud enjoys writing an account of the fire at our mill.

5 June The Marwicks from Swaziland.

June 6 Mrs. Marwick and her husband call. He is High Commissioner for Swaziland and she an old governess, Kitty Parker (1901).

*The date should be 5 June, but is given as 6 June. This whole entry is slightly peculiar, in that it doesn't agree with the dates given by RK in a letter to Sir Charles Crewe dated 30 July, from Bateman's (PINNEY, **Letters**, Vol. 6, pp. 364-5). This suggests that Kipling met Marwick at dinner on 6 June, and that both Marwicks called at Bateman's on 30 July. Mrs Marwick had been governess to Elsie and John, and in the entries for 1901/1902 her first name is given as Elsie.*

There is some confusion about Mrs. Marwick. Her name was undoubtedly 'Kitty' (her Marriage Certificate is in the single name of Kathleen, and Kitty is a diminutive of Kathleen), but in the 1902 entries, Carrie had written "E. Parker", and Lycett, (pp 363-4) consistently refers to her as Elsie.

Mr Marwick (Allan) seems to have been a man after Kipling's own heart, as a model colonial administrator.

He has a long entry in the Oxford Dictionary of National Biography (our thanks to Andrew Lycett)

6 June Rud goes to the lunch of his old school.

The lunch was given at the Criterion restaurant at Piccadilly Circus. 'Stalky' (General Dunsterville) and 'M'Turk' (George Beresford) were also present (The Times, 7 June.)

June 11 A new cook arrives.

12 June Poem of 'The Sea and the King'

This was published as 'The King and the Sea' in The Times and other newspapers of 17 July on the occasion of the Silver Jubilee Review of the Fleet.

George B. is fed up with politics and will not stand for parliament.

George Bambridge had sought a constituency to stand as a Conservative, but had failed to secure a nomination.

13 June Refuses to stand for Lord Rector of Edinburgh.

June 13 A letter of deep regret from Edinburgh University students, who had asked Rud to be their first Rector on the non-political basis.

He had been a successful rector for St Andrew's University – see the entry for October 9th 1923, and the days following.

18 June He chums up with an old Swiss restaurant proprietor – Catania (Query of Solferino's?). Lunches and stays with him till three.

To the Athenaeum for a change.

He does not seem to have used the Athenaeum for several years.

To The Club.

This was the Authors' Club – again, Carrie hasn't recorded any visits there for several years.

To the Academy – rotten.

Carrie evidently didn't think much of the Royal Academy's Summer Exhibition which had opened on 6 May. However, The Times art critic had given it moderate praise – there was controversy about the rejection of paintings by Stanley Spencer (1891-1951), who was later knighted and became an Academician.

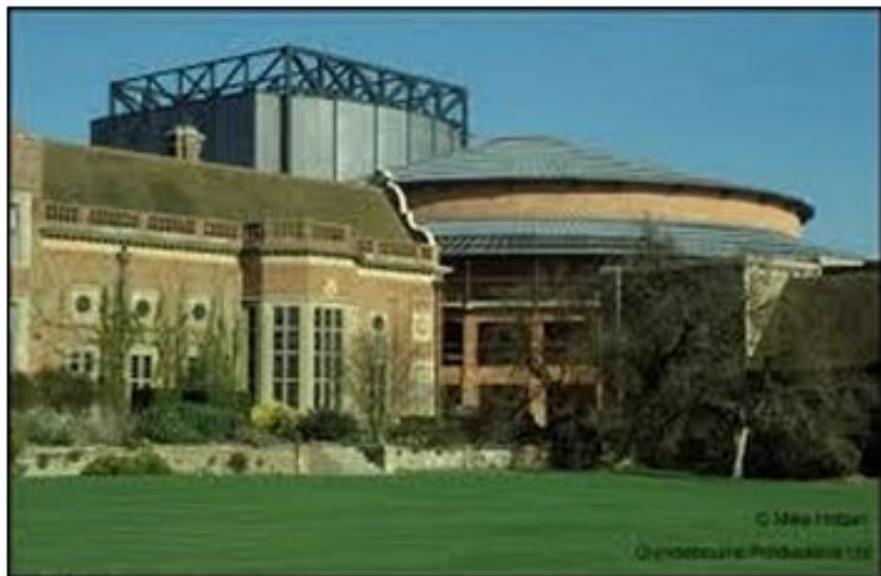
June 21 New parlour-maid, temporary, arrives.

23 June A difficult letter to Lord Gorell.

Lord Gorell lived in West Sussex, and was a barrister by training: at this time he was President of the Royal Literary Fund and a member of the Society of Authors.

25 June George goes to Glyndbourne (*sic*).

1934 had been the first year that John Christie had staged opera at Glyndebourne in East Sussex, starting a fashion for country house opera. Today there are at least seven other venues in the country which stage seasons of high-class opera performances. It is not clear why George's visit was notable.



Glyndebourne today

29 June Sir S. Argyle brings the thanks of the Australian Government.

June 29

Sir Stanley Argyle, late Victoria, Australia, to bring the thanks of his Government for the poem Rud did for their Shrine of Remembrance.



Sir Stanley Argyle

Sir Stanley Argyle (1867-1940) was an Australian doctor turned politician who had served three times as the Prime Minister of the State of Victoria

In strict terms, the thanks were those of the State of Victoria, rather than the Australian Government

15 July

They go to the Naval Review on the *Berengaria* with P. Bates.

July 15

We leave for Southampton. Go on board the *Berengaria*.



RMS Berengaria

RMS Berengaria was the flagship of the Cunard White Star fleet at this time. She had been built for the German Hamburg-Amerika line as the Imperator, but had been handed over to Cunard as war reparations, to replace the Lusitania, sunk in 1915.

July 16 A great day with all the fleet in sight.



This was for the Silver Jubilee review of the fleet by the King. The Berengaria was anchored along with a number of other passenger liners on the south side of the review lines, just off Osborne Bay, near the mid-point of the five lines of warships.

The King, in the royal yacht Victoria and Albert, reviewed all the fleet between 4 p.m. and 5.30 p.m., followed by a flypast by 100 aircraft of the Fleet Air Arm

17 July Poem to the King in all the papers.

July 17 An early morning thrill of the fleet which passes near our window, ship by ship for exercises with the King. The poem to the King in all the papers. Home.

'Exercises with the King' – rather a grand way of saying that the Royal Yacht led the assembled ships to sea, one by one, as they dispersed to their home ports to give summer leave, and the Mediterranean Fleet ships began their voyage back to their station. The poem to the King – see our entry for 12 June above.

19 July Many letters. Rud pleased with one from the King. Thanks for his poem.

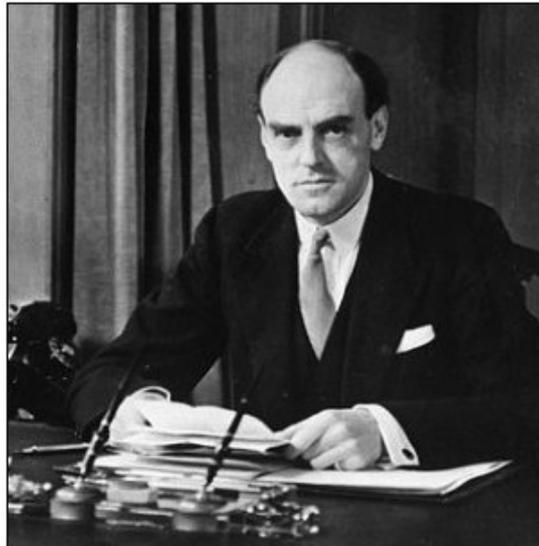
20 July The Dunsanys for lunch

For Dunsanys – see Index.

22 July Sir A. McPhail (*sic*) and Professor Kyte for lunch.

For Andrew Macphail – see Index. He had been knighted since his last appearance in the diaries. Professor Kyte was another Canadian academic.

27-28 July To the Stanhopes – Sir John Reith, George Gordon of Oxford, etc.
Sunday: [The Reiths go after lunch and we feel less restraint.](#)



John Reith

John Reith, the Director General of the BBC, was a dour Presbyterian Scot. See the Index. George Gordon was an Oxford academic, and the President of Magdalene College.

July 31 A change over of servants.

1 Aug. Rud starts his autobiography [dealing with his life from the point of view of his work.](#)

Aug. 1 Rud starts his autobiography dealing with his life from the point of view of his work.

This was the start of Something of Myself which was published after his death.

2 Aug. Mrs. Livingston from Boston. Interesting about President Roosevelt (Franklin).



Franklin Delano Roosevelt

Kipling had known President Theodore Roosevelt – see Index: this President, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, was a nephew of Theodore and was currently in his first term of office, grappling with the problems of the great depression. He became the USA's great leader in World War 2, and was elected as President four times in succession, dying in 1945 at the start of his fourth term, shortly before the defeat of Nazi Germany.

Aug. 2 Mrs. Livingstone of the Henry Weidner Library at Boston to lunch. She is collecting Rud's translations and has them in 26 different languages also for her library where she has a most exhaustive collection of editions.

For Mrs Livingston see Index. This was the Harry Elkins Widener Library, the core of the various libraries of Harvard University, opened in 1915. It was the gift of Mrs. Eleanor Elkins Widener, as a memorial to her son who had lost his life in the sinking of the Titanic in 1912.

Undated (Rud works hard for a fortnight, then reviews.)

13 Aug. To Paris and to Marienbad (though they don't say so). Rud works at his autobiography.

Aug. 13 We leave for Dover and Paris.

Aug 16 Arrive 1 p.m. (? Cannes) [*Marienbad*]

17 Aug. C. has treatment. Mr. Porges.

Marienbad is a spa town at the western end of Czechia, (formerly the Czech Republic) at that time part of Czechoslovakia. Its Czech name is Mariánské Lázn. Kipling's letter to Colonel Hughes (PINNEY, Letters, Vol. 6, pp. 391-2) reveals that Elsie and Lorna Howard (née Baldwin) were with them, and that they were all 'taking the cure' which he described as "mud packs, carbonic acid baths and unlimited ill-flavoured waters".

26 Aug. He sends off proofs of *The Pageant of Kipling*.
Lady Wavertree and her Mr. Fisher.

*For The Pageant of Kipling (A Kipling Pageant) see our entry for 1 Aug. 1934.)
For Lady Wavertree (and her Mr. Fisher) – see Index*

1 Sep. Rud has pains and goes on a low diet.

9 Sep. [I had hoped so much of the visit but nothing has come of it.](#)

Presumably, these were Carrie's hopes for herself.

10 Sep. They return and go to stay with the Bland-Suttons. C. goes to bed.

Sep. 10 Leave at 7 p.m.

Sep. 11 Folkestone.

14 Sep. Home again (with a telephone, E.B.)

Undated All through Sep. Rud works at his "A".

"A" was Carrie's shorthand for autobiography. There is no mention of his working on it in any of the correspondence, other than a short note to Miss Walford, their former secretary, who seems to have accepted the task of transcribing his m/s.

27 Sep. Cockerell for lunch. A pleasant visit.

For Cockerell. See Index.

- 1 Oct. An instalment of the “A” sent to Miss Walford to be typed.
- 4-6 Oct. The Bathursts and to see Fabian Ware on War Graves business.
- Oct. 4 We leave at 10.45 for Cirencester.
- 7 Oct. They meet Clara Butt at Brown’s. (She too is dying)



Clara Butt in her heyday

Dame Clara Butt (1872-1936) was a British contralto singer who was immensely popular. She had had an accident in 1932 which led ultimately to her death, about one week after Kipling’s.

- 8 Oct. The Dean of Westminster asks him about a tablet to Mark Twain in the Abbey. [He replies with a No.](#)
- Undated (Mid-October. Rud still busy with his “A” and interested.)
- 17 Oct. They press him to write Lord Byng’s life. No, he must put his affairs in order.
- Oct. 17 Lady Byng writes that she would like Rud to do Lord Byng of Vimy’s life. Rud wrote her he could not as he was nearing 70 and must put his affairs in order and this was a three year job.
- Lord Byng – see Index – had died 6 June 1935.*
- 21 Oct. He is revising his “A”.

1 Nov. To a trade show of the film *Thy Servant a Dog*.

Nov. 1 To see the film of *Thy Servant a Dog* – trade issue.

T



This was a short film based on the poem, 'His Apologies', not on the book.

Nov. 2 Our head gardener leaves.

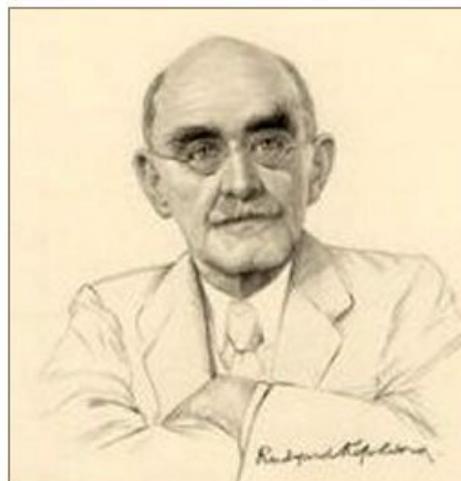
13 Nov. He goes to a War Graves meeting. (Again 27th.)

14 Nov. Home to vote in the General Election.

The National Government was returned, , with Baldwin as Prime Minister. The Commons had a large Conservative and National Liberal majority with Labour as the second party. There were no further general elections until July 1945.

Undated (All through Nov. working at his "A".)

28 Nov Sitting for the Grillon portrait – Miss Footner ?



*the Grillon's Club portrait
by Frances Footner*

The artist was, indeed, Miss Frances Footner (1874-1961). The Grillion's Club commissioned portraits in black-and-white of all its prominent members, and there is a set of 274 in the National Portrait Gallery (NPG)

3 Dec. Dines at The Club.

4 Dec. Party at French Embassy.

8 Dec. He works on a *Poem of Big Liners*.
Fog and cold.

Kipling had written the poem Big Steamers for Fletcher's History of England. We suggest that this poem, never completed and presumably destroyed by Carrie and Elsie along with all his other work in hand after his death, concerned the new Cunard liner, Queen Mary, which was in the process of completion on the Clyde.

15 Dec. He makes a new will.
Very cold and dark. Rud pretty well. Carrie very poorly and depressed. He has done nothing to his autobiography since 2 Dec.

16 Dec. At Brown's. He is revising the typescript of his "A".
At the Chinese Exhibitions; dined with P Bates.

17 Dec. He takes his will away from Medley and consults Sir W. Lawrence about another lawyer.

For Lawrence – see Index.

18 Dec. He dines at Grillons.

Carrie could never spell this name correctly.

20 Dec. Home. He sends his poem on the present situation to London.

21 Dec. He recalls it [and just hit it off in time.](#)

Again, we have another 'lost' poem. We suggest that the 'present situation' related to the Italian invasion of Abyssinia, on which Kipling had commented in a letter to a Canadian correspondent, or possibly the dispute being stirred up by Germany over the Sudetenland area of Czechoslovakia.

Kipling expressed himself forcefully in a letter to Dr. John MacDougall, also in Canada. To the latter he wrote (PINNEY, Letters, Vol. 6, pp. 429-30):

“You see, our central trouble is that we have two megalomaniacs running their peoples. . . . So we – the balance of civilisation – are appealing on the grounds of reason and sanity to the two persons who have parted with both a long time ago. . . . “

- 25 Dec. A family Christmas, milder and rain after a dark icy month.
- Dec 25.** On the whole a Xmas success. Rud and the children (*Elsie and George*) like their presents. A busy day for me, seeing that everything goes right.
- 29 Dec. Josephine’s birthday. A spring day.
- 30 Dec. Rud’s 70th birthday. Letter and telegrams. [One from the King. All very nice and cordial and affectionate and many from quite simple folk telling of what he has meant to them.](#)
- Dec. 30** Rud’s 70th birthday. Letters and telegrams pour in. One from the King.
- 31 Dec. I celebrate my birthday by dealing with Rud’s mail. [So far 108 telegrams and today 90 letters.](#)
- Dec. 31** 108 telegrams so far and 90 letters.

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

