

November 1938 to early 1940, part 6

FACTS

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November 1938 to early 1940, part 6

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Danish National Gallery

Creator/key person:
Ernest Mancoba

General comments:

Rules of transcription:

Spelling errors kept, followed by
correction as [sic: corrected spelling]

Necessary insertion of missing
punctuation marks added as [.]

Necessary paragraph breakage as
[/P]

Illegible words indicated with
[illegible]

Scratched out letters and words not
transcribed

SUMMARY

This Mancoba diary covers Mancoba's first months in Paris. He is enrolled at L'École Nationale Supérieure des Arts Décoratifs in Rue d'Ulm. He has befriended the Danish ceramicist Christian Poulsen whom he abbreviates as "Xtian" and various other students whom he variously identifies as "Pultzer/Pulzer/Bulzer", "the Algerian", "Chargo/Chago/Chayo" and "Roser" (amongst others). He has a visit with a South African identified as "Mall". The diary likely ends at the end of December 1938 or January 1939.

TRANSCRIPTION

[continuing from previous page, Mancoba is with Christian Poulsen] I ask him if they use strong words in Denmark [illegible] – He says no - & he tells me he was surprised to hear me swear so much – I tell him I think nothing of it – obscenity is such when people like a piss – I refer the nude photographs I say [sic: saw] last night & how they sold in the Paris [referring to Paris newspaper] for foolish strangers who came to Paris & wiped their mucked-up selves – There is no harm in nudity [.] a pose is either beautiful or foolish – a trick upon which the crooks trade – He says in Europe people make a fuss of woman especially in society [.] I wonder why [.] I think man is doing it so that he should keep woman oppressed [.] tools for man's passions –

We draw a man very beautiful fellow – I tell Xtian [sic: Christian Poulsen] I did not like the negro – He says perhaps I felt a part of myself is exposed – I say no [.] I would not mind if I posed – He looks too self complacent today [.] He goes before end of séance [French: session] I stay on and leave at 7 –

At the hotel during food Chargo arrives and waits for me – We take coffee & rum afterwards - & Chargo talkative – He talks of the goings-on behind the scenes in the theatre etc etc. We fix up to go to Bal Negre [a Parisian nightclub] on Saturday and he tells me to be more talkative if I want to get a woman [.] The Swedish lady not beautiful but young he says – We go back to my room and he speaks of the various positions to get the greatest satisfaction from copulation and tells me how once an old fellow got him to go to copulate with a woman so that he should watch the sex act (from Boule Blanche) –

He sees the drawings of the young man & is attracted by the extended testicles – He tells me he too had extended testicles and had to undergo an operation at Marseilles [.] That is the reason now he is not interested in

sex act.

He tells of the Negroes & Montmartre [...] How they appear at night & stand at str [sic: street] corners to get money – He does not like Montmartre – He goes –

The following day at school M. Valette is pleased with the head of fat man [...] I go to Xtian [sic: Christian Poulsen] & he says we must have Saturday night for some fun – I am game but I fear one has to dance and make a fool of oneself – I have never liked to dance but then I reason it out. One must pay for sex – one way or another [...]

We go to draw – walk through the Luxembourg Jardin – Its very beautiful sunny bright – merry go round & laughter [...] We draw a fat woman – Algerian arrives – we depart together – I loose [sic: lose] his razor blade and makes no fuss [...] We leave together – Speak of art – He does not like the school – I ask him if he is Xtian [sic: Christian] he says he's a free thinker – I say he will burn in hell [...] He says he does good [...] not sure if he is serious thinker – We drink some wine at cafe – He says he likes woman & wine [...] We part – Supper & bed –

[insert in margin:] We see a marriage and it looks quaint something of fairyland

School and the fat man gets in well – Egyptian seems to be flabbergasted – Pierre talks sex as usual [...] The Egyptian who knows some English asks him to say to me: I want to fuck you – I appear horrified at such vulgarity and they join in the fun – They ask if I do not know that sometimes men sleep with other men – I open my eyes in surprise – Paul points at the Algerian as one such – He sleeps with dogs, cats, cows etc – they laugh [...] Then Pierre asks me to meet him at his hotel so that we can go somewhere and get drunk it being Saturday – I tell him I have to go, to listen to Beethoven at Chatelet – He insists I side track him – We go out & at the door a young lady meets the Algerian – I walk out with Xtian [...] Paul joins us & asks why I like Saturdays : because (I tell him) on Saturdays I go to the Brothel [...] He reminds me of disease possible but I tell him I am pulling his leg – We see a marriage at the Police office before [illegible] – It's queer & looks so out of place – out of a fairy book – what it stands for disgusts me and I say seeing marriages will make used to the sight & one day find oneself involved in such folly – Xtian [sic: Christian Poulsen] laughingly says we shd [sic: should] hereafter choose another street [...] He reminds of the supper with the Swedish young ladies and thereafter look

for some fun – I am unhappy & miserable [.] I can sing for them but to dance is too much for me –

I return to the Hotel and after dinner I go down the street to buy a book on dancing [.] It's raining and I am miserable – I buy Confessions of Rousseau [reference: Jean-Jacques Rousseau "Confessions" first published 1773]¹ and a small book on dancing [.] I get back and practice a few steps but I find it incomprehensible & unhappy read few pages of Rousseau [.] Get myself ready and go to meet Xtian – There is a Swedish girl in [illegible] rooms – we wait for 7 and nothing happens – Xtian dressed up spick and span [English phrase for dressed up] – I look at my shining shoes and feel miserable – He tells me very likely the young ladies will not come – The elder very queer & sensitive & difficult – I am tremendously happy – Putzer shows me his work – I like it – The nun and the down – They talk nonsense –

[in side margin:] Vendredi [French: Friday]

[/P] We go to the Russian Restaurant [possibly the Russian Tea Room] and eat Russian soup, saute de veau [French: veal steak], youaort & vodka – There is music and many dancing – The walls have strange drawings – a good atmosphere but horrible people confused [.] Three women come & sit by us [.] they order food & consume tons [.] they are well dressed & tall & graceful – They have strange hats which I detest as I cannot understand their reasoning [.] Thro [sic: Through] the little opening I see a couple kissing & the woman looks at the three strange creatures & makes a queer face as if disapproving – I order vodka and Xtian also [.] Putzer strangely standoffish won't drink but wine – Xtian dances with the Swedish woman – afterwards a man asks her to dance - & Putzer explains that is the etiquette more so he ought to have asked her – I pay 1 franc tip & all aghast – I shd [sic: should] have given 2 fr [sic: francs] they all say – [illegible] & Putzer goes off on a big lecture & I am miserable not that I care – but I do not wish to spoil their evening – I am [illegible] thankful the other woman did not come – we go out to Le Dôme – too many people & go to Select – I am horribly miserable [.] Putzer goes out sermoning all the time –

[/P] At Select we sit & drink & Putzer tells sexy stories [.] we laugh – I am interested for the first time as I believe after all this type of story will explode the taboo – tells of a man who initiated – English [illegible] because of his shady stories – Long arrives & fucks a time with Putzer evidently he does not like him – they go & I remain - Swedish fellow shows

a newspaper cutting of [illegible] a woman he once loved [,] married to another [illegible] America [,] Woman wants to go home with Long – I leave Select at 4am & get to my room feeling miserable & unhappy –

I sleep all day [,] Chargo arrives late in the day & we go to Montmartre [,] Chargo at Greek restaurant to see the fellow negro carry a car & white girl wife [,] Chargo has many friends here “hallo Chargo” everywhere – Many Senegalese soldiers here – many dancing clubs & many male prostitutes – I ask Chargo why he does not like Montmartre [,] because [,] he says [,] many coloured men lounging round & no work [,] wait for [illegible] to pick them up for sex purposes – We meet many negroes on way back [,] we see at a Metro station a negro looking through the glass in perplexity – extremely sad face tells a story of hunger & unhappiness [,] we give him a franc & Chargo says [illegible] before or false nevertheless – He has grown very angry [,] help [,] & no one will look at him now – At Metro sits there is terribly ragged old man (white) sleeps – In Metro many negro soldiers – Chargo very childish [,] he runs up the steps – I sleep at 10 –

Next morning I meet Christian & speak about Saturday – He says he was threatened by Algerian – We go to Chatelet with Roser [,] listen to Beethoven, [illegible], Robson – Roser a decent chap – 2 afternoon. We speak of sanitorium

¹ W. Sze: Jean-Jacques Rousseau (1712-1778, Switzerland/France), philosopher & writer

He says Jack in if the use story will
- Denmark Society - He says so - +
he tells he has surprised to hear he
was so high - ~~He~~ I tell him I think
nothing of it - obscure or such
when people take to pass - I
refer to the same photographs I saw
last night + how they sold in the Paris
for foolish things, who came to
Paris & scrape their knuckled up-
selves - There is no harm in making
a pore is either beautiful or
foolish - a trick upon which
the crooks trade - He says in
Europe people take a fun of woman
especially ~~in~~ in society I wonder why
I think man is doing it so that he
spurred his woman oppressed tools
for his passions -

We draw a man very beautiful
fellow - I tell them I did not like
the repro - He says perhaps I felt a
part of myself is exposed - I say
no I would not mind if I did - He
looks too self-complacent today
he goes before the end of scene

Stay on and leave at 7.

At the Hotel during food Gayo arrives
and waits for me - We take coffee & ram
afterwards - & change talkative - He talks
of the going-on behind the scenes in the
theatre etc etc. We fix up to go to Bal
negre on Saturday and he tells me to be
more talkative if I want to get a woman
The Swedish lady not beautiful but young
he says - We go back to my room and
he speaks of the various positions that
to get the greatest satisfaction from
copulation and tells me how once
an old fellow got him to go to
copulate with a woman so that he
knewed watch the sex act (from
Boule Blanche) -

He sees the picture drawings of the
young man & is attracted by the
extended testicles - He tells me he
had had extended testicles and had
to undergo an operation at Marseille
that is the reason why he is not interested
in sex act.

He tells of the Negres - Montmartre
How they appear at night & stand at str.

KILDER TIL
DANSK
KUNSTHISTORIE

NY CARLSBERGFONDET

be see
a damage
and it
looks
so
great
Dmetry
Springland
*

Corner Kjet. Mone - He does not like
Montreux - He goes -
The following day at school M. Velleto
is pleased with the head of fat man
go to them he says he must have
Saturday night for some pay - I am
game but I fear one has to dance
and make a fool of oneself - I
have never liked to dance but
then I reason it out. One must
pay for sex one way or another
So go to draw walk through the
Luxembourg garden - It's very beautiful
Sunday night - merry good laughter
We draw what woman - Algeria
arrive - we depart together - I lose
his razor blade and make no fuss
We leave together - Speck of fat - He
does not like the school - Jackson
if he is then he says has a fine
thinker - I say he talk burn hell
He says he was good, not sure if he
is serious thinker - We drink some
wine at cafe - He says he like some more
depart - Supper + bed -
After school and the fat man gets on

well - Egyptian seems to be flattered -
Pierre talks sex as usual. The Egyptian
who knows some English asks him to say
to me: I want to fuck you - I appear
horrified at such vulgarity and the
gives in the form - They ~~ask~~ ask if I do not
know that sometimes men sleep with
other men - I open my eyes in surprise - Paul
points at the Algerian as one such - He sleeps
with dogs cats, cows etc - the laugh is
His Pierre asks me to meet him at
his hotel so that ^{we can} go somewhere
and get drunk - I tell him I have to
go to listen to Beethoven at Chatelet - He
insists I side track him - He ~~boards~~
goes out + at the door a young lady meets
the Algerian - I talk with Jean Paul
Jouin as he asks why I like Saturdays? because
(I tell him) on Saturdays I go to the Brothers
He reminds me of a dream possible but I
tell him I am fully his leg - He
see a carriage at the Police Office
before he enters - It is queer clocks
go out of place - Out of a fairy book - what
it stands for I do not know he said I saw
seeing ~~the~~ carriage's will make

KILDER TIL
DANSK
KUNSTHISTORIE

NY CARLSBERGFONDET

walk to the right fore day find myself
involved in sack folly - Xtra laughingly
says he shd hereafter choose on the street
He reminds of the supper with the
Swedish young ladies and straight look
for some fun - Jan unhappy & miserable
I can say for them but to dance & too
much for me -

I return to the Hotel and after dinner
I go down the street to buy a book
a dancing it's raining and I am
miserable - I buy Confessions of
Rousseau and a small book a dancing
I get back and practise on steps
but I find it incomprehensible &
unhappy read few pages of Rousseau
Get my self ready and go to meet
Xtra - there is a Swedish girl in Paper
rooms - He wait for 1/2 and nothing
heffers - Xtra dressed up spick
span - I look at my shiny shoes and
feel miserable - He tells he very liked
the young ladies will not come - He elber
very queer & sensitive & difficult - Jan
tremendously happy - Pitzel shows me

his work - I like it - The ~~man~~ ^{man} and the
down - They talk nonsense - he got
the Russian Restaurant and eat
Russian soup, Saute de bean, Yonquort
& Vodka. There is music and ~~the~~
~~body~~ ~~dance~~ ~~very~~ ~~delicious~~ The walls
have strange drawings - a good
atmosphere but horrible people confused
The women come sit by us then order
food & ensure that they are well
dressed & tall & graceful - they have
strange hats which I detest as I
can not understand their meaning - I see
the little young see a couple kissing
& the man looks at the three strange
creatures & makes a queer face as if
disgusting - ~~then~~ I order vodka and
Khai also Putzer strangely staidoffish
Verbedel don't drink but wine - Khai dances
with the Swedish woman - afterwards
woman asks her to a dance - Putzer
explains that in the etiquette process
he ought to have asked her - I pay
1 franc tip & all depart - I had have
given 2 fr. they all say - to Putzer
goes off on a big lecture & I a

pissable not that I care - but I
do not wish to spoil their evening - I
now show the ppl the other women
did not come - we go out to
Lebone - to my people + get
select: I am horribly pissable Putze
goes out peeing all the time - at
select we sit + drink + Putze tells
sexy stories we laugh - I am started
for the first time as believe after all
this type of story will explode
the taboo - tells of a man who
is invited - night here because
of his shady stories - soon arrives
+ picks a true with Putze
widely he does not like him
they go + I remain -
Wedded fellow shows a receipt
only of damage done to a
loved woman + another had
America home but to go home with
Tony - leave select at 4 am
left my room fully pissable +
unhappy - I sleep all day Chaps
arrives late in the day + goes
to my machine + Chaps at night + see that
the fellow negro owns a car + white girl wife

Chapote's very friends here "Halle Chapote"
every thing - Many Ameglese soldiers
here - Many dancing clubs & many sale
prostitutes - Last Chapote why he does
not like Martine because he says
they colored men have found no
work but for money & put them up
for sex purposes - We heard many negroes
on way back we see at a Negro
Station a negro looks through the
glass & perplexity - extremely sad face
tells us story of huge & unfeeling
people he is black & Chapote says
it is better not to see him - He
has been very angry help us one
with look at him now - At station the
there is totally ragged old man
(white) sleeps - Don't see any negro
soldiers - Chapote very childish he runs
up the steps - I sleep at 10.
Next morning I met Chinke & speak
about Sabote - He says he was threatened
by America & I help of Chateaux with
his roses like & beathoven Chateaux
person - Was a decent chap - I
afternoon we speak of ebriety -