

## November 1938 to early 1940, part 8

### FACTS

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November 1938 to early 1940, part 8

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Diary location:  
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 and someone referred to as Pulzer; it is the days of Christmas] we go out to select & meet Long there [,] Pultzer & Long bad friends [,] I speak to Long & his friend – Very interesting [,] Art today is a confused state – explain the outlook of Africa Art & that I wish to devote myself to it & to work for progression of African art. Long's friend is interested & speaks [,] Long telling [illegible] of British drawings & Magic – He believes in Magic & hopes to make more of it. He is disillusioned in Modern Art [,] lost leaving Bushmen made an image of animal in certain position somewhere and found it afterwards in same position – Long very intelligent & speaks of a possibility of African [African is crossed out] art in Nazi state etc – I like his friend [friend is underlined] at once – we drink beer and Tony pays for mine – A phone message from his mother & he leaves with his friend –

I linger around [,] Xtian [sic: Christian Poulsen] in the arms of a fat woman [,] Pultzer talking with the unfortunate Dane [,] I ask to go

School – I go to Rosers rooms afterwards – radio & talk [,] we have lunch together at Capulade – They ask why I did not team up on Saturday – Afternoon [,] I got work [,] it is very cold – In evening I go to see March of [illegible] – I see Father Divine – very strange & queer –

Tuesday – School very cold [,] I get [illegible] relief. Paul very unhappy, he gets nothing for his work – [illegible] afterwards M. Vallette asks me to visit him at Xmas [sic: Christmas] holidays – In afternoon I stay in my hotel and go to Roser in evening – we go to Gare --- . [insert in margin: Snow] I fix up for Bonteau's journey – take Metro & I arrive.

A sale of provisions Xmas wines from wine arrears – Radio plays Lambeth Walk [,] they dance a National Costumes [,] we buy a bottle of wine for our feast tonight – get information as to trains – leave – It is snowing and

refreshing –

We buy provisions & more wine – I carry it and Brousse hangs on me by the arm in case I slip & break the bottle [.] At hotel Roser arrives from drawing wet & cold & unhappy – we cut bread & make ready for feast – we eat & drink I sing Deep River & Old Man River – they like it and we sing & sing Langue Dorc songs [.] we go to cafe for more drinks – Sing in Cafe – we play in snow, dragged the hunchback & slide him on the snow – I return to my hotel – The holidays have started –

Wed [sic: Wednesday] – next morning I visit Paulsen [sic: Christian Poulsen] & stay hotel all day – at 12 I go to Brousse & we eat together Capulade – we go to cafe etc – He is a good fellow – In Afternoon we go Musee Guimet with Poulsen & Pultzer & see Indian Art & Chinese – Some of it is wonderful

We go to an English tea Restaurant [.] Place Concorde & take tea – I tell Xtian [sic: Christian Poulsen] I hate the atmosphere it is too English for my liking – He blithers something about wholesomeness etc [.] He worships the English – Behind me there is a couple of love birds – The young man trying to be clever & the young woman trying to be adoring [.] it nauseates me [.] They talk of old English families money etc love [.] mother etc – Pultzer arrives & we talk again – He thinks if the English shd [sic: should] disappear from the European scene there would be confusion – Stability etc etc – English may condemn [illegible] not what it came to defence of the Empire all stood as one - talk of Casabianca [.] The Charge of the Light Brigade – Bengal dancers etc – We are agreed the English love their Empire & everybody not English[,] foreigner – we go downstairs & look at books – I buy “The English are they human by Renier and “England the Island unknown” [G. J. Renier “The English: are they human?” first published 1931 and Paul Cohen-Protheim “England, the Unknown Isle” first published 1931]

Take the Metro & there is much of Xmas [sic: Christmas] spirit [.] Snow [.] They press me to have supper with them but Xtian worships – Pultzer takes to be alone with him – So I excuse myself & get away – After super [sic: supper] Brousse comes along & we go to take coffee & return to his rooms [.] we take taxi to the station off to Toulouse [.] I am a bit sad to lose him for awhile [.] a good fellow – I get back through the

KILDER TIL  
DANSK  
KUNSTHISTORIE

NY CARLSBERGFONDET

we go out to select & meet Tony  
Stark Pulz & my boyfriends  
I speak to Tony & he said - Very interesting  
Art today is a confused state - I  
explain the outlook of Africa art &  
that I wish to work by self bit &  
to work for progress of Africa  
art. Tony's friend is treated aspects  
had challenge of Bushner drawings  
& Meiji - He believes - Magic &  
helps to make more of it. He is  
disillusioned by modern Art watching  
Bushner made an image of animal in  
certain position somewhere and found  
it afterwards in same position & Tony  
very intelligent & speaks of possibility  
of African art in Nazi state etc -  
I liked his friend at once - we drank  
beer and Tony pays for pipe - a  
phone message for his mother & he  
leaves with his friend -

I linger around Khan with the army of  
a fat woman Pulz's talking with  
the unfortunate Dane - I ask to go  
school - I go to Koser  
rooms afterwards - radio & talk

we have lunch together at  
Café de la Gare - they ask why I did not  
turn up on Saturday - Afternoon I got  
back at a very cold - I even go  
to see march of Lins - I see Father  
& mine - very strange & queer -  
Sunday - School very cold I get  
15 for relief - Paul very unhappy he  
gets nothing for his work - 1 Heron  
brother appears M. Vallée asks  
me to visit him at Xmas holidays -  
I afternoon I stay in my hotel and  
go to Rose in evening - we go to  
Gare - - - - fix up for Ponteau's  
young - like Petro + arrow -  
A sale of provisions Xmas Lins from  
Dre arrives - Radio plays La Fête  
walk the dance a National Overture  
we buy a bottle of wine for our feast  
bought - get information as to train  
leave - It's thirsty and refreshing -  
be by provision + more but - during it  
and Bourasse says once by the way  
in case I slip + break the bottle  
At Hotel Rose arrive from dinner  
bet a cold + unhappy - we can't read



make ready for feast - be eat +  
drink + I say Deep River + Old  
man River - the like it and  
be say see Langue d'ore says  
be go to cafe for two drinks -  
Suzanne Cafe - be play pinoch  
dragge the heavy back + shade  
into snow - return to my hotel -  
the holidays have started -  
Wed - next morning visit banks of the  
hotel all day - ~~at 12~~  
at 12 go to Brousse + he eat  
by the Capalade - be go to cafe  
etc - He is a good fellow - etc.  
Afternoon be go Musée Guinet  
with Pontant Palty + see Indian  
art + Chinese - see off to sleep  
be go to an English tea - Orange  
Place Concordie + take tea -  
tell them I hate the atmosphere of  
the English but by liking - be blather  
society about Whistler etc +  
worships the English - Behind me there  
is a couple of love birds - they young  
man trying to be clever - they go to  
try to be adoring at ranceastes be

They talk of old English families  
more etc love matter etc -  
Pulchri arrives & we talk again - The  
spirit of the English should be sufficient for  
the most part & some there would be  
conspicuous - Stability etc etc - English  
my London Separation but what it  
came to depend of the spirit all  
stood as she - Talk of Kasabianca  
The change of the night Brigade -  
Bergalancers etc - We are  
agreed to English love the Empire &  
every body not English foreigners - We go  
down stairs to look at books - I  
buy "The English are the Roman by Renier  
ata" "England the Island unknown"  
Take the paper and there is much of Knox  
spirit they press but have sympathy  
with them but Khan perhaps Pulchri  
& like the alone with him - So I  
excuse myself & get away - After  
some business comes along & I go  
to take coffee & then to the rooms  
to take taxi to the station of the Traluse  
I am a bit sad to lose him for a while  
a good fellow - I get back through the