

15. Sep. 1938

FACTS

Date:
15. Sep. 1938

Page number:
p. 63-67

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
Full name of person mentioned [First
+ Last name]

Mentioned people:
T. C. Mehta

SUMMARY

On 2nd September 1938, Ernest Mancoba boarded a ship that left Cape Town, South Africa, for Southampton, United Kingdom. It arrived on the 19th September, 1938. Mancoba kept a travel journal of the voyage.

TRANSCRIPTION

// Sept 15th /

[/P] Madeira in sight as I go to upper deck – “The Pearl of the Atlantic” – lying in harbour German man o war [illegible] – the Swastika very much in evidence – also German passenger boat General Arteges Hantung [presume: General Artigas, a German passenger boat] Funchal well inhabited – beautiful villas on the mountain side – as we stop [.] small rowing-boats containing 3 oarsman and two drivers – boy & man. Shout up to us Hullo Mr Brown [s] throw [illegible] Small boy dive etc. Some throw coins – & I look uneasily at German war ship – as we stop [.] many more rowing boats come up & climb the ship [.] All sorts of merchandise – Photographs of Island [.] transit agents – 10/ to be shown round island and back – English newspapers & English launches – Germans look on suspiciously – One man comes furtively to ask if I want French photographs – shows me one specimen – I don’t want them – the 3 [.] N + W [Watson] join the party [illegible] the Island – Mehta [T.C. Mehta] & I go down to the launch & go to town on our own – Artist + soc worker [sic: social worker] same launch – say they don’t see much of us – we say we see a lot of them - They fear to mix with Natives –

[/P] we land and set foot on Madeira [.] My first experience of a country without the colour bar [.] I am thrilled and grateful at once [.] I am in love with the Portuguese [.] Honest readjustment to things – of course as alternative [to South Africa] – Guides & loafers offer to show us round – The streets are cobbled with rough stones & wheelless carts drawn by oxen [.] men attired in white – Old fashionable motor cars as taxis – open. Someone with guide badge comes along and offers to show round but we refuse & looks unhappy. Mehtu [Mehta] restless – disagree with my [illegible] method – buy matches & my change – Walk through the park -Statues [sketches of statues] + Swans – a loafer comes along & Mehtu [Mehta] worried & asks to take us to see the Signorita – I tell him off again [.] turn back through narrow streets – Driving seems wreckless [sic: reckless] to me – Too many old women in the Streets, they seem to have resigned themselves broadly to things, unlike the old women in SA (poor classes) Perhaps the many churches a/c [sic: account] for it. A small soldier in uniform stalks up to us & attaches himself without speaking – Small shops & tinsmiths & carpenters – He makes signs [.] queer noises to make us understand – Mehtu's [Mehta's] anxious [.] does

not know how to be rid of him – We see railway-station – go past Castle & [illegible] less station down a narrow street & up we see a shop & buy Some drinks & fruits. Man gives Portuguese money so we use up whole 2/- Wine at back of shop – a crowd of children crowd at shop – we go down the street again past the Casino & the Gardens

[note in margin:] two Mulettos [,] black boys with blue eyes! Well dressed father negro

[/P] We see a black girl – She greets me and farther on buy ice-cream [,] delicious. Down the jetty [,] flower girls in Portuguese national natural dress selling flowers – Human butterflies skimming silently over the cobbled streets – a maze of colour

[/P] We go down to the Jetty & I do not want to leave Madeira – Many hangers on & exchangers of money etc – we pay for the launch to get on & find 3, Wat. [Watson] & N. Watson not talkative [,] abrupt [,] so get on launch with many German sightseers from General Artigas & interesting to see the glances of the Nazis especially from the crew of the ship as we get off passengers – We return to our boat & I am struck by the hugeness of the Bal. Castle [sic: Balmoral Castle].

[/P] All round the small craft-like flies round an elephant in the jungle. Still the diving boys weaving their way in and out the scene of jesticalating [sic: gesticulating] & vociferous merchants – Hello Leettle boy Hallo [,] The little boys dive –

[/P] the Ship is ready to move & all on board get out with their bundles – ropes dangle from the boats to the Ship [,] passengers & goods & pulled to & fro by ropes – as the ship goes the small craft dwindle – the last to leave the ship are the two leettle boys [,] They leap from from high up the Bal C [sic: Balmoral Castle] & make spectacular dives into the water below – we take the bend & leave Madeira with its beautiful [illegible] Callers in vain – It is the sunlit end of island that's most populated – We pass the statue of Xt [sic: Christ] with its outstretched hands – there off to open sea

-

We exchange experiences & I hear 3 [,] W [sic: Watson] & N enjoyed a fine 10/ trip – They saw a Bos Shebeen [South African term for bar or speakeasy] - & flimsily dressed girls who beckoned but they merely saw – Abr [Abraham] seems stunned [,] He says he is horrified but I don't believe it – He speaks of mothers & sisters etc futile. We eat bananas & grapes Madeira. The sunset is beautiful [,] molten gold [,] the sun sinks like a ball of fire – They tell of the Madeira-man speaks French – We drink

Madeira brought on board by Watson & N & 3 –

He asked if anyone occupied deck chair -
Poor old man he is disillusioned and
muddled - helplessly repeats "He's a Dutchman".

Yes a Dutchman -

He put sets a globe of fire -



Argument on standpoint of ~~physics~~ anthropology
Abraham's brilliant but from the pedicled
viewpoint - Maidoo disagrees + presents Nazi
inferiority inferiority idea - Sleep

→ I am restless + relieved after speaking
to mehtu on the mission of youth in the
world - Why I dislike the A type of African -
Sept 15th Madeira in sight as I go
to upper deck - "The Port of the Antarctic" - lying
in harbor German man + two Indian - the
Swastika very much - evidence - also German
passenger boat General Artigas Hamburg
Tunchal well inhabited - beautiful villas on
the mountain side - as we drop anchor
small rowing boats containing 3 ~~two~~ men
and two divers - by pairs. Short up +
in hull Mr Brown throws ticks small boy
dive etc. some throw coins - I look measily
at German ~~two~~ ship - as we stop many more
rowing boats come up + visit the ship.
All sorts of herderies - Photographs of Island

travelling agents - 10/ The show round
island and back - English newspapers +
English lunches - General look on
curious - One had cores fatwely +
asked if I want fresh photographs +
showed me some specimens I don't want
them - the 3 N + D on the left middle
block - Mehta + I go down the launch
+ go + turn on on row - About 100
work same launch - say the don't
know of us - He say be a bit of them -
the fear to mix with Natives - be land
darker, get foot on bediam my first
experience for coming out into labor
has - I am thrilled and grateful and
at once I am in love with the Portugese
Agent ready to do anything of course is
alternative ~~(if it)~~ - Guides + launch
to show us round - The streets are cobble
rough stone + wheeling carts drawn by oxen
men attired in white - Old fashioned motor
cars as taxis - Oper. someone with guide
badge comes along and offers to show
round but we refuse + walk unobtrusively
mehta returns - message with map of my
method - buy watches + pay. Chap - talk

KILDER TIL
DANSK
KUNSTHISTORIE

NY CARLSBERGFONDET

through the park - Stines  + 
 + Svans - a large tower
 along and Pekki carried us to take us
 to see the Segarita - Still here. Off again
 turn back through narrow streets - Driving
 seems reckless to me. Too many old
 bones in the streets they seem to have
 resigned themselves to death & things unlike
 the old bone - SA (poor classes) perhaps
 the many churches are for it. A small
 soldier uniform talks up to us & attacks
 himself with out speaking - small shops
 & tin smiths & carpenters - He makes signs
 gives noises to make us understand - Pekki's
 anxious does not know how to bend of him -
 We see railway station - go past Castle & home -
 less station down a narrow street & up
 We see a shop & buy some drinks
 & fruits. Man gives Portuguese home so
 We see up to the 2nd - Wine at back
 of shop - a crowd of children crowd
 at shop - we go down the street again
 past the Casino & the gardens - we
 see a black girl - she greets me and
 father on my ice-cream delicious -
 Down the city floor goes in Portuguese National

two mule
black
boys
with
blue
eyes!
well
dressed
& dress
father
regno

Natural dress selling flowers - Humant
butterflies skimming silently over the
cobbled streets - a haze of colour
We go down to the jetty + do not want to
leave Madeira - Many barges on +
exchange of money etc - before for
the launch + get on + find 3, but + N.
Not so talkative + abrupt so get a
launch with many German sightseers
from General Dutrig's + interesting to see
the glances of the Missis especially
from the crew of the ship as we get off
passengers - We return to our boat
+ I am struck by the hugeness of
the ~~Great~~ Bal. Con. the. all round the
small craft like flies round an
elephant in the jungle. Still the
dingy boys being their way in out the
scene of gesticulation + occupation
mercenary - Hello Little boy Hello
the little boys drive the ship to ready
to move + all on board get out with
their bundles - ropes dangle from the
boats to the ship passengers + goods +
pulled from to + fro by ropes - as the ship
goes the small craft chide - the last

to leave the ship and the two little boys
the leap for for high up the Bal C +
make spectacular dives into the water
below - we take the lead & leave Madeira
with its beautiful pyramids calling in vain -
It is the south end of island that is most
populated - We pass the statue of St. Vincent
on stretched hands - there off to open sea -

We exchange experiences & I hear 3
W + N enjoyed a fine 10- trip - They saw
a Pro shebeen - a plump dressed girl who
beckoned but they never saw - Abr seems
stunned He says he is horrified but I don't
believe it - He speaks of Mother & sister etc
futile. We eat bananas & grapes Madeira -
The sunset is beautiful gold molten gold
the sun sinks like a ball of fire -
They tell of the Madeira-man speaks
French - We drink Madeira wines - brought
on board by Watson + N + 3 -

Get up + breakfast - after that I go up
to find the 3 with the man from Lyon
He leads for me from the French book
brought by Abr - a fine fellow - He orders
drinks Stake Lager + Madio + small + beer