

## 16-18 September 1938

### FACTS

Date:  
16-18 September 1938

Page number:  
p. 67-72

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 16]

// We get up + breakfast – then I go up to find the 3 with the man from Lyon. He reads for me from the French book brought by Abr [Abraham] – a fine fellow – He orders drinks [.] I take lager & Naidoo lemonade & beer.

The South Africans gaze & gaze – We talk on & ignore – I drink with a vengeance as colour restrictions in SA. SV declines offer of drink & says he takes wine once a month to disappointment of Frenchman [.] Bell for lunch – we go down – After lunch we go to Naidoo Cabin & have wine given by Madeira man - It's 20 years old – we call him [illegible].

Cards afterwards [.] Casino – The Lyon man suggests walk round the deck but Naidoo & co [sic: company] back out & leave him to me – awkward – I make feeble gestures with my hands – Mehtu [sic: T.C. Mehta] comes [.] I am glad [.] Then he goes

We go down again & I ask Naidoo why he tries to show me off in a bad light to the man – cigarettes + blunder at Casino – He becomes angry & Mehtu [Mehta] comes to my help – I call him a Nazi – SV tries to make peace – They go out & we meet again.

We play ping pong + two white boys rush down & pull up nets & order us off – We play on & Man comes & tells them off & Mehtu cut up badly & come to cabin and wants to [illegible] if the boy was wrong – I say a small nazi - deserved to be kicked.

[note in margin:] Quinn says we shd [sic: should] go SA, wd [sic: would] object but this is an English boat

Concert in the evening & Mehtu [Mehta] & I go - Atmosphere tense – My little friend whiteman fetches Watson – a huge black form – the dark [illegible] gets up – Ships orchestra, then the “local talent” – woman sings two negro & I wonder why she sings these songs & what these hypocritical SA are thinking – One pts [sic: points] at me & nudges his friend – The old women stare like images in stone – The place seems to be full of them – The crooner sings & is encored [.] classical dancing they call it [.] but flat short costume [.] I wonder what these Mrs [illegible] are

thinking of the natives seeing a white woman indecently dressed making a display before natives – We go out before the Community singing – I don't clap – In the Smoking room, we take lager + Lemonade – We go downstairs & cabin – N arrives & stands at landing watching the whites go past. He does odds things – I hear him tell a man that he is going to the USA etc. He laughs hysterically at nothing – sleep –

[Sept. 17]

// Before breakfast Mehtu [sic: T.C. Mehta] tells me Naidoo unhappy about concert – I meet them and they say why – I tell them that I did anything that I wished to do when I felt like it. We part company & sit with Mehtu [Mehta] – on deck looking at ships on the horizon – A girl comes & sunbathes a yd [sic: yard] in front of us & I look at the old women [,] they are horrified and Mehta says he shd [sic: should] scramble for it but I stop him & we sit – She does not seem to care about our nearness – Chief Syneer tells us a party will be going down 10 ocl [sic: o'clock] [illegible] begins - We stand up, after [illegible] & go to cabin – Mehtu [Mehta] is amused + he laughs –

[note in margin:] Chief Engineer tells us a party will be going down at 10 ocl [sic: o'clock] begins

We go down to the engines & it is not as horrible as I feared – Abr [Abraham] is afraid & returns – Naidoo is irritable & when I ask the \$ pd [sic: paid] out about a guide [,] is irritated & says why shd [sic: should] not I do it – We go down & Machine-man foreman shows us round – Abr [Abraham] cannot stand the heat – so returns – I, tennis deck, Mehtu says he is happy he met me – lunch

Late in after noon – Mehtu [Mehta] comes with autograph of Stoker-wrestler, welter weight champ [sic: champion] of Maccas. I don't see the French-man – We talk [,] Mehta and I [,] and after supper we walk the deck [,] exciting to think in another day we shall be in England – We go down to Mehta's cabin and order Lager & Orangade [sic: Orangeade] – 3 rest come in & Mehta wants to stand them a drink [,] DN refuses & he looks unhappy [,] They go out and I find them in our cabin with N – I undress before them & sleep. “You are naked and hurt my feelings” – futile, VS. I say I am the only man on board with feelings.

[Sept 18]

// Morning [,] pack up & go to upper deck [,] There is the bustle people going to & fro [,] Anticipation great [,] we want to see the first sight of

England — We sit all day and I see the naked girl dressed up & walking the deck with her old mother (as Mehta told me) I like her for her courage but I think again [,] she must have been badly brought up for a South African girl. I remember the girl I once asked to direct me to some street where I wanted to deliver a parcel — She recoiled from me and behaved in a regular South African manner — I was embarrassed — but not surprised

After dinner we see the Islands of the French coast, at first I thought it was the French coast and was excited, but afterwards I learn it is the island

Late in the evening we sight the coast of England [.] The country that has had such an interesting history — I think of the ship money which prompted the Great Revolution against the Kingship of Eng. [sic: England] & when the Kingship of England began its descending of power —

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 boat & 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



The South African gaze + gaze - We  
talk on + ignore - I drink with a  
perceant on colour restrictions in SA -  
Bell for lunch - We go down - After  
lunch we go to Naidoo cabin + have  
offer of wine given by Pradeira hand - It's 20  
years old - We call him Heary -  
Cards afterwards Casino - The Nyon  
man suggests to talk round the deck but  
Naidoo + Co back out + leave him to  
me - awkward - I make feeble  
gestures with my hands - Nektu  
comes I am glad + then he goes  
We go down again + Ask Naidoo  
why he tries to show he off - a  
bad light in the bar - cigarettes +  
blunder at Casino - He becomes angry  
+ Nektu comes to my help - I call  
him a Nazi - N tries to make  
peace - We go out + we eat again  
There is a concert after dinner  
+ We play purpore + two white  
boys rush down + pull up nets  
+ order us off - We play on + Man  
comes + tells them off + Nektu cut up  
badly + come to cabin and talk to Nektu

So, Declin  
offer of  
drink of  
says he  
takes sin  
once a  
month to  
drop out  
heart of  
Frachka

if the boy was wrong - I say a small Nazi +  
deserved to be kicked.  
Concert in the evening + Mektu + I go -  
Atmosphere tense - My little friend Britton  
fetches Watson - a huge black form - the dark  
cabin gets up - Ships orchestra then the  
"local talent" - Watson sings two negro  
spirituals + wonders why she sings these songs  
+ what these hypocritical SA. are thinking -  
One photo ~~is taken~~ + rudge his  
friend - The old women stare like ~~the~~  
mays in stone - The place seems to be full  
of them - The crowd sings + is encouraged  
to classical dancing they call it but flat  
short costume wonder what these Mrs. Gaudies  
are thinking of the natives seeing a white  
lady + decently dressed taking a dip  
before natives - Negro out before the community  
singing - I don't clap - In the smoking  
room he takes lager + seawater - Negro  
down stairs + cabin - N. arrives + stands  
at landing watching the white go for port. He  
does odd things - I hear him tell a man  
that he is going to the USA etc. He laughs  
hypocritically at nothing - Sleep -  
Before breakfast Mektu tells me

Quinn  
says he  
will go  
SA, but  
I get  
about this  
is an  
English  
boat



KILDER TIL  
DANSK  
KUNSTHISTORIE

NY CARLSBERGFONDET

Naidos Unkoff about heat - I meet  
her and the sa. shy - I tell her  
that I did anything that ~~the~~ I wished  
to do when I felt like it. The part  
Company + sit with Mehta on deck  
looking at ships on the horizon -  
A girl comes + sun bathes and is  
in front of us + I look at the old  
woman + she is horrified and  
Mehta says he should scramble  
for it but I stop him + we sit -  
she does not seem to care about our  
nearness - He stands up, after that  
+ goes to cabin - Mehta is amused  
+ she laughs -  
We go down to the engine + it  
is not as horrible as I feared -  
Abr is afraid + returns - Naidos  
is irritable + asks Jack the skipper  
out about a guide is irritable  
says she should not do it - We go  
down to machine - man foreman  
shows us round - Abr cannot  
stand the heat - so returns - I turn  
- deck, Mehta says he is happy to  
meet me - Lunch

Chief Engineer  
tells us a  
party will  
be going  
down at  
10 o'clock  
to the  
engine

Late in after noon - Mehta comes with  
~~autograph~~ of Stokes - wrestles, better tonight  
Champ of Maccas -- I don't see the  
French man - he talk Mehta and I and  
after supper he talk the deck eaching to  
think in another day we shall be in  
England - he go down to Mehta's Cabin  
and order Lager + Orangeade - 3 rest  
come in + Mehta talk to stand then  
a drink of N. refines + he looks unappoy  
he go out and I find the in cabin  
with 11 - I undress before then + sleep  
"You are naked and lost by feelings"  
- future, 19. I say I saw the only one in <sup>feelings</sup> board with  
Morning pack up + go to upper deck  
There is the bustle people going to afro  
Anticipation great we want to see  
the first sight of England  
He sit all day on and I see  
the naked girl dressed up + walking  
the deck with her old net (as Mehta  
told me) I like her for her courage  
but I think again she must have  
been badly brought up for a South  
African girl - I remember the girl

Once asked to direct he ~~came~~  
to some street where I wanted to  
deliver a parcel - She recoiled from  
me and behaved in a peculiar  
North African manner - I was  
embarrassed - but not surprised  
After dinner we see the  
Islands of the French coast  
at first I thought it was the French  
coast and was excited but  
afterwards I learn it is the island  
~~of~~ Letic in the evening we  
sight the coast of England  
The country that has had such  
an interesting history - I think of  
the ship money which provoked  
the great Revolution against the  
Kingship of Eng. & when the King of  
England began its descending  
of power -