

19. Sep. 1938

FACTS

Date:
19. Sep. 1938

Page number:
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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
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 19]

The Deck in London

The Balmoral Castle arrived in Southampton [England] on the morning of 19th (The Previous night the Pilot boarded from a motor boat [.] it was an exciting to see — the Pilot boat swing to position and the Pilot climbing up the rope ladder -)

All the passengers busy packing and clearing up cabins – I look up Mehta [.] he dresses up & we go to upper for letters at P.O. & Abr [Abraham] arrives to see if his Bournemouth Cousin has not written [.] No letters for me except from a motor firm asking me to bring a car!

I am disappointed with the Harbour buildings [.] Warehouses zinc structures but I realise that life here is based on definite necessity and utility [.] Once on the side we see the Sea Place factory – afterwards a little man am umbrella arrives looking for Mehta - He is a typical lawyers clerk – in morning dress & hat [.] has a bag in his hand from which he produces letters from [illegible] concerning Mr Mehta – The sailors are working feverishly [.] glad to be back home – Mr Watson appears carrying a helmet – The lawyer says you not need that here [.] you want an umbrella – Cooks' men are evident everywhere – A Joe H man comes to me & asks of a Mancoba – He gives me the address for Loctt London & tells me there is a letter for me at the Bureau (Brat) [.] It is from Miss Birch Kat & I am glad –

[/P] We watch the luggage being slided down the chute and it looks as if everything will go to pieces in this way [.] it is carried over to the Customs Officer and I disembark with Mr Watson – He looks dreadful and speaks of coming over uneasily – He is not certain how soon he will have to get back to Africa -

[/P] I buy a ticket 3rd class for London & go to the Customs to see about my luggage – I have nothing to declare – I see a man offering to carry my luggage to the boat train [.] He looks a decent chap I give him a 1/ – I share compartment with Watson [.] soon Mehta arrives with little lawyer and the other Indians – I am glad Nk has a compartment elsewhere as I

can't stand him — It is queer to see the S Africans in the same class as blacks [,] in S Africa they are demigods who live in another world — But England will soon have rigid colour bars [,] I can sense it. The pattern of the English mind is essentially Nazi - The many incidents that appear more & more frequently in the Papers are significant [,] During the Coronation many unpleasant incidents occurred — If England want to keep her Dominions she must be Nazi — And I believe these South Africans will try to stir up Public Opinion to a sympathetic England.

The Dock in London

The Balmoral Castle arrived in Southampton on the morning of 19th. (The previous night the Pilot boarded for a motor boat it was on waiting to see the Pilot boat going to position and the Pilot climbing up the rope ladder.)

All the passengers being packing and clearing up cabins - I took up Mette to rooms of cargo to supper for letter at P.O. & later arrives to see if his Cousin with Cousin has not written the letter for me except for a note from asking me to buy a car!

I am disappointed with the harbor buildings warehouses fine structures but I realize that life here is based on definite necessity and utility. One on the side beside the sea plane factory - afterwards a little man with an umbrella arrives looking for Mette - He is a typical English clerk - a man's dress & ~~features~~ hat has a bag in his hand for Mette.

produces letters for Santa Cecilia Mrs
Mellin - The sailors are corky & finally
glad to be back home - Mr Watson
appears carrying a helmet - The lawyer
says you must read that here you
want another bottle - Cooks' men
are evident everywhere - A fore
& main crew to be taken off a
baranca - He gives me the address
for South London & tells me there is a
letter for me at the Bureau (Boat) &
is from Mrs Birch Kent & Dan
glad - We watch the luggage being
slid down the chute and it
looks as if everything will get
pieces with - say it is carried
over to the Custom's Office and
I am back with Mr Watson - He
looks dreadful and speaks of the
coming bad weather - He is not
certain how soon he will have to
get back to Africa - I buy a ticket
3rd class for London & go to the Custom's
house about my luggage - I have nothing
to declare - I ~~leave~~ see a pa. office
to carry my luggage to the boat house

KILDER TIL
DANSK
KUNSTHISTORIE

NY CARLSBERGFONDET

He looks a decent chap I gave him a
4/- I have a few confetti with Baton
from Pepto arrives with little luggage
and the other boxes - I am glad they
have accompanied elsewhere as I
can't stand him - It is queer to see
the Africans in the same class as the
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who live in another world - But England
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