

November 1938 til tidligt i 1940, del 4

FAKTA

Dato:
November 1938 til tidligt i 1940, del 4

Sidetæl:
p. 90-95

Dagbogens placering:
SMK

Ophavsperson/nøgleperson:
Ernest Mancoba

Generelle kommentarer:
Transkription regler:
Stavefejl beholdes, efterfulgt af
korrektur som [sic: korrekt stavemåde]
Nødvendige indsættelser af
manglende tegnsætning tilføjet som
[.]
Nødvendig opdeling af afsnit som [/P]
Utydelige ord angivet med [illegible]
Gennemstreget bogstaver og ord ikke
transskriberet translated 2025-02-06

RESUMÉ

Denne Mancoba dagbog dækker Mancobas første måneder i Paris. Han er indskrevet på L'École Nationale Supérieure des Arts Décoratifs i Rue d'Ulm. Han har fået en ven i den danske keramiker Christian Poulsen, som han forkorter til "Xtian", samt forskellige andre studerende, som han forskelligt identificerer som "Pultzer/Pulzer/Bulzer", "den algeriske", "Chargo/Chago" og "Roser" (blandt andre). Han har et besøg med en sydafrikansk person identificeret som "Mall". Dagbogen slutter sandsynligvis ved udgangen af december 1938 eller januar 1939. translated 2025-02-06

TRANSSKRIFTION

[from previous page: I walk in Notre [Dame]] as if I knew it from old – To me it's the culmination of the progress of Xtianity [sic: Christianity] before its decline to over time [.] When the church has become nothing more than an object of interest for American sightseers. The Stained glass windows drawing attention at once – I have never seen anything of its kind anywhere before [.] Also the attendants and caretakers here seem to be in a world apart, for them Notre Dame is their world, like Quasimodo [.]

A few women are kneeling in prayers at the different altars – I am glad that at least the French have not used church as storehouse of Tomstones [sic: tombstones] like Westminster Abbey [in London] for instance – I am nevertheless dismayed to find two war memorials – One for peace under a huge crucifix and another for the British Empire – I am shocked to read "South Africa" & to see the National Emblem of South Africa –

[/P] The wood carvings are beautiful – I am impressed with the skill and devotion which [illegible] the putting up of this structure – It is a symphony of stone and glass – it is alive as a work of art but does not fill me with any religious feelings as I was told by a lecturer in Philosophy who wanted an excuse for getting converted into Christianity –

[insertion in margin] I think if Bishop Huthi Poem & the Church oppressor of the People in the Middle Ages [.] I want to break the nose of one of the bishops.

I see the stone and I think Brownings Bishop [probable reference to Robert Browning and his poem "The Bishop orders his tomb at Saint Praxed's Church", published 1845]¹ ... By the way Browning is horrible cheat. The pillars and exactness of measurement must have entailed exhausting mathematical calculations –

I see the Statue of the Madonna [illegible] de Paris – I remember the remark of the American [.] She holds the baby as if she did not like it. But I don't see the pt [sic: point] of the remark – I didn't think it is wonderful – A young woman stands and looks as if in meditation [.] I wonder what she is thinking about –

Then I go to see the treasure – And I am not filled with disgust as I was at Fort Hare [reference: University of Fort Hare] at the Sunday Evening Benedictions – Here I have the impression that these are in a museum like the African masques [French: masks] in the British Museum – Most made of gold [.] The church was fabulously rich in those days [.] There is a gaping crowd of the baldheaded men & young women perhaps religious fanatics who wait for the dead church to rise again – Or curious creatures like me unaffected by any bright dreams for the revival of this monster. Or perhaps it filled a gap – gave birth to modern society but what a society – From (Coruna barefooted king before bishop to the Vatican) and yet hanging on influencing in a warped manner progress of man to the impasse of today – I feel it must go. I go toward the door to look for a book to read on Notre Dame but find none at the bookshelf – I am struck by the notices in French & English [.] more in German & Italian [.] The Statue of our Lady at the door has the most magnificent robes I have seen [.] I go out and look at the figures in the [illegible] they are beautiful and have stood the weather wonderfully –

[/P] This Church has not filled me with the disgust I had when I left Westminster Abbey . Where the victory of English wars throughout the world is made to live in a boisterous fashion – It took some searching to find the so called Poets Corner – I could see nothing for dominating figures of Gladiators and Disraelis [possible reference to Prime Ministers as Benjamin Disraeli held the post in 1868 and again between 1874 and 1880] – and other minor makers of the British Empire –

[in margin: small sketch]

I go back to my hotel and ask for a bath – at supper the woman apologises for delay to bath – I sleep early – read Candide [reference: Voltaire "Candide" first published 1759]² –

[inserted in margin] I see a negro at the hotel bureau ready to leave the hotel [.] His teeth reminds me of Some one [illegible] in South Africa – the Hotel Porter asks if wants taxi monsieur on si vous plait [French: sir, if you

please] If the white goes off expecting a tip – how unlike South Africa

I go to school and it is a happy morning as professors are pleased with the relief of a South Africa goldmine I made and the figures look like real work men – I have always seen life as a workman – It's a joy to see the dignity of the Parisien worker ouvrier [French: worker] [.]. Perhaps I am [illegible] friends with the future rulers of the world, the toiling masses – Also the Greek skull gets good marks. The fellows congratulate me I say I am glad & feel a bit reconciled to the school. Xtian [sic: Christian Poulsen] is glad – We leave school and go to lunch [.], after lunch – I go to Pulzer & Xtian they are having tea – Pulzer shows me his latest drawings – they are wonderful and we go to Grand Chaumiere [reference to Académie de la Grand Chaumière, an art school] to draw – On the way I tell Xtian [sic: Christian Poulsen] how different the French chdn [sic: children] are behaved to a Negro with Street In England I had children shout at me a Nigger Nigger but not so in France [.], and as I say this I have a feeling I betrayed myself for I could not guarantee what these kids are capable of doing at any moment [.]. I want “to touch wood” [reference to English superstition] – We pass a flower shop & Xtian talks about the flowers I must take to this person [.]. I ask him what impression the poems & pictures of negroes in European [illegible] picture books leave on the children – He says Negro things to play with etc – He remarks a poem of negro going down a street in Copenhagen in red and white trousers –

The model posing for the nude is very beautiful – I draw with enthusiasm [.]. At rest interval a girl speaks to a Chinese in English and I feel restless because that is the language I associate with the British Empire and South Africa –

A new model arrives and casts a curious eye at me – I wonder why perhaps she would object [illegible] her body to niggers – and I think of how once I was brutalised by [illegible] at Krugersdorp [city in South Africa] along the little valley I charged upon them bathing and my nose so long that I thought I was dying – blood all over my new shirt [.].

I was 12 and on a Xmas [sic: Christmas] holiday to see my Aunt – I was ashamed to confess to her what had happened [.]. I was [illegible] I thought she would not understand – [illegible] –

But the girl was quite free after all and she smiled now and [illegible] to her friends in the group of artists sketching. Parted with Xtian at the Dome [.].

[/P] On the way bought a newspaper & read of Pact³ agreed by Germany & France [:] Von Rippendorf & Bonnet [Joachim von Ribbentrop, Nazi Germany, and Georges Bonnet, Vichy France] – Not much enthusiasm in Paris – I see a decorated trio of magazin [French: store] vans for Xmas – On the first [,] Father Xmas has a coloured child in hand – I am happy –

[2 illegible words in margin]

I eat & go to bed – to read – Chargo arrives and tells me he will sign contract to reason for the job at the play Chatelet [probably Chatelet des Halles]

OVERSÆTTELSE

[fra forrige side: Jeg går i Notre [Dame]] som om jeg kendte det fra gammel tid – For mig er det kulminationen af fremskridtene i Xtianity [sic: Kristendommen] før dens tilbagegang over tid [,] Når kirken er blevet til intet mere end et interesseobjekt for amerikanske turister. De farvede glasvinduer tiltrækker straks opmærksomhed – Jeg har aldrig set noget af sin slags før [,] Også de ansatte og omsorgspersoner her synes at være i en verden for sig, for dem er Notre Dame deres verden, ligesom Quasimodo [,]

Et par kvinder knæler i bøn ved de forskellige altre – Jeg er glad for, at franskmændene i det mindste ikke har brugt kirken som opbevaringssted for gravsten [sic: gravsten] som Westminster Abbey [i London] for eksempel – Jeg er dog forfærdet over at finde to krigsminder – Et for fred under et kæmpe kors og et andet for det britiske imperium – Jeg er chokeret over at læse "Sydafrika" & se Sydafrikas nationale emblem –

[/P] Træudskæringerne er smukke – Jeg er imponeret over den dygtighed og hengivenhed, der [ulæselig] har været i opførelsen af denne struktur – Det er en symfoni af sten og glas – det lever som et kunstværk, men fylder mig ikke med nogen religiøse følelser som jeg blev fortalt af en forelæser i filosofi, der ønskede en undskyldning for at blive konverteret til kristendommen –

[indsat i margen] Jeg tænker på biskop Huthi Digt & kirken, der undertrykte folket i middelalderen [,] jeg vil bryde næsen på en af biskopperne.

Jeg ser stenen og tænker på Brownings Biskop [sandsynlig henvisning til Robert Browning og hans digt "Biskoppen bestiller sin grav ved Sankt

Praxeds Kirke", offentliggjort 1845]¹ ... Forresten, Browning er en forfærdelig bedrager. Søjlerne og nøjagtigheden i målingerne må have medført udmattende matematiske beregninger –

Jeg ser statuen af Madonna [ulæselig] de Paris – Jeg husker bemærkningen fra amerikaneren [.]. Hun holder barnet, som om hun ikke kan lide det. Men jeg ser ikke meningen med bemærkningen – Jeg synes ikke, det er fantastisk – En ung kvinde står og ser ud som om hun er i meditation [.]. Jeg undrer mig over, hvad hun tænker på –

Så går jeg for at se skatten – Og jeg føler mig ikke fyldt med afsky, som jeg var ved Fort Hare [henvisning: University of Fort Hare] ved søndagsbønnerne – Her har jeg indtrykket af, at disse er i et museum som de afrikanske masker [fransk: masker] i British Museum – De fleste lavet af guld [.]. Kirken var fabuløst rig i de dage [.]. Der er en gabende menneskemængde af de skaldede mænd & unge kvinder, måske religiøse fanatikere, der venter på, at den døde kirke skal genopstå – Eller nysgerrige væsener som mig, der ikke er påvirket af nogen lyse drømme for genoplivningen af dette monster. Eller måske udfyldte det et hul – gav fødsel til det moderne samfund, men hvilket samfund – Fra (Coruna barfodet konge før biskoppen til Vatikanet) og alligevel hængende ved at påvirke på en forvrænget måde menneskets fremskridt til nutidens blindgyde – Jeg føler, det må gå. Jeg går mod døren for at lede efter en bog at læse om Notre Dame, men finder ingen på boghylden – Jeg bliver slået af meddelelserne på fransk & engelsk [.]. Flere på tysk & italiensk [.]. Statuen af vores Dame ved døren har de mest storslåede klæder, jeg har set [.]. Jeg går ud og ser på figurerne i [ulæselig], de er smukke og har stået imod vejret vidunderligt –

[/P] Denne kirke har ikke fyldt mig med den afsky, jeg havde, da jeg forlod Westminster Abbey . Hvor sejren af engelske krige over hele verden gøres til live på en larmende måde – Det tog noget tid at finde den såkaldte Poeterhjørne – Jeg kunne ikke se noget for dominerende figurer af gladiatorer og Disraelis [mulig henvisning til premierministre, da Benjamin Disraeli havde posten i 1868 og igen mellem 1874 og 1880] – og andre mindre skabere af det britiske imperium –

[i margen: lille skitse]

Jeg går tilbage til mit hotel og beder om et bad – til middagen undskylder kvinden for forsinkelsen ved badet – Jeg sover tidligt – læser *Candide* [henvisning: Voltaire "*Candide*" første gang offentliggjort 1759]² –

[indsat i margin] Jeg ser en neger ved hotellets bureau klar til at forlade hotellet [...] Hans tænder minder mig om nogen [ulæselig] i Sydafrika – Hotelporteren spørger, om han vil have taxa monsieur on si vous plait [fransk: sir, hvis De vil] Hvis den hvide går og forventer et drikkepenge – hvordan så ulig Sydafrika

Jeg går i skole, og det er en glad morgen, da professorerne er tilfredse med lettelsen fra en sydafrikansk guldmine, jeg har lavet, og tallene ser ud som rigtige arbejdere – Jeg har altid set livet som en arbejder – Det er en glæde at se værdigheden hos den parisiske arbejder ouvrier [fransk: arbejder] [...] Måske er jeg [ulæselig] venner med fremtidens herskere, de arbejdende masser – Også den græske kranium får gode karakterer. Kammeraterne lykønsker mig, jeg siger, jeg er glad & føler mig lidt forsonet med skolen. Xtian [sic: Christian Poulsen] er glad – Vi forlader skolen og går til frokost [,] efter frokost – Jeg går til Pulzer & Xtian, de drikker te – Pulzer viser mig sine seneste tegninger – de er vidunderlige, og vi går til Grand Chaumière [henvisning til Académie de la Grand Chaumière, en kunstske] for at tegne – På vejen fortæller jeg Xtian [sic: Christian Poulsen], hvor forskellige de franske børn [sic: børn] opfører sig overfor en neger, mens i England havde børn råbt ad mig en Nigger Nigger, men ikke så i Frankrig [,] og mens jeg siger dette, har jeg en følelse af, at jeg har forrådt mig selv, for jeg kunne ikke garantere, hvad disse børn er i stand til at gøre når som helst [...] Jeg vil "røre ved træ" [henvisning til engelsk overtro] – Vi passerer en blomsterbutik, og Xtian taler om de blomster, jeg skal tage til denne person [...] Jeg spørger ham, hvilket indtryk digte & billeder af negre i europæiske [ulæselig] billedbøger efterlader på børnene – Han siger Negros ting at lege med osv – Han bemærker et digt om en neger, der går ned ad en gade i København i røde og hvide bukser –

Modellen, der poserer for den nøgne, er meget smuk – Jeg tegner med entusiasme [...] I hvilepausen taler en pige til en kineser på engelsk, og jeg føler mig rastløs, fordi det er det sprog, jeg forbinder med det britiske imperium og Sydafrika –

En ny model ankommer og kaster et nysgerrigt blik på mig – Jeg undrer mig over, hvorfor hun måske ville have noget imod [ulæselig] sin krop til negrene – og jeg tænker på, hvordan jeg engang blev brutaliseret af [ulæselig] i Krugersdorp [by i Sydafrika] langs den lille dal, jeg angreb dem badende, og min næse var så lang, at jeg troede, jeg var ved at dø – blod over hele min nye skjorte [...]

Jeg var 12 og på en juleferie for at besøge min tante – Jeg var flov over at indrømme for hende, hvad der var sket [...] Jeg var [ulæselig] jeg troede, hun ikke ville forstå – [ulæselig] –

Men pigen var alligevel helt fri, og hun smilede nu og [ulæselig] til sine venner i gruppen af kunstnere, der skitserede. Jeg skiltes fra Xtian ved kuplen [...]

[/P] På vejen købte jeg en avis & læste om Pakt³aftalen mellem Tyskland & Frankrig [:] Von Rippendorp & Bonnet [Joachim von Ribbentrop, Nazi-Tyskland, og Georges Bonnet, Vichy Frankrig] – Ikke meget entusiasme i Paris – Jeg ser en dekoreret trio af magasin [fransk: butik] lastbiler til jul – På den første [,] har Julemanden et farvet barn i hånden – Jeg er glad –

[2 ulæselige ord i margen]

Jeg spiser & går i seng – for at læse – Chargo ankommer og fortæller mig, at han vil underskrive kontrakten for grunden til jobbet i stykket Chatelet [sandsynligvis Chatelet des Halles]

¹ W. Sze: Robert Browning (1812-1889), English poet and playwright

² W. Sze: Voltaire is nom de plume of François-Marie Arouet (1694-1774), French writer and philosopher

³ W. Sze: Franco-German declaration of 6 December 1938

as if I knew it of old - To me it is
the culmination of the progress of thought
before its ~~decline~~ decline to our time
When the church has begun with more
than an object of ~~interest~~ ^{progress} for its seeds.
The stained glass windows drawing
attention at once - I have never seen
any thing of its kind any where before
Also the attendants and caretakers have
seen to be in a world apart for then
where there is then, bored like quansodo
I see women are kneeling in prayer
at the different altars - I am glad that
at least the church have not used the
church, as ~~stone house~~ ^{stone house} of Tomstones like
Westminster Abbey for instance - I am
nevertheless disappointed to find two
bar memorials - One for France under a
huge crucifix and another for the
British Empire - I am shocked to read
"South Africa" and see the National Emblem
of South Africa - The hood carvings are
beautiful - I am impressed with the staff
and devotion, which imbued the
pathy of the structure - It is a
symphony of stone and glass -

it is alive as a work of art but ~~it~~
does not fill me with any religious
feeling as I was told by a lecturer in
Philosophy who wanted an excuse
for getting converted to Christianity.
I see the Stone ~~and~~ and
I think Browning's Bishop --- By the
way Browning is horrible cheat.
The pillars and exactions of treasure-
hunt must have entailed exhausting
mathematical calculations.
See the Statue of the Madonna near
de Paris - I remember the remark
of the American. He told the baby as
if she did not like it. But I don't
see the point of the remark - I don't think
it is wonderful - A young woman
stands and looks as if a sedition
wonder what she is thinking about.
Then I go to see the treasure - And I
am not filled with disgust as I was
at Fort Stare at the Sunday Evening
Benedictions - Here I have the impression
that these are in a museum like
the African Masques in the British
Museum - I go most laden of gold

I think
of Bishop
Guthrie
Poems +
the church
of oppression
of the people
the middle
ages
don't
break
the nose
of one of
the
bishops

The church was fabulously rich these days
There is a gaping crowd of baldheaded men
& young women perhaps religious fanatics
who wait for the dead church to rise
again - Or curious creatures like
me unaffected by any bright dream
for the revival of this monaster. Of
perhaps it filled a gap & gave
birth to modern society but what
a society - From (Coruna viceroy's
king before bishop to the Vatican) and
yet rising in influence in a banded
manner progress of man to the present
of today - I feel it must go. I go toward
the door to look for a book to read
on Notre Dame but find none at the
book shelf - I am struck by the statues
in French & English now in German & Italian
The statue of Our Lady at the door has
the most magnificent robes I have seen
I go out and look at the figures all kinds
inside they are beautiful and have shown
the better beautiful and deep - The church
has not filled the hill the August I
have when I left Westminster Abbey
where the victory of English arms

On the way I tell Klier two different
the French children are separated from a negro
in the street - In England I had children
short at a - a bigger bigger but not
so in France and as I say this I have
a fully I betrayed myself in I don't at
guarantee that these kids are
capable of doing at any worst I
want "to touch wood" - I possess a
flower shop & then talks about the
flowers I must take Klier's person
Dank him that I provision the poems
& picture sold of negroes in suspicious
picture books leave on the
children - He says negro things to
play with etc - He wonders after if
negro going down a street in Copenhagen
in red and white trousers.

The model posing for the nude is very
beautiful - I draw with enthusiasm
at rest interval a girl speaks to a friend
in English and I feel regretted because
that to the language I associate with
the British Empire and South Africa -
A new model arrives and costs

a curious eye at me - Wonder why
perhaps she could detect something in
her knicker - and I think of how
once I was troubled by Daffodil
at Kongens dorp along the little valley
I changed upon them bathy and parallel
my nose before that I thought I was
dying - Wood all over my new shirt
Dinas 12 and on a Xmas holiday
to see my Aunt - I was ashamed to
confess that what happened I was so
I thought she would not understand -

But the girl was quite free after all
and she smiled at me and again to
be friends in the group of artists sketching.
Parted with Xmas at the Done on the
boat brought a newspaper & read of
Pakt signed by Germany + France for
Kippelhoff + Bonnet - Not much enthusiasm
in Paris - I see a decorated trio of
Magagnon goes for Xmas - On the first letter
Xmas has a coloured child in hand - I
am happy -

I can get to bed to read - Chrys
arrives and tells me he will be in touch
known for the job at the play. Kate let