703002

[005] Mrs Berenson I Tatti Settignano, Florence

[015] “Even Heaven itself over the Past hath no power. What has been, has been and I have had my hour.”

[018] Monday, January 1, 1934

Karin

Had a good go at Karin’s new book in the morning. We are remodelling it. It is fun to work with. Such a clever creature.

Placci came to lunch. Lina had a really lovely letter from Kinta, who thinks “no one was ever so happy in the world before.”

Pourv… que ça douce!

Read “The Sentry” by Lyeskov.

[019] Tuesday, January 2, 1934

Karin Warm and sunny

Josef Forman came to lunch and had a walk with Karin and then we drove him down, picking up Lina and Aubrey by the way. He was quite nice. Karin and I then did some shopping and ordered her sleeper. I was tired, but rich over tired, as we had worked hard all the morning and got on well with her new book.

A desperate letter from Varvalà.

Read Lyeskov.

[020] Wednesday, January 3, 1934

Karin

Glorious day, perfectly clear, bright blue sky.

Nicky and Alda returned from Rome. Enchanting to have them again.

Karin and I drove while BB and Nicky walked. Karin walked back. She has called on Dr. Steinmann at the Villino.

We did a lot of work, while we have far to little time.

[021] Thursday, January 4, 1934,

Rather misty

Karin

We had a good whack at Karin’s “Manual of Psychotherapy”. Cecil Anrep came to lunch and Karin had a walk with him. Miss Nugent called. Karin dined with the Anreps, enjoyable as always. We read a story about Atahualpa, the last of the Incas (Wassermann) in the evening-fearful- but as a tale it doesn’t quite come off.

[022] Friday, January 5, 1934

Fine

Karin

Mario Praz and his fiancée Miss Egle came to lunch. Demi-demi, from every point of view, although his book “The Romantic Agony” is good.

Had drive with Karin and we got on splendidly with the work.

Read some Jewish tales in the evening, but not very good ones.

[023] Saturday, January 6, 1934

Fine

Alas, Karin had to go. I took her to the train and my heart fell all pinched and squeezed when I kissed her goodbye. I brought up Mr. and Mrs. Thomson for lunch. and tea. He is studying “tempera” and “technique” and all that nonsense, but a nice fellow.

Read D.H. Lawrence’s “The Daughters of the Vicar” in the evening.

Poor BB has developed a severe cold.

[024] Sunday, January 7, 1934

Glorious

Lazy. Karin worked me rather hard.

Placci and C.sa Gravina came to lunch. Rather dull.

Lina and Aubrey to dine. Pleasant and intimate.

I called on Dr. Steinmann who has had influenza in our Villino.

BB has a horrid cold and has put off going to the Riviera. I am reading Freud’s “New introductory lectures on Psychoanalysis”.

[025] Monday, January 8, 1934

Fine-ish

Cecchi and a new publisher came to tea to talk over the Italian ed. of BB’s works. Trevy also came with his latest flame, the sculptress, Miss Minz. They stayed on to dine and Cecil Pinsent came. It was quite pleasant.

[026] Tuesday, January 9, 1934

Fine

I had to go to the lawyer about my will. BB and Nicky called on Steinmann, who is still in bed. The Miss Broadwoods came to tea. The old one of 80 is the juiciest. The other emits commonplaces with great emphasis.

[027] Wednesday, January 10, 1934

Glorious

BB and Nicky went to Genoa where Laura Gropallo was going to dine with them. Then they go on to Hyères tomorrow. I had Evelyn Vavalà to lunch, poor thing, neurotic as …. made, lonely, impoverished, bitter. Who can keep her? Then I went again to the lawyer (Piero Roselli) and to the consul’s and finished up my will, very tired.

Jump to Mar. 2nd.

[028] Thursday, January 11, 1934

Friday, March 2. Spring day

See under Mar. 2 →

Placci came to lunch full of his plans for his motor trip which he starts tomorrow. He can be a bit boring.

Pellegrina came to walk with BB and Castelfranco came to tea.

[029] Saturday, March 3, 1934

Rain

Cecil

Naima

The Shapleys, Olga Loeser, De Filippi came to lunch and Russo for a walk with BB and for tea.

Cecil came up.

[030] Sunday, March 4, 1934

Cold and grey

Cecil

Naima

Mme Sotiriades from Athens come to tea. Not a very agreeable person.

Nice talk in evening about architecture.

[031] Monday, March 5, 1934

Cold

Morra

A long letter from Barbara to Morra! Partly silly partly rather nice.

Pellegrina came to tea and had a walk with BB.

Aubrey and Lina’s secretary, Miss Outhrie, come to dine. Discussed ….

[032] Tuesday, March 6, 1934

Morra

[033] Wednesday, March 7, 1934, Beautiful day

Morra

I went out into the garden and saw the daffodils and anemones and crocus, a great treat. But even a few steps tire one horribly!

In the evening we went to hear Studemann and Schnabel play Beethoven’s duets for piano and violin. We heard 3 and then I was so tired I had to come away.

[034] Wednesday, January 18 (?), 1934

Fine

Drove to the Balsanis with Alys and Grace. Thought the chateau hideous in its heavy coarse mediaevalism. The grounds are well kept and well laid out, but not interesting, tho’ the cypresses make a fine effect.

[035] January 17 (?), 1934, Il Nido, Cap Martin

Scirocco

Drove with Alys and Grace to call on Col. Laurence Johnson, who received us most cordially. Then we drove on to Gorbio. Worked on “The Id, the Ego and the Superego”.

Carey read us the report of the first 3 months of the making of her home at Bryn Mawr, the Deanery, which she gave as a hostel for alumnae and a general social centre. It seems to be an enormous success.

[036] Friday, January 19, 1934, Il Nido

Cloudy

Well, Barbara really is married! She cabled. “Finances sound- Returning Helsingfors at once. Happy”.

So that’s that. I can imagine being a great grandmother, but not the mother of a grandmother! I took the Bussys and Alys to lunch at Serre de la Madona, Vallée de Gorbio, Menton, Col. Johnson’s place. We walked up to see the birds. It was very agreeable. A young Mr. Pally and a Mrs C. Griffith inv. them.

[037] Saturday, January 20, 1934 Ste. Claire le Château, Hyères

Fine

Took the 3.21 train from Montecarlo reaching Toulon about 7. I found BB and Nicky and Robert Norton here and Conte Alberti arrived by my train.

This is a luxurious house! And what a cook!!

[038] Sunday, January 21, 1934 Hyères

Fine

Yes, such a cook that our old stomachs are all suffering! I fell too ill to go out.

Norton began to read out “Phineas Redux”.

[039] Monday, January 22, 1934 Hyères

Windy

Rather better, but still suffering from the effects of greed!

The Aldous Huxleys came to lunch. He really is the kind of talker we like and she is ever and ever so much improved from the time they were in Florence.

Charles de Noailles came to dine. His wife is in Switzerland with the future Wagner (as she thinks) and he is left with the children.

[040] Tuesday, January 23, 1934 Hyères

Grey

Quiete day, with 2 walks for now. Unfortunately my rheumatism has rushed back into my knees, the “drainage” having ceased. Each step requires an effort of will.

Went on w. Phineas Redux. Norton reads very well.

[041] Wednesday, January 24, 1934 Hyères

Grey and cold

We lunched with the Vicomte de Noailles. His house and the things in it belong to their taste of the year, before last and he says of everything “*O c’est maintenant démodé*”. He’s only standard. She has caught Edith’s taste for gardening and a certain love of books-in his ease chiefly illustrated ones.

[042] Thursday, January 25, 1934 Hyères

Beautiful

Polotzoff came with a “Raphael”, terribly repainted. He stayed to lunch and for our walk to Fort Brégançon, a lovely lovely place. I walked as far as the sea-shore, enjoyed the suave classic beauty of the hills …. into the tranquil wooded bay. Lucy Ellis, gone terrifically fat, came to tea.

[043] Friday, January 26, 1934 Hyères

Fine

Heavenly morning. Finished Somerset Maugham’s “Ah King”. Edith thinks the tale “A sheep of Wrath” quite hors ligne. I find it a cruel and commonplace caricature, tho’ enormously “smart”.

Mme de Behag and Ch. de Noailles came to lunch. She is full of vitality and a kind of curiosity, but Edith says capricious and fake.

Walked in gdn. Most lovely and loved. Edith cares for every inch of the land.

[044] Saturday, January 27, 1934 La Primavera, San Remo

Fine

Spent day travelling here from Hyères. Train 1 ½ hrs late, Mrs. Beauchard in a torment of nerves, “sure” we’d been wrecked, probably killed by a landslide on the track. Yet she had enough nerve to nearly kill us reading aloud after dinner from a book called “The Earl Cyan”. BB and I went West, but only our guardian angels, Nicky, noticed it. She sat on pins and needles, but Marie went on inexorably till 11.30!

[045] Sunday, January 28, 1934 La Primavera, San Remo

Pleasant quiet day, with a beautiful drive to see a picturesque hill-town, ruined, but rendered ineffably romantic by earthquake. Another awful evening of sleepiness while Marie read on and on and on!

[046] Monday, January 29, 1934, I Tatti

Fine

Just as we were leaving San Remo my old Enemy leapt from his lurking place and began to torment my long suffering bladder. The journey was horrid suffering, but I managed to read Bonamy Dobree Wesley and Reboot’s Pompadour, the one a tale of incredible self discipline and iron energy, the other an equally incredible tale of sexual indulgence at the Court of Louis XV. Mme. Pompadour seems to have been the only respectable woman there!

[047] Tuesday, January 30, 1934, I Tatti

Cold

Trevy

In bed all day nursing my tiresome bladder. Scarcely up to reading or writing.

[048] Wednesday, January 31, 1934, I Tatti

That cloudy

A little better, but still in bed. Tried to read Adrian Stoke’s Renaissance (Part I), but found it nearly unintelligible. It is not exactly unintelligent, he has some feeling and insight, but his thought and his writing are hopelessly muddled, his style is affected and confused.

Letter from Mischa about the Hultin family, Barbara’s in-laws. She despises them, as they aren't in her “set”.

[049] Thursday, February 1, 1934

Snow. Cold.

Annual Trevy

At last attacked my huge whirlpool of unanswered letters which I carried with me along the Mediterranean coast! Found Ronald Stove’s kind corrections to my book!

Placci came to lunch and had a walk with BB. He says he is getting dull with age and perhaps it is true. Went on with “Phineas Finn” in evng., deploring the influence of Dickinson on him as a novelist.

Trevy, as our Hardy Annual, shows signs of bursting into flower, his pockets swelling with unpublished ideas.

[050] Friday, February 2, 1934, I Tatti

Very cold and windy.

Trevy

Lockoff came to see me and annihilated me, partly by his Niagara of talk but mostly by the utter impracticability of his schemes and by making me realize the wickedness and folly of a world where such a genius is allowed to starve. I had to return to bed, utterly undone.

[051] Saturday, February 3, 1934, I Tatti

Cold windy

Naima

Mr. and Mrs. Randall came to tea and also Mr. Shapley. Pleasant but not exciting.

[052] Sunday, February 4, 1934, I Tatti

Snow and wind.

Trevy and Naima

Mr. and Mrs. Thomson came to lunch and Van Marle, pathologically fat, to tea. Trevy went on reading his brother’s account of Scotland at the time of the …. . Very good.

A horrible night. Such irritation and “frequency”,

[053] Monday, February 5, 1934, I Tatti

Cold and windy

Trevy

Giglioli still calls my attack “benign”. Soit!

Nesta and the Levi’s came to lunch and Doro Levi remained on for tea. Interesting conversation about Judo-Greeks, Cretans, Basques and Etruscans.

[054] Tuesday, February 6, 1934, I Tatti

Beautiful

Trevy

Got to work again (at last!) on BB’s Life Feb. 1891.

Drove out w. BB and Trevy. Tried to read “Jack Robinson”.

[055] Wednesday, February 7, 1934

Beautiful

Trevy

Went on with BB’s “Life”. Very uncomfortable on the bladder!

[056] Thursday, February 8, 1934

Glorious!

Trevy

Pellegrina came to lunch. She told me all about the really criminal way Clotilde Marghieri’s husband has behaved about the money they entrusted to him. It has brought on a family quarrel which half breaks Pellegrina’s heart for she loves Clotilde.

Fell too ill to go out.

BB, Nicky and Trevy dined at De Filippi’s or the Malvezzi’s. I had Cecil Pinsent to dine w. me alone. He was awfully nice, such a clean, keen mind, non nonsense.

[057] Friday, February 9, 1934

Fine

Trevy

Alys writes that the Swedish Minister gave her a very good account of the Hultin family- a great comfort. Now we must wait to see Olav and learn his plans.

[058] Saturday, February 10, 1934

Grey.

Cecil

Naima

Cecil and Naima came to spend the “weekend”. Lina and Aubrey come to dinner.

Account in Nazione of a … Lady Astor had in the House of Commons during wh. a letter from her political … was produced, wh. she dis…...  ….. Ray is a political …. but I hope not the only one!! I repressed worry, not to/it weighed on me so that I was reproaching Ray!

[059] Sunday, February 11, 1934

Grey

Cecil

Naima

Finished Chap. X (Feb.-Aug. 1891) and read it to BB who found it just right-to my great joy! He says I am developing a real style!! Pity? Waited till 70 to do it.

Mrs. Hulton came to lunch, empathic and worthless.

[060] Monday, February 12, 1934

Mist than fine

Trevy

The Malvezzis came to lunch. I began to feel horrible and when I retired I found I had some fever. It was a ghastly afternoon. Vavalà came to tea, but I cd. scarcely speak to her. She stayed on, though, looking at photos w. BB!

Ray sent me Olav’s photo taken 3 yrs ago, a roguish good looking sailor boy with a pipe in his mouth. What has Barbara gone in for?!

“Phineas Finn” in evening.

[061] Tuesday, February 13, 1934

Fine

Trevy

The De Marinis, Maria Caselli, Pancrazi and Russo to lunch. I came in afterwards. It tired me.

To tea Shapleys, Paoluccis, Levi, Mr. and Mrs. Epstein (Chicago) I put in a word for Lockoff and got awfully tried/tired.

[062] Wednesday 14, 1934

Fine

Trevy

My 70th birthday!! In spite of hard times BB gave me a cheque wh. he said I might give to Barbara as a wedding present. Lots of other presents and I did not want any, as things are.

I made the mistake of walking in the garden. It was so lovely! But it was cold and my bladder got a chill, so that I had a perfectly horrible night of pain and discomfort and begin to feel discouraged.

[063] Thursday, February 15, 1934

Fine

Trevy

Resting in bed all day, but managed to get the letters for Lochoff written. Count Lützow and his dau. Countess Duboki came to lunch. She defended Hitler and Jew baiting and Trevy finally lost his temper and shouted “I never heard anything so idiotic!” and ran from the room.

But I am schooling myself to take it all as if were a written history of the past.

I sat over steaming camomile 3 times and it eased my pain. I must remember this.

[064] Friday, February 16, 1934

Fine

Trevy

Placci came to lunch and Vittoria dei Vecchi. I didn’t feel up to going out en froide, so I stayed in and wrote and read “Feuchtwangler’s “Josephus”.

Finished “Plineas Redux” (Trollope) in evng, a good book tho’ I don’t like Phineas.

Princess Maria of Thurn and Taxis died (aged 79).

[065] Saturday, February 17, 1934

Fine

Trevy left for Austria and Nicky went to Florence so BB and I were left to ourselves which I greatly enjoy! We began to read Rhys Carpenter’s “The Humanistic Value of Archaeology”, a delightful little book.

[066] Sunday, February 18, 1934, I Tatti

Glorious

BB and I quite to ourselves went on with Rhys Carpenter. I drove out with him and finished “Josephus” while he had his walk.

Princess Mary of Turn and Taxis has died. But she had an interesting life.

[067] Monday, February 19, 1934, I Tatti

Fine

Felt a little better. Poor old Marietta of Ponte a Mensola died today after a stroke. (This makes 1392 people I have known who have gone.) Marietta had a horrible poor sordid life.

Drove out w. BB and Nicky and had a tiny walk.

The Benzoni’s (he with a pretty Syrian wife) came to tea. Giuliana, his sister, is a most charming creature, saintly and witty.

Read from “Can we forgive her” (Trollope) the parts about the Pallisers.

[068] Tuesday, February 20, 1934, I Tatti Misty.

Mr. and Mrs. Shapley and Mrs. Epstein came to lunch and I took them to Lochoff, where Nestor de Robeck met us. They seemed deeply impressed. I got awfully tired. So I only sat in two chairs, one in the upper and one in the lower studio, with my feet wrapped in a rug.

A letter from Barbara to Nicky came, written a few days before her marriage. “O Nicky, life is grand!!” Long may it last.

[069] Wednesday, February 21, 1934, I Tatti

Hazelofs to lunch.

To tea M. Sommers a very ordinary young man.

[070] Thursday, February 22, 1934

Fine

See March 8!

Costers and Farinolas to lunch. Placci tea.

[071] Friday, February 23, 1934

Grey.

Placci came to lunch. I drove out with them, but was sorry for them when BB began to rave against an ugly watering place along the road that Placci has put up. I was constrained (following my habit of always asking myself if I haven’t done even worse than what I feel angry with others for doing to remind him of the awful wire netting we put up along one of the loveliest of our walks. He got furious and said the horridest things to me. Poor soul. He is suffering from an attack of colics. This makes one “irritato”, I know.

[072] Saturday, February 24, 1934

Scirocco

Naima

Benedetto Croce and daughter, Prof. Russo, Pancrazi lunched here. Good talk.

Mr. and Mrs. Osbourne called. He is a painter and v. intelligent, she seems a goose.

Read Virginia Woolfs “Flush” aloud in evng.

[073] Sunday, February 25, 1934

Rain

Naima

Went w. Shapley’s to see their little girls at Poggio Imperiale and then took the So [tram? Bus?] to call on Olga Loeser. In the evng we finished “Flush” wh. BB did not care much for. I liked it quite well.

[074] Monday, February 26, 1934

Rain

Nesta and Gioconda Hulton came to lunch. Gioconda we all vote very dull!

[075] Tuesday, February 27, 1934

Pouring

The Sanminiatellis and Delfino Cinelli and Maria Caselli came to lunch-painfully noisy!

Gamba came to tea. Not noisy enough for he is deaf and BB would not raise his voice.

I sent off my “Across the Mediterranean” to Carey.

[076] Wednesday 28, 1934

Rain

Ojetti to lunch. His laughter is a horrible crackle. Lina and Aubrey and 4 girls came over. Pellegrina came to tea.

Letters from Barbara and Olav to Christopher, very wild and exuberant and melodramatic. Ray was rather upset, but I wrote her to let them be monkeys while they can. Life will twist their tails soon enough!

[077] Thursday, March 1, 1934

Mixed

No one to lunch! Went to dentist and dressmaker. BB and Nicky to see some restored pictures at Vermehren’s.

Elizabeth says if you say “Rabbits” the first thing on Mar. 1st you will get a lot of money in the month!

[078] January 11,1934 La Primavera. San Remo

Grey

Travelled all night and got here at 10.15. The Beaumonts have a charming house and he seems pleasant as a host. Very comfy.

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For March 2 et seg. see Jan. 11-16.

What a muddle!

[079] Jan. 12 Friday, 1934 La Pellegrina. San Remo

Fine

Walked in gdn. Marie Beaumont drove over to a mountain village, with fine views of snow capped mountains. A Russian exil, Mrs. Vera came to dine and played the piano enchantingly. Feeling much better.

[080] Sunday, March 4, 1934, Il Nido Route National

Fine

Sig. Galenga, Striait and his dying wife came to lunch. Marie Beaumont drove me here, where we found Alys and Grace and Edith Lowber staying w. Carey. Lovely sea and …. view. A telegram from Barton [=Barbara] announces her marriage tomorrow at Adelaide to a frin, Olaf Hylsin 23, £ 700 a year (thank heavens!), belonging to a good professional family in Helsingfors. One can but hope for the best. It is probably better than Wolf Halpern, penniless, a German Jew, not very handsome, small B. was so much in love with 4 months ago!

[081] Monday, March 5, 1934, Il Nido. Route National. Cap. Martin

Fine

Anglian divorce is easy in Scandinavian countries. Conversation here is difficult. Carey is deaf and dogmatic and Edith Lowber is very dull. We all feel paralyzed. But the view is so lovely and the weather so …. and the food so good that we like to be here (for a short time!) Alys and Grace and I went to Montecarlo and I sent a cable to Barbara who is married today (tomorrow) to Olav Hylsin. What will Wolf say?!! Then we called on Mrs. Sam Barlow at the wonderful Chateau d’Eze. Such a place! Ernesta said they wery stony broke.

[082] Tuesday, March 6, 1934, Il Nido

Absolutely perfect.

We called on the Buseys, Alys, Grace and I and then on the Lamonts with their musical establishment and walked back, a great walk for my old legs!

I read “The Strange Life of Lady Blessington” by Michael Sadleir and also got some P.A. done.

Ray writes that Olav Hultin’s family have telegraphed that he can’t marry, as he has no means! All the same, I suspect, they are getting married.

[083] Wednesday, March 7, 1934

Rain

Concert in evng. Beethoven’s sonatas-Huberman and Schnabel. Kreuzer Sonata divine!

[084] The Costers and the Farinolas came to lunch and Placci to tea. I drove out with BB and Harry Coster and read a book on Algeria while they walked.

Finished Rhys Carpenter’s “Humanistic value of Archaeology”-very good.

This is Feb. 22

March 8.

Grey

Costers and Russo lunch. Paolucci and Vittoria dei Vecchi and Doro Levi to tea. Talked with Romano about asylums. He is almost fit for one himself. A letter from Ray about a cable

[085] Friday, March 9, 1934, I Tatti

from Barbara saying that after all they were going to Tahiti, California “Home end May. Blissfully Barbara”! Well, she has that great experience!

[086] Saturday, March 10, 1934

Grey, Scirocco

Morra

The Doro Levis came to lunch, delightful people. She is off to Syria, lucky dog, to explore and photograph those interesting “Dead Allies”.

Concert in evng Kreuzer Sonata and 2 others. The Passiglis came into our box to make an acquaintance.

KARIN 45 !!

[087] Sunday, March 11, 1934

Rain, Scirocco

Morra

Symphony concert-Beethoven III and a thing of Berlioz. Then dream away. Nicky came up and we went on with “Framley Parsonage”.

[088] Monday, March 12, 1934

Rain

Morra

The Doubakis to lunch. The Rosenthals to tea. I’m sure he is a nice man and an able bookseller, but his looks almost make one sympathize with Hitler’s campaigns against the Jews.

Lina and Roger Fry to dine.

[089] Tuesday, March 13, 1934

Rain

Morra

Delfino Cerielli and Papinis son-in-law Occhini came to lunch. I took Roger to see Lochoff, who, as usual, talked us deaf and blind. We refreshed ourselves w. coffee at Doney’s.

Riri Visconti Venosta came to dine. He has passed a years in America and is most enthusiastic about it. In the interval since last we saw him his hair has turned grey!

[090] Wednesday, March 14, 1934

Rain

Morra

Pancrazi came to lunch. Very intelligent and congenial.

BB and Morra called on Elena Corsini. Roger Fry came to tea and stayed to drive and Aubrey came to dinner. Roger expressed unbounded admiration for the Turks and Aubrey was frozen into stone and hardly said a word afterwards.

[091] Thursday, March 15, 1934

Saw the sun, but then rain

Morra

Gräfin Havrach came to lunch and talked for 3 hrs about the Horrors of Hitler Germany.

The Passiglis (4) came to tea. He and the son seem very intelligent, the daughter apreciable, the mother “nice”, but all woolly with Xn Science and Theosophy and Commonplaces.

Read in Eng. Turgenieff’s “Faust”, by no means one of his best stories.

[092] Friday, March 16, 1934

Rain

Morra

Nicky lunched w. Shapley’s

BB and I called on the Nugents-too awful, ….. dell’epico

Read two horrible stories by Dostoievsky in the evening “The Honest Thief” and then the horrible one called Bobok. Why does one read such things? Bit the others liked it, and actually laughed.

[093] Saturday, March 17, 1934

Rain

Riri came to lunch. I was struck with the frightful tragedy of his face, and on a walk w. BB he confessed he lived in dread of losing his mind. The Shapleys came to tea.

[094] Sunday, March 18, 1934

Rain

Suddenly “Marie Laure” (Vicomtesse de Noailles) called, with her Polish musician, Markovitch. She is in love with him, tho’ 10 years older than he, and I think she imagines herself as Cosima Wagner! On their visit came Lina with frumpy but nice Flora Russell and Mrs Watkins, whom none of us can endure.

Nicky came back to dinner and we went w. “Framley Parsonage”.

[095] Monday,March 19, 1934

A little less wet, but Scirocco.

Finished my “List of Beautiful Italian Pictures” !

[096] Tuesday, March 20, 1934

Moderately fair

Went over the “List of Beautiful Pictures” w. BB. Maria Teresa came to tea, Iris Origo to dine.

Vicomtesse de Noailles. Her Russian musician Markovitz came to lunch.

She seems madly in love with her weedy youth, who must have ….. some talent as a piece of his is chosen for the International Music Congress to be held here this month. Lina came bringing Flora Russell and Mrs. Watkins. Barbara wrote a wild letter - head turned w. her joyful Adventure. When asked in church if he wd. have “this woman” for his wife, he said “with pleasure!”

[097] Wednesday, March 21, 1934

Rain then fine

The Costers and Riri Visconti came to lunch and for a walk.

I am going over my List, there’s a lot of meticulous work.

Went to town for some errands-a great Event for me!

[098] Thursday, March 22, 1934

Grey

Lucy Cooper Hewitt is dead. N.Y. pneumonia. And alas I fear there isn’t a person who will not feel that it is a good thing. She was running horribly to seed in many silly and embarrassing ways. Her life has been a tragedy. I mean of half a million dollars and nothing she cared for but dress and house and jewels to spend it on. It cramps the heart to think of her.

Pellegrino walked w. BB and stayed to tea. She seemed troubled.

[099] Friday, March 23, 1934

Rain again

Vittoria dei Vecchi came up to walk w. BB and stay to tea. Marie Laure de Noailles and her musician came to tea, also two Americans, Mrs. Vail and Miss Hadassah (Esther) Mc Giffin came to tea and saw the house.

BB and Nicky dined at Alda’s w. San Miniatelli, Riri, Russo, Pancrazi etc. Poor Lucy Cooper Hewitt is dead. I fear all her friends are greatly relieved. She was degenerating so sadly.

[100] Saturday, March 24, 1934

I Tatti, Rain and a little sun

Vicomtesse de Noailles and Markevitz, San Miniatelli and Riri came to lunch. I have fallen out of step under it all. I try not to be critical.

Brockwell came and I walked w. him in the garden. Then, to fill my cup came Stein. BB left both these worthies to me. I think I prefer them to “smart” people.

In the evng BB gave me his view on the “sacred” picture list, wh. is now complete.

[101] Sunday, March 25, 1934, I Tatti

Edith Lowber has just died at Rocquebrune. Poor Carey! 1417 people I have known died.

Russo came up and had a walk w. BB and stayed to tea. At tea I felt too ill to hold up my head and crawled off to bed with a fever of 36.6.

Placci came to dine, but I was too ill to get up. It is a slightly delayed reaction to the anti-toxine irrigation of Friday.

[102] Wednesday, March 28, 1934

Riri, Cirielli, Pancrazi came to lunch. Very pleasant. Riri and BB walked. He came back to tea. I admire him to go back and live on a ranche. He said everybody else thought he was crazy (he fears he is). I went to concert last night, trio Casals, Thibaud, Costauld [=Alfred Cortot?] playing divinely. Then Passigli took BB to see Casals, who was a friend of Isabella Gardner.

[103] 2 days of… weather Thursday, March 29, 1934

Fine

Ojetti came to lunch and was most amusing about the non-election of Papini to the Academy. He talked steadily for 1 ¾ hrs.

Josef Forman and M. Davis came to tea.

Otto Kahn is dead (1419).

To lunch-Riri, Marie-Laure, Markevitz, Placci.

To tea Placco, Riri and M. Dupont of the Louvre.

Going on w. that strange tale “L’Éternel Mari“

Read to BB and Nicky my Preface to the Sacred Pictures. BB was enthusiastic!!

Long review of my book in Paris.

[104] Monday, March 26, 1934

Fairish.

2 days back!

Margaret Rhoad’s daughter has died-1418- I wonder if I could bear it if Ray or Karin died?

In bed all day. Wrote lots of letters. Rec’d some very great reviews of my book.

Elena Casini came to walk w. BB and Daebski and his son (of c. 19) called.

BB had 3 rages today. It must be the scirocco. One because I advised seeing Carl Writer

and his friends so as not to add to the number of our enemies.

[105] Tuesday, March 27, 1934

Sparkling

one [i.e. two] because I said Lagan/Logan wanted to come to the Consuma this summer, and another because I forgot to tell him Mat Countess Nugent was coming to call (this was my fault, but I was so ill and feverish, I forgot it). Poor BB. He suffers horribly from nerves.

Staude and his mother (from Haiti) came to lunch. She is very nice. Aubrey and Johnny came to tea, bringing Johnny’s Eng-German friend, Dotoressa Sussman (Kunst). She is, as Lady Lugton wd. say, very brown and insignificant. But intelligent. Nicky and Alda say they are in love. Read Dostoievsky’s “L'Éternel Mari” in evng.

[106] Friday, March 30, 1934

Fair

Marie-Laure and Markevitz, Placci and Riri to lunch.

Farnell (who once wanted to marry Alys) is dead at 75 (1420)

[107] Saturday, March 31, 1934

Fine.

Naima

The Haselts came to lunch and were very pleasant. BB and I called on Strong, who seemed to us far from well, poor man, and confessed to being very dull and bored. Went over my Sacred Pictures w. BB in the evng.

[108] Sunday, April 1, 1934

Fine

Naima

Lina and Aubrey and Lady Enniskillen came to lunch and her daughters, Sonia and Dury/Derry … came afterwards.

To tea the Capponis, M. and Mrs. Sidenberg and their daughter, M. and Mrs. Jacobi (musicians) and their son, Marie-Laure and Markovitz: but not so noisy as a similar group of Italians wd. have been. “A Windjammer Romance” figured Barbara and Olav in the screen “News” in London!

[109] Monday, April 2, 1934

Scirocco and little rain.

Countess Gravina came to lunch, dignified and dumm as usual, going on about Goethe and Shakespeare and Houston Chamberlain and Bayreuth. M. and Mrs. Inglefield came to tea. He a budding architect, just married. She not at all stupid.

[110] Tuesday, April 3, 1934

Fine but cold

Countess Lützow came to lunch, very nice and easy. To tea Marie-Laure and Markevitz and Stein a painter friend of his, Mme Chantal Quenneville, very intelligent and nice. Stein droned away as usual on/in his own topics. Nicky got the (?) benefit. I took a sleeping draught last night, being oppressed by my anti-toxine vaccine and it has left me half wilted all day. Horrid. I’d rather toss all night in fever.

[111] Wednesday, April 4, 1934

Fine-ish

Morra

Went out at 11 to see a (very poor) fresco in the Caserma di S. Giorgio. I lunched at Coster’s w. Morra. What lovely views they have and a very charming house!

Pellegrino, Raniero and Vittoria Cuoghi came to tea. Raniero told me he was the only one who had ever understood the Apocalypse! In the evng we went to Marie Laure’s box to hear 3 orchestral pieces of ultra-modern music. That of Markovitz was the last and had a mixed reception. But it aroused interest and he was called out 6 or 7 times. We went round to see him afterwards. He looked very frail but enchanting!

Lady Sybil Graham dead. (1421) Ray on Radio

Began Henry Esmond [=W.M. Thackery]

[112] Thursday, April 5, 1934

Fine

Morra

The Pancrazi’s to lunch. Then Brockwell came at 2.20 and stayed till 6.30!! I talked to him all the time, but for one interval when Passigli and his daughter and a French musical critic, Brunière, came. The latter praised Markevitz highly, said he was the one real musician since Strawinski. But they both agreed that he could not live, being already far gone in consumption (that is why he and Marie-Laure spend most of their time at Davos). They came in ...and I was rather overcome with the tragedy of the situation, for, whatever reason may have first drawn her bliss, she now loves him with her whole heart.

[113] Friday, April 6, 1934

Morra

My old enemy leaped out upon me at 3 in the morning, so I stayed in bed all day. But by camomile steamings and WARMTH I got it under. Spent day over the List. Mr. and Mrs. Osgood and Harry Coster came to lunch and a pairful of Toesca’s to tea.

[114] Saturday, April 7, 1934

Only so-so. Coldish

Evelina Osten-Sacksen came to lunch and had a walk with BB and Nicky. I felt better in the mng and got a lot of work done on the Lists, but gradually got rather worse. Bladder bothered me.

Went on with the Talleyrand as BB and I were alone.

[115] Sunday, April 8, 1934

Rain

The Inglefields to lunch. Lady Hood and her son Alexander …. and then Benedict Nicolson and his friend Hutchinson came to tea.

I was able to work on the List from 8.30-12, tho’ I felt (and feel) pretty uncomfortable.

Guido was successfully operated (prostate). Thank heavens!

[116] Monday, April 9, 1934

Rain, rain

To lunch De Filippi, Mrs. Doro Levy [=Levi], Pia De Filippi, Cecil Anrep and his father.

To call Lina and Kinta, then Maria Teresa Raspini bringing the singer, Margarita Grey, a bouncing vital creature, with some of the brains a firstrate artist always has. BB went to dine at Alda’s w. Cora, but I did not feel well enough to go.

[117] Tuesday, April 10, 1934

James Muirhead (Baedeker) dead. With 5 others I forget that makes 1426 of my acquaintances who have passed through the gate of Darkness.

No one from outside to lunch (praise be…!) Princess Elena Corsini came for a walk w. BB and stayed to tea. Evelina Osten-Sacksen and the Mrs’ Broadwoods mape up an incongruous party.

[118] Wednesday, April 11, 1934

Half and half.

Clotilde

Placci and Lady Hood came to lunch. Lady Hamilton tea. When I last saw her, 25 (or more) yrs ago, she was as fresh and delicate as a wild rose leaf.- now as fresh as a rose leaf in a potpourri. It made me rather sad.

Went on w. “Harry [sic] Esmond”

Clotilde Marghieri arrived at 11.

[119] Thursday, April 12, 1934

Rain

Clotilde

Vittoria dei Vecchi and Vittorina Cuoghi came to lunch. There was a great twittering like birds at twilight and much laughter.

A letter from Barbara says she finds marriage difficult but rejoices in it, as she knows all good things are hard. She says she is more intelligent than “Toby” and works frantically to make him hear “reason” and calculate the difficulties of his plans. “I have common sense for us both”-!!! But he is large-hearted and generous, “a great soul” and she is sure she will “always love him”. Marrying an irresponsible ….. will make her grow up - rather in bliss than in misery.

[120] Friday, April 13, 1934

Rain

Clotilde

To tea Mr. and Mrs. Shapley and their London friends, Dr. [.....] and his wife, he nice, she an awful stick.

Nicky dined at Alda’s and I read Mrs. Wharton’s “The Legend” aloud, but I think Clotilde was heavily bored by it.

[121] Saturday, April 14, 1934

Lovely warm day

Clotilde

The Malvezzi’s, Cecil Anrep and Lady Hamilton came to lunch. We had coffee in the stanzone.

In the afternoon (4-7.30!!) we went to the Fidenti to see Vernon’s play “Arianna in Mantova. She acted surprisingly well and was well done.

But I got so tired I had my dinner in bed. BB and Clotilde remained talking till 12.30!

[122] Sunday, April 15, 1934

Lovely day

Clotilde

Awful rave because Mary Houghton said she wd come to lunch w. Edmond and Cecil. I had to telephone and put her off. BB apologized afterwards!!

But it upset me for all the rest of the day, for it was the first time since my illness that. I had got really annoyed with BB -a host of tiresome memories spring to life.

Hind (of the BM), Cecil, Brockwell and Shapley came to lunch. Brockwell stayed to tea and a yng Cambridge man, Anthony Blunt, also came.

Lady Prothero has died (1427)

[123] Monday, April 16, 1934

Glorious

Ojetti came to lunch, but, by way of exception, he was rather dull, talking as much as ever, but not interesting.

Guido Cagnola sent me a card saying he is suffering terribly from his operation. Don’t I know all about it?!

The Rosselli (avvocato) came to tea. Mrs. Cannon wrote me that my old friend, her husband is aging. “Black Serpent Day”.

[124] Tuesday, April 17, 1934

Glorious

Clotilde

Nightingales, tulips, lilacs, lilies-of-the-valley, peonies, nemesia, bougainvilles, primulas etc. Even a cuckoo.

To lunch the Coras, the Dei Vecchi’s, Placci, but I (still annoyed w. BB!) went to lunch at Naima’s w. the Houghtons. He is a dear! But i came back in time to greet the lunch-party.

Nicky and I went over the illustrations for BB’s Lists. Signora Tamburini (?) came to tea. I walked in the gdn.

[125] Wednesday, April 18, 1934

Glorious

Clotilde

Nesta di Robeck came to lunch bringing a M. Lyanty, nephew of the General.

Lady Hood, Prof Suida, Hammer, Mrs. Boular and her aunt Miss. Mitchell to tea. I took a walk w. Hammer, whose head is buzzing like a bee with impractical ideas. O what a bore he is, how full of Himself. He stayed to dinner and Ernesta Barlow and her aunt also came, and then BB and Nicky and Clotilde went to hear the Götterdämmerung, wh. lasted from 8.30-1!!!

[126] Thursday, April 19, 1934

Grey and raining

Clotilde

The Basil Grays came to lunch. She is Binyon’s dau. Nicolette. Both seemed cultivated and intelligent. To tea Mrs. Haship, the Corsinis, Mr. Boulow, Miss Matthew, a Swede named ? Steneberg, somehow a great crowd.

BB and I dined at De Filippi’s w. Sir …. and Lady MacClure, Lina and Aubrey and Signora Doro Levi. It was unusually pleasant, but I got tired and headachey and had diarrhea rather badly all night. I wish I cd. get well.

[127] Friday, April 20, 1934

Up and down

I stayed in bed. I cd. not face all these Stabians, Russo, Civelli, Pancrazi and then Hammer, Cecil Anrep. Got up to tea Ernesta, the MacClures.

Clotilde had to go, weeping. Her husband, to spite her, wd. not let the boy join her here. “I will take care of my own child!” and then went off to Cava and Clotilde did not like to let the little boy be lonely in his holiday and had to go to spend it with him in Rome. We have long ago come to the conclusion that Clotilde’s husband is a Beast.

[128] Saturday, April 21, 1934

Grey. Scirocco

Naima

Byba and Harry and Betty Hope to lunch.

To tea Rezia and Anna Corsini, Pellegrina and Vittorina. Somehow it seemed a great many!

I also think the last touches have been put to my “Sacred Pictures”. But I am so careless, I fear lots of mistakes still lurk there.

[129] Sunday, April 22, 1934

Scirocco

Barbara is to have a baby in November!! I am sorry she did not wait to finish her trip. Where is her boasted “Common Sense”. I can face, somehow, being a Great Grandmother, but not being the Mother of a Grandmother.

To lunch Mrs. and Miss Dillingham from Honolulu. She is a ceaseless talker despairingly “in” it.

To tea Lord and Lady Berkeley, Ernesta, Baron and Baroness Ricasoli, Baron and Baroness Van der Helst (he dip. in Vienna), all somewhat pleasant.

[130] Monday, April 23, 1934

Rain. Cold. Fire in library

To tea Mr and Mrs Myron Taylor brought by Ernesta, Miss Mitchell, Cecil Anrep. … Freeman (Mrs. Berenson’s friend) and her horrible young companion whose name I’ve forgotten. Very mixed pickles.

Got another fifty dollars for poor Lockoff.

[131] Tuesday, April 24, 1934

Rain, cold

Placci came for lunch-walk-tea, bringing Sig.ra Stucchi to lunch.She did not take my fancy. Why burden one’s life with meaningless acquaintances? Then came the Nugents for an endless visit, again why? Miss Wald’s friends, the Bakers came to tea with 2 children who played in the damp garden. The little boy was impressed ov. the house and asked “Is Mrs. Berenson a Queen?” Ernesta also came in, she looks very beautiful, but her talk is without interest.

[132] Wednesday, April 25, 1934

Cloudy cold

Costers, Brozi Pucci, Betty Hope and Farinola Stéphanie to lunch. She is the prophet of a new Religion, as old as the hills and as silly as hell.

Edmund Houghton came to tea (the dean) and Fräulein Wagner, with a German student rejoicing in the name of Siebenhühner!

[133] Thursday, April 26, 1934

Cold cloudy

Anna De Koven for lunch, unbelievably repulsive! Her head is all muddled up with Arab poetry and Platonic Love, her voice is aggressive complaining and bullying à la fois. It seems she makes continual scenes w. people for not inviting her!

Only the elder Haslip girl, the one who is going to Persia came to tea. Went on with “Esmond”.

[134] Friday, April 27, 1934

Glorious at last

but the wisteria and tulips are ruined by rain and umid.

…. Haselop, each one more hideous than the other came to lunch also Prof. Goldschmidt who is a perfect dear.

A friend of Bertie’s came to tea, M. Schneeli, who was a castle near Gruyère, a tall, heavy handsome man, slow in mind.

Ernesta and Miss. Matthews came to dine and we all went to the Furtwängler concert, Mozart, Schumann, Beethoven (Leonore overture and the VII symphony). Beautiful but awfully tiring. He brought his own orchestra.

Decided to go to England in May.

[135] Saturday, April 28, 1934

Fine

“Myrtle Jones” (Cannon) has called Henry died peacefully today. Another dear friend gone (1427)

I went to the dentist, a pont tooth having fallen out! Tired I went to bed. For lunch, Beccari, Vittoria dei Vecchi and Pellegrina , the latter staying for a walk. The Bailows and Miss Matthews came to tea. Nearly finished Duff Cooper’s “Talleyrand in evng.

[136] Sunday, April 29, 1934

Scirocco

Papafava came to lunch- a beautiful torrent of talk!

Lina and Aubrey and Aubrey’s sister, Mrs. Ramsay and Miss Wool came to tea. Then BB and I went to the Villa Palmieri to have tea w. Mrs. Dillingham and found there about 15 people I don’t want to see and ten or 12 I don’t care if I never see again. Awful to live in a …. and dislike most of the people!

[137] Monday, April 30, 1934

Fine and then storm

Herbert Winlock.

Winlock (head of the Metropolitan Museum), Mrs. Tuttle and McIvor came to lunch. BB and Nicky called on the Brewsters (in the storm) and the Lubbocks came here. Winlock came up to stay and talked Museum gossip all the evening. He is thoroughly absorbed by his job. How far away it seems!

[138] Tuesday, May 1, 1934

Rain and stretches of sun. Scirocco.

The Myron Taylors came for a drive and walk. The silly people need a holiday desperately (he is head of the Steel Trust), but are so good-natured that they let themselves be overrun by all the riffraff of Florence, and leave utterly …. at the end of their “holiday”.

[139] Wednesday, May 2, 1934

Scirocco rain thunder. Winlock

Bernard went for a walk with Pellegrina and I took Winlock to S. Martino alle Palme and Badia di Settimo. He is rather ill with arterial sclerosis. When we got back Countess Lützow and her daughter (Thurn) and grand-daugther and another Burne-Jones-like Countess were having tea.

In the evening the Barlows and Miss. Matthews came over and Sam played us his Sacha Guiltry operetta “Mon ami Pierrot”, a very gay and charming thing. He has real talent.

[140] Thursday, May 3, 1934

Rain thunder.

Winlock

Placci brought the Esme Esme Howards to lunch. BB and Nicky took tea w. the Sergondi (Fiamma) and Barlow came to have tea here.

[141] Friday, May 4, 1934

Rain.

Winlock

No one for lunch! I went to town - I came back to find Mrs. Tuttle, McIvor, the Barlows and Miss Matthews for tea. They stayed till 7.

Decided to leave on the 16th for London and began to clean up the “Life of BB” and my psychoanalytical papers.

[142] Saturday, May 5, 1934

Rain.

Winlock

Edith Wharton

Truelle

Anna Levi came to lunch. In the afternoon we drove over with Winlock to the Myron Taylors and had tea there in the drawing room of their villino which opens onto the most marvellous porch hung with long spirals of white wisteria.

Edith Wharton arrived after we had left and also Truelle from Rome. Nicky received them and she and Winlock went to town after dinner.

[143] Sunday, May 6, 1934

Grey then watery sun

Winlock

Edith W.

Truelle

I took Edith in the morning to see that wonderful wisteria at the Taylor’s villino. Capecchi also I took. In the afternoon we went, BB and I, Edith, Truelle and Winlock to Olga Loeser’s for tea. There were some boring women there and the dear Barlow who came to dine. He played and sang and whistled delightfully.

[144] Monday, May 7, 1934

Edith W.

Winlock

Truelle

Placci and Malvezzi to lunch. Bertie to tea. I took Alda to see the wisteria, while all the others drove to Vincigliata. Countess Serristori came to dine. It was a task as Edith is “offended” that Hortense has never asked her to break bread in her house? What nonsense! Ernesta Barlow came in

[145] Tuesday, May 8, 1934

Fine and then rain

Cinelli and Sanminiatelli came to lunch. It was not particularly successful. In the afternoon we went (in 2 cars) to the Villa Corsini at Petraria and then to see the Tribolo fountains at Castello and Petraia. It was awful, Edith so impatient and grumbling, BB so slow, wanting to see everything. Shall never ho w. them again on a sightseeing excursion! Winlock left us.

[146] Wednesday, May 9, 1934

Fine

Truelle

Edith

The others excursed to Cerignano, the Giuliano’s villa. Not I. I went to town and bought my tickets for London! Then called on Lina.

[147] Thursday, May 10, 1934

Fine

Edith

Truelle left. Edith out all day. I went w. her to the Costers, and met the Baroness Von Ketteler. In evening read aloud Logan’s Preface to his “Golden Shakespeare” and garnered up their criticism.

[148] Friday, May 11, 1934

Glorious

Edith

Cte and Ctesse de Mem and Mdlle de Vallombrose were brought by Placci for tea. The Barlows and Aubrey Waterfield also came.

Quiet evening of bookish chat.

In the morning went w. Edith to the Gamberaia and was shown all round by Baroness von Ketteler.

[149] Saturday, May 12, 1934

Glorious.

Naima

Edith left at 7 for Rome via Grosseto. Hortense Serristori came for afternoon. I walked in gdn.

Dreamt all night of Barbara and her Olav.

[150] Sunday, May 13, 1934

Grey

Naima

Mr. and Mrs. Shapley to lunch, Barlows and Lubbocks to tea.

A great quarrell at Poggio between Aubrey, who has a fiendish temper and Miss Wood, who is a concerted, perk Miss.

Naima was involved and ….. bucket.

[151] Monday, May 14, 1934, I Tatti

Fine

A Miss Eldridge sent by Rothenstein came to tea, a painter of decorations.

We actually read some more ”Henry Esmond”, but got to a boring part and I came away.

[152] Tuesday, May 15, 1934

Took the 3 o’clock train that goes straight through (2d class sleeper most comfortable to

[153] Wednesday, May 16, 1934 St. Leonard’s Terrace S.W. 3

Paris arriving at 9.45. Took the “Silver Wing” airplane and reached Alys’ at 3.30 just 24 hours from Florence. Elizabeth crossed by boat w. my trunk.

Ray and Karin came to dine, both looking very well. Alys and Logan ditto.

[154] Thursday, May 17, 1934 London

It seems very cold. I had a quiet day to rest, though really I did not feel tired.

Karin and Judith came to dine, Judith taller than me and promising to be very handsome. Ray dined too and she and I talked till 11. She has arranged to do ½ time work for Lady Astor, only the Parliamentary things that interest her.

[155] Friday, May 18, 1934

…. the London Library, extracted Ray from her den at Lady Astor’s where she sits w. 3 telephones and endless newspaper files and Blue-books etc.

Lunched most pleasantly with her and Oliver and then came back to rest. We tuned in the Götterdammerung (last Act) in the evening, but I couldn’t endure it, in spite of its occasional surpassing beauty.

[156] Saturday, May 19, 1934, Mud Cottage

Came down by train in time for lunch. Karin came after. The …. is a mass of bluebells. Too lovely! Karin came later. Alys Grove and Satty Fairchild came to call.

[157] Sunday, May 20, 1934

Heavenly day. Ray and Karin laying the foundations of the new house Ray and Xtofer are building. Karin read me her lecture and I undertook to finish it.

Mascha von Heiratz is dead. Another 10 I have remembered but they have sunk into oblivion again. 1428-1438.

[158] Monday, May 21, 1934, 11 St. Leonard’s Terrace

Grey

£50.9 for royalties on my book!

Came up to town w. Karin after tea.

[159] Thursday, May 22, 1934

Fine

Logan and I lunched w. the MacLagans, dear people! Got rather tired.

[160] Wednesday, May 23, 1934 London

dined w. Karin and attended her splendid lecture to the Medical Students of the Brit. Med. Assn. A really first class lecture!

[161] Thursday, May 24, 1934

Heard Ray over the Radio on the Blue Book on Unemployment. Excellent!

[162] Friday, May 25, 1934

Fine

Worked again on my “Across the Mediterranean”

Dined with Ray and Ursula

[163] Saturday, May 26, 1934

Fine

Went w. Alys to see Arliss in the very fine film “House of Rothschild”.

[164] Sunday, May 27, 1934 London

Fine

Did nothing!

Lady Hood, Jim Phillimore and Mme Daniel Halevy called.

Miss Lou Sands dead. 1439

[165] Monday, May 28, 1934

Fine

Went to Karin’s who has her nose to the grindstone over a new lecture to be given Thursday. Called on Ruth Draper who gave a small Salvemini tea.

Went to De Loray’s lecture on …. ptg.

Ray came to dine. Heard Adrian on the Radio “Normal and Abnormal Personalities”. Not as good as it wd. have been if they hadn’t mistaken the date and given him only 24 hours!!

[166] Tuesday, May 29, 1934, London

Fine

Went to Karin’s for her lecture, after lunching here with Ruth Draper and Trevy. Then to De Loray’s lecture where I met Woolley. Back to an early dinner and then Ruth Draper sent her car for Trevy and me and we picked her up and went to the King’s Theatre in Hammersmith and heard her Improvisations. What a fear to hold an audience with laughter and tears for 2 ½ hours!

[167] Wednesday, May 30, 1934

Fine

Went to Karin’s and struggled with her lecture. The poor thing is too busy!

Dined at the Maclagan’s with Winlock, a pleasant homely sort of evening. I do like them!

[168] Thursday, May 31, 1934

So-so

Had typist 10-3, working feverishly over Karin’s lecture. Heard Ray on the radio- “Facty Inspection”, a most awfully good talk.

[169] Friday, June 1, 1934

Perfectly lazy day.

[170] Saturday, June 2, 1934 Kings Head

Went to Thorpe-le-Soken where K and A met me. What air, decocting, sustaining, fragrant. All most lovely, save for the perfectly savage looks of Ann and Judith, both beautiful but dirty and slovenly beyond words.

[171] Sunday, June 3, 1934

Lovely day. Copied Karin’s new lecture for her.

[[172] Monday, June 4, 1934 St. Leonard’s Terrace

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[173] Tuesday, June 5, 1934

Lunched w. Charles Bell, embittered, venomous little being. But somehow I like him.

Took Judith to get her first “party dress”.

[174] Wednesday, June 6, 1934 St. Leonard’s Terrace

Ray and Oliver dined here. I lunched w. Ronald and Lady Storys and met that portent Dame Ethel Smyth.

Ray 47

[175] Thursday, June 7, 1934

Lunched w. Mrs. Crawshay and met Lady Homer, Lady Chaneley, Canon Hannoy (“George Birmingham”), Lord Syrrell, Shane Leslie and Bogie Harris.

Called on Lady Johnstone, who is desperately ill, despairing, disgruntled, and a wreck of her former beautiful self. Karin came to dine. Barbara and Olav Hultin arrived.

[176] Friday, June 8, 1934, St. Leonard’s Terrace

Barbara and “Toby” (as she calls Olav) came to lunch. He is engaging and easy, no bristles or taboos. But only a boy. Awfully likeable.

Logan came back from his yachting trip w. Admiral Heaton.

[177] Saturday, June 9, 1934, Fernhurst

Came to Haslemere in time for lunch. Barbara and Toby are busy putting their “bungalow” in order. He loves “doing” things w. his hands. They seem happy (so far).

[178] Sunday, June 10, 1934, Mud Cottage Fernhurst

Glorious Day

Very quiet pleasant day, except that Barbara’s discarded lover Wolf Halpern came to spend the afternoon. He is all bristles, most uneasy and uncomfortable. However, to Barbara’s relief, he made no “scene”.

I felt awfully tired and had a nap in the “Rockhanger” (their Bungalow.)

[179] Monday, June 11, 1934, St: Leonard’s Terrace

Fine

Motored up w. Ray 1 ½ hrs. Went to N.G. Called on Kenneth at the N.G. and met Duveen and Valentiner.

Corrado Ricci is dead. (1440)

Mrs. Leggatt is dead. (1441)

[180] Tuesday, June 12. St. Leonard’s Terrace

Fine

Algar Thorold to lunch, bringing with him an overpowering atmosphere of Catholicism. He has no one to talk to and cheers over and over the same old cud. Young also came and L. and I urged him not to accept an official position (such as Kenneth offers) at once on leaving College, but to educate himself first.

Went w. Alys and Logan to the Carlyle garden party at the Chelsea Rectory and heard Mrs. Hamilton make a good speech on Jane and Thomas.

[181] Wednesday, June 13

Fine

Called for the Hultins and took them out shopping and to lunch. Very tired.

[182] Thursday, June 14. London

Fine but too hot

One of the most thrilling experiences of my life! Karin came to read me the new book she is beginning. It is glorious. She deals w. the eternal problem of human misery in a real way. It is an epoch-making book. I cd. not sleep.

The Hultins, Ann, Judith and Derrick came to dine. I like “Toby” very much, indeed I quite love him.

But Karin!!

[183] Friday, June 15

Taken ill again.

[184] Saturday, June 16, 1934, London

Hot

Ill but getting better. Karin came and read me more of her amazing book.

[185] Sunday, June 17, 1934

Hot 87°

Spent day at Ascot with Joe Duveen, unchanged, boasting all over the place, I very changed.

Got tired, but felt hopeful about business.

[186] Monday, June 18, 1934, London

Hot

Ray came in from Fernhurst. She said she did not hear one reasonable word from Barbara or Toby during all the weekend.

Miss Caton-Thompson and a German Jewess Sanskrit scholar to tea.

Desmond to dine.

[187] Tuesday, June 19, 1934, London

Cooler.Rain

Desmond to breakfast. Lunched w. Witts who had Herbert Reid and the Byam Shaws. Sir Charles Holmes was there, very cringing. The Witts bounded. Reid said nary a word. Went on to Karin’s. Tired.

Remembered 4 more dead. (1445)

[188] Wednesday, June 20, 1934

Showery

Had lunch w. Ray at Women's Service, and tea with Charley Bell.

Awfully tired.

[189] Thursday, June 21, 1934

Rain

Lunched w. Karin who was most interesting about the close connection of Indian symbolism with the imaginings of her neurotic patients. What a gloriously live mind Karin has!

Ray came in. She is at work on alleviating the position of Nurses who are being harmed. Splendid woman she is!

[190] Friday, June 22, 1934

Fine

The Kenneth Clarks lunched here. He is a queer mixture of arrogance and sensitive humility. She looked most flourishing. Logan took me to tea w. Katie Lewis.

Dined w. Ray. The Hultins gave a “Cocktail Party” at the Women’s Service next door and the old “Tigers” came in to greet me. The ones who came out to the Villino some years ago now nearly all married and already 2-3 babies.

[191] Saturday, June 23, 1934, Mud Cottage

Fine

Nice to be here again only Barbara is rather horrid all round. She had her College friend “Sweeny” staying w. her. To my surprise this yng. woman took off all her clothes and went in swimming naked w. all of us there. Olav said he was shocked “Not for me myself but for Gram.” Dear boy. I was a bit surprised I admit.

[192] Sunday, June 24, 1934, Mud Cottage

We all think Barbara rather horrid. She is in one of her bad moods. We wonder if Olav can stand her à la longue!

[193] Monday, June 25, 1934, London

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[194] Tuesday, June 26. London

Fine

Barbara and Olav came to lunch. Barbara was her nice self again, and I found that I had grown really fond of him.

BB 69

[195] Wednesday, June 27, 1934 London

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[196] Thursday, June 28, 1934, London.

Tired all day, oh so tired! Read Logan’s Essays wh. are firstrate.

[197] Friday, June 29, 1934, Sheringham

Cold and windy

Go to Holt, Judith and Eliz. and I. Ray and Ursula motored up.

We saw Christopher as “Richard II”. The play was spoiled a bit by the wind in the trees, but he acted gloriously! It was a great feat for a boy of 17 to enter into and reveal the character of that pre-Hamlet. I am sure he coned to Hamlet!

[198] Saturday, June 30, 1934, Sheringham

Fine

Awfully tired and full of aches. But Christopher acted so splendidly I forgot all about my body. He has real genius! He took so many first prizes that the giver of them, the attorney general, said he had better not go back to his seat! He is …. a Wunderkind! He breakfasted, lunched and dined w. us. I saw his tiny study.

[199] Sunday, July 1, 1934 London

Fine

Christopher’s music master and the producer of the play lunched with us, also Christopher’s friend, Marshall. Judith and Elizabeth and I came back by train 5.20-7.15, Ray motored and wishing to see Christopher to the last moment, started at 10 and arrived at 3. a.m.!

She does adore him!

[200] Monday, July 2, 1934, London

Beautiful

Last errands of last day. Ray called after lunch. Called on Mr. Sydney Smith and Nan Worthington. Ray and Karin came to lunch, both in splendid form. Logan and Alys and I lunched w. the Kenneth Clarks in their beautiful new house in Portland Place.

Lady Johnston dead

Hon. Miss. Parsonby dead. (1447)

[201] Tuesday, July 3, 1934, St. Brice-sous-Forêt

Beautiful

Start for Italy

Edith’s

Flew Across.

The Tylers (all 3) are here. Lovely and quiet and beautiful.

[202] Wednesday, July 4, 1934, St.-Brice

Beautiful

Mme de Cossé, the Abbe Meurnier and Charles de Noailles came.

Talked w. Elesina Tyler and liked her better.

10 more dead. I can’t recall exactly. (1457)

[203] Thursday, July 5, 1934

Traveling to Vevey. 9.35-6. Miss Mitchell met me.

[204] Friday, July 6, 1934

See July 8

[205] Saturday, July 7. See July 9 !

Gazzada was the same, only Guido feeling well. Anita laid up with bad leg. O what a goose she is, it is desperate. But very lovable. I counted the minutes till the boring evening came to an end.

[206] Sunday, July 8, 1934, Mon Chalet Fleury. Chamby Vevey

Went to lunch w. Mme de Wagnières and Mrs. Horton. Laurie Johnston was there. Mme de W. in a red wig, fierce protruding teeth and a vehement manner, is pretty awful.

People named Anderson called.

Miss Mitchell has made me read a bk. called “The Prophet” by Kahlil Gibran and a rehave of commonplaces in semi-oriental sauce. Awful!!

[207] Monday, July 9, 1934, Gazzada

July 8

Train to Milan 12-6 where Guido met me, a renovated being, since his operation.

Morra. I Tatti

Train 3-7.20, new road from Bologna only 1 ln. [lane?] 20 min.

Morra met me. We dined out.

Abie: 65

[208] Tuesday, July 10, 1934

Hot but possible

Morra

Ralph Perry

McComb came to lunch- Nesta to tea bring Mrs. Levi, Placci and Lapiccirella to done. Ralph arrived. He said he looked instinctively for a letter from Rachel, when his mail was handed to him.

[209] Wednesday, July 11, 1934

Fitzpatrick and Beccari to lunch. It is getting pretty hot.

[210] Thursday, July 12, 1934

Morra

Perry

Quiet day for me as Dr. Giglioli gave me a puncture of Edwenil. It did not provoke a fever, but he advised rest.

BB and Ralph went to see Strong and Santayana. Strong seems to have lost most of his money.

McComb came to dine.

[211] Friday, July 13, 1934

Scirocco

Morra

Perry

A fearfully limp day. In the evening Ralph brought his son, Bernard, to dine and w. him a yng couple from Roanoke, W. Virginia, naimed Snowaller. The evng was very dull but us [or we?] liked yng Bernard much more than us liked his brother, Barton.

[212] Saturday, July 14, 1934, Consuma

Scirocco

Naima

Ralph

Bennon

Perry

We moved up and the coolness is very grateful.

Barbara has decided to go to Helsingfors with her Toby. Very wise.

[213] Sunday, July 15, 1934, Consuma

Naima

Ralph and son

Cool, beautiful, but we both feel rather ill. Drive and little walk.

[214 and 215] Monday, July 16 and July 17

Ralph and son

Naima

Cool and most lovely but old bodies are not comfortable habitations.

Hortense Serristori came to read us her really charming account of her trip to Tripoli: she writes better and better.

BARBARA 22

[216] Wednesday, July 18, 1934

Beautiful

Ralph and son

Naima left this morning.

Dr. Heath died on the 13th. (1463) 77 years old. What mixed memories his name calls up. He was a clown but a kind doctor and skilful surgeon.

Toby wrote to me from Stockholm where they celebrated …. anniversary. “I have been so happy, I shall never forget it.” I am much “gratified” as Anny Qill wd. say at his writing to me.

[217] Thursday, July 19, 1934

Beautiful

Feeling ill

I remember the poet Loverath, Also d’Austin, and his wife, Glaenzer and the dealer S…. all dead. (1464)

[218] Friday, July 20, 1934

Most beautiful

Ralph, Bernard

but in the night I succumbed to another bladder attack

Nicky reading us Dobrée’s “Casanova”.

NAIMA 52

[219] Saturday, July 21, 1934

Lost all day in bed. However, it is the lightest attack I have ever had, so I try to be hopeful.

ALYS 66

[220-1] Sunday, July 22, 1934, Consuma

All the month I was in desperate pain. Apparently neuritis of the bladder I could barely come out of my sack. Desmond MacLagan came on the 7th Desmond and Desmond has just gone.

MacLagan came for 4 days. Ralph Perry stayed a month. We did not make much

[222-3] July 24 and July 25

of his boy Bernard. Pellegrina came for 4 days. Then Clotilde and boy had many visits from Hortense Serristori, Riri Visconti and Elena Casini, but I was scarcely well enough to see them.

Poor old Damiano died and I remembered 10 others. (1475)

[224] Thursday, July 26, 1934

Ill

[225] Friday, July 27, 1934

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[226] Saturday, July 28, 1934

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[227] Sunday, July 29, 1934

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[228] Monday, July 30, 1934

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[229] Tuesday, July 31, 1934

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[230] Wednesday, August 1, 1934

Nicky and the Anreps went to the Rufinos at Sorrento for a month.

[231] Thursday, August 2, 1934

Ill

[232] Friday, August 3, 1934

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[233] Saturday, August 4, 1934

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[234] Sunday, August 5, 1934

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[235] Monday, August 6, 1934

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[236] Tuesday, August 7, 1934

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[237] Wednesday, August 8, 1934

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[238-244]

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[245] Thursday, August 16, 1934

 Ill

[246-260]

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[261] Saturday, September 1, 1934

Horribly ill

[262] Sunday, September 2, 1934

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[263] Monday, September 3, 1934

Worst day

[264] Tuesday, September 4, 1934, Consuma

Clotilde

Logan

Worser day

[265] Wednesday, September 5, 1934

Alda

[266-274]

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[275] Saturday, September 15, 1934

Roger Fry is dead. 1476

[276-297]

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[298] Monday, October 8, 1934, I Tatti

Frank Taylor died and ….. when we used to …. when we …. also 18 others I have …. of am too ill to render (1496)

[299] Tuesday, October 9, 1934, I Tatti

Still awfully ill. The pain seems unbearable. Mrs. Shapley to whom we have given our villino came for the 1st time to do some work for me, but 2 letters completely tired me out. Awful pain at teatime when I crawled into the Library. But an hour’s soaking in a hot sitz bath alleviated it.

Russo came to lunch.

[300] Wednesday, October 10, 1934, I Tatti

Stormy

In almost intolerable pain. It is neuralgia of the pubic nerve and very hard to deal with. And Dr. Giglioli forgot to send me any sedative suppositories. So I sat half the day in a hot sitz bath, which, after an hour does soothe the pain for a few hours.

Mrs. Shapley came and I did manage to dictate two letters.

Lina came, all worked up over the murder of the King of Jugoslavia and not knowing what to reply to Garvini’s demand for “one important telegram of 800 words”. BB helped her, but it was the blind leading the blind for we knew nothing and can foretell nothing.

[301] Thursday, October 11, 1934, I Tatti

Fair

Feeling very ill.

Nesta came to see me. She said that Iris’ [Origo] book on Leopardi is very good.

Mrs. Shapley (Fern) came in the morning and wrote to BB’s mother for me. It is strange that he will not write himself when I am ill. She also read me one of Somerset Maugham’s sketches “On a Chinese Screen”

Mr. and Mrs. Rufus Mather came to tea but I did not see them.

[302] Friday, October 12, 1934, I Tatti

Glorious weather

I developed a new symptom, a fearful itching but the long terrific pain seldom comes. The itching keeps me awake all night. Benedetto Croce, his 3 daughters, Russo and De Marinis came to lunch. I had a nice long letter from Toby….. anniversary.

Such pain, such pain. How can I bear it?

[303] Saturday, October 13, 1934

Mrs. Faust brought a Mrs. Hill to see me. I had met her in the days when I went to stay with Florence Dike (Reynolds). Also the Beaumonts came to lunch and I saw Marie for ½ hr before. Placci came to dine w. BB and they sat w. me an hour, as I felt in less pain. But an awful night!

[304] Sunday, October 14, 1934

Cf. Tuesday

[305] Monday, October 15, 1934

Developed pruritus. It is hellish

[306] Tuesday, October 16, 1934 Sunday

Fine

Cecil came to lunch and I saw him for ½ hr. He is building an “occult” Byzantine church for Whitaker just under Fiesole!

Most horrid pain.

Audrey Wallas died (73)

1498

[307] Wednesday, October 17, 1934

Fine

feeling very weak and ill, too ill to see anyone or dictate any letters. Placci came to lunch and had a walk; Pellegrina to tea and Mr. Van Marle for an endless seance. Ann’s chemistry professor said she sometimes suspected Ann was a genius!

[308] Thursday, October 18, 1934

LOGAN 68

[309] Friday, October 19, 1934

 Ill

[310]

[311]

[312]

[313] Tuesday, October 23, 1934

Countess Lützow

Gelasio Caetani

Tinus Jekyll

…

The Austins

[337] Friday, November 16, 1934

Christopher 18

[338]

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[339] Sunday, November 18, 1934

Judith 16

[340]

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[341] Tuesday, November 22, 1934

Mrs. Berenson 85

[342-363]

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[364 Thursday, December 13, 1934

Nicky 47

[365-382]

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[383: Memoranda]

From the Revue des Deux Mondes, March 1, 1934: Article de Louis Gillet a Montpellier, p. 169

[2.5 page long transcription in French]

[385] Jan. 1 1935.

Count Hellig left K. and Ann arrived, Trevy stayed.