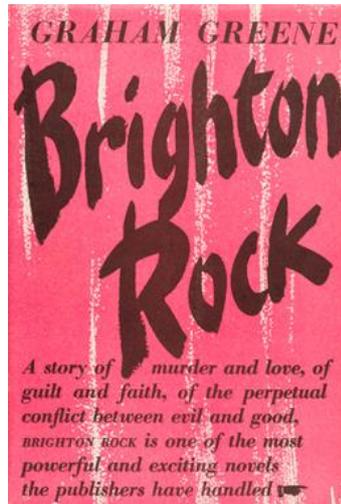
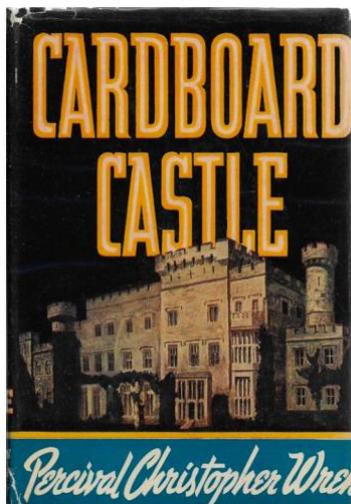


April 2nd was publication day for *A Talented Man*. It's set in 1938, so I went for a snoop to see what the characters would have been up to in 'real life' on that day (or thereabouts) 82 years ago....

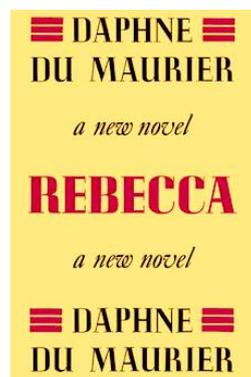
First up, 1938 was quite the year for books. A bumper crop included some still-familiar names, such as *The Code of the Woosters* by PG Wodehouse; *Brighton Rock* by Graham Greene; *Scoop* by Evelyn Waugh; *Homage to Catalonia* by George Orwell; *Three Guineas* by Virginia Woolf. Agatha Christie was really busy - Collins Crime Club published both *Appointment with Death* and *Hercule Poirot's Christmas* in 1938. There was also plenty of novels I've never heard of (sorry PC Wren, I know you were popular in your day).



First edition covers, all published 1938

But the best read of all in 1938?

Daphne du Maurier's *Rebecca*. Published that August, it's never been out of print since. Its unnamed heroine "an appealing and vital enough creature" according to a contemporary review. I take umbrage with the Dundee Evening Telegraph's reviewer who criticised the book's "departure from normal" in the form of a tale that "begins at the end, a device that was probably intended to intrigue, but hardly succeeds." Literary history – and readers' taste – has definitely proved him wrong.



First edition, August 1938

SUCCESS RUNS IN THE FAMILY

Daphne du Maurier Makes a Popular Hit

By W.L.A.

THESE are early days for naming the best-selling books of the year. Efforts of high promise may have been reserved for the Christmas season, when the brightest success of all beckons in the great scramble. An "If Winter Comes" or a "Good Companions" may then flash upon us. Yet I feel sure Daphne du Maurier's "Rebecca" even then will be at or near the summit of prosperity. I cannot say, in the American phrase, that it has everything, but it is rich in elements that make for popular enjoyment. Not for nothing does Daphne du Maurier belong to a family that has excelled in literature and the stage. Of Brontëan intensity, "Rebecca" gives a romantic freshness to the ancient themes of tortured love in marriage and the ill-treated companion who marries a rich aristocrat and finds herself subtly despised.

Here is love that shivers in an awfully young wife's breast; "like a suffering child in a cold cradle"—one may well recall that phrase from "Jane Eyre"; the sufferings of the poor girl were often in my mind as I read of the unhappy young wife in "Rebecca."

OUR present heroine has a wretched life as a companion to a dreadful

to a climax of surprise, one so unusual and so little to be expected (or did I miss the clues?) that it would be a shame to reveal it here.

A GREAT, mysterious house; a mysterious, scowling husband; a housekeeper like an evil spirit; every one ruled from the tomb of an apparently drowned woman—it sounds perilously old-fashioned; but Miss du Maurier goes at it with such gusto, and with such mastery of atmosphere, that nine readers out of ten will race through it and want to spread its fame.

Even if some of the characters are too horrible, notably Mrs. Danvers, such people make good reading, however painfully they would repel us in real life. If the writing is now and then slapdash the reader of this kind of romance is not going to linger upon each phrase. "Rebecca" will be, I predict, one of the hits of the year.

IF Lady Wilson, in "Late Summer," had shown something of Daphne du Maurier's story-telling ingenuity the book would have been to my mind much improved. But with this

country house life when the present century began is reproduced. "Gerena" is the word. We are hindered to think that life went very well then among the well-to-do living in the country, as indeed it did.

An oddity of the book is that two forty-page lectures appear in it, as delivered by a French visitor interested in history. They are quite good lectures, but the ordinary novel reader will deem them padding.

If you are in no hurry and look back on a generation ago as a time of anxious manners and happy living, doomed to a well-earned decline, "Late Summer" will please you very much. It is tender, wistful and poetically eloquent.

LET us turn to another long novel, another eight-and-sixpence-worth. That price seems to be popular—at least with publishers. I suppose if you are able to spend seven and six on a book you can easily spring another shilling. But I hope the standard price of a novel is not going to rise. I for one am unable to share the recklessness about money of a young salesman who said to me recently, "If you want your electric sweeper to be good, £20 is nothing, is it?" Twenty pounds is nothing! Why, eight-and-six is a lot to most of us.

Review of Rebecca published in the Leeds Mercury newspaper, August 1938

Notes For the Novel Reader was a regular feature running in the **Illustrated London News**. On April 2nd 1938, the column noted, "We wish to inform explorers and others who travel that we are glad to consider photographs which show curious customs of various nationalities, civilised and uncivilised, their sports, habits and costumes; in fact, anything of a little-known or unusual character."

But if you're wondering was mid-1938 a bit late to be planning a trip into parts unknown, you'd be surprised by the travel pages. The most popularly-advertised destination of all on April 2nd 1938 in the Illustrated London News was Germany, with a selection of pretty fine-sounding hotels, some proudly boasting a garage. The "Frankfort-(on-the-Main)-Park Hotel" also offers pumps. You heard it here first. Well, in 1938 you would have. It listed well over a dozen hotels, by comparison with just three for Czechoslovakia.

*To Our Readers and Photographers
at Home and Abroad.*

THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS" has always been famed for its treatment of the various branches of Science. Its archaeological articles and illustrations are known throughout the world, and its pages dealing with Natural History and Ethnology are of equal value. These and other subjects are dealt with in our pages in a more extensive way than in any other illustrated weekly journal. We take this opportunity, therefore, of urging our readers to forward to us photographs of interest in these branches of Science.

Few people visiting the less-known parts of the world fail to equip themselves with cameras, and we wish to inform explorers and others who travel that we are glad to consider photographs which show curious customs of various nationalities, civilised and uncivilised, their sports, habits, and costumes; in fact, anything of a little-known or unusual character.

We are very pleased to receive also photographs dealing with Natural History in all its branches, especially those which are of a novel description. Our pages deal thoroughly with unfamiliar habits of birds, animals, fishes, and insects.

To Archaeologists we make a special appeal to send us the results of recent discoveries.

In addition, we are glad to consider photographs or rough sketches illustrating important events throughout the world; but such contributions should be forwarded by the quickest possible route, immediately after the events.

We welcome contributions and pay well for all material accepted for publication.

When illustrations are submitted, each subject sent should be accompanied by a suitable description.

Contributions should be addressed to: The Editor, *The Illustrated London News*, 32-34, St. Bride Street, London, E.C.4.

AUSTRIA	
<p>Semmering—(3000 ft. a.s.l.) 1½ hours from Vienna.</p> <p>Suedbahn Hotel—The Golfer's Home—open-air swimming pool.</p>	B r D U R F L F S fr H H it L p d
CZECHOSLOVAKIA	
<p>Prague—Alcron—The most distinguished hotel of Prague—200 rooms and apartments. 200 baths. Garage, 100 cars.</p> <p>Prague Metropol Hotel "Zlata Husa." (Golden Goose)—Modern comfort, homelike, best food, centre of Eng.-speaking visitors and their friends.</p> <p>Franzensbad—Hotel Imperial, exclusive, world known, close to the springs and baths, own park. Season April 15th to October 15th. Prospectus.</p> <p>Franzensbad—C.S.R. Hotel Königsvilla—The best place for Rheumatic-Heart complaints and women's functional disorders. Prospectus.</p>	
FRANCE	

Note the final listing!

The same newspaper running the travel ads also carried this page:

APRIL 2, 1938 THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS 575

GREATER GERMANY: PROPAGANDA MAPS; AND VIENNA ARYANISED.

PAN-GERMAN PROPAGANDA IN A SCIENTIFIC GUISE: A LINGUISTIC MAP OF EUROPE CALLING ATTENTION TO THE GERMAN-SPEAKING GROUPS—INCLUDING THOSE IN FRANCE, SWITZERLAND, HUNGARY, ROMANIA, CZECHOSLOVAKIA, POLAND AND RUSSIA.

ANTI PROPAGANDA IN VIENNA: A PORTRAIT OF HEINRICH HITLER AND SWASTICES TO BE DISPLAYED IN SHOPS TO SHOW THAT THEY ARE ARYAN CONCERN. (Linnwood Peck)

THE WORKING OF THE PAN-GERMAN CONCEPTION of Central Europe was described and illustrated by a series of maps in our last issue. Since the invasion of Austria, speeches by German leaders have left no doubt as to the dominant influence of Pan-German ideas. For instance, Herr Hitler, speaking in Berlin on March 26, reiterated his claim that all Germans in Europe should be united with the Reich, saying that by the Peace Treaty 10,000,000 of these had been made "stateless." On the page we deal with recent German propaganda, notably, a strikingly-looking language-map arranged to "emphasize" the German's place in Europe. It is beautifully printed in numerous colors. It is misleading in several ways. Thus, although ostensibly only a language map, it makes no differentiation between the High German and Low German dialects (a division usual in maps of this type), yet separates the Walloon-speaking area, though Walloon is only a French dialect, and divides Great Russia from White Russia—again only a matter of dialect. It also separates absolutely Greeks from Slovaks—a favorite conceit of German propaganda, totally unjustified by the facts. It is more or less solely misleading with regard to German minorities in Czechoslovakia, Poland, and Alsace-Lorraine, showing only German-speaking blocks, where this is not the case. With regard to the Germans in Switzerland, the author of the map admits (in a column of descriptive matter) that "at times a strong sentiment of nationality largely obliterates the sentiment of common ancestry and cultural heritage." Germany is shown bordered by "Germanic peoples"—such as Swedes, Danes, Dutchmen, and Flemings—another somewhat misleading category.

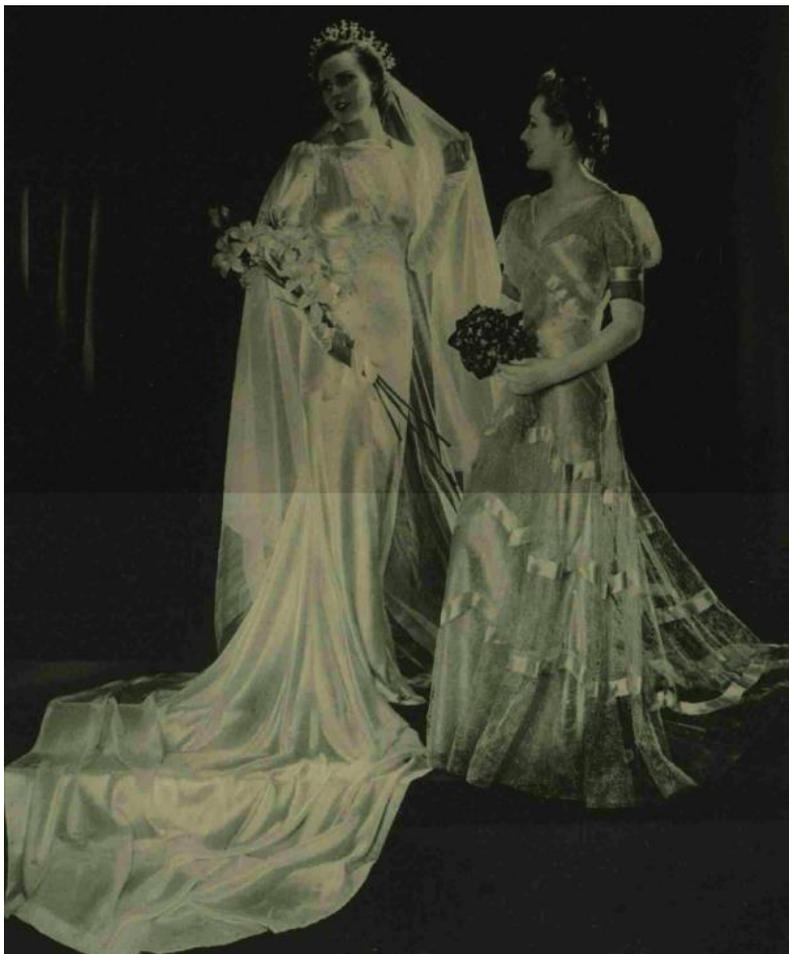
THE NEW "GROSS-DEUTSCHLAND": A BLUE MAP DISPLAYED IN A VIENNA BUSINESS HOUSE AFTER THE INVASION AND ANNEXION OF AUSTRIA. (Linnwood Peck)

And what was happening on the silver screen? Megan McGurk from Sass Mouth Dames film club says that in 1938 you'd have been spending your money on seeing *The Mad Miss Manton*, *Vivacious Lady*, *Jezebel*, *Bluebeard's Eighth Wife*, *Three Comrades*, *Merrily We Live*, *The Shining Hour*, *Bringing Up Baby* (starring Cary Grant and Katharine Hepburn), and *You Can't Take It with You*, *Algiers*.



"BRINGING UP BABY," AT THE GAUMONT, HAYMARKET: SUSAN (KATHARINE HEPBURN) CLIMBS A LADDER TO WATCH DAVID HUXLEY (CARY GRANT) AT WORK ON THE SKELETON OF A BRONTOSAURUS.

What might you wear on this night out to the Troxy? Or the Odeon, Regal, or even Dublin's Carlton (which opened in 1938 and had an incredible 32,000 customers in its first week). Well if you're newly married and have a few bob, maybe a Washing Frock, an essential bit of trousseau kit; "the success of the whiskered silk dresses introduced by Debenham and Freebody becomes more pronounced each season".



Debenham & Freebody wedding dress from the same collection.

And finally, on April 2nd 1938, the London Illustrated News ran a 'People of Note' feature:

562 THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS APRIL 2, 1938

PERSONALITIES AND OCCASIONS OF NOTE: PEOPLE IN THE PUBLIC EYE.



BISHOP TAYLOR SMITH.
Oxford - General to the Pope, 1901-25. Died March 20; aged seventy-eight. Was Sub-Dean and Canon of St. George's Cathedral, Florence, and Vicar of the Parish of the Assisi in 1907. Chaplain to the King in 1907. (Fawcett.)



HERTZ HERTZ.
Leader of the Dutch Deputies, whose party has been strengthened by its union with other German groups in the Reichstag. Is now training his new election for Parliament and for the local governing bodies. Has a considerable majority in Parliament.



THE HON. CYRIL ASQUITH, K.C.
Appointed a King's Bench Judge in place of Mr. Justice Porter, who has been made a Lord of Appeal in Ordinary. Is fourth son of the late Earl of Oxford and Asquith. Appointed Recorder of Salisbury last year. Called to the Bar in 1920. (Barrett.)



MR. JUSTICE PORTER.
Appointed a Lord of Appeal in Ordinary, in succession to Lord Macpherson. The new Lord Chancellor. He was made a Judge in 1924. President of the Council of the Law Society in 1925-26, and of the Bar in 1927. Took silk in 1927. (Alcock and Fry.)



H.R. THE SULTAN OF MOROCCO AND SPAIN.
Succeeded his father in 1927. In visiting this country as a guest of H.M. Government for a period of a fortnight. Was received by the Secretary of State for India on March 29 and by H.M. the King at Buckingham Palace, next day. (Central Press.)



SIR T. VASSILTART BOWATER, BT.
Lord Mayor of London 1933-34. Died March 28; aged seventy-five. Was M.P. for the City of London from 1924 and Alderman of the City of London for the Ward of Castle Baynard 1927-28 and for Ward of Bridge Without from 1928. (Hassani.)



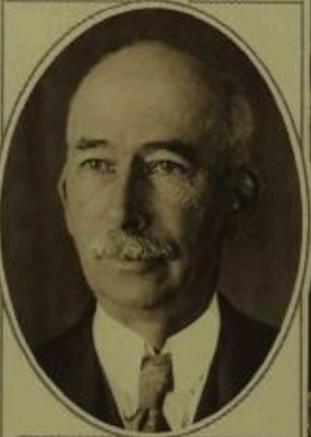
PRINCESS JULIANA'S FIRST APPEARANCE IN PUBLIC SINCE THE BIRTH OF HER DAUGHTER, H.R.H. AT A RACE MEETING, WITH PRINCE BERNHARD (LEFT).
Princess Juliana of Holland made her first appearance in public since the birth of her daughter, Princess Beatrix, when she attended a cock-fighting race meeting at Epsom, on March 25. The baby Princess, who it will be recalled, was born on January 31, is now nearly two weeks old. (Sport and General.)



LORD CHATFIELD (RIGHT) RETURNING TO ENGLAND AFTER THE COMBINED FLEET EXERCISES - PHOTOGRAPHED ON THE BRIDGE OF THE LINER "RAJPUTANA."
As described on page 270, Lord Clarendon attended the recent combined exercises in the Atlantic in the "Hague." He is seen here with Captain Captain R. G. Jernett of the "Rajputana," en route to Zanzibar through the Straits of Gibraltar. (Central Press.)



THE GRAND NATIONAL, THE WINNING HORSE OWNER, MR. MARTIN SCOTT, WITH HIS TRAINER AND JOCKEY.
After his earlier win in the Grand National, Northwick was visited in his stable by his owner, Mr. Martin Scott, his trainer, Mr. R. Hobbs, and the trainer's son, Brian Thomas, who, at seventeen years of age, is the youngest jockey to win the race. Photographs of Northwick, his son, the famous Man o' War, and the spirit of the race will be found on another page in this issue. Mrs. Scott is a member of the Devon and Cornwall. (Sport and General.)



THE DEATH OF PRESIDENT WILSON'S FAMOUS ENVOY: THE LATE COL. WOOD.
Colonel Wood, known as President Wilson's confidential adviser and envoy to Europe in the wayward end of March 20, aged seventy-nine. In 1914 he did his best to convince peace in European capitals. He presented trust services to the Allies when America entered the war. He was a confidante with Wilson in working out the "fourteen points," but for reasons that are obscure, parted company with Wilson when he returned to America in 1918. (Fawcett.)



DR. DOLLFUS' CHILDREN IN EXILE. HIS SON RUDY AND HIS DAUGHTER EVA PHOTOGRAPHED IN SWITZERLAND.
At the time of the German invasion of Austria, Frau Dollfus, widow of the renowned Chemist, arrived at Basel with her two children. She then went to Switzerland, arriving at Fribourg on March 21. It was stated that she was a guest at the Centre of Swiss War Relief, which belongs to M. May, a prominent Swiss official several times President of the Confederation. Frau Dollfus was stated to be in exile. (Central Press.)

But the person I was most intrigued by in April 1938 is fictional: Ellis Spender, disillusioned author and master forger... *A Talented Man*, published April 2nd 2020 by Hachette.