

## DIARY OF A STATIONMASTER

“Thank you for all you did for my father”. These words were spoken by King George V when he presented Samuel Thomas Maun with the medal of the Royal Victorian Order; and indeed for the 22 years from 1903-25 that Maun had been stationmaster of the Great Western Railway in Windsor, he had arranged for the arrival and departure of every crowned head in Europe. After he retired he recorded his memories of many events, both interesting and comical, in a small clerk’s notebook a copy of which is now in the Royal Borough Collection.

Maun started his duties as stationmaster in April 1903 and the first member of the Royal Family whom he met was HRH The Princess Christian. He had received a message to say that the Princess was to travel to London the next day and required the use of the special carriage reserved for her. She hoped he would be very happy in his duties, and indeed this was the beginning of a long and happy association with Royalty.

Maun tells how State Visits were organised. He writes, ‘The long carpet was used on the platform.’ Elsewhere he explains the rather complicated procedure, ‘As soon as the Royal train left Paddington, the stationmaster wired me the distance from the footplate of the engine to the door of the Royal saloon, and I then had to measure the platform and make a mark where the driver must stop, and also place a man there with a red flag, so that the centre of the door of the Royal saloon should be exactly opposite the entrance to the Royal room. All the points in the yard were locked so that nothing could move, and the keys brought to me to hold until the Royal train had come to a stand, then a man took them and unlocked the points and the traffic was returned.’ At the end of the State Visit these arrangements were reversed. Maun was frequently presented with a diamond tie-pin to mark such events.

In 1905 the Royal Family celebrated the wedding of HRH The Princess Margaret, eldest daughter of HRH The Duke of Connaught, to HRH Prince Gustavus Adolphus of Sweden and Norway. Mrs Maun and her sister-in-law were invited to the service in St George’s Chapel. After the wedding there was a terrific thunder storm just as the Royal couple were driving to the station.

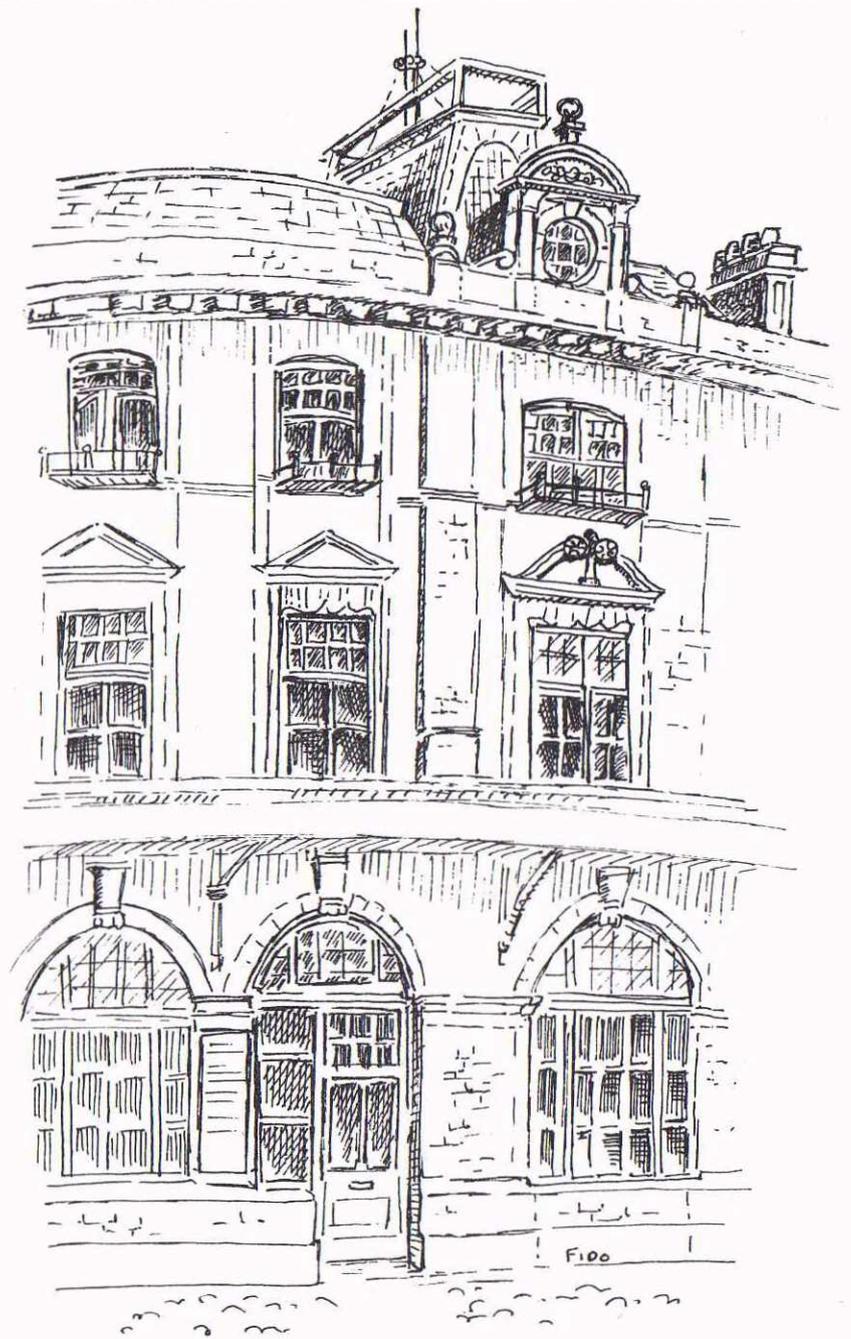


Fig. 1. Stationmaster's house, Windsor Central Station.