

**Reference code:** GB165-0188

**Title:** Sir Harry Luke Collection

**Name of creator:** Luke, Sir Harry Charles (1884-1969) Knight, Colonial Governor

**Dates of creation of material:** 1903-1959; 1969

**Level of description:** Fonds

**Extent:** 6 boxes

**Biographical history:** LUKE, Sir Harry Charles (1884-1969)

Born December 1884, son of J.H. Luke (formerly Lukacs). Educated Eton College; Trinity College, Oxford. Private Sec. and ADC to the Governor of Sierra Leone, 1908-11, and to the Governor of Barbados, 1911; attached to Colonial Office, 1911; Private sec. To high Commissioner of Cyprus, 1911-12; Asst. Sec. to Govt. of Cyprus, 1912; served European War (Commander, RNVR) on the Syrian coast, 1914-15, on Staff of Admiral Sir Rosslyn Wemyss, Dardanelles, and as Government Sec., Mudros, Feb. 1915-June 1916; Comr of Famagusta, Cyprus, 1918; Political Officer to Admiral of the Fleet Sir J. de Robeck, Constantinople and Black Sea, 1919-20; British Chief Commissioner in Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan, April-Sept. 1920; Assistant Gov. of Jerusalem, 1920-24; a Commissioner to inquire into the Jaffa Riots of 1921, and into the affairs of the Orthodox Patriarchate of Jerusalem, 1921; Colonial Secretary of Sierra Leone, 1924-28; CMG 1926; Chief Secretary of Palestine, 1928-30; Lieut.-Gov. of Malta, 1930-38; Kt 1933; Gov. and C-in-C of Fiji, and High Comm. for the Western Pacific, 1938-42; KCMG 1939; Chief Rep of the British Council for the Caribbean, 1943-46; Member of Foreign Relations Council of Ch. of England; President, Malta League, 1955-65. Married, 1918, Joyce Fremlin (div. 1949); 2 sons. Died 11 May 1969.

**Scope and content:** MS diaries 1903-59; ephemera from diaries; papers on Palestine; Memorial Service and Address by Stewart Perowne, 1969.

**System of arrangement:** Diaries; papers

**Access conditions:** Open

**Language of material:** English, with some passages in Classical Greek or Arabic

**Conditions governing reproduction:** Photocopying and quotation at the discretion of the Director of the Middle East Centre

**Custodial history:** In the possession of Sir Harry Luke

**Immediate source of acquisition:** Received as a gift from Sir Harry Luke, 1965 or earlier; diaries received on permanent loan from Harry Luke (grandson) July 1971

**Related Units of Description:**

In Other Repositories

- Luke Papers at Rhodes House Library
- Luke Papers sold by Sotheby's to Popular Bank of Cyprus, December 1991

**Finding aids:** In Guide; Handlist

**Archivist's note:** Fonds level description created by C. Brown 26 March 1999 and revised by D.Usher 23 October 2003. File and item level description created by C. Brown 5 September 1997

**FILE AND ITEM LEVEL DESCRIPTION OF THE SIR HARRY LUKE  
COLLECTION**

Box 1 Diaries

1/1	Vol. I - 1903-17 Dec. 1907 (including a brief resumé of his life from 1884)	1 vol.
1/2	Vol. 2 - 30 Dec. 1907-29 Oct. 1920	1 vol.
1/3	Vol. 3 - 30 Oct. 1920-14 Aug. 1930	1 vol.
1/4	Vol. 4 - 15 Aug. 1930-1 Feb. 1937	1 vol.

Box 2

2/1	Vol. 5 - 1 Feb. 1937-22 July 1939	1 vol.
2/2	Vol. 6 - July 1939-1942	1 vol.

Box 3

3/1	Vol. 7 - 22 Dec. 1955-22 May 1959	1 vol.
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Box 4 Ephemera, letters and photographs interleaved in diary volumes.

4/1	Orders of Service for Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee and memorial service; poems; press-cuttings; postcards; photographs from the Oxford Historical Pageant and dance card for the Fancy Dress Ball. 23 sheets; 1 item	1894-1907
4/2	Menus from Government House, Sierra Leone and Tiflis, Georgia; photographs; postcards of Cyprus; press-cuttings about the death of Kiamil Pasha; obituary of Sir Frank Larken (1953); 22 sheets	1907-20
4/3	Letters from W.H. Deedes, from Luke to his parents, and from H. (?Pirie-Gordon) about appointment to Malta; press-cuttings; invitations and menus for the Worshipful Company of Ironmongers, Sierra Leone Luncheon and Grey's Inn; dance card; Order of Service for the Commemoration of the Sixteenth Centenary of the Council of Nicaea at Westminster Abbey; copy of notification about CMG. 39 sheets; 3 items	1921-30

- 4/4 Letters from the Bishop of Gibraltar and J.J. Woolryck Perowne; obituary of Gertrude Lawrence; photograph of water-skiing off the Maltese coast; postcard from Sicily; press-cuttings about Malta and the Greek Islands; two humorous synopses of opera plots (“L’Inglese in Mesopotamia” and “La Kirkukoise”); programme for a soirée given by members of the Polish Forces.  
18 sheets 1931-37; 1940
- 4/5 Photographs of Luke in academic dress, and of his house and garden; menus for lunches and dinners in his honour; invitation to a Garden Party at Buckingham Palace; publicity for Lalani Hawaiian Village; nautical mileage Suva-Sydney; *The Malta Government Gazette*, 5 May 1944.  
22 sheets; 2 items 1937-39; 1944
- Box 4 Ephemera, letters and photographed interleaved in diary volumes (cont.)
- 4/6 Press-cuttings; invitations and menus; photographs; letters from Stewart Perowne and Douglas Jardine, and correspondence with Fr. Edgar Salamone on the naming of “Sir Harry Luke Street” Mgarr, Malta; Czechoslovak Degree Day in Oxford, 1943; orders of service for the memorial service for G.F. Graham Brown, Bishop in Jerusalem and for the World Chain of Light; club memberships and passes; copies of Luke’s circular letters; minutes of a meeting of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem, 4 December 1947; telegrams announcing the birth of Luke’s grandson and granddaughter; minutes of the Nikaeian Club, 23 November 1955.  
96 sheets; 4 items 1939-52; 1955
- 4/7 Press-cuttings relating to Brunei, Singapore and the Middle East, Luke’s daughter-in-law Clarissa (née Chaplin), British tourists in Cyprus, opening of a new hospital of the Order of St. John in Jerusalem, visit to Hong Kong; diary entries for a visit to Yezidi shrines in Iraq, April 1956; letter from Sir John Glubb; diary entries for a visit to Bahia, Brazil, April 1959.  
34 sheets; 1 item 1956-60

Box 5 Papers

- 5/1 Examples of “Nansen” passports for Russian and Armenian refugees, 1922. 3 sheets

- 5/2 Palestine Riots, 1929: Dossier for Chief Secretary Pt. 1: official telegrams, reports, memoranda and press resumé. 17 Aug.-8 Sept. 1929. 227 sheets
- 5/3 Palestine Riots, 1929: Dossier for Chief Secretary Pt. 2: official telegrams, reports, memoranda and press resumé. 9 Sept.-1 Nov. 1929. 207 sheets
- 5/4 Palestine Riots, 1929. Narrative by the Officer Administering the Government: report by the Officer Administering the Government, Mr. Luke's despatch to the Secretary of State dated 22 August 1929, press extracts, narrative of events and communications to the public. 119 sheets

Box 6

- 6/1 Collected observations of the Permanent Mandates Commission with regard to Palestine, 9 May 1930 (CPM 1009), other notes relating to the Permanent Mandates Commission and Palestine, notes on the memorandum of the Jewish Agency (n.d.), article in *Le Journal de Genève* 4 June 1930 relating to the Permanent Mandates Commission, letter from Leonard Stein to Elizabeth Monroe (8 Feb. 1972) identifying Luke in 1915 with "Mr. Lukach of Cyprus, now acting as Government Secretary of Mudros". 1930;1972. 40 sheets
- 6/2 Joseph Kessel's reports on slavery and the slave trade in Arabia for *Le Matin*, 26 & 28 May 1930. 7 sheets
- 6/3 Order of Service and address by Stewart Perowne at Luke's memorial service, 5 June 1969. 1 sheet; 1 item
- 6/4 Notebook into which the diary ephemera (box 4) had previously been sellotaped or stapled.  
n.d. 1 vol.