Middle East Centre Archive
St Antony’s College, Oxford

Guide to collections relating to Iraq/Mesopotamia

Introduction

Please note that the following Guide is not comprehensive. It has been compiled from the main Guide to the Middle East Centre Archive and only collections in that catalogue that explicitly mention Iraq or Mesopotamia have been included. Not included in this Guide are several collections that cover the Middle East as a whole and thus may contain material relevant to Iraq. For example the Arab Bulletin; British Diplomatic Perspectives on the Middle East; Cairo Conference; Chatham House; Crow; A.G.M. Dickson and the Mance papers. For these papers please consult the main Guide to the Middle East Centre Archive.

Where a more detailed description of a collection exists, this is indicated in this Guide by the word ‘Handlist’.

Please note that uncatalogued material appears at the end of this Guide

Please note TS means typescript. MS means manuscript i.e. handwritten.

ANTONIUS, George Habib. (1891-1942). GB165-0011
Reports and letters when Senior Associate in the Middle East of the Institute of Current World Affairs on Palestine, Lebanon, Egypt, Syria and Iraq 1930-39, including notes on the case of Taha Hussein, 1932, and on Saiyid Jamal ad-Din al-Afghani and Shaikh Muhammad ‘Abduh. 128 sheets. Handlist

BBC Documentary: No Plan, No Peace. GB165-0429
Scripts for the two part BBC documentary ‘No Plan, No Peace: The inside story of Iraq’s descent into chaos’ broadcast in October 2007 and transcripts of research interviews for the documentary of key participants including Ahmed Chalabi, Ali Allawi, Barbara Bodine, Sir Christopher Meyer, Clare Short, General Jay Garner, Colonel Larry Wilkerson, Paul Bremer, Colonel Paul Hughes, Sir Jeremy Greenstock, Sir Michael Jackson, Stewart Bowen and Major General Tim Cross. 3 boxes. Handlist

BELL, Gertrude Margaret Lowthian. (1868-1926). GB165-0023
BENTWICH, Norman de Mattos. (1882-1971).  GB165-0025
Letters in Arabic and English received during his service as Legal Secretary to the Government of Palestine, 1921-29; papers on legal administration under the Palestine and Iraq Mandates; papers re. his work in Ethiopia, 1943; Ethiopia and her claim to Eritrea and Somalia, Falash Jews, etc. 1 box.

BOWMAN, Humphrey Ernest. (1879-1965).  GB165-0034
Diaries 1903-49, including Egypt 1903-11, Sudan 1911-14, Iraq 1918-20, Palestine 1921-37; personal letters, mostly from Sir Hugh Bell and Sir Ronald Storrs, 1910-54; appointment as Director of Education, Mesopotamia, 1917-20; offers of service in Egyptian Ministry of Education, 1919-20; secondment to Government of Palestine, 1920; correspondence 1922-25 with the Egyptian Government re. pension; Palestine Royal Commission on Education - miscellaneous papers; personal letters to parents; lectures and miscellaneous about General Gordon; lectures and book reviews; testimonials, etc.; correspondence with High Commissioner, Palestine, 1934-36; correspondence re. retirement, 1937. 8 boxes. Handlist. Photographic collection.

CAMERON WATT, Prof. Donald. (b. 1928)  GB165-0296
Press-cutting collection from British newspapers covering: oil; the Arabian peninsula; Middle East (in general); Egypt; Cyprus; Malta; Eisenhower Doctrine; Iran; Lebanon; Libya; Iraq Revolution; Israel; Jordan; Syria; Turkey; Sudan; French North Africa; Somaliland; the Suez Crisis; some maps. 11 boxes. Handlist.

CHEESMAN, Edith.  GB165-0054
Mesopotamia (Iraq); watercolours, London &c., 1922. 1 vol.

CHEHAB, Emir Farid (1908-1985).  GB165-0384
Lebanese intelligence reports and analysis, in Arabic, covering internal Lebanese politics, communist parties in the Middle East and political developments in Syria, Morocco, Turkey, Kuwait, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Jordan and Israeli and Palestinian politics, 1945-1983. 12 boxes. Handlist.

CORNWALLIS, Sir Kinahan. (1883-1959).  GB165-0064
Photocopy of letter, 17 May 1939, to Lord Wavell on Allenby-Feisal interview in Damascus of 3 October 1918; order of service for memorial service for King Feisal II, the Crown Prince of Iraq and General Nuri Al Said, 30 July 1958; letter, 24 August 1958, to Stewart Perowne about events in Iraq. 4 sheets; 1 item.

COX, Sir Percy Zachariah. (1864-1937)  GB165-0341
Correspondence, mainly incoming, covering Sir Percy Cox’s career between 1895 and 1937; some letters between Gertrude Bell and Arthur Hirtzel 1917-1920; correspondence with Lady Cox 1930s-1940s. 2 boxes. Handlist.

CROWDY, Major J.D. (d. 1920).  GB165-0069
Four letter books amounting to a diary of his service in the Mesopotamia campaign from Basra, January 1916 to Bombay, December 1918, with maps. 1 box. Handlist.
Childhood; letters from regiment in Ireland, 1903; Gilgit and Bikaner, 1912-14; letters to mother; Mesopotamia campaign: letters to mother, 1914-15; letters home, 1915; letters from D. force, 1915-16; miscellaneous career papers; Suk esh-Shuyukh: letters to mother, 1915-18; pacification of Muntasik, 1918-19; Iraq, 1917-19: events in Nasiriyeh, conditions of service, administration in Basra and Baghdad vilayets; administration reports of the Kuwait Political Agency, 1918, 1921-32; Bahrain, 1920 - Ibn Saud; diaries of mission in Bahrain, 1919-22; private letters of political interest, mostly from Iraq and the Gulf to India, 1920s (including Sir Percy Cox, A.T. Wilson, Philby, Bertram Thomas); reports from Hillah, 1921-22; Ojair conference papers, 1922; Kuwait and the desert: articles and press-cuttings, 1931-48; Kuwait: notes on trade 1932-33, and trade supplies 1942; Kuwait diaries, 1937-58; Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and U.K.: treaties and conventions; notes on Kuwait/Iraq boundaries, 1938; notes for a biography; press cuttings on the Middle East 1937-41 & 53-55. 17 boxes. Handlist. Photographic collection.

DICKSON, Dame Violet Penelope. (1896-1991). GB165-0364
Photocopy of a TS account of Violet Dickson’s family history; MS description of each photograph album; 12 photograph albums, 1956-1981, mainly covering Kuwait but also including a small amount of photographs taken in Abu Dhabi, Bahrain, Dubai, Sharjah, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Lebanon, Iran, Iraq, Yemen as well as photographs of European countries and Africa. 12 Albums and 13 sheets. Handlist.

DOBBS, Sir Henry Robert. (1871-1934). GB165-0089
TS text of memorial to Sir Henry Dobbs in the English church in Baghdad. 2 sheets.

DOWNIE, Sir Harold Frederick. (1889-1966). GB165-0091
TS transcript of a diary covering Downie’s wartime service in Mesopotamia, January-June 1916. 21 sheets.

EDMONDS, Cecil John. (1889-1979). GB165-0095
Papers relating to his service in Iraq, 1915-45, including: papers on his service as Administrative Inspector, 1922-24; Liaison Officer to the Mosul Commission, 1925-26; papers, correspondence, and maps relating to Edmond’s work in the consular service in North Persia, Iraq and Kurdistan; official reports 1910-46; tour notes and draft reports 1914-40s; topographical notes; notes on the tribes of Kurdistan; personal correspondence 1913-77; lectures and articles; large collection of maps; diaries 1912-1975; typescript memoirs “East & West of Zagros”. 28 boxes. Handlist. Photographic collection.

Photocopy of memoirs, “Pedagogue’s progress: reminiscences of Mesopotamia, Transcaucasia, and Palestine.”; The Distribution of Educational Benefits in Palestine by Farrell, 1945. 185 sheets; 1 item.

FEISAL, Emir of Hijaz (later King of Iraq). (1885-1933). GB165-0105
Intelligence and other miscellaneous documents in Arabic and English, 1916-19, 1939, 1941, 1965, including correspondence with Gen. Gouraud, Lord Allenby, Col. Joyce and others; details
of Feisal’s visit to London 1933; copies of agreements with Dr. Weizmann, Akaba, June 1918 and London, 3 Jan. 1919; copies of documents from the Syrian Archives on Feisal’s rule in Damascus, 1919-20. 1 box.

**GRANADA TELEVISION.**  
Transcripts of research interviews on British withdrawal from Cyprus, Egypt, Iran and Iraq, conducted for the Granada Television series *End of Empire*, transmitted in 1985. 1 box.

**GRAY, MACKENZIE & CO., LTD.**  
Photocopied documents on steam navigation on the Tigris and Euphrates, and on the Teheran-Dizful road concession, 1892-1924. 52 sheets.

**HAY, Sir William Rupert.** (1893-1962).  
Diaries and accounts of tours 1911-56, with correspondence and articles relating to his service in Mesopotamia, Waziristan and Baluchistan, Afghanistan, and the Persian Gulf, including the transfer of the Residence from Bushire to Bahrain. 14 boxes. Handlist.

**HENNESSEY, Robert Samuel Fleming.** (1905-89).  
TS account of a visit to Riyadh via Baghdad and Bahrain with the Anglo-American (Palestine) Committee, 16-21 March 1946. 9 sheets.

**HOGARTH, David George.** (1862-1927).  
Photocopies of notes and letters, 1897-1921, to his mother, wife and son, mentioning personalities such as Gertrude Bell and T.E. Lawrence; photocopy of a letter from T.E. Lawrence to W.D. Hogarth, 11 November 1928; file of biographical notes. 1 box. Handlist.

**HOLT, Sir Vyvyan.** (1896-1960).  
Drafts of lectures on Iraq under the British Mandate (written post-1942) and Britain’s policy in the Middle East, c.1958. 23 sheets. Photographic collection.

**ILIFF, Sir William Angus Boyd.** (1898-1972).  
Letter from Gertrude Bell to M. Sevian, 1923, about the situation in Iraq; information for candidates applying to the Egyptian and Sudanese civil service; agreement between the United Arab Republic, Cie Financière de Suez and International Bank for Reconstruction and Development on compensation following the nationalisation of the Suez Canal Co., 1958. 7 sheets; 1 item.

**IRAQ.**  
Official printed notice about the protection of caravans on the Kadhimain-Mushahedeh-Sumaicha-Belad road, 28 August 1917. 1 sheet.

**JAMALI, Mohammed Fadhel.** (1903-97).  
Photocopied TS of “Arab Struggle, 1943-1958”: a personal account of Iraqi relations with other Arab states. 1 box. Handlist.

**JERUSALEM AND THE EAST MISSION.**  

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Records, 1841-1970s, including material on Palestine, Syria, Iraq, Jordan, Iran, Gulf, Egypt, Sudan, Cyprus and N. Africa; with correspondence on the political situation in Palestine, 1916-67; presscutting volumes. 256 boxes. Handlist. Photographic collection.

**KEMP, P.**
Photocopies of material on the revenues of the Pasha of Mosul, 1845, with some maps of the Mosul area; photocopies of official reports on the political situation in Syria and the Lebanon, 1924-43, including material on the Druze rebellion. (Originals in PRO). 1 box.

**KINCH, Edward Alec.** (b. 1896).
Photocopy of MS autobiographical notes covering his early life in England and career in Iraq, 1896-1959; photocopies of correspondence as Political Adviser, Mosul, with Sir Kinahan Cornwallis and others, 1941-44. 2 folders.

**LAYARD, Sir Austen Henry.** (1817-94).
Photocopies of 6 letters to Edward Mitford, 1841-50, on his travels in Persia, Iraq and Turkey. 23 sheets.

**LEACHMAN, Gerard Evelyn.** (1880-1920).
Diaries written by Lt-Colonel Gerard Evelyn Leachman from 1900-1910. Three diaries document his first military post with the Royal Sussex Regiment in South Africa during the Boar War. Leachman describes the landscape and places he travels through, the people he meets and the regiment’s encounters with the Boar right through to when peace is declared and he is re-posted to India. Two further diaries document Leachman’s journey from Iraq (Baghdad) to Syria (Aleppo) and from India to England while on military leave and his first expedition to the Arab Peninsula through Baghdad, for which he was awarded the Gill Medal by the Royal Geographical Society. The final diary consists of newspaper clippings reporting on Leachman’s death by English and Arab newspapers, documenting his career and giving details of his murder and burial. 1 box. Handlist.

**LYON, Wallace Adelbert (1892-1977) and FIELDHOUSE, David**
Photocopied TS of the Memoir of Lieutenant Colonel W.A. Lyon; an edited version of this memoir by David Fieldhouse entitled ‘Kurds, Arabs & Britons, The Memoir of Wallace Lyon in Iraq 1918-44 and one letter from Mary Bliss to Professor Fieldhouse commenting on the book. 1 box.

**MIDDLE EAST DEVELOPMENT DIVISION.**
Project papers and reports, 1939-1980s, dealing with agriculture, co-operatives, education, finance, fisheries, forestry, health provision, industry, mineral resources, public administration, transport, water resources, and other development projects, mainly in Jordan (including the West Bank territory), but also covering Aden, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Libya, Oman, Israel and Palestine; correspondence files; some papers on the South-East Asia Development Division and the Overseas Development Institute. 39 boxes. Handlist.

**MONROE, Elizabeth.** (1905-86).
Translation of documents from Tsarist archives on the break-up of the Ottoman Empire, 1914-15;
a note on the Arab Bureau, 1916-19; letters from C.J. Edmonds on recollections of Mosul Commission, Kurds and Anglo-Iraq treaty of 1926; letters from Freya Stark, 4 November 1943-18 June 1944, on her mission to America; notes on British policy in Palestine 1945-48 with special reference to Ernest Bevin; letters on Jordan Waters situation, 1951-55; Nasser's propaganda in the Persian Gulf, 1955-57; effects of the Suez crisis on Iraqi politics; letters on developments in 1957 in Iraq and Iran; memo “Saudi Arabia 1970-71”; map of the Hijaz railway; material on Egypt’s campaign to spread its influence by dispatch of Egyptian teachers abroad; TS copies of 2 letters from Elizabeth Monroe about her travels in Morocco and Algeria in 1935. 1 box. Photographic collection.

NAIRN TRANSPORT COMPANY. GB165-0215
Press-cuttings relating to Norman and Gerald Nairn, and the formation and work of the Nairn Transport Company's Beirut to Baghdad passenger, mail and freight service, 1923-46. 1 box.

Translations of eight messages sent by Feisal to his father during the Arab rising against the Turks, 1917, with two original Arabic texts; Arabic MS on the Yezidis prepared for Nalder by Sidd_q Al-Daml_j_, 1949; administration reports of the Mosul Division, 1919-21; report “Personalities: Mosul, Arbil and the Frontier; diary of 1927 Iraqi-Turkish Boundary Demarcation Commission, with some official correspondence. 1 box. Photographic collection.

PEROWNE, Stewart Henry. (1901-89). GB165-0228
Personal letters to his family from school, university and throughout his career, 1913-47; correspondence with friends and colleagues written from Iraq, 1941-47; correspondence with King Faisal II of Iraq, the Regent Abdulillah, and Nuri As-Said, 1942-57, general correspondence, 1937-71; broadcasts, lectures and articles on the Middle East, 1929-49; miscellaneous personal papers. 5 boxes. Handlist. Photographic collection.

Political and personal correspondence, memos, travel diaries, exploration reports, engagement books, published and unpublished literary MSS, c.1915-57, covering Transjordan, Iraq, Palestine, Arabia and including correspondence and minutes of meetings of Sharqieh Ltd. and Mitchell Cotts Ltd. 89 boxes. Handlist. Photographic collection.

PRICE, Morgan Philips. (1885-1973). GB165-0232
Notes “Zeitun: a remarkable Armenian stronghold”, 2 January 1914; memo on a Persian visit in October 1953; unpublished MS entitled “The National Revolution in Turkey, Persia and the Middle East”; diaries of travels in Iran, Iraq and Turkey, 1947; memos, notes and interviews relating to Afghanistan, Turkey, Iraq, Syria and Lebanon, 1946-53, including interviews with the Shah; correspondence 1941-59; press-cuttings relating to the Middle East 1889-1972. 8 boxes. Handlist. Photographic collection.

RAMIREZ, Rosalind Cecilia. (1912-1999). GB165-0408
Papers relating to Rosalind Ramirez’s life and work as governess to King Faisal II of Iraq from 1943 to 1946 and her subsequent life, including letters from King Faisal II, letters of condolence received upon his death, and the research for and publication of a number of essays on the subject
of Iraq and King Faisal II. 3 boxes. Handlist.

“Notes on the proposed Greek participation in the War” TS report written while First Secretary in the British Legation, Athens during the First World War; TS correspondence between Rendel, Abdul Aziz ibn Saud, Amir Saud, Yusuf Yassin and Hafiz Wahba following Rendel's visit to Saudi Arabia, June-July 1937; correspondence with Sir Colin Crowe, December 1964, about his papers, with recollections of Ibn Saud and Saudi Arabia; TS note, 1965, on the modification of the Syria-Iraq frontier, 1929-31; TS note, 1966, on the transfer of the Residency from Bushire to Bahrain; TS note, 1966, on the Kuwait oil concession; photocopied MS diary of his visit to Saudi Arabia, February-March 1937 1 box. Photographic collection.

Papers relating to the Assyrians, Iraq Levies, and the Iraq Army; correspondence with Members of Parliament, Save the Children Fund, the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Church of England Council on Foreign Relations about the plight of Assyrian refugees, including Eshai Mar Shimun XXI, the Assyrian Patriarch, and his family. 1 box.

RICHARDS, Herbert Arthur. (1866-1957). GB165-0241

ROSS, Henry James. (1820-1902). GB165-0245
28 MS letters and 2 undated fragments, chiefly to Sir Henry Layard from Mosul, 1847-48, (internal politics, defeat of Kurds by Turks, etc.); Malta, 1848-49; London, 1849; Samsoon, 1849, 1851 and 1855-56 (trade, agriculture, Crimea, Turkish attitude towards Christian nations); Alexandria, 1852 (interview with Abbas Pasha, Viceroy’s attitude to the Porte, etc.); 1 letter to Ross from Layard, Therapia, 19 July 1849. 107 sheets.

SHEPHERD, Sir Francis Michie. (1892-1962) GB165-0372
Unpublished memoirs of Sir Francis Shepherd entitled ‘Never Trouble Trouble’ consisting of a TS hardbound photocopy including photographs and a bound incomplete MS version. The Memoir covers Sir Francis Shepherd’s childhood and career, including an account of his wartime service in Mesopotamia in 1915 in which he took part in the military campaign to relieve General Townshend at Kut and also his service as British Ambassador to Persia in 1950-1952. 2 boxes. Handlist.

“Physician to Iraq’s Royal Family 1923-46: the memoirs of Sir Harry Sinderson Pasha, KBE, CMG, MVO, FRCP (Edin.), being the full manuscript version of Ten Thousand and One Nights published by Hodder and Stoughton 1973”: TS produced by Derek Hill, 1991, from Sinderson’s original MS; press-cuttings on Iraq, taken mainly from The Iraq Times, 1920, 1925-27, 1929-46,

**SMITH, Arthur Lionel Forster.** (1880-1972). GB165-0266
Correspondence with Humphrey Bowman, Sir Reader Bullard, Sir Arnold Wilson and others, including material on education in Iraq and Palestine, and other Iraqi affairs, 1920-31; correspondence from Jerome Farrell and C.J. Edmonds, 1959-60. 5 boxes. Photographic collection. Handlist.

**SYKES, Sir Mark, 6th Baronet.** (1879-1919). GB165-0275
Photocopies and microfilms of documents 1-130 from Section 11 of the Sledmere Papers, including material on the Arab revolt; 1915-16, Sykes-Picot agreement 1916-17; liberation of Baghdad 1917; agreements on Asia Minor; Zionism; Palestine settlements 1917-19. 2 boxes. Handlist.

**TEESDALE, Capt. Frank Robinson.** (d.1916) GB165-0280
Photocopied TS biographical notes on Capt. Teesdale and summary of a ten page diary of his journey from Aleppo to Basra, 20 December 1909-15 January 1910, while serving with the 75th Cavalry (Frontier Force) Indian Army. 3 sheets.

**TOD, George** (b.1914) GB165-0349
Photocopy of ‘From Pillar to Post. The family and autobiography of George Tod’ who worked in the oil industry, including material on Iraq 1940-1965, Lebanon 1950-1953, Syria 1953-1956 and South East Arabia 1956-1962. 1 box

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE.** GB165-0291
Microfilms of American diplomatic documents relating to the internal affairs of the Ottoman Empire and Turkey, 1910-29, and of Iraq, 1930-44. 35 reels.

**WADE, Harry Llewellyn.** (1908-1983). GB165-0592
Biographical account and photo album relating to Harry Wade’s Royal Air Force service in Iraq and India between 1928 and 1934. The photo album includes photos of landscapes, aircrafts, and military life, taken, ordered and labelled by Harry Wade. It also includes photographs with an anthropological interest such as ‘Iraqi types’ and ‘Kurdish and Indian types’. 1 file, 1 box. Handlist. Photographic Collection.

**WEBB, Cecil Richard.** (1887-1974). GB165-0297
Palestine Railways Annual Report, 1930; letter, 16 April 1934, from Webb to his wife Beatrice about his trip across the desert from Damascus to Baghdad in the Naim Transport bus; photocopy of Beatrice Webb’s TS account of the evacuation of families of British officials at Suez, 1941; ephemera. 18 sheets; 4 items. Photographic collection.

**WHEELER, Lt.-Col. Geoffrey Edleston.** (1897-1990). GB165-0298
TS memoirs “Fifty years of Asia” concerning his career in the Indian Army, linguistic pursuits, Intelligence work in Turkey, Persia, India and Iraq, work for the Ministry of Information in India, and the foundation of the Central Asian Research Centre; TS article on orientalists in the Soviet Union, 1960. 1 box. Handlist.
TS copy of proclamation of the deposition of the Khedive and establishment of a British Protectorate in Egypt, December 1914; papers on Wingate’s service in Mesopotamia, and Muscat and Oman, 1917-22, with TS of a lecture on this subject, including an account of the Treaty of Sib, given at the Middle East Centre, 1965; TS article on the papers of Sir Samuel Baker for the period 1875-93. 1 box. Handlist.

WOOD, Sir Richard. (1806-1900). GB165-0306
Personal and career papers, 1824-98; political correspondence, 1831-98, including service in Damascus ands Tunis; travel diaries and notebooks, including a journey from Baghdad to Ali Pasha’s camp at Harir, 1836, and through Kurdistan; memorandum of Wood’s services to the British Government; papers concerning Wood’s landholding in Syria; family correspondence. Handlist. 8 boxes.

YOUNG, Sir Hubert Winthrop. (1885-1950). GB165-0309
Photocopies of papers relating to a journey across the Ottoman Empire, 1913; service in the Middle East, 1917-32, chiefly in Iraq, but including the Sherifian campaign, 1917-18; the future of Palestine. 1 box. Handlist.

YOUNG, J.W.A. GB165-0310

UNCATALOGUED MATERIAL

Access to uncatalogued material is restricted, please contact the archivist for further details. In some cases draft handlists are available or are in preparation.

Memoranda, reports, telegrams and correspondence relating to Iraq, Palestine and Transjordan, 1920s-50s. 14 boxes. Uncatalogued.

HENDERSON, Alexander, 1st Baron Faringdon. (1850-1934) GB165-0313
Papers relating to the formation and commercial activities of the National Bank of Turkey, especially in relation to Mesopotamian oil, and various building contracts and loans; negotiations with the Foreign Office over the extent of the bank’s influence; correspondents include Louis Mallet, Sir Edward Grey, Sir Arthur Nicholson, Sir Henry Babington Smith, H.P. Kingham, and S. de Bilinski. Uncatalogued. 50 boxes.

VATIKIOTIS, Panayiotis J. (1928-97). GB165-0292
Articles, broadcasts and correspondence relating to Jordan, Iraq, Syria and Egypt, 1980s. 2 boxes.
Uncatalogued.