Reference code: GB165-0017
Title: Nina Baird Collection
Name of creator: Baird, Nina Isabel (d.1919)
Dates of creation of material: c1915-1919
Level of description: Fonds
Extent: 7 sheets, 22 photographs

Biographical history: Baird, Nina Isabel
Nina Isabel Baird was the daughter of Sir Alexander Baird 1st Bt. (1849-1920) and his
wife Annette Palk (d. 1884). Sir Alexander was sent to Upper Egypt to help with famine
relief in the provinces of Girgeh, Kenneh and Esneh. Nina Baird studied art at the Royal
Academy and worked with the Red Cross in Egypt. Nina Baird joined her father in Egypt
in Sept 1915 where she organised the Red Cross Empire Nurses’ Club in Cairo. Nina Baird
then carried out war work in testing of bombs manufactured in Cairo. After the Frontier
District Administrator had gathered starving Bedouin women from the Senussi Campaign
at Amira these women were provided with wool to spin and make carpets. Nina Baird took
over the organising of this industry amongst Bedouin women; developing a shop and a
school. In Apr 1919 Nina Baird worked as a Political Officer for two months investigating
the causes of unrest in Egypt. She died of typhoid fever on 10 Aug 1919.

Scope and content: Papers and photographs relating to Nina Baird’s work with the Red
Cross, at Cairo Citadel, and among the Bedouin at Amira consisting of a letter of sympathy
from General Allenby to Sir Alexander Baird 11 Aug 1919; an obituary of Nina Baird by
Miss H. Ridler dealing with Nina Baird’s work with the Red Cross at Cairo Citadel and
among the Bedouin at Amira, 1915-1919. 22 photographs, mainly consisting of
photographs of carpets, as well as some photographs of Nina Baird.

Access conditions: Open
Language of material: English

Conditions governing reproduction: No restrictions on copying or quotation other than
statutory regulations and preservation concerns

Immediate source of acquisition: Received from L.A. Perowne in 1985
Related Units of Description:

In MEC Archive
For other collections relating to the carpet trade see also:
- GB165-0108 Walter Leonard Flinn Collection
- GB165-0488 Oriental Carpet Manufacturers Ltd

Finding aids: In Guide; Handlist

Archivist’s note: Fonds level description created by Clare Brown 10 Jun 1998 and revised by Debbie Usher 8 Jul 2011. Biographical information based on information from Nina Baird’s obituary.
SERIES AND ITEM LEVEL DESCRIPTION OF THE NINA BAIRD COLLECTION

1  Nina Baird’s Death  1919  7 sheets
Papers relating to Nina Baird’s death consisting of a letter of sympathy and an obituary

1/1  Letter of sympathy from General Allenby to Sir Alexander Baird  11 Aug 1919  2 sheets
Old Ref: sheets 1-2

1/2  Letter from Mary Willcox to Miss Ridler providing comments to improve her obituary of Nina Baird  9 Sept 1919  1 sheet
Old Ref: sheet 3

1/3  MS obituary by Mary Willcox of the life and work of Nina Baird  1919  4 sheets
Old Ref: sheets 4-7

2  Photographs  Not dated  22 prints
Photographs showing Nina Baird in Cairo c1915-1916 and photographs of the Bedouin carpet industry at Amiria in the Western desert c1916-1918

2/1  ‘Sir Alexander Baird and Nina. Tea for convalescents’  c1915-1916

2/2  ‘Nina Baird learning driving’  c1915-1916

2/3  ‘Nina and Col. ?Besant’  c1915-1916

2/4  ‘Nina Baird at Citadel’  c1915-1916

2/5  ‘Dwellings of some of the workers’  c1916-1919

2/6  ‘Spinners and Store keeper bring yarn to be weighed’  c1916-1919

2/7  No original caption. Woman weaving  c1916-1919

2/8  No original caption. Woman weaving  c1916-1919

2/9  No original caption. Two carpets laid out  c1916-1919

2/10  No original caption. Workers tents and carpets  c1916-1919

2/11  ‘This week’s catch’  c1916-1919
2/12 No original caption. Carpet held up to show design c1916-1919
2/13 ‘Tapestry special design. Cannot be copied’ c1916-1919
2/14 ‘?Falnia Faragh. 330 x 150 Centimetres. Blue, white and brown – LE 6 – 500 mil’ c1916-1919
2/16 ‘The Ogre. Blue and White. 4 metres x 2 metres. LE 10-000’ c1916-1919
2/18 ‘Marrison Br [Brown], Bl [Blue] and Wh [White] 150 x 90 Cent. LE 1-500’ c1916-1919
2/21 No original caption. Workers’ children in front of a tent c1916-1919
2/22 No original caption. Workers’ children in a class exercising c1916-1919