Reference code: GB165-0025
Title: Norman Bentwich Collection
Name of creator: Bentwich, Norman de Mattos (1883-1971)
Dates of creation of material: 1913-1962
Level of description: Fonds
Extent: 2 boxes

Biographical history: Bentwich, Norman de Mattos (1883-1971)

Scope and content: Personal correspondence, correspondence in Arabic and English received as Legal Secretary to Government of Palestine, 1921-1929; papers on legal administration under the Palestine and Iraq Mandates; papers relating to his work in Ethiopia, 1943, and material on Ethiopia’s claim to Eritrea and Somalia, Falasha Jews. Notes of interviews in Paris relating to efforts to help Jewish refugees from Germany, 1934.

System of arrangement:
1. Correspondence
2. Palestine Papers
3. Ethiopia
4. Notes of Interviews: Helping Jewish refugees

Access conditions: Open
Language of material: English, Arabic
Conditions governing reproduction: No restrictions on copying or quotation other than statutory regulations and preservation concerns

Immediate source of acquisition: Given by David Franklin (executor of Helen Bentwich) and Dr. Walter Zander, 1972

Finding aids: In Guide; Handlist

**SERIES AND FILE LEVEL DESCRIPTION OF THE NORMAN BENTWICH COLLECTION**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1</th>
<th><strong>Correspondence</strong></th>
<th>1915-1929</th>
<th>6 files</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1/1</td>
<td>Family Correspondence</td>
<td>10 Jan 1915-</td>
<td>30 sheets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Photocopies of letters from Bentwich to his mother and a letter to his family</td>
<td>4 Jan 1926</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Old Ref: Box I – Date Identifiable</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/2</td>
<td>Correspondence with Friends, 1910s</td>
<td>25 Sept 1914-</td>
<td>61 sheets</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Photocopies of letters from Bentwich to friends, particularly “Mamie”</td>
<td>19 Apr 1916</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Old Ref: Box 4 – 1914, 1915, 1916, 1917</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/3</td>
<td>Correspondence with Friends, 1920s</td>
<td>12 Dec 1925-</td>
<td>91 sheets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Photocopies of letters from Bentwich to various friends, including copies of letters, from his time in Palestine</td>
<td>27 Jun 1929</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Old Ref: Box 4 – 1927, 1928</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/4</td>
<td>Correspondence with Friends, Undated</td>
<td>Not dated</td>
<td>107 sheets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Photocopies of letters from Bentwich to his friends from his time in Palestine</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Old Ref: Box 4 – Undated</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/5</td>
<td>Correspondence from the 1920s</td>
<td>8 Apr 1921-29</td>
<td>10 sheets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Photocopy of three letters from Bentwich to persons unknown</td>
<td>Sept 1924</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Old Ref: Dated: Box 4 – 1920, 1921, 1924</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/6</td>
<td>Letters to Bentwich</td>
<td>28 Jul 1917-</td>
<td>10 sheets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Photocopy of three letters to Bentwich, two from his wife Helen Franklin</td>
<td>1929</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2  **Palestine Papers**  

Papers relating to Bentwich’s time as Legal Secretary and Attorney General in Palestine, as well as his time spent as a professor at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem

2/1  **Palestinian Matters and Correspondence**  

Photocopies of an invitation to a theatre performance, letters from Bentwich, a newsletter of a Zionist charity and a letter and the text of a speech related to the Hebrew University in Jerusalem  

Old Ref: Box 2 – Date Identifiable  

2/2  **“Light on Britain’s Palestine Promise”**  

Photocopies of a letter from an unknown correspondent and the manuscript of an essay titled “Light on Britain’s Palestine Promise” written after 1939.  

Old Ref: Box 3

2/3  **Palestine**  

Correspondence relating to Bentwich’s time as Legal Secretary in Palestine, papers relating to the Legal administration of Palestine, the Wailing Wall dispute, the courts of Palestine, Nationality and the constitutions of Palestine and Mesopotamia  

Old Ref: Palestine

2/4  **Theodor Herzl and Judaism**  

Photocopies of the manuscript of an essay on Theodor Herzl, the manuscript of an essay on Judaism in Israel, a letter on the notepaper of the Friends of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, a letter to Bentwich concerning a speech to the Cambridge University Israel Society and an illegible document.  

Old Ref: Box I – Unidentifiable
3  Ethiopia

Papers relating to Bentwich’s interest and contact with Ethiopia as part of his time as chairman of the National Peace Council

3/1  Ethiopia and Great Britain

Letters relating to a trip to Ethiopia in November 1943, a diary of that trip, notes on British-Ethiopian collaboration, draft treaties and notes thereon and two articles on Ethiopia

Old Ref: Ethiopia and Great Britain. 1943… draft treaties, letters, articles, etc.

3/2  Ethiopia Papers

Papers and articles on subjects relating to Ethiopia, largely written by Bentwich, including ‘Ethiopia and Falashas’, ‘Early English Travellers in Ethiopia’, ‘Ethiopia Today’ and ‘Education in Ethiopia’

Old Ref: Ethiopia: Articles and papers covering various aspects of the country, mainly 1943

3/3  Ethiopia and the Italian Colonies

Letters and newspaper clippings relating to Ethiopia’s claim on the former Italian colonies Eritrea and Somalia; a synopsis of an essay on the history of Ethiopia; essays and letters on Ethiopia’s relations with the former Italian colonies, with the United Nations and on the Italian colonies in general

Old Ref: Various articles, letters, etc. concerning Ethiopia’s claim to the former Italian colonies of Eritrea and Somalia

4  Notes of Interviews: Helping Jewish refugees

Photocopy of TS “Notes of Interviews etc. in Paris Saturday to Monday January 20-22nd, 1934” relating to efforts to help Jewish refugees from Germany to find a place to settle and how to overcome the difficulty of enabling travel for German Jews who could not get their passport renewed by the German authorities.