Reference code: GB165-0034
Title: Humphrey Bowman Collection
Name of creator: Bowman, Humphrey Ernest (1879-1965) Director of Education Colonial Service
Dates of creation of material: 1903-1954
Level of description: Fonds
Extent: 8 boxes

Biographical history: Humphrey Ernest Bowman was born 26 July 1879 and educated at Eton and New College, Oxford. He served in the Egyptian Ministry of Education 1903-23, with a break for war service in France, India and Mesopotamia. From 1918-20 he was Director of Education, Iraq. In this capacity he accompanied the Arab Mission from Nejd and Kuwait to Britain in 1919. Between 1920 and 1936 he was Director of Education and a member of the Advisory Council, Palestine. Bowman was temporarily employed in the Ministry of Information in 1939 and was on special duty under the Foreign Office 1941-45. He died 23 March 1965.

Scope and content: Personal correspondence from Egypt, 1904-05; official correspondence and papers dealing with educational affairs in Iraq and Palestine, 1917-43; lectures and broadcasts on Middle Eastern subjects; 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 miscellanea about General Gordon; lectures and book reviews; testimonials, etc.; correspondence with High Commissioner, Palestine, 1934-36; correspondence re. retirement, 1937. Photographic collection.

System of arrangement: Personal correspondence; official correspondence; lectures & broadcasts; diaries

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

**Custodial history:** In the possession of Humphrey Bowman

**Immediate source of acquisition:** Bequeathed by Humphrey Bowman to St. Antony’s College. Received through Gard, Lyell, Bridgman & Co., April/May 1965.

**Finding aids:** In Guide; Handlist

**Archivist’s note:** Fonds level description created by C. Brown 9 June 1998 and revised by D. Usher 23 March 2004.
FILE AND ITEM LEVEL DESCRIPTION OF THE HUMPHREY BOWMAN COLLECTION

Personal Correspondence 1904 – 1905

Box 1

1/1  Correspondence from Bowman to his parents from Alexandria and Cairo 1904-1905

1/2  Correspondence from Sir Ronald Storrs and Sir Hugh Bell (includes a copy of a letter from TE Lawrence to Hugh Bell 1927) 1910-1954

Official Correspondence and Papers 1917-1943

1/3 (a)  Correspondence, telegrams, memos etc from Bowman, Sir Reginald Wingate, Sir Percy Cox, Sir Ronald Storrs, the Egyptian Ministry of Education and the War Office re: Bowman’s possible secondment for educational service in Mesopotamia 1917 Aug – Dec

(b)  Correspondence, telegrams, memos etc. from same re: the appointment of Bowman as Director of Education in Mesopotamia 1918 Jan – Dec

(Material in Arabic on the Iraqi revolt of 1919)

1/4 (a)  Correspondence, telegrams, memos etc. re: Bowman’s appointment as Director of Education, Mesopotamia 1919 Jan – Dec

(b)  Correspondence, telegrams, memos etc from same re: the possibility of Bowman’s remaining in Mesopotamia, or of returning to Cairo as a Senior Inspector in the Education department 1920 Jan – Aug

1/5  Correspondence from Bowman, Ministry of Education, Cairo, Controller of War Accounts, Baghdad and the Government of Palestine re: Bowman’s secondment to the latter 1920 Sept – Nov

1/6  Correspondence between Bowman, the National Bank of Egypt and the Ministry of Finance, Cairo re: Bowman’s pension from the Egyptian Government 1925 Oct 1922- May
Box 2

2/1 Correspondence, testimonials etc re: Bowman’s applications for: 1923-1929

(1) the post of Educational Officer to the L.C.C. (H. Samuel, Sir J Currie and G Bell) Aug 1923

(2) the possible post of Joint Secretary to the Permanent Advisory Committee on Education (Ormbsy-Gore) 1927-1929

2/2 (a) ‘A review of Educational policy in Palestine during the period 1920-1932’ (paper presumably written by Bowman c 1932) c1932

(b) Draft and official copies of ‘Description of the educational systems Government, Jewish, and Private and the method of allocation of Government grants’ – a memo prepared by the Government of Palestine for the Royal Commission. 1936

(c) Palestine Royal Commission – notes of the evidence taken from Bowman on 27 November 1936 1936

(d) Advisory Committee on Education in the Colonies – Palestine Sub-Committee. Chapter VI – being a report on the proposed improvements in the educational Service in Palestine – C.W.M. Cox 27 January 1942 and Summary of memorandum on expenditure on Palestine estimates – TR Rowell 1942-1943

2/3 (a) Correspondence with the High Commissioner, Palestine (includes detailed memo of June 1936 on the urgent need for a Royal Commission) 1934-1937

(b) Letter from I Khalidi describing the recent Arab demonstrations in the Taiyiba Tulkarum area and appealing to Bowman to intercede with the Government in order to avert further bloodshed 26 May 1936

(c) Correspondence from M Rosenberg describing conditions in Tel Aviv 1938-1940

2/4 Volume presented to Bowman on his retirement, by the Department of Education, Palestine ‘as a token of esteem and in recognition of his services to education in Palestine’ (contains the signatures of all members of the department both in Jerusalem and the provinces) 1936
Lectures, Essays and Broadcasts

2/5 Lecture and material on General Gordon

2/6
(a) Ihsan Hashim. Thesis entitled ‘The Standing Walls of Jerusalem’

(b) Bowman. Article entitled ‘Rural education in the Near and Middle East’ Reprinted from The Journal of the Royal Central Asian Society Vol XXVI July 1939

(c) H Bowman. Transcript of a talk given on the BBC about Palestine 1939

(d) H Bowman. Transcript of a talk given on the BBC about Iraq 1942

(e) H Bowman. Paper entitled ‘Arab Unity’ June 1943

(f) H Bowman. Transcript of a broadcast entitled ‘Memories of Iraq’ 3 Oct 1943

(g) H Bowman. Transcript of a lecture entitled ‘Modern Palestine’ given to the Royal Asian Society 26 Mar 1944


(i) H Bowman. Review of H B Allen ‘Rural Education and Welfare in the Middle East’ 18 Nov 1946

(j) GB Jeffry. First lecture in a series on ‘Education for international understanding’ H Bowman ‘Education for international understanding – the Moslem World’ 22 Nov 1948

Correspondence between Bowman and Jeffry re: the above lectures Aug-Dec 1948

(k) Collection of reviews of books on Palestine (includes Sir R Storrs Orientations)

Diaries
Box 3A

3A
(a) Diary Sept 1903 – Dec 1904

(b) Diary Sept 1905 – Mar 1910
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