Reference code: GB165-0276
Title: Sir Percy Sykes Collection
Name of creator: Sykes, Sir Percy Molesworth (1867-1945) Knight Lieutenant Colonel Colonial Administrator
Dates of creation of material: 1892-1945; 1982
Level of description: Fonds
Extent: 6 boxes

Biographical history: SYKES, Sir Percy Molesworth (1867-1945) Knight Lieutenant Colonel Colonial Administrator
Born 28 February 1867, only son of the Revd. William Sykes, Chaplain to the Forces, and Mary, daughter of Capt. Anthony Molesworth, RA. Educated Rugby School; Royal Military College, Sandhurst. Gazetted 16th Lancers, 1888; transferred 2nd Dragoon Guards (Queen’s Bays), 1888; Consul for Kerman and Persian Baluchistan, 1894; Assist. Commissioner, Perso-Baluch Boundary commission, 1896; mission to the Karun Valley, 1896; in charge of HE the Nasir-ul-Mulk, special ambassador to the Court of St. James’s 1897; Consul at Sistan, 1899; served, South Africa, in the Intelligence Dept., and in command of Montgomery Imperial Yeomanry, 1901; Consul-General for Khorasan based at Meshed, 1905-13; CIE 1911; City Comdt. Southampton, Aug.-Sept. 1914; in charge of interpreters of the Lahore Division in France; temporary Consul-General in Kashgar, Chinese Turkestan, 1915; KCIE 1915; raised South Persia Rifles with title of Inspector-General, 1916; GOC Southern Persia 1916-18; retired Sept. 1920 and awarded special South Persian medal; Hon. Sec. Royal Central Asian Society 1932-45. Married, 1902, Evelyn Seton: 4 sons; 2 daughters. Died 11 June 1945.

Scope and content: Reports of a mission 1892; a reconnaissance through Persian Baluchistan and eastern Persia, 1893-94; routes and notes of a third journey in Persia (War Office, 1894); Perso-Baluch Boundary Commission papers, 1896; foundation of the Sistan Consulate; despatches to Lord Salisbury on current events, 1899-1900; report on the agriculture of Khorasan (Simla, 1910); bombardment of the Meshed shrine, 1912; reports and despatches of South Persia Rifles, 1917-18; miscellaneous writings on Persia, Anglo-Russian occupation, modern Turkey etc.; reports, despatches, correspondence and miscellanea relating to Sykes’ work in Persia, 1905-18; correspondence with Allenby, the Foreign Office and others, 1934-

**System of arrangement:** As received.

**Access conditions:** Open

**Language of material:** English; Persian; Italian; French; Greek; ?Mandarin

**Conditions governing reproduction:** No restrictions on photocopying or small quotations. For lengthy quotations or large-scale publication contact Sir Patrick Reilly.

**Custodial history:** In the possession of Sir Percy Sykes and his family.

**Immediate source of acquisition:** Received on loan from Edward Sykes, July 1966; additional material deposited November 1980. In July 1997, through the good offices of Sir Patrick Reilly (son-in-law), Mrs. Edward Sykes and her sons agreed that the papers should be a gift to the college.

**Related Units of Description:**

In MEC Archive:
GB165-0274 Sir Herbert Sykes Papers
GB165-0344 Edward Sykes Papers

**Finding aids:** In Guide; Handlist (box list)

FILE AND ITEM LEVEL DESCRIPTION OF THE SIR PERCY SYKES
COLLECTION

Box 1
Bombardment of the Meshed Shrine and other papers 1912 1 folder
‘Routes and notes of a third journey in Persia’ Compiled for the
Intelligence Division of the War Office, by Second Lieutenant
Percy M Sykes, 2nd Dragoon Guards.
‘Report on the Agriculture of Khorasan by Major P.M. Sykes’ 1910 1 vol
Report of a mission to Transcaspia 1892 21 sheets
TS of a chapters for a book possibly ‘History of Persia’; TS articles
on Persia, Anglo-Russian Convention, Anglo-Russian occupation
and modern Turkey

Box 2
File entitled ‘Foundation of the Sistan Consulate; Despatches to
Lord Salisbury on Current Events’ 1899-1900 1 folder
‘Firdausi. Supplement to The Near East and India. Published on
behalf of the Imperial Bank of Persia’ containing articles on the life
of the Persian poet Firdausi.
Report ‘Progress made in the organization and training of the South
Persia Rifles’ by Sir P Sykes Jul-Oct 1 booklet
Despatch on ‘Minor Operations in Southern Persia From 7th
November 1917 to 31st March 1918’ by Sir P Sykes 1918 1 booklet
Despatch ‘On the operations of the South Persia Rifles in the
Kirman Area 1st August to 15th October 1916’ by Sir P Sykes 1918 1 booklet
Despatch ‘On operations in the vicinity of the Pir-i-Zan Pass (Fars).
21st to 28th December 1916’ by Sir P Sykes 1918 1 booklet
Report ‘Minor operations undertaken by the South Persia Rifles
from the 28th March to the 25th June 1917’ by Sir P Sykes 1917 1 booklet
‘Reports on Operations in South Persia’ by Sir P Sykes 1918 1 booklet
‘A Reconnaissance through Persian Baluchistan and Eastern Persia
1895 1 vol
in 1893-94 by Surgeon-Major G.W. Brazier – Creagh’. This volume includes some photographs and two large maps in the back pocket of surveys in Persia and Persian Baluchistan and Eastern Persia Perso Beluch Boundary Commission 1896 1 folder

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 3</th>
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<tr>
<td>Correspondence concerning a translation of the History of Persia</td>
<td>1942-1945 1 folder</td>
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<tr>
<td>Addresses in Persian presented to Sir P Sykes</td>
<td>1905 1 folder</td>
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<tr>
<td>Newspaper clippings, correspondence and TS articles relating to a</td>
<td>1935 1 folder</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marco Polo lecture by Sykes and meeting between Sykes and Mussolini</td>
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<tr>
<td>Visiting Cards from Chinese Turkestan</td>
<td>1915 1 folder</td>
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<tr>
<td>Correspondence relating to De Chair’s attack on T.E. Lawrence in</td>
<td>1943 1 folder</td>
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<td>‘The Golden Carpet’ and his apology</td>
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<td>Correspondence relating to the ‘Quest for Cathay’</td>
<td>1936-1937 1 folder</td>
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<td>Newspaper clippings and correspondence relating to the Murder of</td>
<td>1940 1 folder</td>
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<td>Sir Michael O’Dwyer</td>
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<td>Reprint ‘The Gypsies of Persia by Major P Molesworth Sykes’ from</td>
<td>1906 1 booklet</td>
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<td>the Journal of Anthropological Institute Vol XXXVI, July-December 1906</td>
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<td>Duplicate Reprint ‘The Gypsies of Persia by Major P Molesworth Sykes’ from the Journal of Anthropological Institute Vol XXXVI, July-December 1906</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reprint ‘Anthropological Notes on Southern Persia by Major P.</td>
<td>1902 1 booklet</td>
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<td>Molesworth’ from Journal of Anthropological Institute Vol XXXII</td>
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<td>July-December 1902</td>
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<td>Reprint ‘Notes on a Collection of Bronze Weapons, Implements and</td>
<td>1907 1 booklet</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vessels found at Khinámán to the West of Kermán in South-East Persia, by Major P. Molesworth Sykes, C.M.G. by Canon Greenwell’ from Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute Vol</td>
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XXXVII January-June 1907’
Reprint ‘The Heart of Asia and the Roof of the World by Brigadier-General Sir Percy Sykes’ from Journal of the Royal Central Asian Society’ Vol XXIV
Printed article ‘The Rôle of the Middle East by Brigadier-General Sir Percy Sykes’
Reprint ‘Historical Notes on Khurasan by Major P.M. Sykes’ from Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society
Reprint ‘In the Footsteps of Marco Polo by Brig.Gen Sir Percy Sykes’ from Journal of the Royal Central Asian Society Vol XXII
Printed article ‘New Light on the Battle of Marathon by Brigadier-General Sir Percy Sykes’ from Great Britain and the East. Including two duplicates of this article.
MS extract from ‘A Diplomatist in the East’ by Sir Arthur Hardinge plus envelope
Correspondence concerning Peter the Great’s Will
Letter from Lord Allenby to Sir Percy Sykes with a note by Sir Percy Sykes
Correspondence relating to Dr Filchener
Correspondence in Persian with English translations concerning taxation and the theft of property
Correspondence and notes and corrections to the 3rd Edition of the ‘History of Persia’
Box 4

Reprint ‘Sir Percy Sykes and Persia by Sir Denis Wright’ from Central Asian Survey (1993) 1993 1 booklet
TS ‘The Sykes Family in Iran 1902-1913’ by Patrick Reilly 2 Aug 1981
TS ‘Sir Percy Sykes’ Journey to Russian Turkestan. A Note by Patrick Reilly’ 23 Jan 1981
TS ‘A note by Patrick Reilly on Sir Percy Sykes’ travels in Persia from 1902 to 1913’ c1981
TS ‘A note by Patrick Reilly on Sir Percy Sykes’ Service and Travels in Iran before his marriage:1893-1900’ by Sir Denis Wright 28/11/1981
TS ‘Sir Arthur Hardinge’s visit to Meshed’ by Sir Denis Wright 28/11/1981
Journal of the Royal Society of Arts Vol XCIII 6 Jul 1945 1 booklet
Reprint ‘A Fourth Journey in Persia, 1897-1901 by Major P Molesworth Sykes’ from The Geographical Journal Feb 1902 1 booklet
Reprint ‘A Fifth Journey in Persia by Major P Molesworth Sykes’ from The Geographical Journal Nov-Dec 1906 1 booklet
Reprint ‘A Sixth Journey in Persia (a) A Tour in Ancient Parthia (b) Nishapur and Turshiz by Major P.M. Sykes’ from The Geographical Journal Jan-Feb 1911 1 booklet
Reprint ‘A Seventh Journey in Persia by Lieut.- Colonel P.M. Sykes’ from The Geographical Journal May 1915 1 booklet
Reprint ‘Recent Journeys in Persia by Captain P. Molesworth Sykes’ from The Geographical Journal Dec 1897 1 booklet
‘Foreign Affairs An American Quarterly Review’ 15 Dec 1923 1 vol
Reprint ‘Historical Notes on South-East Persia by Major P. Molesworth Sykes’ from Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society Oct 1902 1 booklet
The Geographic Journal Vol LVIII No.2 Aug 1921 1 booklet
Photocopy of Sir Percy Sykes entry in the Dictionary of National Biography

Box 5
Newspaper clippings volume containing newspaper articles on ‘the O’Dwyer Tragedy...the history of Afghanistan...articles, reviews, miscellaneous...the Business Farming’ 1930s-1940s

Box 6
Despatches, telegrams 1916-1918
Volume of presscuttings on Sir Percy Sykes including an envelope with TS copies of telegrams to Sykes during 1918 1916-1940s
Royal Central Asian Journal Vol XXXIV Part II Apr 1947 1 booklet
The Geographical Journal Vol CIV Nos 1,2 Jul-Aug 1944 1 booklet
The Geographical Journal Vol CIV Nos 3,4 Sept-Oct 1944 1 booklet
Reprint ‘Afghanistan: The Present Position by Brigadier-General Sir Percy Sykes’ from Journal of the Royal Central Asian Society Vol XXVI Apr 1940 1 booklet
Colour Map of Persia and Afghanistan c1921 1 item
Reprint ‘A Turkish Traveller of the Seventeenth Century’ by W.R. Halliday’ from History the Quarterly Journal of The Historical Association Vol XXIX with letter to Sykes enclosing the reprint Sept 1944 1 booklet
‘Early Spanish and Portuguese Travellers in Persia by Lieut Colonel Sir Arnold T. Wilson’ not dated 1 booklet
Reprint ‘The Turkish Dialect of the Khalaj by V. Minorsky’ from Bulletin of the School of Oriental Studies Vol X, Part 2 1940 1 booklet
‘Publications de la Société des Études Iraniennes et de l’art Persan No. 8 La Perse Au XV Siècle entre la Turquie et Venise’ by V. Minorsky 23 Apr 1933 1 booklet
SIR PERCY SYKES
GB165-0276

‘Revue du Monde Musulman. La Politique Orientale de L’Allemagne en Perse’ Vol LIV

Unboxed
Correspondence and articles relating to the battle of Marthon 1930-1936 1 folder