Reference code: GB165-0289

Title: Owen Tweedy Collection

Name of creator: Tweedy, Owen Meredith (1888-1960) Journalist and Civil Servant

Dates of creation of material: 1926-1952

Level of description: Fonds

Extent: 7 boxes

Biographical history: TWEEDY, Owen Meredith (1888-1960)
Born 1888 in Dublin, son of Henry Tweedy and Alice Tweedy (née Meredith). Educated at Clifton College; Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge. Commissioned in Connaught Rangers, 1914; served in Gallipoli, Salonika and Palestine campaign; Military Intelligence, 1917; seconded to Foreign Office, 1919; Assistant Oriental Secretary, Cairo, 1919-1925; political journalist with Fortnightly Review, The Atlantic Monthly, the Daily Telegraph, and the Financial Times 1925-33; Press Officer, Palestine Government, 1936-1941; Principal Information Officer, Middle East, 1941-1944; Regional Adviser, Middle East, B.O.A.C. in Cairo, 1944-48. Unmarried. Died 5 May 1960.

Scope and content: Papers relating to his service in the Middle East, journalism and exploration, 1926-52, with diaries of trips to Russia, 1930, and Germany, 1933. Photograph collection.

System of arrangement: Diaries; correspondence; press-cutting volumes

Access conditions: Open

Language of material: English

Physical Condition: Much of the collection has been annotated in red biro by Thomas Crowe for his edition of Gathering Moss

Conditions governing reproduction: No restrictions on copying or quotation apart from statutory regulations and preservation concerns

Custodial history: In the possession of Owen Tweedy and later of his sister Mrs. Charles Breese

Immediate source of acquisition: Received as a gift from Mrs. Breese, Nov 1967 and Apr 1968
Finding aids: In Guide; Handlist

Publication note: Much of the collection appears in published form: *By Way of the Sahara: the African Odyssey of three men and a grocer’s van* by Owen Tweedy, pub. 1930; *Russia at Random* by Owen Tweedy, pub. 1931; *Cairo to Persia and back* by Owen Tweedy, pub. 1933; *Gathering Moss: a memoir of Owen Tweedy* edited by Thomas Crowe, pub. 1967

FILE AND ITEM LEVEL DESCRIPTION FOR THE OWEN TWEEDY COLLECTION

Boxes 1-4  Diaries 1926-1931; 1933; 1949; 1951-1952

Box 1  
Cairo, Port Sudan, Jeddah, Palestine and Transjordan

1/1  Vol. 1 Journey to Egypt, Cairo  9 Nov. 1926-6 Jan. 1927
1/2  Vol. 2 Cairo  7-30 Jan. 1927
1/3  Vol. 3 Cairo, Sudan  30 Jan.-28 Feb. 1927
1/4  Vol. 4 Sudan, Jeddah, Cairo  28 Feb.-2 April 1927
1/5  Vol. 5 Cairo, Jerusalem, Amman  3-26 April 1927
1/6  Vol. 6 Amman, Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, Haifa, Acre, Beirut, Cyprus  4-18 May 1927
1/7  Vol. 7 Cyprus, Beirut, Damascus, Baalbek, Tripoli, Cairo  18 May-10 June 1927

2nd Odyssey

1/8  Vol. 1 Journey to Egypt, Cairo  27 Oct.-26 Nov. 1927
1/9  Vol. 2 Cairo, Jerusalem and Palestine tour  26 Nov.-16 Dec. 1927
1/10  Vol. 3 Jerusalem, Beirut, Cyprus, Cairo, Sudan  16 Dec. 1927-17 Jan. 1928
1/11  Vol. 4 Sudan, Eritrea  17 Jan.-8 Feb. 1928
1/12  Vol. 5 Eritrea, Sudan, Jeddah  8 Feb.-4 March 1928
1/13  Vol. 6 Jeddah, Sudan, Jeddah, Cairo  5 Mar.-4 April 1928
1/14  Vol. 7 Cairo, Athens, Gallipoli campaign battlefields  4-18 April 1928
1/15  Vol. 8 Gallipoli campaign battlefields, Istanbul  18-26 April 1928
1/16  Vol. 9 Istanbul, Ankara, Istanbul, Athens, Corfu  26 April-19 May 1928

Box 2  
3rd Odyssey, including material for By Way of the Sahara

2/1  Vol. 1 Journey to Egypt, Cairo, Jerusalem, Cairo  6-31 Dec. 1928
2/2  Vol. 2 Sudan, Nile journey, Uganda,  1-27 Jan. 1929
2/3  Vol. 3 Uganda, Kenya  28 Jan.-17 Feb. 1929
2/4  Vol. 4 Zanzibar, Kenya, Uganda, Sudan, Belgian Congo  18 Feb.-20 Mar. 1929
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Volume</th>
<th>Destination</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20 Mar.-2 Apr. 1929</td>
<td>Vol. 5</td>
<td>French Equatorial Africa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2-19 Apr. 1929</td>
<td>Vol. 6</td>
<td>Nigeria, French Niger Province, Sahara</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 Apr.-1 May 1929</td>
<td>Vol. 7</td>
<td>Sahara, Algeria</td>
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4th Odyssey

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Volume</th>
<th>Destination</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3-30 Dec. 1929</td>
<td>Vol. 1</td>
<td>Journey to Egypt, Cairo, Jerusalem</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 Dec. 1929-1 Jan. 1930</td>
<td>Vol. 2</td>
<td>Jerusalem, Haifa, Beirut, Cyprus, Ankara</td>
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</table>

5th Odyssey - the basis for *Russia at Random* published 1931

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Volume</th>
<th>Destination</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1-8 Aug. 1930</td>
<td>Vol. 1</td>
<td>Baltic cruise: Denmark, Sweden, Finland, Russia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8-11 Aug. 1930</td>
<td>Vol. 2</td>
<td>Leningrad entries edited as chapters 1-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1930</td>
<td>Vol. 3</td>
<td>Leningrad and Moscow entries edited as chapters 6-11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1930</td>
<td>Vol. 4</td>
<td>Moscow and Leningrad entries edited as chapters 11-15</td>
</tr>
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<td>1930</td>
<td>Vol. 5</td>
<td>Leningrad entries edited as chapters 15-16</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Box 3

7th Odyssey - the basis for *Cairo to Persia and back* published 1933

[Volumes containing entry for 25 Dec. 1930-10 Feb. 1931 and 15 April-31 May 1931 not received]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Volume</th>
<th>Destination</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11-27 Feb. 1931</td>
<td>Vol. 2</td>
<td>Sinai, Jerusalem, Haifa, Tiberias, Sidon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27 Feb.-23 Mar. 1931</td>
<td>Vol. 3</td>
<td>Sidon, Beirut, Tripoli, Latakia, Aleppo, Mosul</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23 Mar.-14 April 1931</td>
<td>Vol. 4</td>
<td>Mosul, Baghdad, Kermanshah, Kasvin, Tehran</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Germany (as Special Correspondent to *The Daily Telegraph*)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Volume</th>
<th>Destination</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10 Feb.-7 Mar. 1933</td>
<td>Vol. 1</td>
<td>Journey through France and Belgium to Aachen, Bonn, Coblenz, Limburg, Kassel, Göttingen, Hannover, Hamburg, Kiel, Lübeck, Berlin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7-30 Mar. 1933</td>
<td>Vol. 2</td>
<td>Berlin, Danzig, Marienburg, Berlin, Görlitz, Dresden, Leipzig, Coburg, Bamberg, Nuremberg,</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Frankfort, Darmstadt, Heidelberg, Heilbronn

Box 4  **Middle East Diary (as Special Correspondent to *The Daily Telegraph*)**

4/1  Vol. 1 Flight from Heathrow; Baghdad, Basra, Kuwait, 1-19 Dec. 1951
     Khartoum
4/2  Vol. 2 Khartoum, Cairo, Cyprus 20 Dec. 1951-6 Jan. 1952
4/3  Vol. 3 Cyprus, Beirut, refugee camps in Lebanon, 7-31 Jan. 1952
     Damascus, Amman, Jerusalem
4/4  Vol. 4 Jerusalem, Beirut, Cyprus, Cairo (with descriptions of the riots), Benghazi
     1-20 Feb. 1952
4/5  Loose top copies of the Middle East diary. 1 Dec. 1951-20 Feb. 1952
     287 sheets

Box 5  **Correspondence and writings 1921; 1925; 1934; 1936-1948; 1951**

**Correspondence**

5/1  Letters from Lord Allenby and Sir Archibald Clerk-Kerr 1921; 1925 3 sheets
5/2  Correspondence from Jerusalem including circular letters to his family 1934; 1936-1939 81 sheets
5/3  Correspondence from Jerusalem and Cairo including circular letters to his family 1940-43 55 sheets
5/4  Correspondence from Cairo including circular letters to his family 1944-1946; 1948 126 sheets
5/5  Correspondence from Coney Island, Basra and Khartoum including circular letters to his family 1951 17 sheets

**Writings**

5/6  TS of Tweedy’s unpublished book *Egypt in Outline* [1945] 148 sheets
5/7  Script of “The Christening” broadcast by Tweedy for *Children’s Hour*, BBC Home Service 20 Oct 1951 6 sheets
Boxes 6-7  Press-cutting volumes 1925-32

Box 6
Press-cuttings of articles by Owen Tweedy
Nov. 1925-  Dec. 1931
1 vol.

Box 7
7/1 Press-cuttings, letters and ephemera relating to the Sahara crossing
Dec. 1928-  Jan. 1931
1 vol.
7/2 Press-cuttings, letters and ephemera relating to the journey from Cairo to Persia
Feb. 1931-  Nov. 1932
1 vol.