Reference code: GB165-0361
Title: Rex Keating Collection
Name of creator: Keating, Rex (1910-2005) Palestine Broadcasting Service
Dates of creation of material: 1945-1954
Level of description: Fonds
Extent: 2 boxes

Biographical history: Keating, Rex (1910-2005) Palestine Broadcasting Service
Born 14 February 1910 in London. Built and operated a small broadcasting station in Egypt before joining Egyptian State Broadcasting as Director of Talks and Drama in 1935. He became Director of European Programme Division in 1942 and was the official commentator for the Ministry of Information’s weekly cinema newsreel “War Pictorial News” 1940-1945 for which he wrote over 200 commentaries. He also wrote and recorded about 25 documentary films for the Ministry of Information including several training films for British Services and “shorts” for Palestinian, Sudanese, Egyptian, Polish and Greek Governments. He was accredited War Correspondent 1941-1943. He was appointed as Assistant Director, Palestine Broadcasting Service in July 1945 and served in this post until the end of the mandate in 1948. Married Lesley Margaret Long. Rex Keating died in January 2005.

Scope and content: Papers mainly relating to Rex Keating’s work as Assistant Director in the Palestine Broadcasting Service (Radio) between 1945-1948 including a small number of scripts for broadcasts and administrative papers on staff and equipment. There is also a small amount of material relating to the Palestine Civil Service (First Division) Association and the Jerusalem Sport’s Club, as well as reference material probably used in the course of business consisting of Palestine Telephone Directory for Jerusalem and Southern Palestine, 1944 and The Palestine Police Calendar of Events, 1946.

System of arrangement:
1. Diaries
2. Palestine Broadcasting Service
3. Palestine Civil Service (First Division) Association and the re-grading of salaries
4. Social Life
5. Memorandum on the Administration of Palestine
6. UNRWA

**Access conditions:** Open

**Language of material:** English, with a small amount of Hebrew and Arabic

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

**Custodial history:** In the possession of Rex Keating

**Immediate source of acquisition:** Received as a gift from Rex Keating in October 2001

**Related Units of Description:**

In MEC Archive

GB165-0358 Percy Cleaver Collection: This contains the Palestine Police recruitment film for which the commentary at 2/6/5 was written

**Finding aids:** In Guide; Handlist

**Publication note:** Keating, Rex *Grass roots radio: a manual for fieldworks in family planning and other areas of social and economic development* (London: International Planned Parenthood Federation, 1977)


**Archivist’s note:** Fonds and file and item level description created by D. Usher, May 2004 and revised 26 Apr 2007. Biographical History based on the entry for Rex Keating in Cornfeld, Peretz (Ed.) *Palestine Personalia* (Sefer Press Tel Aviv, 1947) and the note in 2/5/2 Radio Week 1 Mar 1946.
SERIES AND ITEM LEVEL DESCRIPTION OF THE REX KEATING COLLECTION

Box 1

1 Diaries, 1946-1949

1/1 Diary 1946 1 vol.
1/2 Diary labelled ‘Assistant Director’ with some interleaved material 1947 1 vol.
1/3 Diary with bookmarks denoting specific events 1948 1 vol.
1/4 Diary labelled ‘Cyprus’ with an airmail letter from N.R. Palmer of the National Broadcasting Service, 5 Dec 1944 1949 1 vol.

2 Palestine Broadcasting Service

2/1 Staff: employment, job descriptions and training

2/1/1 File labelled ‘Department of Broadcasting File No.30. Subject Reports for Director and Estimates, Budget and Staff’ consisting of circulars, memos, reports, lists and correspondence mainly relating to appointments, pay, the necessity of additional staff and details of current staff such as nationality, religion and contact information. This file also includes estimates of the cost of new facilities and equipment and memos on the proposed employment of a Palestine Broadcasting Representative in London as well as proposed creation of a newsletter programme from London on ‘items of topical interest’ to Palestine and Britain.

Arrangement: In original order

2/1/2 TS job descriptions for compilation clerks, compilation typists and A.C.C. (Mr. Mason) Not dated 3 sheets

2/1/3 TS training sheet on the ‘Finer points of Announcing’ by Rex Keating 29 April 1947 and ‘How to Compile a Daily Programme Schedule’ 16 Jan 1948 1947-1948 4 sheets
2/2 Expenditure
Correspondence and accounts giving draft estimates of the expenditure of the Department of Broadcasting for 1947-48
Arrangement: In original order

2/3 Technical – Engineering section and new equipment
File labelled ‘Broadcasting (PBS) Technical. Estimates Programmes’ consisting of memos, reports, brochures, diary extracts and correspondence mainly relating to the choice and purchase of new equipment but also including papers relating to tensions between the programme and engineering sections as well as a strike by the engineers which ‘allowed the P.B.S. [Palestine Broadcasting Service] to go off the air for several days’
Arrangement: In original order

Box 2

2/4 Progress Report
TS Progress report entitled ‘Developments in P.B.S. since institution of new Broadcasting Directorate in May 1945’
Not dated 1945 3 sheets

2/5 Correspondence relating to programming and press articles
2/5/1 Newspaper ‘Forum Jerusalem Radio’ with an article ‘Palestine Broadcasting Grows Up’ by Rex Keating 16 Nov 1945 1 booklet
2/5/2 Magazine Radio Week 1 Mar 1946 1 booklet
2/5/3 Magazine Radio Week 22 Aug 1947 1 booklet
2/5/4 Letter from Powell (Functional Officer, British Council in Iraq) to Rex Keating relating to the Palestine Broadcasting Service Second Programme 21 Nov 1947 1 sheet
2/5/5 Letter from Alan Crawford to Assistant Director of Broadcasting Jerusalem [Rex Keating] relating to the Palestine Broadcasting Service Second Programme 12 Jan 1948 1 sheet
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2/5/6</td>
<td>Brochure of the ‘P.B.S. Second Programme’ of ‘cultural broadcasts in English’ covering August, September and October</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/5/7</td>
<td>Brochure of the ‘P.B.S. Second Programme’ of ‘cultural broadcasts in English’ covering January, February and March</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/5/8</td>
<td>Envelope addressed in Hebrew, to the Palestine Broadcasting Service, Radio with a Hebrew newspaper clipping and a TS English translation of this entitled ‘The views of a British Journalist on the military organisations and arms among the Jews and Arabs in Palestine’ The journalist was News of the World reporter Richard Windham. Language: In Hebrew</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/5/9</td>
<td>Printed bi-monthly magazine <em>The Near East</em> published by the Near East Arabic Broadcast Magazine. Language: In Arabic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/6</td>
<td>Scripts for broadcasts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/6/1</td>
<td>TS script for a broadcast ‘The First Ten Years’ by Rex Keating commemorating the tenth anniversary of broadcasting in Palestine.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/6/2</td>
<td>TS script for a broadcast comedy ‘Ten Thousand Years of Broadcasting’ by Edwin Samuel written ‘in honour of the tenth anniversary of the P.B.S.’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/6/3</td>
<td>TS script for a broadcast ‘Between Ourselves’ by Rex Keating discussing planned programmes. Some rodent damage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/6/4</td>
<td>TS script for ‘A 4 minute talk on behalf of the Arabs by Dr. I.B. George broadcast from Jerusalem and relayed to the American public over the combined net-work of the American Broadcasting Stations on Saturday 13th May 1948’ entitled ‘Prospects of peace in the Holy Land after...&quot;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
the termination of the Mandate’

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2/6/5</td>
<td>Fragment of a TS Commentary by Rex Keating entitled ‘Palestine Police’ which was a recruitment film for the police.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/6/6</td>
<td>TS fragment ‘The Secret People A Talk by Rex Keating’ with a note ‘broadcast at the request of the High Commissioner’</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2/7 Correspondence

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2/7/1</td>
<td>Correspondence about the ordering of new recording equipment and Rex Keating’s arrival in Palestine May - June 1945</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/7/2</td>
<td>Letter of recommendation for Rex Keating from the Palestine Government Agent in Egypt to the Chief Officer of Customs 14 July 1945</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/7/3</td>
<td>Letter to Nebi from Rex Keating relating to interviews for new posts 18 Sept 1946</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/7/4</td>
<td>Letter to Regional Petroleum Officer from Rex Keating relating to a request for a greater petrol ration 18 Sept 1946</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/7/5</td>
<td>Letter from ?Shaw to Keating sending his thanks for congratulations sent by Keating on ?Shaw’s Honour 18 Jun 1946</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/7/6</td>
<td>Letter from W.H.M. Hindle to R Keating relating to recordings needed to continue the English service 29 Nov 1947</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/7/7</td>
<td>Letter from Rex Keating to the Director [of Broadcasting] relating to the sale of Keating’s car 23 Feb 1948</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/7/8</td>
<td>Letter from Rex Keating to E. Guest relating to assistance given to Azmi Bey Nashashibi for material for the Arabic Service 16 Mar 1948</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/7/9</td>
<td>Letter from Evan Guest to Keating re Azmi Bey Nashashibi’s visit to Cairo 25 Mar 1948</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/7/10</td>
<td>Envelope labelled ‘Memo from Nebi Confidential’ 17 Apr 1948</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
containing a copy of a letter from Edwin Samuel to Azmi [Nashashibi] 16 April 1948; letter from ?Nebi to Rex [Keating]

2/7/11 Copy of letter to Nebi [from Rex Keating] relating to his escape with light injuries from a bombing 13 [Mar] 1948 1 sheet

2/8 Drawing of Chief Censor
Pencil drawing labelled ‘Gray – H Chief Censor Palestine’ Not dated 1 sheet

2/9 Reference material probably used in the course of business
Printed booklet ‘Palestine Telephone Directory Jerusalem and Southern Palestine’ Apr 1944 1 booklet
Printed booklet, ‘The Palestine Police Calendar of Events’ 1946 1 booklet

2/10 End of Mandate

2/10/1 File labelled ‘Evacuation Instructions’ Circulars and notices to employees of the British Administration relating to evacuation at the end of the mandate. Arrangement: In original order

2/10/2 Circulars relating to Compensation payable at the end of the mandate 1948
2/10/2/1 Staff Circular No. 2/48 Compensation payable to Government Officers and Employees on the termination of the Mandate 28 Feb 1948 1 item
2/10/2/2 Staff Circular No. 2/48 Compensation payable to Government Officers and Employees on the termination of the Mandate 28 Feb 1948 1 item
2/10/2/3 Staff Circular No. 2/48 Compensation payable to Government Officers and Employees on the termination of the Mandate 28 Feb 1948 1 item
2/10/2/4 Accountant-General’s Circular No. 14/48 Compensation payable to Government Officers and employees on the 22 Mar 1948 1 item
termination of the Mandate

2/10/3 ‘Export Entry – General’ Form detailing goods to be exported by Mr R Keating 20 Apr 1948 1 sheet

2/10/4 Rex Keating’s Leave and Last Pay Certificate 1948 2 sheets

2/10/5 Two copies of a TS ‘Inventory of Palestine Government Property in Zone “A” Studios’ listing equipment and files 24 Apr 1948 6 sheets

3 Palestine Civil Service (First Division) Association and the re-grading of salaries

3/1 File labelled ‘First Division Association’ consisting of minutes of meetings of the Palestine Civil Service (1st Division) Association, 1946-1947 and a ‘Cash Account for Calendar Year 1947’ for the Palestine Civil Service (1st Division) Association 1946-1947 24 sheets

3/2 File ‘Compensation Payable to Officers (Mills’ Report)’ consisting of correspondence relating to Rex Keating’s eligibility for the re-grading of his salary according to the Mills’ Report and including the printed ‘Report on Revision of Salaries of the First Division by E. Mills, 1947 and Staff Circular No. 31 Revision of Salaries of officers of the First Division of the Public Service of Palestine, 6 Nov 1947 1947 16 sheets; 2 booklets

4 Social Life

4/2 Menu of dinner from ‘Visit of the Provost Marshal, M.E.L.F. COL. D. W. L. Melville...to Palestine’

4/3 Printed Notice announcing opening of new Branch offices of the Automobile Club & Touring Association of Palestine

5 Memorandum on Administration of Palestine

Printed pamphlet ‘Memorandum on the Administration of Palestine under the Mandate’ by the Government of Palestine

6 UNRWA

Printed booklet ‘United Nations Aid to Arab Refugees from Palestine’