Reference code: GB165-0545

Title: Sir Wilfred Thesiger Collection

Name of creator: Thesiger, Sir Wilfred Patrick (1910-2003), Knight, Diplomat, Author and Traveller

Dates of creation of material: c1954

Level of description: Fonds

Extent: 27 magic lantern slides

Biographical history: Thesiger, Sir Wilfred Patrick (1910-2003), Knight, Diplomat, Author and Traveller.


Scope and content: 27 magic lantern slides of the Marsh Arabs in southern Iraq, c1954. The slides depict ethnological scenes of the Marsh Arabs’ communal life such as fishing, hunting, communal gatherings, landscape panoramic views and portraits. All of the slides are labelled ‘Royal Central Asian Society’ and the original packaging was labelled ‘?1954. Marsh Arabs W. Thesiger’.

Access conditions: Open

Language of material: English

Conditions governing reproduction: There are no special restrictions on copying other than statutory regulations (UK Copyright law). The literary executor of Sir Wilfred Thesiger is Alexander Maitland and the Pitt Rivers Museum holds the main Wilfred Thesiger Photographic Collection. Any enquiries with regard to copying or publishing...
Wilfred Thesiger photographs should be directed to the Curator of Photograph and Manuscript Collections at the Pitt Rivers Museum.

**Immediate source of acquisition:** Transferred to Middle East Centre Archive from St. Antony’s College Library in February 1982

**Related Units of Description:**

**In MEC Archive**
- GB165-0229 St John Philby Collection: Correspondence relating Wilfred Thesiger including letters from Philby to Mrs Astley (Thesiger’s mother) reassuring her as to Thesiger’s safety.

**In Other Repositories**
- In Pitt Rivers Museum (Archon Code: GB485) Collection of 38,000 negatives and 71 personal albums. Over 1300 images are accessible online via the Pitt Rivers Museum web page

**Finding aids:** Handlist

**Publication note:**
- Thesiger, Wilfred *Arabian Sands* (Longmans, Green, 1959) ISBN 0002170051 (pbk.)
- Thesiger, Wilfred *The Marsh Arabs* (Longmans, 1964) ISBN 0141442085 (pbk.)
• Thesiger, Wilfred Crossing the Sands (Dubai; London: Motivate, 1999) ISBN 1860630286 (pbk.)

ITEM LEVEL DESCRIPTION OF THE WILFRED THESIGER COLLECTION

A  Map of Iraq showing Muntafiq, Amara, Nasariya and Basra showing areas with permanent water, seasonal floods, permanent marsh and seasonal marsh
1  Reed house and boat in marshlands
2  Portrait of a man
3  Portrait of an elderly man
4  Portrait of a man
5  Portrait of a young boy
6  Family with cattle near a river and reed houses
7  Cattle in marshlands and reed houses
8  Small boats in marshlands
9  Reed houses in marshlands
10 Family inside reed house with cattle in marshlands
11 Reed houses in marshlands
12 Reed house structure
13 Gathering of men inside reed house
14 Men outside reed building
15 Small boats in marshlands
16 Group of men in a boat
17 A man standing up rowing in a small boat
18 Two men rowing in a boat
19 Elderly man and young boy fishing
20 Group of men fishing
21 Some boats of fishermen in marshlands
22 Naked man rowing
23 Portrait of an old woman
24 Portrait of an armed young man
25 Two men rowing in a boat
26 Hunter with a dead wild boar