

**Reference code:** GB165-0011

**Title:** George Antonius Collection

**Name of creator:** Antonius, George Habib (1891-1942)

**Dates of creation of material:** 1930-1939

**Level of description:** Fonds

**Extent:** 128 sheets

**Biographical history:** Antonius, George Habib (1891-1942)

George Habib Antonius was a Palestinian Christian, historian and publicist. He was born on 19 Oct 1891 in Dair al-Qamar in Lebanon. Educated at Victoria College, Alexandria 1902-1910. Studied mechanical engineering at King's College, Cambridge 1910-1913. In 1914 joined public works department of the Egyptian Government and at the start of the First World War he joined the political intelligence department in Cairo as a press censor. In 1919 served as translator for Feisal ibn Hussein's delegation to the Paris Peace Conference. In Jul 1921 he joined education department of the Palestine administration. He became a Palestinian citizen in 1925. In Sept 1925 he served as a translator with Clayton in a mission to settle border disputes in Arabia, and he served on two subsequent missions in 1926 and 1928. In Aug 1927 he was transferred from the Palestine education department to assistant secretary for Arab affairs. He returned to the education department in Oct 1929 as assistant director of education. He resigned from this in May 1930. He then worked as a writer, in particular as the Middle East representative for the Institute of Current World Affairs. He witnessed the Arab Revolt (1936-1939) and testified to the Palestine Royal Commission (Peel Commission) in 1936. He was chosen to head the Palestinian delegation to the London, Palestine Round Table Conference in 1939. As an author his most famous work was *The Arab Awakening* published in 1938, which examined the birth of Arab nationalism. Married Katy Nimr in 1927; 1 daughter. George Antonius died on 21 May 1942.

**Scope and content:** Reports and letters when Senior Associate in the Middle East of the Institute of Current World Affairs, on Palestine, Lebanon, Egypt, Syria and Iraq 1930-39, including notes on the case of Taha Hussein, 1932, and on Saiyid Jamal ad-Din al-Afghani and Shaikh Muhammad 'Abduh.

**Access conditions:** Open

**Language of material:** English

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

**Custodial history:** In the possession of George Antonius

**Immediate source of acquisition:** Received prior to 1979

**Finding aids:** In Guide; Handlist

**Archivist's note:** Fonds level description created by Clare Brown 10 Jun 1998 and revised by Debbie Usher 9 Aug 2004 and 6 Dec 2012. Biographical history based on information in the Oxford Dictionary of National Biography entry for George Habib Antonius.