

**Reference code:** GB165-0228

**Title:** Stewart Perowne Collection

**Name of creator:** Perowne, Stewart Henry (1901-1989) orientalist and historian

**Dates of creation of material:** 1913-1947; 1959; 1971

**Level of description:** Fonds

**Extent:** 5 boxes

**Biographical history:** PEROWNE, Stewart Henry (1901-89)

Born 17 June 1901, son of the Rt. Revd. Arthur Perowne, Bishop of Worcester, and Helena Perowne (née Oldnall-Russell). Educated Haileybury College and Corpus Christi College, Cambridge. In 1927 joined Palestine Government Education Service; Administrative Service, 1930; Press Officer, 1931; Asst. District Commissioner, Galilee, 1934; Asst. Secretary Malta, 1934; Political Office, Aden Protectorate, 1937; recovered inscriptions and sculpture from Imadia and Beihan; Arabic Programme Organiser for the BBC, 1938; Information Officer, Aden, 1939; Public Relations Attaché, British Embassy, Baghdad, 1941; Oriental Counsellor, 1944; OBE 1944; Colonial Secretary, Barbados during 1947-1951; seconded as Principal Adviser (Interior), Cyrenaica, 1950-1951; retired 1951; Adviser, UK delegation to UN Assembly, Paris, November 1951; assistant to the Bishop in Jerusalem for refugee work, 1952, including design of refugee model villages; KstJ 1956; Member, Church of England Foreign Relations Council. Married, 1947, Freya Stark (marriage dissolved 1952): no children. Died 10 May 1989.

**Scope and content:** Personal letters to his family from school, university and throughout his career including material on Palestine and Iraq, 1813-47; Iraq correspondence, 1942-57, including letters from King Faisal II; general correspondence, 1937-71, including some on Middle Eastern subjects; texts of broadcasts, lectures and articles; misc. personal papers. Silver cup presented by staff at Arab College, Jerusalem. Photographic Collection.

**System of arrangement:**

Boxes 1-3	Family correspondence 1913-1947
Box 4	Iraq correspondence 1942-1957
Box 5	Correspondence 1939-1971
	Broadcasts lectures and articles 1929-1949
	Miscellanea 1918-1953

**Access conditions:** Open

**Language of material:** English

**Conditions governing reproduction:** No restrictions on photocopying or quotation other than statutory regulations

**Custodial history:** In the possession of Stewart Perowne and his family

**Immediate source of acquisition:** Received from Stewart Perowne, 1966 with small additions in 1968, 1971 and 1982

**Related Units of Description:**

**In MEC Archive**

GB165-0188 Sir Harry Luke Collection: Contains some additional Perowne correspondence

Freya Stark Photographic Collection: (Freya Stark was married to Stewart Perowne)

**Finding aids:** In Guide; Handlist

**Archivist's note:** Fonds level description created by C. Brown 2 July 1999 and revised by D. Usher 23 October 2003. File level description created by C. Brown 13 July 2000 and revised by D. Usher 31 May 2007

**FILE LEVEL DESCRIPTION OF THE STEWART PEROWNE COLLECTION**

**Boxes 1-3      Family correspondence 1913-1947**

**Box 1**

1/1	MS letters to his parents from prep school, Haileybury and Cambridge.	1913-1922	77 sheets
1/2	MS and TS letters to his father from Harvard University	1923-1924	85 sheets
1/3	MS letters to his father and step-mother (Mabel) from Jerusalem, Beirut and Ba'akleen	1925-1926	102 sheets
1/4	MS and TS letters to his father and step-mother from Jerusalem	1927-1928	106 sheets

**Box 2**

2/1	MS and TS letters to his father and step-mother from Tiberias and Jerusalem	1929	96 sheets
2/2	MS letters to his father and step-mother from Jaffa, Jerusalem and Nazareth	1930	77 sheets
2/3	MS letters to his father and step-mother from Jerusalem	1931	26 sheets
2/4	MS letters to his father and step-mother from Jerusalem	1932	69 sheets
2/5	MS letters to his father and step-mother, with one to Uncle Con, from Jerusalem and Haifa	1933	65 sheets
2/6	MS letters to his father and step-mother from Nablus, Jerusalem, Nazareth, Haifa and Malta, with a letter from his brother Francis from Parana	1934	25 sheets
2/7	MS letters to his father and step-mother from Malta	1935	53 sheets

**Box 3**

3/1	MS letters to his father and step-mother from Malta, with a gap between June and September when he was on leave in England	1936	40 sheets
3/2	MS letters to his father and step-mother from Malta and Aden, with one letter from his father	1937	90 sheets

3/3	MS letters to his father and step-mother from Aden, before going home on leave	Jan-May 1938	28 sheets
3/4	MS letters to his father and step-mother from England, while on leave, and Aden	1939	39 sheets
3/5	MS and TS letters to his father and step-mother from Aden, with one to the Perownes from "Hugh".	1940	32 sheets
	TS letters to his father and step-mother from Aden and Baghdad, including two to L.F. Rushbrook Williams copied for the Perownes	1941	25 sheets
3/7	TS and MS letters to his father and step-mother from Baghdad, Cairo, Beirut and Mosul, with one to his godfather	1942	39 sheets
	MS and TS letters to his father and step-mother from Baghdad, with two from Jerusalem, and including one from his cousin the Revd. Christopher Perowne and one from Lt.-Col. Sir Bernard Reilly	1943	43 sheets
3/8			
3/9	MS and TS letters to his father and step-mother from Baghdad, including one from Lord Wavell	1944	55 sheets
3/10	MS letters to his father and step-mother from Baghdad, with two from Jerusalem, part of a letter to his godfather, and including one from Sir Kinahan Cornwallis	1945	45 sheets
3/11	MS letters to his father and step-mother from Baghdad, with one from Beirut and one from Jerusalem	1946-April 1947	26 sheets

**Box 4**

**Iraq correspondence 1942-1947; 1949; 1951; 1953; 1957**

4/1	Correspondence with friends and colleagues including: Sir Harry Luke, G. F.A. Burgess, Monsignor Ronald Knox, Hon. Steven Runciman, Lt.-Col. Sir Bernard Reilly, Everard Gates, Elizabeth Monroe, Major-General James Renton, Helen Oxley, L.F. Rushbrook Williams, Beresford Clark, Hugh Foot, S. H. Hillelson, Donald Mallett,	Jan-June 1942	157 sheets
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Christopher Holme, Arthur Bentinck, Evan Guest, A. Wazir, Viscountess Astor, A.M. Hyamson, Freya Stark, A.J. Beamish, Azma Izzeddin, Dr. H.F. El-Khalidi, and Leslie Perowne

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|-----|---|--|------------|
| 4/2 | Correspondence with friends and colleagues including: Viscountess Astor, Lucie Beamish, Najib Izzeddin, Arthur Bentinck, L.F. Rushbrook Williams, A.M. Hyamson, Evan Guest, Lady Spens, Sir Harry Luke, Abbas Helmy, Prof. L.A. Mayer, Victor Perowne, John MacCurdy, Christopher Eastwood, A.S. Khalidi, Sir John Hathorn Hall, Hon. Steven Runciman, General Wavell, Dr. L.R. Lempriere, and Lady Louis Mountbatten, with papers relating to Inayatulla Shah's service in the Aden Police Force | July-Dec<br>1942                                       | 212 sheets |
| 4/3 | Correspondence with friends and colleagues including: A.C. Mann (about William IV and the Order of the Golden Fleece), Victor Perowne, Prof. L.A. Mayer, Elizabeth Monroe, Freya Stark, Hon. Steven Runciman, F.M. Earl Wavell, Lord and Lady Louis Mountbatten, Sir Arthur Dawe, and Lady Stonehewer-Bird  | 1944;<br>1946-1947                                     | 35 sheets  |
| 4/4 | Letters from King Faisal II of Iraq, the Regent Abdulillah, and Nuri As-Said, with a cutting from <i>The New York Times</i> about the King's upbringing and education   | 1942-1943;<br>1947;<br>1949;<br>1951;<br>1953;<br>1957 | 22 sheets  |

**Box 5**

**Correspondence 1937-1971**

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|-----|--|--------------------|-----------|
| 5/1 | Letters from Lady Bonham Carter and A.J. Dawe; letters to L.F. Rushbrook Williams; letters from General Sir Charles Bonham-Carter, Sir Harry Luke and L.F. Rushbrook Williams to Stewart Perowne's father with a copy of his cable on the capture of Berbera, March 1941 | 1937;<br>1940-1941 | 30 sheets |
| 5/2 | Letters from friends and colleagues including: Earl and  | 1947-1955;         | 83 sheets |

Countess Mountbatten of Burma, A.S. Khalidi, Major- 1959;  
General James Renton, Bertram Thomas, Sir Bernard 1961-1962;  
Reilly, Viscountess Astor, Cecil Beaton, Cecilia Milne (?), 1966-1967;  
Sir Kinahan Cornwallis, F.M. Earl Wavell, Robert Mason, 1969;  
Jerome Farrell, A.M. Hyamson, G.F.A. Burgess, Wilfrid 1971  
Kirkpatrick, Catherine Hoskyns, Mohammed Fadhal  
Jamali, Hon. Harold Nicolson, Adlai Stevenson, Edmund  
Wilson, Lady Storrs, Norman Bentwich, Group-Capt.  
J.H.O. Jones (about T.E. Lawrence), Peter [Parr], King  
Hussein of Jordan, Elizabeth Monroe, Rawdon Spinney  
and Lady Cornwallis

**Broadcasts, lectures and articles 1929-1949**

5/3 Texts of broadcasts, lectures and articles by Stewart 1929-1949 93 sheets  
Perowne on the following subjects: climbing Mount  
Hermon; police problems in London and Palestine; the  
opening of Haifa Harbour; note on I Kings, Chapter X and  
the Book of Job; The Arabs Friends' - Who are they?;  
report on a visit to Eritrea; the Red Sea; Aden at war;  
Eritrea; life in Baghdad; England; contemporary poetry (at  
the London Library)

**Miscellanea 1918-1953**

5/4 Stewart Perowne's horoscope cast in 1918; calendar of 1918; 16 sheets  
religious ceremonies in Palestine, Easter 1930; New Year 1930;  
greetings from Lord and Lady Wavell; presscuttings of 1949;  
Stewart Perowne as Acting Governor, Barbados; form of 1953  
service used in Jerusalem on the day of the Queen's  
Coronation