

**Reference code:** GB165-0034

**Title:** Humphrey Bowman Collection

**Name of creator:** Bowman, Humphrey Ernest (1879-1965) Director of Education  
Colonial Service

**Dates of creation of material:** 1903-1954

**Level of description:** Fonds

**Extent:** 8 boxes

**Biographical history:** Humphrey Ernest Bowman was born 26 July 1879 and educated at Eton and New College, Oxford. He served in the Egyptian Ministry of Education 1903-23, with a break for war service in France, India and Mesopotamia. From 1918-20 he was Director of Education, Iraq. In this capacity he accompanied the Arab Mission from Nejd and Kuwait to Britain in 1919. Between 1920 and 1936 he was Director of Education and a member of the Advisory Council, Palestine. Bowman was temporarily employed in the Ministry of Information in 1939 and was on special duty under the Foreign Office 1941-45. He died 23 March 1965.

**Scope and content:** Personal correspondence from Egypt, 1904-05; official correspondence and papers dealing with educational affairs in Iraq and Palestine, 1917-43; lectures and broadcasts on Middle Eastern subjects; diaries 1903-49 including Egypt 1903-11, Sudan 1911-14, Iraq 1918-20, Palestine 1921-37; personal letters, mostly from Sir Hugh Bell and Sir Ronald Storrs, 1910-54; appointment as Director of Education, Mesopotamia, 1917-20; offers of service in Egyptian Ministry of Education, 1919-20; secondment to Government of Palestine, 1920; correspondence 1922-25 with the Egyptian Government re. pension; Palestine Royal Commission on Education - miscellaneous papers; personal letters to parents; lectures and miscellanea about General Gordon; lectures and book reviews; testimonials, etc.; correspondence with High Commissioner, Palestine, 1934-36; correspondence re. retirement, 1937. Photographic collection.

**System of arrangement:** Personal correspondence; official correspondence; lectures & broadcasts; diaries

**Access conditions:** Open

**Language of material:** English, some Arabic

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

**Custodial history:** In the possession of Humphrey Bowman

**Immediate source of acquisition:** Bequeathed by Humphrey Bowman to St. Antony's College. Received through Gard, Lyell, Bridgman & Co., April/May 1965.

**Finding aids:** In Guide; Handlist

**Archivist's note:** Fonds level description created by C. Brown 9 June 1998 and revised by D. Usher 23 March 2004.

**FILE AND ITEM LEVEL DESCRIPTION OF THE HUMPHREY BOWMAN  
COLLECTION**

**Personal Correspondence 1904 – 1905**

**Box 1**

- 1/1 Correspondence from Bowman to his parents from Alexandria and Cairo 1904-1905
- 1/2 Correspondence from Sir Ronald Storrs and Sir Hugh Bell (includes a copy of a letter from TE Lawrence to Hugh Bell 1927) 1910-1954

**Official Correspondence and Papers 1917-1943**

- 1/3 (a) Correspondence, telegrams, memos etc from Bowman, Sir Reginald Wingate, Sir Percy Cox, Sir Ronald Storrs, the Egyptian Ministry of Education and the War Office re: Bowman's possible secondment for educational service in Mesopotamia Aug – Dec 1917
- (b) Correspondence, telegrams, memos etc. from same re: the appointment of Bowman as Director of Education in Mesopotamia (Material in Arabic on the Iraqi revolt of 1919) Jan – Dec 1918
- 1/4 (a) Correspondence, telegrams, memos etc. re: Bowman's appointment as Director of Education, Mesopotamia Jan – Dec 1919
- (b) Correspondence, telegrams, memos etc from same re: the possibility of Bowman's remaining in Mesopotamia, or of returning to Cairo as a Senior Inspector in the Education department Jan – Aug 1920
- 1/5 Correspondence from Bowman, Ministry of Education, Cairo, Controller of War Accounts, Baghdad and the Government of Palestine re: Bowman's secondment to the latter Sept – Nov 1920
- 1/6 Correspondence between Bowman, the National Bank of Egypt and the Ministry of Finance, Cairo re: Bowman's pension from the Egyptian Government Oct 1922- May 1925

Box 2

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|-----|--|-------------|
| 2/1 | Correspondence, testimonials etc re: Bowman's applications for:  | 1923-1929   |
|     | (1) the post of Educational Officer to the L.C.C. (H. Samuel, Sir J Currie and G Bell) Aug 1923  |             |
|     | (2) the possible post of Joint Secretary to the Permanent Advisory Committee on Education (Ormsby-Gore) 1927-1929  |             |
| 2/2 | (a) 'A review of Educational policy in Palestine during the period 1920-1932' (paper presumably written by Bowman c 1932)  | c1932       |
|     | (b) Draft and official copies of 'Description of the educational systems Government, Jewish, and Private and the method of allocation of Government grants' – a memo prepared by the Government of Palestine for the Royal Commission.   | 1936        |
|     | (c) Palestine Royal Commission – notes of the evidence taken from Bowman on 27 November 1936   | 1936        |
|     | (d) Advisory Committee on Education in the Colonies – Palestine Sub-Committee. Chapter VI – being a report on the proposed improvements in the educational Service in Palestine – C.W.M. Cox 27 January 1942 and Summary of memorandum on expenditure on Palestine estimates – TR Rowell | 1942-1943   |
| 2/3 | (a) Correspondence with the High Commissioner, Palestine (includes detailed memo of June 1936 on the urgent need for a Royal Commission)   | 1934-1937   |
|     | (b) Letter from I Khalidi describing the recent Arab demonstrations in the Taiyiba Tulkarum area and appealing to Bowman to intercede with the Government in order to avert further bloodshed  | 26 May 1936 |
|     | (c) Correspondence from M Rosenberg describing conditions in Tel Aviv  | 1938-1940   |
| 2/4 | Volume presented to Bowman on his retirement, by the Department of Education, Palestine 'as a token of esteem and in recognition of his services to education in Palestine' (contains the signatures of all members of the department both in Jerusalem and the provinces)               | 1936        |

**Lectures, Essays and Broadcasts**

- 2/5 Lecture and material on General Gordon
- 2/6 (a) Ihsan Hashim. Thesis entitled 'The Standing Walls of 1930  
Jerusalem'
- (b) Bowman. Article entitled 'Rural education in the Near and July 1939  
Middle East' Reprinted from *The Journal of the Royal Central  
Asian Society* Vol XXVI
- (c) H Bowman. Transcript of a talk given on the BBC about 1939  
Palestine
- (d) H Bowman. Transcript of a talk given on the BBC about Iraq 1942
- (e) H Bowman. Paper entitled 'Arab Unity' June 1943
- (f) H Bowman. Transcript of a broadcast entitled 'Memories of 3 Oct 1943  
Iraq'
- (g) H Bowman. Transcript of a lecture entitled 'Modern Palestine' 26 Mar 1944  
given to the Royal Asian Society
- (h) H Bowman. Paper entitled 'Jews and Arabs and the Palestine 9 May 1944  
White Paper'
- (i) H Bowman. Review of H B Allen 'Rural Education and 18 Nov 1946  
Welfare in the Middle East'
- (j) GB Jeffry. First lecture in a series on 'Education for 15 Nov 1948  
international understanding'  
H Bowman 'Education for international understanding – the 22 Nov 1948  
Moslem World'
- Correspondence between Bowman and Jeffry re: the above Aug-Dec 1948  
lectures
- (k) Collection of reviews of books on Palestine (includes Sir R  
Storrs *Orientations*)

**Diaries**

**Box 3A**

- 3A (a) Diary Sept 1903 – Dec 1904
- (b) Diary Sept 1905 – Mar 1910

- (c) Diary Nov 1910 – Dec 1913
- (d) Diary Aug 1914 – Apr 1918

Box 3B

- 3B (e) Diary Apr 1918 – Aug 1919
- (f) Diary Aug 1919 – Dec 1920
- (g) Diary Jan 1921 – Mar 1924
- (h) Diary Aug 1924 – Oct 1926

Box 4A

- 4A (a) Diary Oct 1926 – May 1929
- (b) Diary May 1929 – Dec 1930
- (c) Diary Jan 1931 – Dec 1931

Box 4B

- 4B (d) Diary Jan 1932 – Dec 1933
- (e) Diary Jan 1934 – May 1935
- (f) Diary June 1935 – Oct 1936
- (g) Diary Oct 1936 – 1937

Box 5

- 5 (a) Diary June 1937 – Apr 1938
- (b) Diary Apr 1938 – Dec 1938
- (c) Diary Jan 1939 – June 1940
- (d) Diary June 1940 – Nov 1943
- (e) Diary Nov 1943 – Apr 1949