

Reference code: GB 165-0270

Title: Benjamin Stainton Collection

Name of creator: Stainton, Benjamin (1856-1927)

Dates of creation of material: 1884-1931

Level of description: Fonds

Extent: 1 folder

Biographical history: Mr Benjamin W. Stainton (1856-1927) was born at Barton near Hull and served with the Indo-European Telegraph Dept. in Iran for over 30 years (1881-1912). His two children, both daughters, were born in Shiraz in 1882 and 1884; the younger married Richards at the British Legation, Tehran in 1903. While in Iran he started work on a Persian-English dictionary and also, it seems from his papers, grammar but neither project ever saw the light of day. After returning to England on retirement in 1912 or 1913 he was sent to Bushire in 1915 by H.M.G. where, according to Peter Richards, he was to help thwart the activities of Wassmuss, “the German Lawrence.”

Scope and content: Two letters from General Schindler to Stainton 1907, 1912; baptismal certificate for Elsie Stainton 1884, notes made for Stainton’s dictionary and grammar and articles and press cuttings covering the Anglo-Russian Accord of 1907, the Anglo-Russian Agreement of 1916, the Anglo-Persian Oil Company, the Indo-European Telegraph and some travel accounts.

Access conditions: Open

Language of material: English

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

Immediate source of acquisition: Received from Mr P.C. Richards in 1983

Related Units of Description:

In MEC Archive

GB165-0241 Herbert Richards Collection

GB165-0242 Peter Richards Collection

Finding aids: In Guide; Handlist

Archivist's note: Biographical details were supplied by Sir Denis Wright. Fonds level description created by C Brown 8 Oct 1999 and revised by D. Usher 26 May 2006 and 29 June 2006

**SERIES AND ITEM LEVEL DESCRIPTION OF THE BENJAMIN STAINTON
COLLECTION**

1. Baptismal certificate of Elsie Stainton, Shiraz, 23rd November, 1884.
2. Two letters from General A. Houtum Schindler to B.W. Stainton, 1907 and 1912.
3. Various Ms notes for B.W. Stainton's dictionary/grammar.
4. Series of articles on Iran by B.W. Stainton, published in "The Financier", 1912-1913; these show him as being a strong supporter of the much criticised Anglo-Russian Accord of 1907, and an advocate of establishing a British military force in South Persia to combat the growing disorder there.
5. Series of press cuttings from British newspapers relating to: the Anglo-Persian Oil Company, 1914; Persia and the Anglo-Russian Agreement, 1916; the end of British Control of the Indo-European Telegraph, 1931.
6. Off-prints of a series of articles from the "Scottish Geographical Magazine" by Lt. -Col. A.C. Yates entitled "Travel Memoirs", 1916-1920, and "Baku and the Caspian", 1920. (15 booklets)
7. Two dinner menus ('Shah's dinner Tehran 1901' and 'Shah's Dinner Tehran 1902')