

**Reference code:** GB165-0275

**Title:** Sir Mark Sykes Collection

**Name of creator:** Sykes, Sir Mark, 6<sup>th</sup> Baronet (1879-1919)

**Dates of creation of material:** 1915-1919

**Level of description:** Fonds

**Extent:** 2 boxes

**Biographical history:** Sykes, Sir Mark, 6th Baronet (1879-1919)

Born 16 March 1879, only son of Sir Tatton Sykes, 5th Bt. and Lady Sykes (née Jessica Cavendish-Bentinck). Educated Beaumont; École des Jésuites, Monaco; Institut St. Louis, Brussels; Jesus College, Cambridge. Served South Africa, 1902; Hon. Captain in the Army, 1902; Captain 3rd Battalion Yorkshire Regt., 1908; Lt-Col 1911; Member North Riding Territorial Force Association; County Councillor East Riding Yorks; contested Buckrose division of East Riding, Jan & Dec. 1910; MP (Unionist) Central Hull 1911; traveller and diplomat in the Middle East. Married, 1903, Edith Gorst: 3 sons; 3 daughters. Died 16 February 1919.

**Scope and content:** Photocopies and microfilms of documents 1-130 from Section 11 of the Sledmere Papers, including material on the Arab Revolt, 1915-16, the Sykes-Picot Agreement, 1916-17, the liberation of Baghdad 1917, agreements on Asia Minor, Zionism and Palestine settlements, 1917-19.

**System of arrangement:** Chronological

**Access conditions:** Open

**Language of material:** English, French

**Physical Condition:** Some fading on the photocopies

**Conditions governing reproduction:** Copies can be made for private study and non-commercial research; permission to quote from the Sledmere Papers should be sought from Sir Tatton Sykes.

**Custodial History:** In the possession of Sir Mark Sykes and the Sykes family

**Immediate source of acquisition:** Copies deposited with the agreement of Sir Richard Sykes, 7th Baronet, May 1963

**Location of originals:** Brynmor Jones Library, University of Hull, Cottingham Road, Hull  
HU6 7RX

**Finding aids:** In Guide; Handlist

**Related Units of Description:**

**In Other Repositories**

- Hull University, Brynmor Jones Library Correspondence and papers 1882-1919.  
Reference: DDSY. NRA 12356 Sykes
- Cambridge University Library, Department of Manuscripts and University Archives Correspondence with Lord Hardinge 1915-1916. Reference: Hardinge.  
NRA 3853 Hardinge
- Somerset Archive and Record Service Correspondence with Aubrey Herbert 1913-1919. Reference DD/HER 1-92. NRA 28627 Herbert.
- National Archives of Scotland Correspondence with Philip Kerr 1917-1919.  
Reference: GD40. NRA 10737 Kerr
- The National Archives: Public Record Office Misc correspondence 1918.  
Reference FO800. NRA 23627 Foreign Office

**Archivist's note:** Fonds level description created by C. Brown 20 January 2000 and revised by D. Usher 24 February 2004, 4 July 2007.

**ITEM LEVEL DESCRIPTION OF THE SIR MARK SYKES COLLECTION**

1915

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|----|--|--------------|
| 1  | Note by the India Office on Arabia   | 25 Apr 1915  |
| 2  | Arrangement concluded in 1914 between the Ottoman Government and the powers in regard to the administration of the Armenian vilayets   | 30 Apr 1915  |
| 3  | Note by Sir Mark Sykes on the proposed maintenance of a Turkish Empire in Asia without spheres of influence  | 3 May 1915   |
| 4  | Note on the Khalifate (by Lieutenant – Colonel Sir Mark Sykes)   | 25 May 1915  |
| 5  | Nos droits en Syrie et en Palestine par Etienne Flandin, Senateur (Extrait de la Revue Hebdomadaire publiée à Paris)   | 5 June 1915  |
| 6  | Memorandum by Sir Valentine Chirol (Enclosure in Sir Mark Sykes' despatch no 9 of July 7)  | 7 July 1915  |
| 7  | No 16 [?Sykes] pleads transfer coordination from Bombay to G.O.C. Egypt  | 23 July 1915 |
| 8  | Letter to 'My dear Bob' Lord R. Cecil (Private) on same subject  | 4 Oct 1915   |
| 9  | Memorandum on Indian Muslims   | 11 Oct 1915  |
| 10 | Letter from Sykes to D.M.O., London<br>Sykes sends at the same time a memo dated 28 Oct of his impressions received on various points as the result of his tour of the Eastern theatre   | 15 Nov 1915  |
| 11 | Letter from G.F. Clayton (Intelligence Department War Office, Cairo) to Sykes with the following annexes:<br>Clayton's letter to Parker dated 10 Dec 1915 with Clayton's view on Forward policy (now too late) and the Near Eastern Bureau<br>Clayton already started the nucleus of a Near Eastern office | 13 Dec 1915  |
| 12 | Evidence of Sykes on the Arab Question in a meeting of the War Committee   | 16 Dec 1915  |
| 13 | Notes of Sykes for id (or for his memo?)   | 16 Dec 1915  |

1916

14	Report by Sykes (Political)	5 June 1916
15	Id. (military)	13 June 1916
16	The Problem of the Near East by Sykes	20 June 1916
17	The Sheriff of Mecca and the Arab Movement	1 July 1916
18	Letter to Chamberlain	not dated
19	Evidence of Sykes on the political side of the Arab situation in a meeting of the War Committee Sykes pleads for: Stronger action in Egypt, independent from India and 'we should show ourselves as pro-Arabs'	6 July 1916
20	Draft telegram to Egypt re policy to be followed	? 6 July 1916
21	Set – up Arab Bulletin(?) by Colonel Davies, War Office	31 July 1916
22	Letter from Sykes(?) to D.M.O. (cooperation of Turkish-Arab soldiers in Syria will probably be important)	8 Aug 1916
23	Letter from Austin Chamberlain to Colonel Sir Mark Sykes including sharp answer by Sykes on Meston's pro-India preference	17 Aug 1916
24	Summary of the Arab Situation	30 Aug 1916
25	Copies of letters regarding Talib from India	15 Sept 1916
26	Sykes on the military – political assets of the Allies in the rebellious elements which at present exist in Syria	4 Oct 1916
27	Sykes to Lord Hardinge, Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs	15 Oct 1916
28	Memorandum by Sykes on the Ottoman Empire composed under the supervision of the India Office by request of the Prime Minister	25 Oct ?1915
29	Robertson on despatch of an expeditionary force to Rabegh (Robertson is against, Sykes is for)	13 Nov 1916
30	Correspondence re Talib, forwarded to Sykes by Kisch	13 Nov 1916
31	The condemnation of France in Tunis by an Arab sheikh	not dated

1917

32	<u>Copies of letters and telegrams sent from London to Egypt re Mission</u>	Jan-Mar 1917
	A. Sykes to D.M.O. re interview with Picot re political questions in connection with Spring offensive Sinai front	12 Jan 1917
	B. Sykes to Sir Reginald with instructions for preparation political	22 Feb 1917

	advance and instructions for Sir Reginald Wingate	
	C. Sykes to Georges Picot re interview with Sokolow and small maps	28 Feb 1917
	D. Sykes to Sir Reginald following up letter B	6 Mar 1917
	E. Sykes to General Lyndon Bell, Cairo	26 Mar 1917
	F. Sykes to Clayton with copy of letter E	26 Mar 1917
33	Correspondence re Egyptians in Switzerland	18 Jan 1917
34	Letter from Trumpeldor to Sykes	15 Feb 1917
35	Renseignements Généraux sur les Communautés Orientales non-musulmanes	27 Feb 1917
36	Military Bulletin re Arab operations near Wejh	not dated
37	Memorandum by Sykes on Mr Austin Chamberlain's Amendment of the Proposed Proclamation to the people of Baghdad	10 Mar 1917
38	Miscellaneous correspondence Feb-May 17 including letter (March 18) from Philip Graves (then in G.H.Q.) to Sykes	18 Mar 1917
39	Letter from Greenberg to Sykes with a report of Mr Lucien Wolf's address on the Jewish National Movement	21 Mar 1917
40	<u>Papers brought out from England (Instructions for Chief Political Officer etc.)</u>	April 1917
	A. Notes of a conference to consider the instructions to Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Mark Sykes, the Head of the political mission to the General Officer Commander-in-Chief, Egyptian Expeditionary Force	3 Apr 1917
	B. Correspondence of 1916 re Sykes-Picot Agreement	17 Apr 1917
	C. Status and Functions of Chief Political Officer and French Commissioner	
	D. Draft instructions to Chief Political Officer attached to General Officer Commanding, Egypt	17 Apr 1917
41	Telegrams from Sykes to Foreign Office	6 Apr – 31 May 1917
42	Private letters from Sykes	7 Apr – 13 May 1917
43	Letter from Hushky Welsh to Sykes re French claim to Palestine affair	17 Apr 1917
44	Letter from R. Graham to Sykes re French claim to Palestine affair	19 Apr 1917
45	Letter from Commander in Chief East Indies & Egypt	not dated

46	Dossier Sykes re Arab Legion	28 Apr 1917
47	Letter from Ormsby Gore to Sykes	8 May 1917
48	Report from (?) re visits to Mesopotamia	10 May 1917
49	Letter from J. de Salis (Rome) to 'My dear Drummond' re Sokolow's visit to Rome	11 May 1917
50	Statement of policy in regard to the Arab Question (by G.F. Clayton)	14 May 1917
51	Military report from Clayton re Feisal's plans and needs	29 May 1917
52	Observations (of Sykes?) on Arabian Policy as result of visit to Red Sea ports Jeddah, Yembo, Wejh, Kamaran and Aden with recommendations, document dated 17 May 1917	5 June 1917
53	Telegram from Wingate (Ramleh) re B. Sykes' 'Observations and Recommendations on Arabian Policy' (which he will show you). (see box 1 doc 44)	10 June 1917
54	Telegram from Wingate (Alexandria) re Arab Legion (no dual, Anglo-French, control)	10 June 1917
55	Report from Ormsby Gore on his interview with Malcolm and Weizmann re peace with Turkey	10 June 1917
56	Report from Sykes on the Arab Situation (Arab Legion under Anglo-French auspices)	17 June 1917
57	Letter from Foreign Office to Sykes	27 June 1917
58	Copy of letter from Horace Rumbold (Berne) and enclosure	30 June 1917
59	Proposals for an Offensive for the purpose of breaking the Baghdad Railway and the Palestine Railway	2-3 July 1917
60	Official account of conference Italian Ambassador with Lord Robert Cecil re Italy's aspirations in Asia Minor	3 July 1917
61	Telegram from Wingate re extension zone B and therefore alteration of Sykes- Picot agreement	3 July 1917
62	Memo by Roy Glen on British policy in the Near East	6 July 1917
63	Military Report from Clayton re Feisal's plans i.e. in the direction of Tadmor (French zone of influence)	10 July 1917
64	Observations by Sykes on negative comment by consul-general in Tripoli (North Africa) re Arab revival (cultural)	11 July 1917
65	Military Report from Clayton re report from Lawrence on his recent	15 July 1917

- journey in Eastern Syria
- 66 Memorandum by Sir Mark Sykes on Mr Nicholson's Note regarding our Commitments 18 July 1917
- 67 Letter from French (?) to Sykes re Parodi 20 July 1917
- 68 Letter from Sykes to Sir Eric Drummond re Postponement of Decision re Arab Legion to Paris Conference 20 July 1917
- 69 Letter from Sykes to Clayton re General Situation 22 July 1917
- 70 Letter from Sykes to Clayton re Arab – Jewish – Armenian combination 22 July 1917
- 71 Letter from Sykes to Lord Robert Cecil re Mallet's Memo on separate peace with Turkey 29 July 1917
- 72 Note by (?) (an official on official paper) on separate peace with Turkey ?end July 1917
- 73 Mesopotamia Administration Committee 30 July 1917  
Memo by Suleiman Bey Nasif referred to in General Clayton's letter of July 30<sup>th</sup> 1917
- 74 Letter from Albina to Sykes enclosed in General Clayton's letter of July 30<sup>th</sup> 1917 31 July 1917
- 75 Memorandum by Sykes on the Asia-Minor agreement 14 Aug 1917
- 76 Letter from Sykes to Montagu re his task in India 14 Aug 1917
- 77 Letter from Clayton to Sykes re Arab Legion, Jewish Question, Pickthall 20 Aug 1917
- Annexes: 1. Report of lecture by Pickthall 13 July 1917
2. Letter from Albina of 10 Aug 1917 re a.o. Palestine and the Jews
3. The Arab Question: Some remarks on Suleiman Nasif's report
4. Translation of article by Baron H. von Richthofen
- 78 Four Manuscripts by Sykes on the Arab Question: ?17 Sept 1917
1. The Arab National Movement
2. The Arabian Peninsula
3. Mesopotamia
4. Syria (proper)

79	Letter from Clayton (Cairo) to Sykes	20 Sept 1917
80	Note by Sykes on Palestine and Zionism	21 Sept 1917
81	Letter from Weizman on id.	22 Sept 1917
82	Memo by Sykes from Mr Barnes, on the Anglo-French agreement in regard to the Arab States	25 Sept 1917
83	Draft letter from Sykes to Clayton with proposed address to recalcitrant officers of the Arab Legion	5 Oct 1917
84	Letter from Clayton to Sykes explaining why he did not make Sykes' speech known to the Legion	18 Oct 1917
85	Telegram from Sykes to Wingate	14 Nov 1917
86	Letter from Sykes to Clayton re necessity of the Arabs joining the combination with the Zionists and the Armenians with as annex: Address to be given to the Arab Committee in Cairo	16 Nov 1917
87	Telegram from Sykes to Wingate	26 Nov 1917
88	Telegram from Wingate with message from Sykes to Clayton	28 Nov 1917
89	Telegram from Wingate re Clayton's message under No 1281	29 Nov 1917
90	Telegram from Wingate	30 Nov 1917
91	Telegram from Sykes to Wingate. Following for Clayton	11 Dec 1917
92	Telegram from Wingate. Following from Clayton	12 Dec 1917
93	Draft telegram from Sykes for Clayton	13 Dec 1917
94	Telegram from Wingate to Sir R. Graham	14 Dec 1917
95	Letter from Clayton (Cairo to Sykes., forwarded by Balfour to Lord Bertie on Dec 22). Also telegram	15 Dec 1917
96	Telegram from Wingate. Following from Clayton	20 Dec 1917
97	Telegram from Wingate. Following from Clayton	22 Dec 1917
98	Telegram from Wingate. Following from Clayton	24 Dec 1917
99	Telegram from Wingate. Sir Percy Cox's telegram	27 Dec 1917
100	Telegram from Wingate. My telegram No 1380	29 Dec 1917
101	Telegram from Wingate. My telegram No 1403	30 Dec 1917
102	Telegram from Lord Bertie (Paris)	30 Dec 1917
103	Telegram from Wingate. Following from Clayton	30 Dec 1917
104	Telegram from Wingate	31 Dec 1917
105	Telegram to Wingate. Following from Sykes to Clayton	31 Dec 1917



1918

106	Telegram from Wingate. Following from Clayton to Sykes	3 Jan 1918
107	Letter from (Billy) Ormsby Gore (Tel Aviv) to Sykes	9 Apr 1918
108	Letter from (Billy) Ormsby Gore (Jaffa) to Sykes	16 Apr 1918
109	Letter from Clayton to Sykes	18 Apr 1918
110	Letter from Sykes to 'My dear Billy'	24 May 1918
111	Palestine, organ of the British Palestine Committee Vol III no 20	22 June 1918
112	Letter from Ronald Storrs to Sykes	17 July 1918
113	Weekly Summary of the Political Intelligence Officer (Jerusalem)	24-30 June 1918
114	Weekly Summary of the Political Intelligence Officer (Jerusalem)	1-7 July 1918
115	Weekly Summary of the Political Intelligence Officer (Jerusalem)	12-18 Aug 1918
116	Weekly Summary of the Political Intelligence Officer (Jerusalem)	19-25 Aug 1918
117	Weekly Summary of the Political Intelligence Officer (Jerusalem)	26 Aug – 1 Sept 1918
118	Draft letter from Sykes to Prime Minister	2 Sept 1918
119	Uncorrected copy of article sent to Daily News	10 Sept 1918
120	Letter from Zionist Commission to Palestine (V. Jabotinsky) to Sykes	18 Nov 1918
121	Minutes of Meeting held at Headquarters Zionist Commission on Nov 18 <sup>th</sup> , signed by Eder	18 Nov 1918
122	Appendix on Religious – Political Situation in the Sudan and East Africa	not dated
123	Letter from Eder to Sykes	19 Nov 1918
124	Memorandum compiled as a result of interviews with various Prisoners of War now in camp at Sumerpur	not dated

1915-1917

125	'Les machinations allemandes en Perse et en Mésopotamie' <i>Journaux d'Italie</i> . Report by Sir Mark Sykes	11 Dec 1915
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126	M. Paléologue to M. Sazonof	26 Apr 1916
	M. Cambon to Sir Edward Grey	9 May 1916
	Sir Edward Grey to M. Cambon	15 May 1916
	M. Cambon to Sir Edward Grey	15 May 1916
	M. Cambon to Sir Edward Grey	15 May 1916
	Sir Edward Grey to M. Cambon	16 May 1916
	Sir Edward Grey to Count Benckendorff	23 May 1916
	M. Cambon to Viscount Grey	25 Aug 1916
	M. Cambon to Viscount Grey	25 Aug 1916
	Marquess of Crewe to M. Cambon	30 Aug 1916
	Count Benckendorff to Vicount Grey	1 Sept 1916
	Viscount Grey to Count Benckendorff	23 Oct 1916
	Viscount Grey to Count Benckendorff	23 Oct 1916
127	Arab Bulletin No. 48	21 Apr 1917
128	'Pour l'Union des Syriens dans leurs intérêts sociaux'. Abdallah Sfer (with Arabic copy)	15 Feb 1914
129	3 maps of the Middle East	
130	Notes of a conference held at 10 Downing Street to consider the instructions to Lt Col Sir Mark Sykes, the Head of the Political Mission to the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Egyptian Expeditionary Force. (TS copy)	3 Apr 1917