

**Reference code:** GB165-0276

**Title:** Sir Percy Sykes Collection

**Name of creator:** Sykes, Sir Percy Molesworth (1867-1945) Knight Lieutenant Colonel  
Colonial Administrator

**Dates of creation of material:** 1892-1945; 1982

**Level of description:** Fonds

**Extent:** 6 boxes

**Biographical history:** SYKES, Sir Percy Molesworth (1867-1945) Knight Lieutenant Colonel  
Colonial Administrator

Born 28 February 1867, only son of the Revd. William Sykes, Chaplain to the Forces, and Mary, daughter of Capt. Anthony Molesworth, RA. Educated Rugby School; Royal Military College, Sandhurst. Gazetted 16th Lancers, 1888; transferred 2nd Dragoon Guards (Queen's Bays), 1888; Consul for Kerman and Persian Baluchistan, 1894; Assist. Commissioner, Perso-Baluch Boundary commission, 1896; mission to the Karun Valley, 1896; in charge of HE the Nasir-ul-Mulk, special ambassador to the Court of St. James's 1897; Consul at Sistan, 1899; served, South Africa, in the Intelligence Dept., and in command of Montgomery Imperial Yeomanry, 1901; Consul-General for Khorasan based at Meshed, 1905-13; CIE 1911; City Comdt. Southampton, Aug.-Sept. 1914; in charge of interpreters of the Lahore Division in France; temporary Consul-General in Kashgar, Chinese Turkestan, 1915; KCIE 1915; raised South Persia Rifles with title of Inspector-General, 1916; GOC Southern Persia 1916-18; retired Sept. 1920 and awarded special South Persian medal; Hon. Sec. Royal Central Asian Society 1932-45. Married, 1902, Evelyn Seton: 4 sons; 2 daughters. Died 11 June 1945.

**Scope and content:** Reports of a mission 1892; a reconnaissance through Persian Baluchistan and eastern Persia, 1893-94; routes and notes of a third journey in Persia (War Office, 1894); Perso-Baluch Boundary Commission papers, 1896; foundation of the Sistan Consulate; despatches to Lord Salisbury on current events, 1899-1900; report on the agriculture of Khorasan (Simla, 1910); bombardment of the Meshed shrine, 1912; reports and despatches of South Persia Rifles, 1917-18; miscellaneous writings on Persia, Anglo-Russian occupation, modern Turkey etc.; reports, despatches, correspondence and miscellanea relating to Sykes' work in Persia, 1905-18; correspondence with Allenby, the Foreign Office and others, 1934-

45; lectures, articles and press-cuttings on Central Asian Affairs, 1897-1982. Photographic collection.

**System of arrangement:** As received.

**Access conditions:** Open

**Language of material:** English; Persian; Italian; French; Greek; ?Mandarin

**Conditions governing reproduction:** No restrictions on photocopying or small quotations. For lengthy quotations or large-scale publication contact Sir Patrick Reilly.

**Custodial history:** In the possession of Sir Percy Sykes and his family.

**Immediate source of acquisition:** Received on loan from Edward Sykes, July 1966; additional material deposited November 1980. In July 1997, through the good offices of Sir Patrick Reilly (son-in-law), Mrs. Edward Sykes and her sons agreed that the papers should be a gift to the college.

**Related Units of Description:**

In MEC Archive:

GB165-0274 Sir Herbert Sykes Papers

GB165-0344 Edward Sykes Papers

**Finding aids:** In Guide; Handlist (box list)

**Archivist's note:** Fonds level description created by C. Brown 21 January 2000 and revised by D. Usher 14 November 2003. File and item level description created by D. Usher 27 April 2004.

**FILE AND ITEM LEVEL DESCRIPTION OF THE SIR PERCY SYKES  
COLLECTION**

Box 1

Bombardment of the Meshed Shrine and other papers	1912	1 folder
‘Routes and notes of a third journey in Persia’ Compiled for the Intelligence Division of the War Office, by Second Lieutenant Percy M Sykes, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Dragoon Guards.	Sept 1894	1 vol
‘Report on the Agriculture of Khorasan by Major P.M. Sykes’	1910	1 vol
Report of a mission to Transcaspia	1892	21 sheets
TS of a chapters for a book possibly ‘History of Persia’; TS articles on Persia, Anglo-Russian Convention, Anglo-Russian occupation and modern Turkey		1 folder

Box 2

File entitled ‘Foundation of the Sistan Consulate; Despatches to Lord Salisbury on Current Events’	1899- 1900	1 folder
‘Firdausi. Supplement to The Near East and India. Published on behalf of the Imperial Bank of Persia’ containing articles on the life of the Persian poet Firdausi.	18 Oct 1934	1 booklet
Report ‘Progress made in the organization and training of the South Persia Rifles’ by Sir P Sykes	Jul-Oct 1917	1 booklet
Despatch on ‘Minor Operations in Southern Persia From 7 <sup>th</sup> November 1917 to 31 <sup>st</sup> March 1918’ by Sir P Sykes	1918	1 booklet
Despatch ‘On the operations of the South Persia Rifles in the Kirman Area 1 <sup>st</sup> August to 15 <sup>th</sup> October 1916’ by Sir P Sykes	1918	1 booklet
Despatch ‘On operations in the vicinity of the Pir-i-Zan Pass (Fars). 21 <sup>st</sup> to 28 <sup>th</sup> December 1916’ by Sir P Sykes	1916	1 booklet
Report ‘Minor operations undertaken by the South Persia Rifles from the 28 <sup>th</sup> March to the 25 <sup>th</sup> June 1917’ by Sir P Sykes	1917	1 booklet
‘Reports on Operations in South Persia’ by Sir P Sykes	1918	1 booklet
‘A Reconnaissance through Persian Baluchistan and Eastern Persia	1895	1 vol

in 1893-94 by Surgeon-Major G.W. Brazier – Creagh’ This volume includes some photographs and two large maps in the back pocket of surveys in Persia and Persian Baluchistan and Eastern- Persia

Perso Beluch Boundary Commission 1896 1 folder

Box 3

Correspondence concerning a translation of the History of Persia 1942- 1 folder  
1945

Addresses in Persian presented to Sir P Sykes 1905 1 folder

Newspaper clippings, correspondence and TS articles relating to a Marco Polo lecture by Sykes and meeting between Sykes and Mussolini 1935 1 folder

Visiting Cards from Chinese Turkestan 1915 1 folder

Correspondence relating to De Chair’s attack on T.E. Lawrence in ‘The Golden Carpet’ and his apology 1943 1 folder

Correspondence relating to the ‘Quest for Cathay’ 1936- 1 folder  
1937

Newspaper clippings and correspondence relating to the Murder of Sir Michael O’Dwyer 1940 1 folder

Reprint ‘The Gypsies of Persia by Major P Molesworth Sykes’ from the Journal of Anthropological Institute Vol XXXVI, July-December 1906. 1906 1 booklet

Duplicate Reprint ‘The Gypsies of Persia by Major P Molesworth Sykes’ from the Journal of Anthropological Institute Vol XXXVI, July-December 1906. 1906 1 booklet

Reprint ‘Anthropological Notes on Southern Persia by Major P. Molesworth’ from Journal of Anthropological Institute Vol XXXII July-December 1902 1902 1 booklet

Reprint ‘Notes on a Collection of Bronze Weapons, Implements and Vessels found at Khinámán to the West of Kermán in South-East Persia, by Major P. Molesworth Sykes, C.M.G. by Canon Greenwell’ from Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute Vol 1907 1 booklet

XXXVII January-June 1907'

Journal 'Man. A Monthly Record of Anthropological Science' Vol IX No.11	Nov 1909	1 booklet
Journal 'Man. A Monthly Record of Anthropological Science' Vol IX No.12	Dec 1909	1 booklet
Reprint 'The Heart of Asia and the Roof of the World by Brigadier-General Sir Percy Sykes' from Journal of the Royal Central Asian Society' Vol XXIV	Apr 1937	1 booklet
Printed article 'The Rôle of the Middle East by Brigadier-General Sir Percy Sykes'	1940s	1 booklet
Reprint 'Historical Notes on Khurasan by Major P.M. Sykes' from Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society	Oct 1910	1 booklet
Reprint 'In the Footsteps of Marco Polo by Brig.Gen Sir Percy Sykes' from Journal of the Royal Central Asian Society Vol XXII	Oct 1935	1 booklet
Printed article 'New Light on the Battle of Marathon by Brigadier-General Sir Percy Sykes' from Great Britain and the East. Including two duplicates of this article.	23 Jan 1936	6 sheets
MS extract from 'A Diplomatist in the East' by Sir Arthur Hardinge plus envelope	not dated	1 folder
Correspondence concerning Peter the Great's Will	1940-1942	1 folder
Letter from Lord Allenby to Sir Percy Sykes with a note by Sir Percy Sykes	[?1934]	3 sheets
Correspondence relating to Dr Filchener	1934-1945	
Correspondence in Persian with English translations concerning taxation and the theft of property	1327 AH	1 folder
Correspondence and notes and corrections to the 3 <sup>rd</sup> Edition of the 'History of Persia'	1937-1943	1 folder

Box 4

Reprint 'Sir Percy Sykes and Persia by Sir Denis Wright' from Central Asian Survey (1993)	1993	1 booklet
TS 'The Sykes Family in Iran 1902-1913' by Patrick Reilly	2 Aug 1981	
TS 'Sir Percy Sykes' Journey to Russian Turkestan. A Note by Patrick Reilly'	23 Jan 1981	
TS 'A note by Patrick Reilly on Sir Percy Sykes' travels in Persia from 1902 to 1913'	c1981	
TS 'A note by Patrick Reilly on Sir Percy Sykes' Service and Travels in Iran before his marriage:1893-1900' by Sir Denis Wright	28/11/1981	
TS 'Sir Arthur Hardinge's visit to Meshed' by Sir Denis Wright	28/11/1981	
TS 'Some references to Sir Percy Sykes in a Persian historian's book'	27/11/1981	
Journal of the Royal Society of Arts Vol XCIII	6 Jul 1945	1 booklet
Reprint 'A Fourth Journey in Persia, 1897-1901 by Major P Molesworth Sykes' from The Geographical Journal	Feb 1902	1 booklet
Reprint 'A Fifth Journey in Persia by Major P Molesworth Sykes' from The Geographical Journal	Nov-Dec 1906	1 booklet
Reprint 'A Sixth Journey in Persia (a) A Tour in Ancient Parthia (b) Nishapur and Turshiz by Major P.M. Sykes' from The Geographical Journal	Jan-Feb 1911	1 booklet
Reprint 'A Seventh Journey in Persia by Lieut.- Colonel P.M. Sykes' from The Geographical Journal	May 1915	1 booklet
Reprint 'Recent Journeys in Persia by Captain P. Molesworth Sykes' from The Geographical Journal	Dec 1897	1 booklet
'Foreign Affairs An American Quarterly Review'	15 Dec 1923	1 vol
Reprint 'Historical Notes on South-East Persia by Major P. Molesworth Sykes' from Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society	Oct 1902	1 booklet
The Geographic Journal Vol LVIII No.2	Aug 1921	1 booklet

Photocopy of Sir Percy Sykes entry in the Dictionary of National Biography 2 sheets

Box 5

Newspaper clippings volume containing newspaper articles on 'the O'Dwyer Tragedy...the history of Afghanistan...articles, reviews, miscellaneous...the Business Farming' 1930s- 1940s 1 vol

Box 6

Despatches, telegrams 1916- 1918 1 folder

Volume of presscuttings on Sir Percy Sykes including an envelope with TS copies of telegrams to Sykes during 1918 1916- 1940s 1 vol

Royal Central Asian Journal Vol XXXIV Part II Apr 1947 1 booklet

The Geographical Journal Vol CIV Nos 1,2 Jul-Aug 1944 1 booklet

The Geographical Journal Vol CIV Nos 3,4 Sept - Oct 1944 1 booklet

Reprint 'Afghanistan: The Present Position by Brigadier-General Sir Percy Sykes' from Journal of the Royal Central Asian Society Vol XXVI Apr 1940 1 booklet

Colour Map of Persia and Afghanistan c1921 1 item

Reprint 'A Turkish Traveller of the Seventeenth Century' by W.R. Halliday' from History the Quarterly Journal of The Historical Association Vol XXIX with letter to Sykes enclosing the reprint Sept 1944 1 booklet

'Early Spanish and Portuguese Travellers in Persia by Lieut Colonel Sir Arnold T. Wilson' not dated ?1924 1 booklet

Reprint 'The Turkish Dialect of the Khalaj by V. Minorsky' from Bulletin of the School of Oriental Studies Vol X, Part 2 1940 1 booklet

'Publications de la Société des Études Iraniennes et de l'art Persian No.8 La Perse Au XV Siècle entre la Turquie et Venise' by V. Minorsky 23 Apr 1933 1 booklet

'Revue du Monde Musulman. La Politique Orientale de Jun 1923 1 vol  
L'Allemagne en Perse' Vol LIV

Unboxed

Correspondence and articles relating to the battle of Marthon	1930- 1936	1 folder
Maps of 'Rives Méridionales de la mer Caspienne Du Kurdistan, Du Moukri et de L'Elam' attached to one volume 'Mission Scientifique en Perse' by J. De Morgan.	1895	1 vol oversize