Reference code: GB165-0326
Title: Fraser-Tytler Collection
Name of creator: Tytler, Sir William Kerr Fraser- (1886-1963) Knight Minister to Afghanistan
Dates of creation of material: 1922-1948, 2001
Level of description: Fonds
Extent: 4 boxes

Biographical history: Fraser-Tytler, Lieut-Col. Sir William Kerr (1886-1963)
Born 26 December 1886, son of James Fraser-Tytler and Christian Fraser-Tytler (née Scott-Kerr). Educated Charterhouse; Christ Church, Oxford. Entered Indian Army, 1910; posted to 25th Cavalry (Frontier Force), 1911; served on North West Frontier, India, 1911-17; East Africa, 1917-18; 3rd Afghan War, 1919; transferred to Foreign and Political Department, 1919; served in various capacities, chiefly on North-West Frontier of India, with HM’s Legation at Kabul, Afghanistan and with the Government of India until 1935; CMG 1933; transferred to Diplomatic Service; British Minister to Afghanistan, 1935-41; KBE 1939; Chief Delegate of the Mission of the British Red Cross and Order of St. John at Washington, 1943-46. KstJ 1946. Married, 1st Eila Beatrice McLean (d.1951): no children, 2nd, 1953, Aileen Knox Johnston (b.1907). Died 23 August 1963.

Scope and content: MS and TS letters to his mother from Kabul, 1923-1941; additional correspondence with various individuals such as Lord Willingdon and Lord Brabourne; photographs including shots of airplanes, parades, group portraits; articles and lectures by Kerr Fraser-Tytler and others; bound TS Kabul Legation diary 1922-1924; TS article ‘The Destruction of the Second British Legation in Kabul’ 1926; Note on the political situation in Afghanistan 1941; Note on the expulsion of Axis nationals from Afghanistan 1941, Newspaper article ‘La Tristesse posthume de Joseph Hackin’ 2001 and a TS ‘Appendix - An Appreciation of King Nadir Shah’s character’.

System of arrangement:
1. Correspondence
2. Photographs
3. Articles and Lectures
4. Kabul Legation Diary
5. Destruction of the Second British Legation in Kabul
6. Situation in Afghanistan Note
7. The Expulsion of Axis Nationals from Afghanistan
8. Newspaper clipping
9. King Nadir Shah’s character

Access conditions: Open

Language of material: English, small amount of French

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

Custodial history: In the possession of the Fraser-Tytler family


Related Units of Description:
In other repositories
British Library (GB 59), Asia, Pacific and Africa collections (previously Oriental and India Office Library), 1932-35 correspondence with Sir John Walton, MSS Eur D 545, NRA 30183 Walton

Finding aids: In Guide; Handlist

### Series, File and Item Level Description of the Fraser-Tytler Collection

**1 Correspondence, 7 Apr 1923 – 27 Dec 1941**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>File</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Items</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1/1</td>
<td>Letters to his mother</td>
<td>1923-1941</td>
<td>12 files</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/1/1</td>
<td>Letters to his mother.</td>
<td>7 Apr 1923 – 17 Sep 1924</td>
<td>74 sheets</td>
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<tr>
<td>1/1/2</td>
<td>Letters to his mother.</td>
<td>13 Nov 1927 – 16 Jun 1928</td>
<td>47 sheets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/1/3</td>
<td>Letters to his mother.</td>
<td>26 Sep 1930 – 27 Dec 1930</td>
<td>24 sheets</td>
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<tr>
<td>1/1/4</td>
<td>Letters to his mother.</td>
<td>3 Jan 1931 – 27 Dec 1931</td>
<td>64 sheets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/1/5</td>
<td>Letters to his mother.</td>
<td>8 Jan 1932 – 9 Nov 1932</td>
<td>73 sheets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/1/6</td>
<td>Letters to his mother.</td>
<td>3 Mar 1935 – 27 Dec 1935</td>
<td>139 sheets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/1/7</td>
<td>Letters to his mother.</td>
<td>2 Jan 1936 – 25 Dec 1936</td>
<td>190 sheets</td>
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<tr>
<td>1/1/8</td>
<td>Letters to his mother.</td>
<td>1 Jan 1937 – 31 Dec 1937</td>
<td>114 sheets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/1/9</td>
<td>Letters to his mother.</td>
<td>7 Jan 1938 – 30 Dec 1938</td>
<td>164 sheets</td>
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<tr>
<td>1/1/10</td>
<td>Letters to his mother.</td>
<td>19 Jan 1939 – 15 Dec 1939</td>
<td>160 sheets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/1/11</td>
<td>Letters to his mother.</td>
<td>5 Jan 1940 – 27 Dec 1940</td>
<td>160 sheets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/1/12</td>
<td>Letters to his mother.</td>
<td>4 Jan 1941 – 27 Dec 1941</td>
<td>154 sheets</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**1/2 Correspondence with Lord Brabourne** 1938 3 sheets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>File</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Items</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1/2/1</td>
<td>Letter to Kerr Fraser-Tytler from Lord Brabourne.</td>
<td>9 Jul 1938</td>
<td>1 sheet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/2/2</td>
<td>Letter from Kerr Fraser-Tytler to Lord Brabourne.</td>
<td>16 Jul 1938</td>
<td>2 sheets</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**1/3 Letter to Mrs Fraser-Tytler** 27 Nov 1930 3 sheets

Letter to Mrs Fraser-Tytler from Kenneth Wigram, with an extract of a letter from Kerr Fraser-Tytler.

**1/4 Letter to Kerr Fraser-Tytler** 18 Oct 1935 2 sheets

Letter to Kerr Fraser-Tytler from Lord Willingdon.

**1/5 Kabul Farewell Letter** Not dated 1 sheet
Farewell letter from the Indian Community of Kabul, to Sir Kerr and Lady Fraser-Tytler, on their departure from Kabul.

1/6  Letter to Johnston  21 Aug 1924  2 sheets
Letter to Wing Commander Johnston, from A. A. ?Weher, marked Peshawar, North West Frontier Province, dated 21 Aug 24 [1924].

2   Photographs
The unlabelled photographs include, for example, pictures of airplanes, snow scenes, interiors of churches, and landscapes.

2/1  Sepia photograph – Parade at a train station labelled  ?Nov 1928  1 item
‘Amanullah arriving at Karachi Nov. (?) 1928’
[Amanullah is King Amanullah of Afghanistan].

2/2  Black and white photograph labelled ‘Afghans are  1929  1 item
collected to clear a runway through the snow and enable
our Vicker-Victoria aeroplanes to take off, taking to
Peshawar the last remaining members of the British
Legation. This was in 1929’.

2/3  Black and white group photograph labelled ‘Kabul 1935 or 1936’.
1935 or 1936  1 item

2/4  Black and white photograph labelled ‘The Valley of  1941  1 item
Bamian 1941 Sir Kerr Fraser-Tytler’.

2/5  Black and white photograph labelled ‘Military attaches  Not dated  1 item
house in Legation grounds, where some of us lived until
the big house was ready. It was set on fire by shells after
we had moved into the big house’.

2/6  Black and white photograph labelled ‘The aerodrome at  Not dated  1 item
Kabul under snow’ [probably taken at the time of the
evacuation of Europeans in 1929].
[?1929]
2/7 Black & white photograph labelled ‘Counsellor’s house in Legation garden hit by several shells, after the occupants had been removed to the big house’. Not dated 1 item

2/8 Sepia group photograph labelled ‘Amanullah at Karachi. K. F-T [Kerr Fraser-Tytler] as mehmandar (official hosts)’. [Amanullah is King Amanullah of Afghanistan and a mehmandar is a Persian term for an official escorting an important traveller]. Not dated 1 item

2/9 Black and white photograph – Stone carving labelled ‘?Parhes B’. Not dated 1 item

2/10 Black and white photograph labelled ‘One of the Vicker-Victoria’s which flew us from Kabul to Peshawan, loaded only 50% in order to clear 11, 000 foot mountains’. Not dated 1 item

2/11 Unlabelled black and white photograph [Kabul airfield, probably taken at the time of the evacuation of Europeans in 1929]. Not dated 1 item [?1929]

2/12 Unlabelled black and white photograph [Kabul airfield, probably taken at the time of the evacuation of Europeans in 1929]. Not dated 1 item [?1929]

2/13 Unlabelled black and white photograph [interior of a church]. Not dated 1 item

2/14 Unlabelled black and white photograph [British Embassy in Kabul, probably taken at the time of the evacuation of Europeans in 1929]. Not dated 1 item [?1929]

3 Articles and Lectures

3/1 Articles by Kerr Fraser-Tytler 1942-1951 4 sheets, 3 items

3/1/1 Articles in Eastern World 1947-1948 4 sheets

3/1/1/1 Article by Kerr Fraser-Tytler ‘The Afghan Kingdom in the 18th and 19th Centuries’ from the Eastern World Jul [19]47 1 sheet
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Source</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1942</td>
<td>Articles in <em>The Journal of the Royal Central Asian Society</em></td>
<td>3 items</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1944-1948</td>
<td>Articles in <em>Blackwood’s Magazine</em></td>
<td>2 items</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jun 1944</td>
<td>Article by Kerr Fraser-Tytler</td>
<td>‘The Treasure of Begram’</td>
<td>in <em>Blackwood’s Magazine</em> no. 1544.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 1948</td>
<td>Article by Kerr Fraser-Tytler</td>
<td>‘Farewell to Bearers’</td>
<td>in <em>Blackwood’s Magazine</em>, no. 1597.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3/1/4 Afghanistan article

3/1/5 Afghanistan and India Lecture
Lecture by Kerr Fraser-Tytler, probably to the Central Asian Society – ‘Afghanistan and its relations with the new India’.

3/1/6 Rugby Football on Horseback article
Article by Kerr Fraser Tytler, ‘Rugby Football on Horseback’, from *Country Life*.

3/2 Articles by other people
3/2/1 Hazara Mongols of Afganistan article

4 Kabul Legation diary
Bound typescript Kabul Legation diary entitled ‘Two years of the B.L.K 1922-1924’ given to Kerr Fraser-Tytler by R. R. Maconachie. The diary provides a detailed account of journeys, meetings and the general work of the Legation. Old Ref: 8

5 Destruction of the Second British Legation in Kabul
TS article ‘The Destruction of the Second British Legation in Kabul’ recounted by Captain Kirkebride providing a
description of the old legation and a detailed account of the fire which destroyed the legation on the 22 Dec 1926.
Old Ref: 9

6 **Situation in Afghanistan Note**
Note by Kerr Fraser-Tytler on the political situation in Afghanistan giving an assessment of the impact of Government of India policy to make a change of Ministers.
Old Ref: 10

7 **The Expulsion of Axis Nationals from Afghanistan**
Note by Kerr Fraser-Tytler on the expulsion of Axis Nationals from Afghanistan.
Old Ref: 11

8 **Newspaper clipping**
Newspaper article ‘La Tristesse posthume de Joseph Hackin’ from Luxemburger Wort.
Language: In French
Old Ref: 12

9 **King Nadir Shah’s character**
TS ‘Appendix - An Appreciation of King Nadir Shah’s character’.
Old Ref: 13