

Reference code: GB165-0330

Title: William Peyton Collection

Name of creator: Peyton, William Durham (1917-1991)

Dates of creation of material: 1916-1982

Level of description: Fonds

Extent: 6 boxes

Biographical history: Peyton, William Durham (1917-1991)

Born Louisville, Kentucky, USA, 28 August 1917 – died Sussex, England, 1991. Educated at the Male High School, Louisville, and Westminster College, Fulton, Missouri. From 1943 – 1945 he served with the military in Hawaii, subsequently working at the John Hopkins University, School of Advanced International Studies, teaching at the American School, Damascus, Syria, and studying Arabic at Cairo University. In 1948, he was the representative for Paul Getty in Arabia, resident in Jiddah, Saudi Arabia, but travelling around the Middle East in the interests of Getty's oil concerns, particularly in the Yemen. In 1955 he went to work for the Research Department of Arabian American Oil Company (ARAMCO) in Dhahran. In 1958 he became a journalist at *The Economist* writing on the Middle East and travelling to the Middle East in the course of his work. In July 1960 he started work with the Trade Relations Department of Shell Oil in London, and in 1967 was seconded by Shell to OASIS Oil Company at Tripoli, Libya until April 1968. In June 1968 he attended a 3 month advanced Arabic course at MECAS in Lebanon and in August was appointed the Trade Relations Manager for PDO (Petroleum Development Oman). In 1974 he took on a project to establish a new school in Oman based on the English Public School tradition, and was appointed Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Sultan's School when it opened in 1977. In 1977 he retired from PDO to live in Sussex, England, still travelling to Oman for school board meetings. In 1977 he also became a Director for the British Bank of the Middle East (BBME), and a committee member of the Anglo-Omani Society. In 1983 he retired from the Board of Governors of the Sultan's School. He married Diana Lowman in 1956.

Scope and content: Papers collected by Peyton during his time in Oman, through his own interest in the country and through his position as Trade Relations Manager with PDO (Petroleum Development Oman). The papers also contain materials relating to other countries, particularly the Yemen, in which Peyton held an interest.

System of arrangement:

Box 1 Files 1-2	Paul Getty papers
Box 1 File 3-Box 3	Shell and PDO
Box 4	Yemen
Box 5	Personal Papers
Box 6	Printed Papers

Access conditions: Mainly open, the few items which are closed are indicated at file level.

Language of material: English, some Arabic

Conditions governing reproduction: Copies of the PDO papers may be supplied for private research and study, but not for publication.

Immediate source of acquisition: Received as a gift from Mrs Diana Peyton via Mr Ian Skeet c1995.

Related Units of Description:

In MEC Archive

The MEC Archive has many collections relating to Oman's military history in 1970s. Please consult the Guide to Collections relating to Oman for further information.

For further papers relating to PDO (Petroleum Development Oman) and the development of the oil industry in Oman please see:

- GB165-0331 Julian Paxton Collection
- GB165-0329 Ian Skeet Collection

Finding aids: In Guide; Handlist

Archivist's note: Fonds and file level description created by Caroline Hughes 18 Aug 2000 and revised by Debbie Usher 9 Oct 2013 and 25 Feb 2014.

FILE LEVEL DESCRIPTION FOR THE WILLIAM PEYTON COLLECTION

Papers acquired or created while working for Paul Getty

Box 1

- | | | | |
|-----|--|-------------|---------|
| 1/1 | <u>Saudi Arabia</u> | 12 Aug 1953 | 3 items |
| | Document by Peyton about the Royal Family and Saudi Arabian government officials. Two photographs of headstones in a cemetery are included | | |
| 1/2 | <u>Pacific Western Oil Company</u> | 1 Mar 1950 | 2 items |
| | A company under the control of Paul Getty the oil explorer and art collector (later Getty Oil Company). The file contains a photograph and letter concerning a trip made to a flagship of the US supplied to Peyton by the US Navy, and retained by him in his capacity as Getty's representative. | | |

Papers acquired or created through working for Shell and PDO

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|-----|---|--|----------|
| 1/3 | <u>Oman Information</u> | 22 Feb 1964 –
Feb 1968 and
not dated | 16 items |
| | Papers collected by Peyton relating to Oman and the Sultanate. Some of the papers are PDO documents, which were used by the Company as intelligence for members of staff and may have been issued to Peyton as an induction prior to his joining PDO in August 1968. The file also covers: historical notes on burial mounds, Bait Frans house, Fort Jabrin, and Beit Greiza house (contains an envelope of 12 photographs); the mission hospital; minorities in Oman; and a British Government Manumission Certificate (n.d.). | | |
| 1/4 | <u>Oman Handbook</u> | c. 1965 | 1 item |
| | The handbook gives a comprehensive outline of Oman, the people, places, terrain, and customs. The Handbook includes chapters on: Omani background; population; the so-called treaty of Sib; the oil era; the | | |

Buraimi dispute; miscellaneous notes on PDO; and government.

Box 2

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|-----|---|------------------------------|----------|
| 2/1 | <u>PDO Activities and Operations</u> | 12 Apr 1970 -
20 Jan 1977 | 7 items |
| | Relating to specific Company activities and operations in Oman. The file covers: list of events in Company history; education at Izki; fiscal data; and the exploitation of natural resources in Oman.
Access: Two documents are closed until 2024. | | |
| 2/2 | <u>Company and Country Relations</u> | May 1965 –
9 May 1981 | 24 items |
| | Relating to the Government and ruling family of Oman. The file reflects the relationship between the Company and the Sultanate and highlights the political situation of the time. The file covers: notes on political situation; relations with the Sultan; the government of Oman, and government correspondence; and the reign of Said bin Taimur.
Includes ‘Rough Draft The Reign of Sa’id Bin Taimur (1932-1970)’ which is a draft chapter from the book ‘Oman in the Twentieth Century’ by J.E. Peterson | | |
| 2/3 | <u>Tribes</u> | 18 Dec 1973 –
24 Feb 1976 | 2 items |
| | The tribes of Oman and their relations with PDO. | | |
| 2/4 | <u>Maps</u> | 1916 – 1971 | 8 items |
| | A number of different maps of Oman and surrounding areas: two maps show tribal areas; one concession areas; three of Muscat (one designed by Peyton’s wife Mrs Diana Peyton, one a negative); and one of Bait al Falaj. | | |
| 2/5 | <u>The Sultan’s School</u> | 12 Feb 1975 –
12 Oct 1982 | 4 items |
| | File relating to a school set up by Peyton at Seeb. | | |

Box 3

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|-----|---|-------------------------------|---------|
| 3/1 | <u>Economics and Finance</u>
Relating to the economic and financial affairs of the Sultanate including two Five Year Plans for 1981 – 1985 and 1986 – 1990 published by the Sultanate of Oman Development Council. | Sept 1971 –
Nov 1983 | 7 items |
| 3/2 | <u>Military</u>
Relating to military situations and operations affecting PDO.

Access: This file is closed until 2021. | 12 Jun 1970 –
26 Sept 1970 | 2 items |

Yemen

Box 4

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|-----|--|---|---------|
| 4/1 | <u>The Yemen</u>
Relating to two trips to Yemen made by Peyton and colleagues in 1950, and 1952 undertaking initial reconnaissance work in the search for oil. The file includes formal and hand written accounts of both trips. Of particular interest is a personal diary of the 1950 trip, and a list of samples collected by Peyton on the Yemen shoreline. Also included in the file is a document discussing the Yemenite Revolution of 1948. | Apr 1949 -
Dec 1952 and
not dated | 6 items |
| 4/2 | <u>Yemen Photographs</u>
Album containing black and white prints taken during one of Peyton's trips to the Yemen. The prints are not labelled. | 1950 or 1952 | 1 item |

Personal Papers

Box 5

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|-----|--|------------------------------|--------|
| 5/1 | <u>Personal Notes on Oman</u>
Handwritten notes created by Peyton in case he should | 11 Apr 1970 –
18 May 1977 | 1 file |
|-----|--|------------------------------|--------|

decide to write a book on Oman, which he did not. and not dated

The file covers a miscellany of subjects relating to the recent history of Oman.

Access: The file is closed until 2028

5/2 Notes Sept 1967 – 4 items

Notes on the story of Peyton's life and encounters with c. 1981

three generations of the Philby family; documents concerning the argument over possible payoffs made to Oman by Ashland Oil under the chairmanship of Mr Atkins in 1980; and a letter to Robert W. Stookey about his article The Arabian Peninsula Zone of Firmament.

Printed Materials

Box 6

6/1 Oman 1938 – 1981 1 file
(14 items)

Printed materials either published in Oman, or concerning Oman collected by Peyton through his interest in the country and work for PDO including a photocopy of the report 'The Fisheries of Muscat and Oman' by G.C.L. Bertram 1952, printed booklet 'Arab Rule under the Al Bu Sa'id Dynasty of Oman 1741-1937' by Bertram Thomas, printed booklet 'The Oman Question and the United Nations'; Free Oman and Omani News pamphlets; National Day Programme 1971; National Day Celebrations pamphlet 1971; printed booklet 'Sultanate of Oman Ministry of Foreign Affairs Protocol Department List of Diplomatic and Consular Corps' Sept 1975; photocopy of the article 'The Indian Merchant Community of Masqat by Calvin H Allen 1981; Printed booklet 'The Sultanate of Muscat & Oman' giving an introduction to the geography and economy of the country.

6/2	<u>Other Countries</u>	1874-1957	1 file (4 items)
	Printed materials collected by Peyton through his interest in the Middle East consisting of booklet 'Bagdad Railway No 1 (1911)'; two pamphlets by the 'Middle East Economic Survey' published weekly by the Research and Translation Office Vol. 1 No 1 19 Nov 1957 and Vol. 2 26 Nov 1957 giving an overview of news relating to oil in the Middle East; Photostat copy of 'Report on the Tribes around the shores of the Persian Gulf' by Lieut.-Colonel Pelly 1874		