

**Reference code:** GB165-0361

**Title:** Rex Keating Collection

**Name of creator:** Keating, Rex (1910-2005) Palestine Broadcasting Service

**Dates of creation of material:** 1945-1954

**Level of description:** Fonds

**Extent:** 2 boxes

**Biographical history:** Keating, Rex (1910-2005) Palestine Broadcasting Service

Born 14 February 1910 in London. Built and operated a small broadcasting station in Egypt before joining Egyptian State Broadcasting as Director of Talks and Drama in 1935. He became Director of European Programme Division in 1942 and was the official commentator for the Ministry of Information's weekly cinema newsreel "War Pictorial News" 1940-1945 for which he wrote over 200 commentaries. He also wrote and recorded about 25 documentary films for the Ministry of Information including several training films for British Services and "shorts" for Palestinian, Sudanese, Egyptian, Polish and Greek Governments. He was accredited War Correspondent 1941-1943. He was appointed as Assistant Director, Palestine Broadcasting Service in July 1945 and served in this post until the end of the mandate in 1948. Married Lesley Margaret Long. Rex Keating died in January 2005.

**Scope and content:** Papers mainly relating to Rex Keating's work as Assistant Director in the Palestine Broadcasting Service (Radio) between 1945-1948 including a small number of scripts for broadcasts and administrative papers on staff and equipment. There is also a small amount of material relating to the Palestine Civil Service (First Division) Association and the Jerusalem Sport's Club, as well as reference material probably used in the course of business consisting of Palestine Telephone Directory for Jerusalem and Southern Palestine, 1944 and The Palestine Police Calendar of Events, 1946.

**System of arrangement:**

1. Diaries
2. Palestine Broadcasting Service
3. Palestine Civil Service (First Division) Association and the re-grading of salaries
4. Social Life
5. Memorandum on the Administration of Palestine

6. UNRWA

**Access conditions:** Open

**Language of material:** English, with a small amount of Hebrew and Arabic

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

**Custodial history:** In the possession of Rex Keating

**Immediate source of acquisition:** Received as a gift from Rex Keating in October 2001

**Related Units of Description:**

In MEC Archive

GB165-0358 Percy Cleaver Collection: This contains the Palestine Police recruitment film for which the commentary at 2/6/5 was written

**Finding aids:** In Guide; Handlist

**Publication note:** Keating, Rex *Grass roots radio: a manual for fieldworks in family planning and other areas of social and economic development* (London: International Planned Parenthood Federation, 1977)

Keating, Rex *The trumpets of Tutankhamun: adventures of a radio pioneer in the Middle East* (Basingstoke: Fisher Miller, 1999) ISBN 1899077081 (pbk.)

**Archivist's note:** Fonds and file and item level description created by D. Usher, May 2004 and revised 26 Apr 2007. Biographical History based on the entry for Rex Keating in Cornfeld, Peretz (Ed.) *Palestine Personalia* (Sefer Press Tel Aviv, 1947) and the note in 2/5/2 Radio Week 1 Mar 1946.

**SERIES AND ITEM LEVEL DESCRIPTION OF THE REX KEATING  
COLLECTION**

**Box 1**

**1 Diaries, 1946-1949**

1/1	Diary	1946	1 vol.
1/2	Diary labelled 'Assistant Director' with some interleaved material	1947	1 vol.
1/3	Diary with bookmarks denoting specific events	1948	1 vol.
1/4	Diary labelled 'Cyprus' with an airmail letter from N.R. Palmer of the National Broadcasting Service, 5 Dec 1944	1949	1 vol.

**2 Palestine Broadcasting Service**

**2/1 Staff: employment, job descriptions and training**

2/1/1	File labelled 'Department of Broadcasting File No.30. Subject Reports for Director and Estimates, Budget and Staff' consisting of circulars, memos, reports, lists and correspondence mainly relating to appointments, pay, the necessity of additional staff and details of current staff such as nationality, religion and contact information. This file also includes estimates of the cost of new facilities and equipment and memos on the proposed employment of a Palestine Broadcasting Representative in London as well as proposed creation of a news letter programme from London on 'items of topical interest' to Palestine and Britain. Arrangement: In original order	1945- 1948	92 Sheets
2/1/2	TS job descriptions for compilation clerks, compilation typists and A.C.C. (Mr. Mason)	Not dated	3 sheets
2/1/3	TS training sheet on the 'Finer points of Announcing' by Rex Keating 29 April 1947 and 'How to Compile a Daily Programme Schedule' 16 Jan 1948	1947- 1948	4 sheets

2/2 Expenditure

Correspondence and accounts giving draft estimates of the 16 Oct 17 sheets  
expenditure of the Department of Broadcasting for 1947-48 1946  
Arrangement: In original order

2/3 Technical – Engineering section and new equipment

File labelled ‘Broadcasting (PBS) Technical. Estimates 1945- 66 sheets  
Programmes’ consisting of memos, reports, brochures, diary 1947  
extracts and correspondence mainly relating to the choice and  
purchase of new equipment but also including papers relating to  
tensions between the programme and engineering sections as  
well as a strike by the engineers which ‘allowed the P.B.S.  
[Palestine Broadcasting Service] to go off the air for several  
days’  
Arrangement: In original order

**Box 2**

2/4 Progress Report

TS Progress report entitled ‘Developments in P.B.S. since Not dated 3 sheets  
institution of new Broadcasting Directorate in May 1945’ 1945

2/5 Correspondence relating to programming and press articles

2/5/1 Newspaper ‘Forum Jerusalem Radio’ with an article 16 Nov 1945 1 booklet  
‘Palestine Broadcasting Grows Up’ by Rex Keating  
2/5/2 Magazine *Radio Week* 1 Mar 1946 1 booklet  
2/5/3 Magazine *Radio Week* 22 Aug 1947 1 booklet  
2/5/4 Letter from Powell (Functional Officer, British Council in 21 Nov 1947 1 sheet  
Iraq) to Rex Keating relating to the Palestine Broadcasting  
Service Second Programme  
2/5/5 Letter from Alan Crawford to Assistant Director of 12 Jan 1948 1 sheet  
Broadcasting Jerusalem [Rex Keating] relating to the  
Palestine Broadcasting Service Second Programme

- |                                   |   |             |           |
|-----------------------------------|---|-------------|-----------|
| 2/5/6                             | Brochure of the 'P.B.S. Second Programme' of 'cultural broadcasts in English' covering August, September and October  | ?c1946      | 1 booklet |
| 2/5/7                             | Brochure of the 'P.B.S. Second Programme' of 'cultural broadcasts in English' covering January, February and March  | ?c1946      | 1 booklet |
| 2/5/8                             | Envelope addressed in Hebrew, to the Palestine Broadcasting Service, Radio with a Hebrew newspaper clipping and a TS English translation of this entitled 'The views of a British Journalist on the military organisations and arms among the Jews and Arabs in Palestine' The journalist was News of the World reporter Richard Windham<br>Language: In Hebrew | c1946       | 3 sheets  |
| 2/5/9                             | Printed bi-monthly magazine <i>The Near East</i> published by the Near East Arabic Broadcast Magazine.<br>Language: In Arabic   | 1 Apr 1953  | 1 booklet |
| <u>2/6 Scripts for broadcasts</u> |   |             |           |
| 2/6/1                             | TS script for a broadcast 'The First Ten Years' by Rex Keating commemorating the tenth anniversary of broadcasting in Palestine'  | 30 Mar 1946 | 12 sheets |
| 2/6/2                             | TS script for a broadcast comedy 'Ten Thousand Years of Broadcasting' by Edwin Samuel written 'in honour of the tenth anniversary of the P.B.S.'  | 1 Apr 1946  | 22 sheets |
| 2/6/3                             | TS script for a broadcast 'Between Ourselves' by Rex Keating discussing planned programmes. Some rodent damage  | 14 Mar 1947 | 4 sheets  |
| 2/6/4                             | TS script for 'A 4 minute talk on behalf of the Arabs by Dr. I.B. George broadcast from Jerusalem and relayed to the American public over the combined net-work of the American Broadcasting Stations on Saturday 13 <sup>th</sup> May 1948' entitled 'Prospects of peace in the Holy Land after  | 13 Mar 1948 | 1 sheet   |

the termination of the Mandate'

- 2/6/5 Fragment of a TS Commentary by Rex Keating entitled 'Palestine Police' which was a recruitment film for the police. c1946 2 sheets  
Related Material: See GB165-0358 Percy Cleaver Collection. This contains the film for which this commentary was written
- 2/6/6 TS fragment 'The Secret People A Talk by Rex Keating' with a note 'broadcast at the request of the High Commissioner' c1948 4 sheets

2/7 Correspondence

- 2/7/1 Correspondence about the ordering of new recording equipment and Rex Keating's arrival in Palestine May - June 1945 8 sheets
- 2/7/2 Letter of recommendation for Rex Keating from the Palestine Government Agent in Egypt to the Chief Officer of Customs 14 July 1945 1 sheet
- 2/7/3 Letter to Nebi from Rex [Keating] relating to interviews for new posts 18 Sept 1946 1 sheet
- 2/7/4 Letter to Regional Petroleum Officer from Rex Keating relating to a request for a greater petrol ration 18 Sept 1946 1 sheet
- 2/7/5 Letter from ?Shaw to Keating sending his thanks for congratulations sent by Keating on ?Shaw's Honour 18 Jun 1946 1 sheet
- 2/7/6 Letter from W.H.M. Hindle to R Keating relating to recordings needed to continue the English service 29 Nov 1947 1 sheet
- 2/7/7 Letter from Rex Keating to the Director [of Broadcasting] relating to the sale of Keating's car 23 Feb 1948 1 sheet
- 2/7/8 Letter from Rex Keating to E. Guest relating to assistance given to Azmi Bey Nashashibi for material for the Arabic Service 16 Mar 1948 1 sheet
- 2/7/9 Letter from Evan Guest to Keating re Azmi Bey Nashashibi's visit to Cairo 25 Mar 1948 1 sheet
- 2/7/10 Envelope labelled 'Memo from Nebi Confidential' 17 Apr 1948 3 sheets

- containing a copy of a letter from Edwin Samuel to Azmi [Nashashibi] 16 April 1948; letter from ?Nebi to Rex [Keating]
- 2/7/11 Copy of letter to Nebi [from Rex Keating] relating to his escape with light injuries from a bombing 13 [Mar] 1948 1 sheet
- 2/8 Drawing of Chief Censor
- Pencil drawing labelled 'Gray – H Chief Censor Palestine' Not dated 1 sheet
- 2/9 Reference material probably used in the course of business
- Printed booklet 'Palestine Telephone Directory Jerusalem and Southern Palestine' Apr 1944 1 booklet
- Printed booklet, 'The Palestine Police Calendar of Events' 1946 1 booklet
- 2/10 End of Mandate
- 2/10/1 File labelled 'Evacuation Instructions' Circulars and notices to employees of the British Administration relating to evacuation at the end of the mandate. 1948 34 sheets
- Arrangement: In original order
- 2/10/2 Circulars relating to Compensation payable at the end of the mandate 1948
- 2/10/2/1 Staff Circular No. 2/48 Compensation payable to Government Officers and Employees on the termination of the Mandate 28 Feb 1948 1 item
- 2/10/2/2 Staff Circular No. 2/48 Compensation payable to Government Officers and Employees on the termination of the Mandate 28 Feb 1948 1 item
- 2/10/2/3 Staff Circular No. 2/48 Compensation payable to Government Officers and Employees on the termination of the Mandate 28 Feb 1948 1 item
- 2/10/2/4 Accountant-General's Circular No. 14/48 Compensation payable to Government Officers and employees on the 22 Mar 1948 1 item

termination of the Mandate

2/10/3	'Export Entry – General' Form detailing goods to be exported by Mr R Keating	20 Apr 1948	1 sheet
2/10/4	Rex Keating's Leave and Last Pay Certificate	1948	2 sheets
2/10/5	Two copies of a TS 'Inventory of Palestine Government Property in Zone "A" Studios' listing equipment and files	24 Apr 1948	6 sheets

### **3 Palestine Civil Service (First Division) Association and the re-grading of salaries**

3/1	File labelled 'First Division Association' consisting of minutes of meetings of the Palestine Civil Service (1 <sup>st</sup> Division) Association, 1946-1947 and a 'Cash Account for Calendar Year 1947' for the Palestine Civil Service (1 <sup>st</sup> Division) Association	1946-1947	24 sheets
3/2	File 'Compensation Payable to Officers (Mills' Report)' consisting of correspondence relating to Rex Keating's eligibility for the re-grading of his salary according to the Mills' Report and including the printed 'Report on Revision of Salaries of the First Division by E. Mills, 1947 and Staff Circular No. 31 Revision of Salaries of officers of the First Division of the Public Service of Palestine, 6 Nov 1947	1947	16 sheets; 2 booklets

### **4 Social Life**

4/1	Envelope labelled 'Sports Club Jerusalem' containing Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 21 Mar 1947; Report of the Committee for 1947; Proposed Rules, 1948; Agenda for Annual General Meeting of the Sports Club Jerusalem, Mar 1948; Balance Sheet of income and expenditure for the year ended 31 Dec 1947	1947-1948	6 sheets
-----	--	-----------	----------



- 4/2 Menu of dinner from 'Visit of the Provost Marshal, 29 May 1947 1 sheet  
M.E.L.F. COL. D. W. L. Melville...to Palestine'
- 4/3 Printed Notice announcing opening of new Branch offices 1948 1 sheet  
of the Automobile Club & Touring Association of  
Palestine

**5 Memorandum on Administration of Palestine**

- Printed pamphlet 'Memorandum on the Administration of June 1947 1 booklet  
Palestine under the Mandate' by the Government of  
Palestine

**6 UNRWA**

- Printed booklet 'United Nations Aid to Arab Refugees c1954 1 booklet  
from Palestine'