

Reference code: GB165-0594

Title: Valerie Nelson Collection

Name of creator: Robinson, Valerie Winifred (b.1934)

Dates of creation of material: 1968-2014

Level of description: Fonds

Extent: 3 volumes, 50 slides

Biographical history: Robinson, Valerie Winifred (b.1934)

Born 1934. Daughter of George and Jean Isabel Nelson. Educated at Convent Schools. Joined Women's Royal Naval Service in 1954. Served in Air Traffic Control at the Naval Air Station at Lossiemouth and afterwards in Northern Ireland. In 1960, joined the Commonwealth Relations Office and was posted to Colombo from 1960-1962, Kuala Lumpur from 1964-1966 and New Delhi from 1966-1968. Following the merger of the Commonwealth Relations Office (C.R.O.) with the Foreign Office, she spent four years in the Persian Gulf from 1968-1972, the Gilbert and Ellis Islands from 1972-1974, Islamabad from 1976-1978 and Muscat from 1978-1982. In 1982, she married Commander D.J.H. "Robbie" Robinson, who was serving with the Sultan of Oman's Navy at the time. After retirement, they lived in the north of Scotland and London, where they both worked for charities. After Robbie's death in 1997, Valerie worked as a volunteer for the Royal Geographical Society, the Anglo-Omani Society and the British Association for Cemeteries in South Asia.

Scope and content: Papers and photographs relating to the life and work of Valerie Robinson (née Nelson) as a personal assistant in the office of the Political Residency Bahrain 1968-1972 and The British Embassy, Muscat 1977-1982 consisting of two photograph/scrapbook volumes entitled 'The Political Residency, Bahrain 1968-1972 Volume I' and 'Travels in the Persian Gulf 1968-1972. British Embassy, Muscat 1977-1982 Volume II' and an account entitled 'Life at the Political Residency Persian Gulf 1968-1972 and The British Embassy, Muscat 1977-1982 by Valerie Robinson (née Nelson) Volume III' written in 2014 and fifty 35mm colour slides from her service in the Political Residency Persian Gulf 1968-1972.

System of arrangement:

1. Volume 1: Photograph Album: Political Residency Bahrain
2. Volume 2: Photograph Album: Persian Gulf Travels & Muscat Embassy
3. Volume 3: Account of daily life
4. Slides: Political Residency Persian Gulf 1968-1972

Access conditions: Open

Language of material: English

Conditions governing reproduction: No restrictions on copying or quotation other than statutory regulations. Copyright has been assigned to the Archive.

Custodial history: In the possession of Valerie Robinson

Immediate source of acquisition: Received as a gift from Valerie Robinson (née Nelson) on 16 Jun 2014

Location of copies: The 35mm colour slides of the Political Residency Persian Gulf 1968-1972 have been digitised.

Related Units of Description:

In MEC Archive

Other collections with material relating to Bahrain include:

- GB165-0085 Harold Dickson Collection
- GB165-0364 Dame Violet Dickson Collection
- GB165-0214 Dr Stanley Mylrea Collection

For accounts of the transfer of the residency from Bushire to Bahrain please see:

- GB165-0138 Sir William Hay Collection
- GB165-0238 Sir George Rendel Collection

For material relating to Oman please see the Guide to Collections relating to Oman.

Finding aids: In Guide; Handlist

Archivist's note: Fonds, file and item level description created by Debbie Usher 11 July 2014 and revised 27 Sept 2016. Biographical history supplied by Valerie Robinson.

**FILE AND ITEM LEVEL DESCRIPTION OF THE VALERIE NELSON
COLLECTION**

- | | | | |
|------|--|------------------|-----------------|
| 1 | <u>Volume 1: Photograph Album: Political Residency Bahrain</u>
Photograph album/scrapbook labelled Volume 1 'The Political Residency, Bahrain 1968-1972' | 1968-1972 | 1 volume |
| 2 | <u>Volume 2: Photograph Album: Persian Gulf Travels & Muscat Embassy</u>
Photograph album/scrapbook labelled Volume 2 'Travels in the Persian Gulf 1968-1972 and British Embassy, Muscat 1977-1982' | 1968-1982 | 1 volume |
| 3 | <u>Volume 3: Account of daily life</u>
Book labelled Volume 3 'Life at the Political Residency Persian Gulf 1968-1972 and The British Embassy, Muscat 1977-1982 by Valerie Robinson (née Nelson)' | Mar 2014 | 1 volume |
| 4 | <u>Slides: Political Residency Persian Gulf 1968-1972</u>
35mm colour slides
Captions are original
Please note that these slides have been digitised. | <u>1968-1972</u> | <u>50 items</u> |
| 4/1 | Entrance to Residency, Bahrain | | |
| 4/2 | Entrance to Residence office, Bahrain | | |
| 4/3 | Mosque in Residency grounds | | |
| 4/4 | My bungalow, Residency Bahrain | | |
| 4/5 | Entrance to Navy House, Bahrain | | |
| 4/6 | Temple bell hanging outside Navy House | | |
| 4/7 | Bell presented to Admiral Charles Austen | | |
| 4/8 | Commodore's Barge: CNFG stands for Commander Naval Forces Gulf | | |
| 4/9 | Camel racing Bahrain | | |
| 4/10 | Shaikh Isa bin Sulman Al Khalifah, ruler of Bahrain at the races | | |

- 4/11 Ruler's servants serving coffee
- 4/12 Ruler's servants serving coffee
- 4/13 Camel racing Bahrain
- 4/14 Sailing was a popular hobby
- 4/15 Travelling around the Gulf: The station Commander R.A.F. Muharraq waves us off
- 4/16 Safe journey!
- 4/17 Sir Stewart Crawford, Political Resident, with Shaikh Zaid, Ruler of Abu Dhabi. Jim Treadwell, Political Agent Abu Dhabi in background Feb1969
- 4/18 Entrance to Trucial Oman Scouts Camp at Sharjah
- 4/19 T.O.S. [Trucial Oman Scouts] Camp looking towards sea
- 4/20 T.O.S. [Trucial Oman Scouts] Camp
- 4/21 Picture of the T.O.S. [Trucial Oman Scouts] Fort at Buraimi hanging in the Officers' Mess Sharjah.
- 4/22 Breakfast the morning after the T.O.S. [Trucial Oman Scouts] ball 8 Nov 1968
- 4/23 Morning after the T.O.S. [Trucial Oman Scouts] ball 8 Nov 1968
- 4/24 T.O.S. [Trucial Oman Scouts] Camp at Hum Hum 8 Nov 1968
- 4/25 Expedition to Umm al Zamul with T.O.S. [Trucial Oman Scouts] 21-26 February 1970. 21-26 Feb 1970
- 4/26 View of Buraimi Fort, where we stayed the night 21-26 Feb 1970
- 4/27 T.O.S. [Trucial Oman Scouts] Land Rover used on our expedition 21-26 Feb 1970
- 4/28 Setting off. Note canvas bag to keep drinking water cool 21-26 Feb 1970
- 4/29 Major David Severn (Expedition leader), Mr Jim Treadwell and our guide 21-26 Feb 1970
- 4/30 Bedu Camp 21-26 Feb 1970
- 4/31 Woman at the well 21-26 Feb 1970
- 4/32 "What is the News?" Major David Severn and Mr Jim Treadwell 21-26 Feb 1970
- 4/33 Mrs Philippa Treadwell examining an old man's treasure 21-26 Feb 1970
- 4/34 Crossed into Oman. Family passing camp gates at Ibri 21-26 Feb 1970

- 4/35 Crowd gathered to see us at Ibri 21-26 Feb 1970
- 4/36 T.O.S. [Trucial Oman Scouts] soldier gathers oranges. Wadi Asima (Political Agent, Dubai, Julian Bullard and Margaret Bullard) 22 Feb 1969
- 4/37 Sir Geoffrey Arthur, new Political Resident arrived Bahrain 1 Oct 1970 1970
Sir G. [Geoffrey] Arthur on Residency tennis court
- 4/38 Visit to Salalah with Sir Geoffrey Arthur 6 Mar 1971 – 9 Mar 1971. Entrance to Old Palace
- 4/39 Fishermen at Salalah
- 4/40 Old Palace Salalah
- 4/41 Sultan Qaboos, ruler of Oman, takes us on a tour of Salalah
- 4/42 Sir G. Arthur being driven by Sultan Qaboos
- 4/43 Posing for my camera: Sir G. Arthur, Sultan Qaboos, Economic adviser
- 4/44 Sir G. Arthur and Sultan Qaboos
- 4/45 Little girl in Salalah
- 4/46 Man with incense burners
- 4/47 2 Dec 1971 Day the U.A.E. was set up: Jim Treadwell (Political Agent, Abu Dhabi and Patrick Wright (Deputy Political Resident) at Dubai airport
- 4/48 Political Resident and Julian Walker (Political Agent, Dubai)
- 4/49 Farewell to the Trucial Oman Scouts
- 4/50 Sir Geoffrey Arthur and Julian Walker