Introduction

Please note that the following Guide is not comprehensive. It has been compiled from the main Guide to the Middle East Centre Archive and only collections in that catalogue that explicitly mention Oman have been included. Not included in this Guide are several collections that cover the Middle East as a whole and thus may contain material relevant to Oman. For example the Arab Bulletin; British Diplomatic Perspectives on the Middle East; Cairo Conference; Chatham House; A.G.M. Dickson; H.R.P Dickson and the Mance papers. For these papers please consult the main Guide to the Middle East Centre Archive.

Where a more detailed description of a collection exists, this is indicated in this Guide by the word ‘Handlist’.

Please note that uncatalogued material appears at the end of this Guide

ASHLEY, Edward. (1934-2001). GB165-0399
OMAN ARCHIVE: Papers relating to Edward Ashley’s service in the Sultan’s Armed Forces Jebel Regiment Dhofar between 1970-1977, incorporating training materials including a training booklet, ‘Know Your Enemy’ and ‘Jebel Regiment’s Standard Operating Procedures’; materials on anti-guerrilla operations including ‘Commander’s Diary’, ‘Situation Reports’ and ‘Operation Instructions’; including maps of areas which were used during the joint military operations; ‘Oman Humour’, including cartoons; congratulatory letters and Jebel Regiment awards; a staff list of individuals who served in the Sultan’s Armed Forces, including a letter from ex-staff relating to the establishment of the Sultan’s Armed Forces Museum; and photographic material relating to Edward Ashley’s service in Oman, subsequent Sultan’s Armed Forces Association reunions including a trip to Oman in 1984. 8 boxes. Handlist.

Papers mainly relating to Sir Richard Beaumont’s service in the Foreign Office, in particular his service as Consul in Jerusalem in 1948 and his role in the Buraimi Oasis dispute with Saudi-Arabia in Jan-Oct 1960. Includes a handwritten chronology of events in Palestine and Jerusalem in the period Feb-Dec 1948, with personal diary notes, and photocopies of documents held by The National Archives, perhaps compiled for research purposes. There is also a small amount of material relating to Lebanon and Syria during World War II, as well as a collection of newspaper clippings, 1979-1995, reporting on events in the Middle East. 1 box. Handlist.

BUTLER, Michael Paul. (b.1940). GB165-0563

DRUMMOND, Antony John-Deane-. (1917-2012) GB165-0340
OMAN ARCHIVE: Typescript chapter entitled ‘22 Special Air Service Operations in Muscat & Oman 1958/59’ with accompanying photographs and sketches, also including a photocopy of an account of the military operation in Oman in The Times April 9 1959. Handlist. 1 box

EDWARDS, Francis M. (b. 1886). GB165-0096
Papers on Egyptian rural problems and provincial taxation reports, 1920s; reports on a visit to Saad Zaghlul in Upper Egypt, October 1921; essays on early Muslim travellers in the Middle East; book reviews; note on the title of the ruler of Muscat; account of a duck shoot in the Libyan desert; letter, 4 July 1959, from L. Lockhart about the Persian claim to Bahrain. 1 box.

GRAHAM, John David Carew (1923-2012) GB165-0327
OMAN ARCHIVE: Papers relating to Graham’s work as CSAF (Commander Sultan’s Armed Forces) April 1970- September 1972. Mainly military papers, with some personal memoirs and reflections and a significant quantity of printed material dating from c 1970 to 2000. The majority of the military papers focus on the Dhofar war of 9 June 1965 – c 1975. Other events and subjects referred to are: propaganda during the Dhofar war; military activities of the SAF in northern Oman; the administration of the SAF, and the Salalah coup of 1970 during which the present Sultan Qaboos bin Said deposed his father Said bin Taimur. The personal memoirs relate to time spent by Graham in Oman and in other countries. The printed materials give background and context to the military papers, and some of the more recent printed materials give and idea of military activities and social and industrial developments in Oman today. Also includes two photograph albums taken c.1970 to c.1972, capturing military life in the Sultanate of Oman, including events such as the accession of Sultan Qaboos bin Said as well as some loose prints.10 boxes. Handlist.

HAWLEY, Sir Donald Frederick (b.1921) GB165-0338
OMAN ARCHIVE: Mainly of printed materials relating to souvenirs from National Day celebrations in Oman: speeches from the sultan; and invitations to events, 1980-2000. 2 boxes. Handlist.

HAZELDEN, John Winston. (b. 1942) GB165-0499
Papers and artefacts mainly relating to the Royal Oman Police including the unpublished memoir ‘Shurta Recollections of Service with the Royal Oman Police in the 1970s’ by John
Hazelden which describes his ‘personal memories…with some historical background to provide context’ and covers his life and work in Sohar, Rostaq and Ibra. Also includes a bound ‘Pictorial addendum’ to the memoir and four volumes relating to law in Oman consisting of the Police Decree 1973, the 1974 Criminal Code, and commercial business laws of Oman 1974 and 1990. Bound volume with a two part history of the Royal Oman Police Air Wing divided into ‘Brief Outline of Early Operations’ and ‘Aircraft Types and Unit Development’ and bound volume of copies of photographs entitled ‘Pictures of Sur Division Royal Oman Police 1975-1978’. Also includes an unused bilingual (English and Arabic) Royal Oman Police Diary for 2001, printed book ‘The Sultan’s Armed Forces Elementary Omani Colloquial Arabic for English Speakers’, printed booklet ‘Omani Arabic (some spoken terms and phrases)’, a 1975 National Day commemorative medallion in a presentation box as well as text and photographs relating to the medallion, 12 Oman First Day Cover postcards and postage Stamps 1984-1985, a Muscat Police notebook 1970-1973, Oman police badge, passports relating to Oman and Ras al Khaimah and a copy of a watercolour of a boat. 4 boxes. Handlist.

HEPWORTH, Charles. (b.1943). GB165-0410
OMAN ARCHIVE: Papers and photographs relating to Charles Hepworth’s service in the Sultan’s Armed Forces during 1970-1971 including a memoir ‘A Walk on God’s Carpet Adventures in Oman’; training materials including ‘Field Notes on Saudi Arabia 1935’; papers relating to missions, speeches by the Sultan, propaganda leaflets and SAF bulletins. Also includes some maps of Southern Arabia, newspaper clippings and a small amount of correspondence about walking and mapping in Oman, as well as digital copies of 35mm slides including Morocco, Oman, the Hadhramaut (Aden) and a report of a Sandhurst expedition to the Hadramaut 1962-1963 with photographs. 6 boxes. Handlist.

JÄCKLI, Rudolf. (1924-2000). GB165-0334

KERR, William. (1930-2012). GB165-0572
Papers, photographs and artefacts relating to William Kerr’s service in the Sultan’s Armed Forces (Muscat Regiment) Oman, including administrative papers, maps, printed publications, 2 shield plaques and a photo album/scrapbook. The photograph album/scrapbook covers his period of service in 1973 and a visit to Oman arranged for Sultan’s Armed Forces Association members in 1984, and includes photographs of Sultan Qaboos and the British and Jordanian Ambassadors. A further series of photographs documents Sultan Qaboos’ visit to Simba in 1972. 2 boxes. Handlist.

LAMOND, Alex. GB165-0400
Papers and photographs mainly relating to Alex Lamond’s service in Oman between 1970-1972 including administrative papers on training of Desert Regiment soldiers and planning of various Desert Regiment operations. There is also some material relating to the visit of Major General M Janes MBE, Director Royal Artillery to the Sultan’s Armed Forces (SAF) and the Oman Artillery, as well as a script of the BBC broadcast ‘Guerillas in the Persian Gulf’, including comments, and newspaper and magazine articles. 3 boxes. Handlist.

LINAKER, Christopher. (b.1945) GB165-0601

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35mm colour slides and digital images relating to Christopher Linaker’s army service in Oman from 1970-1971. Images document life on the military base, tribal disputes, the handing over of command, fighting, village and vaccination patrols and military operations. The collection also includes of images from the Salalah Palace during and after the coup. 113 items. Handlist.

LUCAS, Ivor. (b.1927) GB165-0561
TS article ‘Reflections on a diplomatic career in the Arab and Muslim worlds 1951-84’ by Ivor Lucas covering his work in the British Foreign Service relating to the Gulf, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Libya, Aden and Syria and giving his reflections on the changing face of Islam. 1 file. Handlist.

McKEOWN, John. (b.1941) GB165-0339

MIDDLE EAST DEVELOPMENT DIVISION. GB165-0203
Project papers and reports, 1939-1980s, dealing with agriculture, co-operatives, education, finance, fisheries, forestry, health provision, industry, mineral resources, public administration, transport, water resources, and other development projects, mainly in Jordan (including the West Bank territory), but also covering Aden, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Libya, Oman, Israel and Palestine; correspondence files; some papers on the South-East Asia Development Division and the Overseas Development Institute. 39 boxes. Handlist.

MURLY-GOTTO, Anthony (b.1942) GB165-0367
TS article entitled ‘From War to Peace Oman 1975-1978 Snaphots’ by Anthony Murly-Gotto giving a personal account of his service in Oman and in particular an account of the development and management of the finances and budgets of Oman’s military. 36 sheets. Handlist.

NELSON, Valerie – please see Robinson, Valerie

NICHOLLS, R.K. (b.1921) GB165-0335
OMAN ARCHIVE: Oman Visit Report 1st – 11th June 1964: Report written by Nicholls for Petroleum Development Oman (PDO). The report considers suitable marine locations in the Saih al Malsh Bay area near Muscat for ocean tanker crude oil loading facilities, a barge jetty, and other problems relating to crude oil off-takes; Oman ’93: Booklet published by the Ministry of Information about development within Oman. The booklet was sent to Nicholls as a gift from Ayild Waleed a former colleague of Nicholls’ and it is annotated to this effect. 1 box. Handlist.

PARTINGTON, F.M. GB165-0337
OMAN ARCHIVE: File of miscellaneous materials put together by Partington consisting of photographs of Muscat, Muttrah, Ruwi, and Bait Al Falaj in 1970 and 1980 (stored separately); a ‘wanted by the Sultanate Government’ poster which was given to Partington by a colleague from SAF; a publication by the Embassy of the Sultanate of Oman in London entitled Oman; and a bound guide to the SAF museum in Bait Al Falaj. 1 box. Handlist.

PAXTON, Julian, F.E. (b.1937) GB165-0331
OMAN ARCHIVE: Miscellaneous collection of PDO (Petroleum Development Oman)
company files mainly from the PDO office in Muscat, which was closed in 1976. The files were retained by Paxton as part of a salvage operation and would otherwise have been destroyed. The papers contain some reports, but mainly consist of subject and organisational files used by the staff of the Muscat office for reference. The collection also contains a small amount of Paxton’s own research papers arising from his interest in Bertram Thomas an early explorer in Oman, and some printed materials relating to Oman and other Middle Eastern countries. 14 boxes. Handlist.

PEYTON, William Durham. (1917-1991) GB165-0330
OMAN ARCHIVE: The main scope of the papers consists of materials 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. The papers also contain materials relating to other countries, particularly the Yemen, in which Peyton held an interest. 6 boxes. Handlist.

PIRIE, Charles. (b.1943) GB165-0516
Account of Charles Pirie’s tour of Oman in 1966 entitled ‘Chas’ Muscat & Oman Patrol with QDG’ by Hugh Nicklin and 41 colour slides taken by Charles Pirie whilst on the tour consisting of images of Muscat, Nizwa and Sohar and including images of a tribal delegation going to see the Sultan, Muscat and Nizwa forts, Sultan’s Armed Forces soldiers and outpost, market scenes and the Oman coastline. 18 sheets, 41 slides. Handlist. Photographic collection.

ROBINSON, Valerie Winifred. (b.1934). GB165-0594

ROBINSON, Vyvyan. (b.1930) GB165-0621

SEARLE, David. (b.1933) GB165-0562
OMAN ARCHIVE: Papers and photographs relating to David Searle’s service in the Royal Oman Police, 1980-1984, including his certificate of service, Royal Oman Police Officer’s Club Rules, official parade programmes, a PDO (Petroleum Development Oman) News magazine and digital copies of photographs from his service in Oman. 1 file; 119 digital images. Handlist.

SEARLE, Pauline. (1922-2011) GB165-0328
OMAN ARCHIVE: The papers cover the nine year period which Searle spent in Oman as a journalist for Reuters, relating mainly to the Dhofar war in southern Oman, which was ongoing during the time Searle lived there, and military operations connected with the war. A significant part of the papers relate directly to Searle’s work for Reuters, and her communications with Reuters personnel in Bahrain and London. Other papers are working notes, and written articles.
created and collected by Searle in the course of her work. There is a small amount of personal papers and printed material. Some of the materials look at the wider context of life in Oman for the local people. c1968-1979. 4 boxes. Handlist.

Sichel, Peter Robert (b.1946). GB165-0426
OMAN ARCHIVE: Papers relating to the work of Peter Sichel in Oman during the period 1965-1984. Including the first demographic surveys of Musandam and Dhofar and the research taken in order to complete the reports. Also correspondence and internal staff memos relating to the development of Oman, and official reports on social, political, local progress. Copies of slides and photographs taken by Sichel of Oman, including those used in talks that he gave in the 1980s referring to development in Oman. The collection also includes maps used by the military and publications relating to Oman during this period. 5 boxes. Handlist.

Skeet, Ian. (b.1928) GB165-0329
OMAN ARCHIVE: The main scope of the papers are research materials for two books about Oman, written by Skeet: Muscat and Oman: the End of an Era Faber and Faber, London 1974; and Oman: Politics and Development Macmillan, 1992. Other materials relate to Skeet’s interest in other Middle Eastern countries, and there are a few personal documents. Broad subjects covered by the papers are: The Sultanate and life in Oman before 1970, and the development of the country under the new Sultan Qaboos from 1970. A large number of the materials focus on the development of law and the economy in Oman from 1970. 5 boxes. Handlist.

Smiley, David (1916-2009) GB165-0336
OMAN ARCHIVE: The papers relate to the later part of Smiley’s career as CSAF (Commander Sultan’s Armed Forces) in Oman, and consist mainly of correspondence between Smiley and colleagues, and the Sultan Said bin Taimur, and a report by Smiley on the SAF. 1 box. Handlist.

Sultan’s Armed Forces Association GB165-0333
OMAN ARCHIVE: A full serial of the Association publication (Newsletters, later Journals 1968-2021), and a small amount of printed ephemera. The Newsletters reports on the activities of the SAF, and social events of the Society. Activities of the Anglo-Omani Society are also documented in the later issues. The publication is intended to be a journal of record containing illustrated articles of historic as well as current interest, book reviews relevant to SAF and to Oman and personal details of members, including obituaries. The publication provides insight into the development and achievements of the military in Oman over a period of thirty years, as well as regular descriptions of the development of the country itself in a context not solely military. 4 boxes. Handlist.

Sweeney, Daniel. (b.1945) GB165-0633
WARTON, Keith. (1940-2010) GB165-0569
Papers and photographs relating to Keith Warton’s secondment from the Royal Air Force to the Sultan of Oman’s Air Force (SOAF) between September 1966 and May 1968. The papers include maps of Oman, captions for slides and notes written by Keith Warton for talks given on a trip to Oman in 2008. The notes include general notes on equipment, facilities, tactics and operations; an account of an ambush on an oil convoy in 1967 and an account of evacuating casualties from Raven’s Roost airstrip in 1968. The photographs consist of 2 boxes of 35mm colour slides taken by Keith Warton during his service in Oman 1966-1968 and include images of daily life in Oman, army movements, roads, aircraft, street scenes, aerial photography, official ceremonies and landscapes. 2 folders; 2 slide boxes. Handlist.

WILLIAMSON, Graham Frank. (b.1926). GB165-0556
TS memoir ‘Reflections on Oman’ giving an account of the setting up of vocational technical training centres in Oman and also commenting on the impact of the Iranian revolution on Shiites in the Omani Government, as well as increased state enforcement of Islamic law and social separation between Omantis and expatriates. The memoir also comments on living conditions including the climate and issues with water and electricity. Photocopy of a printed article ‘The Labour Situation in Oman’ written by Graham Williamson but credited to H.E. Khalfan Nasser Al-Waheiby, Minister of Social Affairs and Labour and published in Al-Markazi in November 1977. 1 file. Handlist.

TS copy of proclamation of the deposition of the Khedive and establishment of a British Protectorate in Egypt, December 1914; papers on Wingate’s service in Mesopotamia, and Muscat and Oman, 1917-22, with TS of a lecture on this subject, including an account of the Treaty of Sib, given at the Middle East Centre, 1965; TS article on the papers of Sir Samuel Baker for the period 1875-93. 1 box. Handlist.

UNCATALOGUED MATERIAL
Access to some uncatalogued material is restricted, please contact the archivist for further details. Access is normally possible where draft catalogues are available.

ANGLO-OMANI SOCIETY. (1976-) GB165-0342
Papers relating to the Anglo-Omani Society including minutes, agenda and reports and copies of talks given at the Anglo-Omani Society and some printed articles and books. Also includes papers and photographs relating to the state visit of the Sultan of Oman to the United Kingdom in 1982. 16 boxes. Draft catalogue.

BUTT, Charles Richard (1935-2006) GB165-0043
TS account illustrated with 4 photographs by Sgt. Charles Butt, 2nd Battalion Aden Protectorate Levies, of a border incident at Merta, Aden Protectorate, in June 1958. Copies of Al-Aqsa and other uncatalogued material relating to the Sultan’s Armed Forces, Oman. A detailed catalogue for the Charles Butt 35mm colour slides is available and these slides have also been digitised. A selection of the slides are available for viewing online. 2 boxes. Photographic Collection.