

Middle East Centre Archive
 St Antony's College, Oxford
Guide to collections relating to Syria

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 Syria 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 Syria. For example the Arab Bulletin; British Diplomatic Perspectives on the Middle East; Cairo Conference; Chatham House; Clayton; Dickson, Arthur GM; Dickson, Lt Col H.R.P 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

Please note TS means typescript. MS means manuscript i.e. handwritten.

ANTONIUS, George Habib. (1891-1942). GB165-0011
 Reports and letters when Senior Associate in the Middle East of the Institute of Current World Affairs on Palestine, Lebanon, Egypt, Syria and Iraq 1930-39, including notes on the case of Taha Hussein, 1932, and on Saiyid Jamal ad-Din al-Afghani and Shaikh Muhammad 'Abduh. 128 sheets. Handlist.

BARBOUR, Nevill. (1895-1974). GB165-0019
 Copies of articles and broadcasts on the Middle East and North Africa, Zionism, the Arabic language etc. , 1936-63, with an English translation of part of the memoirs of Sidqi Pasha; report on Syria and Palestine presented by M. Etienne Flandin to the "Group senatorial pour la défense des intérêts français à l'étranger"; pamphlet entitled "The Independence of Egypt" by a member of the Egyptian delegation to London, January 1921; papers and correspondence relating to Taufiq Hakim's novel *The Return of the Spirit*, 1933-37; correspondence with Lt. Gen. Sir George MacMunn regarding the latter's article on Palestine, "Nisi Dominus" 1950-51. 5 boxes. Handlist.

BEAUMONT, Sir Richard Ashton. (1912-2009). GB165-0597
 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.

BRUNTON, Capt. Chisholm Dunbar. (b.1887). GB165-0040
 “Who’s Who” in Damascus, 1919; papers on political situation in Palestine 1920-1921; proposal for a “Jordan Reserve Force”, 11 Sept. 1920; article by Uriel Dann ‘The Beginnings of the Arab Legion’ reprinted from *Middle Eastern Studies* Vol 5, 1969, issue 3. 34 sheets, 2 items. Handlist.

BRITISH SYRIAN SCHOOLS ASSOCIATION. GB165-0397
 Legal document entitled ‘British Syrian Schools Duplicate Declaration of Trust of property in Syria and elsewhere belonging to the Association’. The document notes that the British Syrian Schools Association was loaned £1,500 by Mentor Mott in 1877 using the property of the Association as security for the loan as well as setting out some rules and regulations for the running of the Association such as voting rights at General meetings and the granting to Augusta Mott and Susette Harriet Smith the right to hire and dismiss staff and manage the running of the schools and other institutions. The document also includes a supplemental indenture in which Mentor Mott relinquished his claim to the loaned money in 1887. 1 item. Handlist.

CAMERON WATT, Prof. Donald. (b. 1928) GB165-0296
 Press-cutting collection from British newspapers covering: oil; the Arabian peninsula; Middle East (in general); Egypt; Cyprus; Malta; Eisenhower Doctrine; Iran; Lebanon; Libya; Iraq Revolution; Israel; Jordan; Syria; Turkey; Sudan; French North Africa; Somaliland; the Suez Crisis; some maps. 11 boxes. Handlist.

CARLETON, Dr. Alford. GB165-0048
 Correspondence with the Bishop in Jerusalem, 1941, and Gen. Sir Maitland Wilson, 1942-48, on the situation in Vichy Syria. 24 sheets.

CHEHAB, Emir Farid (1908-1985). GB165-0384
 Lebanese intelligence reports and analysis, in Arabic, covering internal Lebanese politics, communist parties in the Middle East and political developments in Syria, Morocco, Turkey, Kuwait, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Jordan and Israeli and Palestinian politics, 1945-1983. 12 boxes. Handlist.

CORNWALLIS, Sir Kinahan. (1883-1959). GB165-0064
 Photocopy of letter, 17 May 1939, to Lord Wavell on Allenby-Feisal interview in Damascus of 3 October 1918; order of service for memorial service for King Feisal II, the Crown Prince of Iraq and General Nuri Al Said, 30 July 1958; letter, 24 August 1958, to Stewart Perowne about events in Iraq. 4 sheets; 1 item.

CROWE, Sir Colin Tradescant. (1913-89). GB165-0070
 TS account of the restoration of relations between the United Kingdom and the United Arab Republic after the Suez episode, 1957-1961. 230 sheets.

DIGBY EL MEZRAB, Jane Elizabeth, formerly Lady Ellenborough. (1807-1881)
GB165-0087

Microfilm copy of housebook and accounts, Damascus, 1861-70. 1 reel. Handlist.

FEISAL, Emir of Hijaz (later King of Iraq). (1885-1933). GB165-0105

Intelligence and other miscellaneous documents in Arabic and English, 1916-19, 1939, 1941, 1965, including correspondence with Gen. Gouraud, Lord Allenby, Col. Joyce and others; details of Feisal's visit to London 1933; copies of agreements with Dr. Weizmann, Akaba, June 1918 and London, 3 Jan. 1919; copies of documents from the Syrian Archives on Feisal's rule in Damascus, 1919-20. 1 box.

GIESLER, Rodney William Aldous (b.1931). GB165-0508

Papers, slides and films relating to Rodney Giesler's life and work for the Kuwait Oil Company Ltd Film Unit and his later travels in the Middle East consisting of an extract from an oral history transcript 'Memories of Kuwait 1958-61' as well as a collection of 35mm colour slides mainly of the Gulf including images of oil fields and installations, the visit of King Saud to Kuwait in 1961 as well as slides of tourist sites in Iran, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria. Also includes digital copies of the documentary films 'Close up on Kuwait' and 'Dubai' which were directed by Rodney Giesler and focus on the oil industry and the development of Kuwait and Dubai as well as some printed materials including booklets giving a history of the Kuwait oil company. 2 boxes. Handlist.

HUBBARD, Laurence Arthur. (b.1931). Reverend. GB165-0552

Correspondence relating to Reverend Hubbard's Missionary work in Damascus and Aleppo, Syria 1993-1996 and in Aqaba, Jordan 1996-2000; including Reverend Hubbard's appointment letter and his background notes on Damascus, monthly link letters for supporters at home and letters from friends and supporters during and after Reverend Hubbard's overseas missionary work. Also includes photograph albums and slides documenting his missionary work for the Church, including images of the surrounding landscapes, architecture and life in Syria and Jordan, as well as a 'History of Aqaba' by Hubbard and slides from the Church Mission Society 'Palestine – paying the price' giving a presentation on conditions of the Palestinians in the 1990's. 3 boxes. Handlist.

ILIFF, Sir William Angus Boyd. (1898-1972). GB165-0155

Letter from Gertrude Bell to M. Seviran, 1923, about the situation in Iraq; information for candidates applying to the Egyptian and Sudanese civil service; agreement between the United Arab Republic, Cie Financière de Suez and International Bank for Reconstruction and Development on compensation following the nationalisation of the Suez Canal Co., 1958. 7 sheets; 1 item.

JERUSALEM AND THE EAST MISSION. GB165-0161

Records, 1841-1970s, including material on Palestine, Syria, Iraq, Jordan, Iran, Gulf, Egypt, Sudan, Cyprus and N. Africa; with correspondence on the political situation in Palestine, 1916-67; presscutting volumes. 256 boxes. Handlist. Photographic collection.

KEMP, P. GB165-0168

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Photocopies of material on the revenues of the Pasha of Mosul, 1845, with some maps of the Mosul area; photocopies of official reports on the political situation in Syria and the Lebanon, 1924-43, including material on the Druze rebellion. (Originals in PRO). 1 box.

KIRBY, Trevor Roland. (1923-2015).

GB165-0585

Papers relating to Trevor Kirby's service in the Palestine Police, consisting of a scrapbook with newspaper cuttings from his time in Palestine 1944-1948; an Arabic Language Textbook produced by the Palestine Police Force; four travel guidebooks covering Jerusalem, Syria, Lebanon, Transjordan; a printed Palestine Police Old Comrades' Association leaflet covering the history of the Palestine Police Force; a printed speech made by H.M. George VI thanking the Palestine Police; remembrance items including a roll of honour and latter printed editions, correspondence regarding the roll of honour and a remembrance cross; Palestine Police Old Comrades' Association Newsletters from 1950-2012, produced Quarterly (tri-annually from 2007), giving information on association news, regional meetings, annual dinners, obituaries, and purchasable association clothing. 7 boxes. Handlist.

KNAPP, Wilfrid Francis. (1924-2011).

GB165-0554

Draft manuscript of an unpublished book 'International Politics in the Middle East' by Wilfrid Knapp consisting of 7 chapters covering events from the 1950s to 1991 including Iran (Mossadegh), Egypt (Suez Crisis), the oil revolution, religious fundamentalism, the 1973 October War, Camp David, Afghanistan, the war in Lebanon and Israeli and Syrian relations and the Israeli-Palestinian peace process up until 1991 but with a focus on the 1980s. 1 file. Handlist.

LEACHMAN, Gerard Evelyn. (1880-1920).

GB165-0179

Diaries written by Lt-Colonel Gerard Evelyn Leachman from 1900-1910. Three diaries document his first military post with the Royal Sussex Regiment in South Africa during the Boar War. Leachman describes the landscape and places he travels through, the people he meets and the regiment's encounters with the Boar right through to when peace is declared and he is re-posted to India. Two further diaries document Leachman's journey from Iraq (Baghdad) to Syria (Aleppo) and from India to England while on military leave and his first expedition to the Arab Peninsula through Baghdad, for which he was awarded the Gill Medal by the Royal Geographical Society. The final diary consists of newspaper clippings reporting on Leachman's death by English and Arab newspapers, documenting his career and giving details of his murder and burial. 1 box. 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.

MacMICHAEL, Sir Harold Alfred. (1882-1969).

GB165-0196

Correspondence with prominent officials including Lord Lloyd, Sir Kinahan Cornwallis, Sir Reginald Wingate and Ormsby Gore, 1922-1941; Correspondence relating to Palestine, Syria and Sudan including letters from Chaim Weizmann, Judah Magnes, Sir H. Maitland Wilson, Sir Huddleston and Edgar Bonham Carter; Papers relating to MacMichael's Palestine Commissionership and also the Peel Commission recommendations of 1938; correspondence

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and papers relating to Palestine charities; texts of speeches and broadcasts by MacMichael 1938-1944; Anglo-Arab Association correspondence and papers 1945-1961; four volumes of press-cuttings, 1934-1967. 5 boxes. Handlist. Photographic collection.

PRICE, Morgan Philips. (1885-1973).

GB165-0232

Notes "Zeitun: a remarkable Armenian stronghold", 2 January 1914; memo on a Persian visit in October 1953; unpublished MS entitled "The National Revolution in Turkey, Persia and the Middle East"; diaries of travels in Iran, Iraq and Turkey, 1947; memos, notes and interviews relating to Afghanistan, Turkey, Iraq, Syria and Lebanon, 1946-53, including interviews with the Shah; correspondence 1941-59; press-cuttings relating to the Middle East 1889-1972. 8 boxes. Handlist. Photographic collection.

RENDEL, Sir George William. (1889-1979).

GB165-0238

"Notes on the proposed Greek participation in the War" TS report written while First Secretary in the British Legation, Athens during the First World War; TS correspondence between Rendel, Abdul Aziz ibn Saud, Amir Saud, Yusuf Yassin and Hafiz Wahba following Rendel's visit to Saudi Arabia, June-July 1937; correspondence with Sir Colin Crowe, December 1964, about his papers, with recollections of Ibn Saud and Saudi Arabia; TS note, 1965, on the modification of the Syria-Iraq frontier, 1929-31; TS note, 1966, on the transfer of the Residency from Bushire to Bahrain; TS note, 1966, on the Kuwait oil concession; photocopied MS diary of his visit to Saudi Arabia, February-March 1937 1 box. Photographic collection.

SAMUEL, Sir Herbert Louis, 1st Viscount Samuel. (1870-1963).

GB165-0252

Official papers, 1914-39, including some photocopies and carbon copies, on the future of Palestine, Zionism, the McMahon Correspondence, and a Palestine settlement, also correspondence with Lord Curzon on Arab nationalism, the French in Syria etc.; photocopies of letters, 1920-22, to the Hon. Philip Samuel written from Jerusalem by his parents and other members of his family. 2 boxes; 5 reels of film.

SCRIVENER, Rupert Frederick. (1890-1951).

GB165-0257

Papers relating to Scrivener's service as Chief Engineer of Palestine Railways and Ports, 1923-48, including reports on sabotage; historical development of railways in Turkey, Palestine and Syria; 1882-1946. 4 boxes. Handlist. Photographic collection.

SHONE, Sir Terence Allen. (1894-1965).

GB165-0259

MS account of events leading up to the accession of Yugoslavia to the Tripartite Pact and of the coup d'état in Belgrade, 1941; report on conditions in the Levant, April-August 1945, with diary notes by Lady Shone on events in Damascus, May-June 1945, and of a visit to Latakia, Hama, and Selimieh, 9-15 September 1945. 2 folders. Photographic collection.

SPEARS, Maj.-Gen. Sir Edward Louis, 1st Baronet. (1886-1974).

GB165-0269

Papers relating to Syrian and Lebanese affairs including the Spears Mission, 1941-44; the Lebanese constitutional crisis, 1943; Syrian and Lebanese independence; the future of Palestine; Anglo-Arab Association correspondence, 1946-66; Mt. Scopus case, 1953; Anglo-Arab Club correspondence, 1962-70; British-Tunisian Society correspondence; Middle Eastern affairs in general; press-cuttings on Syria and Lebanon, Palestine, Arab refugees, the Arab-Israeli conflict. 28 boxes. Handlist. Photographic collection.

- STRAHAN, Alec J.** (b. 1918) and **HARRIS, Martin.** (b.1915) GB165-0273
Photocopied TS extract from the diary of Captain Strahan RA, 8 February 1942 relating to the Abdin Palace incident, with an account by Capt. Martin Harris RHA of the same incident; two letters from Alec Strahan, January and February 1990, supplementing these accounts. Chapters 9 – 17 of Alec Strahan’s Memoirs. One black and white photograph of Alec Strahan, April 1944. 1 folder. Handlist.
- TASSELL, Robert.** (1784-1874) GB165-0277
Letter-book containing copies of Robert Tassell’s letters to his daughter Mary describing his journey to Egypt, Palestine, and Syria with his son Robert, 30 October 1839-25 July 1840; diary, 11 April-9 May 1840, of same journey illustrated with pencil sketches. 1 box. Handlist.
- TIBAWI, Abdul-Latif.** (b. 1910). GB165-0284
Two printed letters from the Patriarchs of Jerusalem and Antioch, 1887, probably intended for private circulation; Jihad, 1914 - photocopies of Ottoman proclamations in Turkish and French; map of the administrative divisions in Greater Syria, 1914; two letters in Arabic from Prof. Anis al-Maqdisi, 1932; Arab Revolt, 1936 - Qawuqji’s 1st and 8th proclamations; monthly Newsletter no. 2 of the 2nd Battalion, Lincolnshire Regt.; three letters written by A.L. Tibawi but published under the name or initials of his friend Alfred Haik; pact of 1919 submitted to the Palestine Royal Commission, Jan. 1937, with associated articles, letters and press-cuttings; pamphlet “The Husain McMahon correspondence, or, Palestine is covered by the British pledge of 1915 regarding the Arab independence”, Jaffa, 1939; report on education in the Southern District, Palestine Feb. 1941 - Oct. 1945; letters from A.J. Arberry and H.A.R. Gibb relating to Guillaume’s translation of the Sirah; essay on Islamic biographical dictionaries by Tarif Khalidi, 1973; essay entitled “The Basic features of Arabic poetry at the beginning of the Abbasid period” by V.K. Belay, 1960. 4 boxes. Handlist.
- TOD, George** (b.1914) GB165-0349
Photocopy of ‘From Pillar to Post. The family and autobiography of George Tod’ who worked in the oil industry, including material on Iraq 1940-1965, Lebanon 1950-1953, Syria 1953-1956 and South East Arabia 1956-1962. 1 box
- WEBB, Cecil Richard.** (1887-1974). GB165-0297
Palestine Railways Annual Report, 1930; letter from Webb to his wife about his trip across the desert from Damascus to Baghdad in the Nairn Transport bus 16 April 1934; photocopy of Beatrice Webb’s TS account of the evacuation of families of British officials at Suez, 1941; menu of a dinner at the King David Hotel, 19 January 1931; two membership cards of the Sodom and Gommorrah Golfing Society Dead Sea Golf Course, 3 January 1941. 18 sheets; 4 items. Photographic collection. Handlist.
- WILSON, Henry Beckles.** (Canadian journalist). GB165-0301
TS copy of a letter, 15 October 1918, from Wilson to Sir Robert Borden, Prime Minister of Canada, recounting T.E. Lawrence’s description of the capture of Damascus, with comments on the proposed French mandate and the situation in Palestine. 7 sheets.
- WOOD, Sir Richard.** (1806-1900). GB165-0306

Personal and career papers, 1824-98; political correspondence, 1831-98, including service in Damascus and Tunis; travel diaries and notebooks, including a journey from Baghdad to Ali Pasha's camp at Harir, 1836, and through Kurdistan; memorandum of Wood's services to the British Government; papers concerning Wood's landholding in Syria; family correspondence. Handlist. 8 boxes.

YALE, William. (1887-1975).

GB165-0308

Microfilm and photocopies of Yale's reports 1-31 (lacking nos.4 and 30) from Cairo, Jerusalem, London, etc., 1917-18, and Paris Peace Conference, 1919; papers on his appointment to Cairo, 1917; letter of thanks from Lord Allenby, 28 January 1919; interview with Elizabeth Monroe, 1960s; portions of unpublished MS memoir "It takes so long" on Palestine, 1914, and events in Damascus, 27 September-5 October 1918, written in 1938; correspondence with Elizabeth Monroe. 2 boxes. Handlist.

UNCATALOGUED MATERIAL

Access to uncatalogued material is restricted, please contact the archivist for further details. In some cases draft handlists are available or are in preparation.

ALTOUNYAN, Dr. Ernest Huie Riddall. (1890-1962).

GB165-0006

Papers relating to medical work in Syria. One file (94 sheets) containing typescript lectures by Altounyan 1946-1959 is open. The rest of the collection has restricted access and a draft catalogue. 12 boxes.

VATIKIOTIS, Panayiotis J. (1928-97).

GB165-0292

Articles, broadcasts and correspondence relating to Jordan, Iraq, Syria and Egypt, 1980s. Draft catalogue. 2 boxes.