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 includes collections in that catalogue that have material relating to economic development, in particular assessments of economic conditions and schemes to improve economic production. Collections with a particular emphasis on economic development include the Arab Development Society, the Middle East Supply Centre, the Middle East Economic Development Division, the Richard Ward Collection (US Aid in Jordan) and the Henderson Collection (which has banking records for the loans required for substantial infrastructure projects). Not included in this guide, but related to economic development, are records relating to education. For these please see our Education Guide.

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.

ARAB DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY. GB165-0324
Pamphlets, reports, newspaper cuttings and correspondence relating to the Arab Development Society, the life of its founder Musa Alami and details of the Society’s legacy and supporters. Also includes an album of professional photographs, along with loose photographs, documenting the work of the Arab Development Society. 3 boxes. Handlist. Photographic collection.


Memoirs of the siege of Kufa, by Major Norbury; Palestine Command Papers (Balfour Declaration to 1939, bound in hard covers); MS of partial memoirs to 1929; copy of Albert.
Hourani’s “Great Britain and Arab nationalism, 1943”; paper “A future for Palestine” with related correspondence and other correspondence on Palestine, 1944 and later; papers on Lebanon, by Charles Malik, 1944; Musa Alami’s Land Development Scheme, with related correspondence, 1946; typescript of Sir G.F. Clayton’s Diary of a mission to Ibn Saud; anon. typescript “A background to British Council work in Egypt”; paper “Islam”; review of Chaim Weizmann’s Trial and Error. 2 boxes. Handlist.

CORKILL, Dr. Norman Lace. (1898-1966). GB165-0063
Papers relating to the life and work of Dr Norman Corkill, as a Doctor and Health and Hygiene advisor in various parts of the Middle East, including his reports on the health and hygiene situations of Saudi Arabia in 1948, Palestinian refugees in 1951, Eastern Aden in 1953, Iran in 1963 and Abu Dhabi in 1964; his diary and an incomplete draft of his autobiography, correspondence and a printed bound report entitled ‘A Nutritional Economic Survey of Wartime Palestine, 1942-1943’. 2 boxes. Handlist. Photographic collection.

DALE, Thomas. GB165-0073
Notes by the Secretary of the Delta Land Investment Co. Ltd. on land development, etc. at Maadi during his period of office in Egypt (pre-World War I to World War II); letter to Andrew Holden, 8 May 1970. 10 sheets. Handlist.

EDWARDS, Francis Millward (1886-1976). GB165-0096
Papers relating to the work of Francis Edwards as a Civil Servant in Egypt in the 1920s, including papers and reports on Egyptian rural problems and provincial taxation, reports on a visit by Saad Zaghlul to Upper Egypt, October 1921; book reviews by Edwards including reviews of books by Philby and Glubb; essays on early Muslim and English travellers. 1 box. Handlist.

Papers on economic conditions in Cyrenaica, 1943. 170 sheets; 1 item.

GIESLER, Rodney William Aldous (1931-2016). 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.

HOLDEN, Andrew. (d.1973). GB165-0148
Papers dating from his period with the Egyptian Government, 1907-52, including Land Tax assessment, the attempted purchase of land at Abuqir, Egyptian nationalism, agricultural credit and irrigation. 1 box. Photographic collection.

HORNSBY, Sir Bertram. (d.1943). GB165-0152

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11 Jan 2023
MECA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Papers on his war service in Egypt, 1915-19; anonymous [Egyptian] criticism of Sir W. Brunyate's proposals for constitutional reform, prepared in 1918; papers on the 1919 riots; Anglo-Egyptian relations under Allenby and Lord Lloyd; economic and financial subjects, 1922-23; memo on the annexation of the Sudan, 1924; anonymous [British] criticism of proposals made by the British Government for abortive treaty negotiations of 1929-30; proposed agricultural mortgage scheme for Palestine, 1933; papers on the status of the National Bank of Egypt and its relations with the Egyptian Government, 1939. 1 box. Handlist.

G. Warneford Memoranda on the Yaffai-as-Sufal and the territory of the Amir of Dthala, Simla, 1904; M.C. Lake “Report on visit to Upper and Lower Yafa, 1926”; convention between the United Kingdom and Turkey respecting the boundaries of Aden and of Ottoman territory in Southern Arabia, signed London, 9 March 1914; report of the Cairo Conference, 1921; miscellaneous papers on Mukalla and Hadhramaut, 1930s-60s; Aden Intelligence Summaries, 1935-36; Hadhramaut Intelligence Summaries, 1-144, 1937-40; Eastern Aden Protectorate Intelligence Summaries, 1941-44; notes, press cuttings, papers, telegrams, etc. on Aden, 1940s-60s; J.G.C. Allen: report on a visit to Algeria, and another on Morocco, 1948(?); an economic survey of the South Arabian Federation (Western Aden Protectorate), 1962; article on tribal structure and allegiance in the Yemen, written 1965 for the Foreign Office; papers relating to the Aden Protectorate and Yemen; reports 1933-41; correspondence, memos and telegrams relating to administrative and political problems, Aden 1941-64; record of the U.N. Special Committee on granting independence to Aden, 1964; collection of essays and pamphlets; presscuttings. 14 boxes. Handlist. Photographic collection.

LE RAY, Hugh Granville. (b.1895). GB165-0181

Papers on the operations of the Ottoman Bank throughout the Middle East, including dealings over railways, trade agreements, oil, mines and other operations, 1911-60. 8 boxes. Handlist.

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.

MIDDLE EAST SUPPLY CENTRE. GB165-0204
Memoranda on land tenure in Palestine, 1942-44; papers on land tenure in various countries of the Middle East, 1943-44; documents on a transport conference in Cairo, 1943; memo on the Council of Agriculture, 1945; articles on railways in Palestine and Persia. 1 box. Handlist.

MURRAY, Dr. John. (1912-86) GB165-0322
11 Jan 2023
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3

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.

ROBERTS, William Hamish. (b.1927) GB165-0435
Papers relating to Hamish Roberts’ life in Aden while employed by the Halal Shipping Company Ltd. between 1953-1957 and the Aden Port Trust 1957-1959. There are a number of photographs of Aden and surrounding areas and material relating to the development and maintenance of Port Aden. There are also copies of the publication ‘Little Aden Mercury’ documenting the events of the colonial community, as well as Hamish Roberts’ memoirs of this period. 1 box. Handlist. Photographic Collection.

ROWLATT, Sir Frederick Terry. (1865-1950). GB165-0246
Photocopies of minutes of a meeting of British merchants, Alexandria, 1864; map of Alexandria, 1882; letters on his appointment as Deputy, Egyptian Govt., and Governor of the National Bank of Egypt, 1898; 1 photocopy and 1 MS letter from Lord Cromer, 1906; photocopy of residential map of Gezira, Cairo, with names and functions of residents, 1917. 35 sheets. Photographic collection

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.

SPRY, Sir John Farley. (b.1910) GB165-0315

WARD, Richard Joseph. (b.1921) GB165-0427
Papers relating to the life and work of Richard J Ward, Senior Economist and Program Director for U.S. Aid, in Jordan from 1961-1963, including U.S. AID Memorandums, Reports and Tables; Social observations on local habits and customs; and Travel Notes. 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.

HENDERSON, Alexander, 1st Baron Faringdon. (1850-1934) GB165-0313
Papers relating to the formation and commercial activities of the National Bank of Turkey, especially in relation to Mesopotamian oil, and various building contracts and loans; negotiations with the Foreign Office over the extent of the bank’s influence; correspondents include Louis Mallet, Sir Edward Grey, Sir Arthur Nicholson, Sir Henry Babington Smith, H.P. Kingham, and S. de Bilinski. Draft Catalogue. 50 boxes.