

**Reference code:** GB165-0025

**Title:** Norman Bentwich Collection

**Name of creator:** Bentwich, Norman de Mattos (1883-1971)

**Dates of creation of material:** 1913-1962

**Level of description:** Fonds

**Extent:** 2 boxes

**Biographical history:** Bentwich, Norman de Mattos (1883-1971)

Son of Herbert Bentwich. Educated St. Paul's School and Trinity College, Cambridge. Called to the Bar, 1908. Served Ministry of Justice, Cairo, 1912-1915; Major, Camel transport, 1916-1918; Attorney-General, Government of Palestine, 1920-1931; Professor of International Relations, Jerusalem University, 1932-1951; Director of High Commission for Refugees from Germany, 1933-1935; Chairman National Peace Council, 1944-1946; Chairman United Restitution Office, 1948-; Foreign Office Committee on Restitution in British Zone of Germany, 1951; President Jewish Historical Society 1960-1962. Married 1915 Helen Franklin (died April 1972). Died 8 April 1971.

**Scope and content:** Personal correspondence, correspondence in Arabic and English received as Legal Secretary to Government of Palestine, 1921-1929; papers on legal administration under the Palestine and Iraq Mandates; papers relating to his work in Ethiopia, 1943, and material on Ethiopia's claim to Eritrea and Somalia, Falasha Jews. Notes of interviews in Paris relating to efforts to help Jewish refugees from Germany, 1934.

**System of arrangement:**

1. Correspondence
2. Palestine Papers
3. Ethiopia
4. Notes of Interviews: Helping Jewish refugees

**Access conditions:** Open

**Language of material:** English, Arabic

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

**Immediate source of acquisition:** Given by David Franklin (executor of Helen Bentwich) and Dr. Walter Zander, 1972

**Finding aids:** In Guide; Handlist

**Archivist's note:** Fonds level description created by Clare Brown 11 Jun 1998 and revised by Debbie Usher 27 Sept 2006, series and file level added by Thomas Stanbury 8 March 2012 and revised by Debbie Usher 21 Aug 2012.

# SERIES AND FILE LEVEL DESCRIPTION OF THE NORMAN BENTWICH COLLECTION

<b><u>1</u></b>	<b><u>Correspondence</u></b>	<b><u>1915-1929</u></b>	<b><u>6 files</u></b>
	Letters written by Bentwich to friends and family over the course of his career		
1/1	<u>Family Correspondence</u> Photocopies of letters from Bentwich to his mother and a letter to his family Old Ref: Box 1 – Date Identifiable	10 Jan 1915- 4 Jan 1926	30 sheets
1/2	<u>Correspondence with Friends, 1910s</u> Photocopies of letters from Bentwich to friends, particularly “Mamie” Old Ref: Box 4 – 1914, 1915, 1916, 1917	25 Sept 1914- 19 Apr 1916	61 sheets
1/3	<u>Correspondence with Friends, 1920s</u> Photocopies of letters from Bentwich to various friends, including copies of letters, from his time in Palestine Old Ref: Box 4 – 1927, 1928	12 Dec 1925- 27 Jun 1929	91 sheets
1/4	<u>Correspondence with Friends, Undated</u> Photocopies of letters from Bentwich to his friends from his time in Palestine Old Ref: Box 4 – Undated	Not dated	107 sheets
1/5	<u>Correspondence from the 1920s</u> Photocopy of three letters from Bentwich to persons unknown Old Ref: Dated: Box 4 – 1920, 1921, 1924	8 Apr 1921-29 Sept 1924	10 sheets
1/6	<u>Letters to Bentwich</u> Photocopy of three letters to Bentwich, two from his wife Helen Franklin Old Ref: Box 4 – Letters to Bentwich	28 Jul 1917- 1929	10 sheets

<b><u>2</u></b>	<b><u>Palestine Papers</u></b>	<b><u>1913-1962</u></b>	<b><u>4 files</u></b>
	Papers relating to Bentwich's time as Legal Secretary and Attorney General in Palestine, as well as his time spent as a professor at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem		
2/1	<u>Palestinian Matters and Correspondence</u>	10 Apr 1913- 5 Nov 1962	42 sheets
	Photocopies of an invitation to a theatre performance, letters from Bentwich, a newsletter of a Zionist charity and a letter and the text of a speech related to the Hebrew University in Jerusalem		
	Old Ref: Box 2 – Date Identifiable		
2/2	<u>“Light on Britain’s Palestine Promise”</u>	Not dated	4 sheets
	Photocopies of a letter from an unknown correspondent and the manuscript of an essay titled “Light on Britain’s Palestine Promise” written after 1939.		
	Old Ref: Box 3		
2/3	<u>Palestine</u>	1920-1929	169 sheets, 1 envelope
	Correspondence relating to Bentwich's time as Legal Secretary in Palestine, papers relating to the Legal administration of Palestine, the Wailing Wall dispute, the courts of Palestine, Nationality and the constitutions of Palestine and Mesopotamia		
	Old Ref: Palestine		
2/4	<u>Theodor Herzl and Judaism</u>	Undated	10 sheets
	Photocopies of the manuscript of an essay on Theodor Herzl, the manuscript of an essay on Judaism in Israel, a letter on the notepaper of the Friends of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, a letter to Bentwich concerning a speech to the Cambridge University Israel Society and an illegible document.		
	Old Ref: Box I – Unidentifiable		

<b><u>3</u></b>	<b><u>Ethiopia</u></b>	<b><u>1943-1948</u></b>	<b><u>180 sheets,</u></b> <b><u>2 booklets</u></b>
	Papers relating to Bentwich's interest and contact with Ethiopia as part of his time as chairman of the National Peace Council		
3/1	<u>Ethiopia and Great Britain</u> Letters relating to a trip to Ethiopia in November 1943, a diary of that trip, notes on British-Ethiopian collaboration, draft treaties and notes thereon and two articles on Ethiopia <small>Old Ref: Ethiopia and Great Britain. 1943... draft treaties, letters, articles, etc.</small>	12 Nov 1943- 21 Jun 1948	61 sheets
3/2	<u>Ethiopia Papers</u> Papers and articles on subjects relating to Ethiopia, largely written by Bentwich, including 'Ethiopia and Falashas', 'Early English Travellers in Ethiopia', 'Ethiopia Today' and 'Education in Ethiopia' <small>Old Ref: Ethiopia: Articles and papers covering various aspects of the country, mainly 1943</small>	Dec 1943- Apr 1948	48 sheets, 1 booklet
3/3	<u>Ethiopia and the Italian Colonies</u> Letters and newspaper clippings relating to Ethiopia's claim on the former Italian colonies Eritrea and Somalia; a synopsis of an essay on the history of Ethiopia; essays and letters on Ethiopia's relations with the former Italian colonies, with the United Nations and on the Italian colonies in general <small>Old Ref: Various articles, letters, etc. concerning Ethiopia's claim to the former Italian colonies of Eritrea and Somalia</small>	1944-1946	71 sheets, 1 booklet
<b><u>4</u></b>	<b><u>Notes of Interviews: Helping Jewish refugees</u></b>	<b><u>20-23 Jan</u></b> <b><u>1934</u></b>	<b><u>6 sheets</u></b>
	Photocopy of TS "Notes of Interviews etc. in Paris Saturday to Monday January 20-22 <sup>nd</sup> , 1934" relating to efforts to help Jewish refugees from Germany to find a place to settle and how to overcome the difficulty of enabling travel for German Jews who could not get their passport renewed by the German authorities.		