

**Reference code:** GB165-0092

**Title:** Sir Ernest Dowson Collection

**Name of creator:** Dowson, Sir Ernest MacLeod (1876-1950) Knight

**Dates of creation of material:** 1908-1956

**Level of description:** Fonds

**Extent:** 2 sheets, 1 volume

**Biographical history:** Dowson, Sir Ernest MacLeod (1876-1950) Knight

Born 19 November 1876, only son of Ernest Dowson, Indian Telegraphs. Educated Isle of Wight College; Central Technical College, London. Joined Egyptian Delta Light Railways as Asst. Engineer, 1898; appointed to Survey of Egypt, 1900; Director-General Survey of Egypt, 1909; Under-Secretary of State for Finance, Egypt, 1919; Financial Adviser to the Egyptian Govt., 1920-1923; advising the Governments of Palestine and Transjordan on settlement and registration of rights to land and other land questions, 1923-1928, and the Iraq, Zanzibar and Kenya Governments on the same problems 1929-1930 & 1935-1940. Married, 1910, Hilda Pascoe - 1 son. Died 26 June 1950.

**Scope and content:** Letter from Ernest Dowson to Francis Millward Edwards, 25 Sept 1937, on land taxation in Palestine and specifically whether heavy land taxes had forced Muslim and Christian landowners to sell land to the Jews. Dowson's answer was that land taxation had become lighter during British rule and that the selling of land had happened for personal gain by local notables who then blamed the British. Commonplace book, 1908-1956, with the opening inscription '13 Dec 1908 Tents Giza – Egypt' compiled by Ernest Dowson. The Commonplace book covers a wide variety of subjects, and includes pressed plants from Cape Helles 1915, quotations and extracts from books, poetry and famous figures, as well as newspaper clippings.

**Language:** Mainly English but also French, Latin

**Access conditions:** Open

**Language of material:** English

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

**Custodial history:** In the possession of Francis Millward Edwards. The commonplace book was purchased by Martin Bunton on the 17 June 2006 from the Victoria Bookshop in Bere Alston, Devon, UK. The bookshop had no record of its origin.

**Immediate source of acquisition:** Received from Francis Edwards in Sept 1963. Commonplace book received as a gift from Martin Bunton 4 Oct 2022.

**Related Units of Description:**

In MEC Archive

- GB165-0096 Francis Edwards Collection

**Finding aids:** In Guide; Handlist

**Archivist's note:** Fonds level description created by Clare Brown 1 Sept 1998 and revised by Debbie Usher 13 Jan 2023.