

**Reference code:** GB165-0128

**Title:** Sir Henry Gurney Collection

**Name of creator:** Gurney, Sir Henry Lovell Goldsworthy (1898-1951) Knight, High Commissioner Colonial Service

**Dates of creation of material:** 1948-1963

**Level of description:** Fonds

**Extent:** 3 folders (108 sheets; 28 sheets; 3 sheets)

**Biographical history:** Gurney, Sir Henry Lovell Goldsworthy (1898-1951)

Born 27 June 1898, son of G.G.H. Gurney and Florence Gurney (née Chamier). Educated Winchester College; University College, Oxford. Served 60th Rifles, 1917-19; entered Colonial Service, Kenya, 1921; Assistant Colonial Secretary, Jamaica, 1935; Chief Secretary to Conference of East African Governors, 1938-44; CMG 1942; Colonial Secretary, Gold Coast, 1944-46; Chief Secretary to Palestine Government, 1946-48; Kt.1947; KCMG 1948; High Commissioner for Federation of Malaysia, 1948-51. Married, 1924, Isabel Lowther Weir: 2 sons. Killed in an ambush in Malaya, 6 October 1951.

**Scope and content:** File 1. TS diary entries 15 March-14 May 1948 covering the last days of the British Mandate in Palestine. File 2. TS of "Palestine Postscript: a short record of the last days of the Mandate", not dated. File 3. TS of part of Henry Moore's biographical sketch of Gurney for the *Dictionary of National Biography*, with a covering letter to General Sir Alan Cunningham, 1 July 1963.

**System of arrangement:** Chronological

**Access conditions:** Open

**Language of material:** English

**Conditions governing reproduction:** No restrictions on copying or quotation apart from statutory regulations and preservation concerns. The Gurney family have granted permission for copies of the diaries (which are now published works) to be made for private study and non-commercial research.

**Custodial history:** In the possession of Sir Henry and Lady Gurney, and Sir Alan Cunningham.

**Immediate source of acquisition:** Received from Oxford Colonial Records Project, April 1964.

**Related Units of Description:**

In other Repositories

Oxford University: Bodleian Library of Commonwealth and African Studies at Rhodes House: Agricultural reports relating to Kenya. Reference: MSS Afr s 1741

**Finding aids:** In Guide, Handlist

**Publication Note:** A scholarly edition of the Gurney diaries with an introduction and explanatory footnotes has been published as follows:

Golani, Motti., *The end of the British mandate for Palestine, 1948 : the diary of Sir Henry Gurney* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2009)

**Archivist's note:** Fonds level description created by C. Brown 16 December 1998 and revised by D. Usher 24 Nov 2003 and 26 Oct 2011.