**PHILBY** GB165-0229

Reference code: GB165-0229

**Title:** Harry St John Philby Collection

Name of creator: Philby, Harry St John Bridger (1885-1960) Explorer and Orientalist

Dates of creation of material: c1902-1957

**Level of description:** Fonds

Extent: 89 boxes

**Biographical history:** PHILBY, Harry St John Bridger (1885-1960)

Born 3 April 1885, St. John's, Badula, Ceylon, son of Henry and May Philby (née Duncan). Educated Westminster School; Trinity College, Cambridge (BA, 1907). Entered Indian Civil Service, 1908; Assistant Commissioner at Jhelum, Rawalpindi, Shahpur, Multan, Ambala, and Dera Ghazi Khan; Deputy Commissioner, Lyallpur, 1914; joined Punjab Government Secretariat, 1914; Secretary to Board of Examiners, Calcutta, 1915; Political Officer, Mesopotamia, MEF, from Nov. 1915, and served as Financial Asst. to Chief Political Officer, officiating Revenue Commissioner for Occupied Territories, Political Officer in charge of Amara district, and special duty at Baghdad; CIE 1917; in charge of British Political Mission to Central Arabia, 1917-18; crossed Arabian Peninsular from Uqair to Jidda; carried out exploration in South Central Arabia; in political charge of Central Arabian Mission to England, 1919; Adviser to Ministry of Interior, Mesopotamia, 1920-21; Chief British Representative, Transjordan, 1921-24; retired from ICS, 1925; elected to Council of Royal Geographical Society, 1925; awarded Sir Richard Burton memorial medal by Royal Asiatic Society, 1925; Resident Director in Arabia of Sharqieh Ltd, 1926-46; further exploration of Arabian Peninsular 1930-55; Director, Mitchell Cotts (Sharqieh) Ltd., Jedda, 1946-55. Married, 1910, Dora Johnston (d.1957): one son, three

Scope and content: Political and personal correspondence, memos, travel diaries, exploration reports, engagement books, published and unpublished literary MSS: Transjordan, Iraq, Palestine, Arabia, including correspondence and minutes of meetings of Sharqieh Ltd. and Mitchell Cotts Ltd.

**Access conditions:** Open

daughters.

Language of material: English; Latin; French; German; Arabic; Persian; Urdu

**PHILBY** GB165-0229

Conditions governing reproduction: No restrictions on copying other than statutory

regulations and preservation concerns; permission for publication to be sought from the

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Custodial history: In the possession of St. John Philby. The collection was purchased

from his Saudi heirs by ARAMCO.

Immediate source of acquisition: Received from ARAMCO, 1972.

**Related Units of Description:** 

In the MEC Archive

• GB165-0201 Norman Mayers Papers: Box 2 File 2 Letter from Philby to Norman

Mayers

GB165-0211 Mott-Radclyffe: Richard Mumford Brief Outline of his experiences in

Transjordan when confidential secretary to Philby

In other repositories

Royal Geographical Society: Archon code 0402: Correspondence, journals and

papers relating to travel in Arabia, 1924-1955. Reference HSP. The catalogue to

collection this is available from Archives Access to

http://www.a2a.pro.gov.uk/ cited online 4 March 2003.

Stanford University, Hoover Institution on War Revolution and Peace Archon Code

1113: Correspondence with Elizabeth Riefstahl,1933-1960. Reference NUC MS

72-1486

<u>Trinity College, Cambridge</u>: Material relating to Philby's university career.

Finding aids: In Guide; Handlist

Archivist's note: Fonds level description created by C. Brown 27 July 1999 and revised

by D. Usher 9 October 2003.

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# FILE AND ITEM LEVEL DESCRIPTION OF THE HARRY ST JOHN PHILBY COLLECTION

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		23 July 1922- 27 Sept 1922
		8 July 1922 –27 Sept 1922
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3/5	Elizabeth Monroe: "Transjordan; Philby's version of his own affairs"
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## Shelved in Cupboard II

Islam in England and correspondence with Muslims

living in the West.

Socal and Aramco

Islamic texts [Philby's studies in Arabic and Persian]

British clubs and societies

Clubs and societies in R.G.S

India

## Published books, MSS and proofs:

Notes for a history of Arabia

MS and correspondence of Pilgrim in Arabia

Correspondence on Forty years in the Wilderness Arabian Highlands

MSS and correspondence of Heart of Arabia

Arabia of the Wahabis

Poetry MSS and correspondence

MSS and correspondence of Haroun al Rashid

Background of Islam

Book reviews; correspondence with publishers; correspondence on Land of Midian,

Saudi Arabia

Correspondence on Arabian Days, Arabian Mandates, Empty Quarter, Arabian Jubilee, Sheba's daughters (plus part of a second MS of this)

MS of Mesopotage

File of correspondence with Encyclopaedia Britannica

#### Shelved in Cupboard III

AUB; American Legation

**British politics** 

Travel, epigraphy notebooks, visiting cards

Entomology, Mammals

Botany, Geology, Astronomy

Ornithology

draft)

Articles and correspondence with newspapers

Journalism (misc.) and broadcasting

Correspondence with friends (general)

Correspondence with friends (Donald Robertson, Dorothy Ousman, Elisabeth

Riefstahl, Tracy Philipps, Bayky Winder, R. Said-Reute)

Report on the operations of the Najd Mission, 29 Oct 1917- 1 Nov 1918 (pencil

Najd Mission: Accounts and financial correspondence, 1918-1926

Najd Mission: Correspondence. 3 bound vols.

Diary of political mission to Central Arabia, 1917-1918. 5 vols

Misc and minor files (French translations from Arabic etc)

Misc. and minor correspondence (4 boxes)

Houses

Personal finance

Presscuttings (only partially arranged)