

**Reference code:** GB165-0315

**Title:** Sir John Spry Collection

**Name of creator:** Spry, Sir John Farley (1910-1999) Knight

**Dates of creation of material:** 1919-1948

**Level of description:** Fonds

**Extent:** 1 box

**Biographical history:** SPRY, Sir John Farley (1910-1999)

Born 11 March 1910 son of Joseph and Fanny Spry. Educated Perse School, Cambridge and Peterhouse, Cambridge. Became a solicitor, 1935; served as Asst. Registrar of Titles and Conveyancer, Uganda during 1936-1944; Chief Inspector of Land Registration, Palestine, 1944; Asst. Director of Land Registration, Palestine, 1944-1948; Registrar-General Tanganyika 1948-1950, Kenya 1950-1952; Registrar-Gen., Tanganyika 1952-1956; Legal Draftsman, Tanganyika, 1956-1960; Principal Secretary, Public Service Commission, Tanganyika, 1960-1961; Puisne Judge, Tanganyika, 1961-1964; Justice of Appeal, Court of Appeal for Eastern Africa, 1964-1970; Vice-President, 1970-1975; Kt. 1975; Chairman, Pensions Appeals Tribunals during 1975-1976; Chief Justice of Gibraltar, 1976-1980, Justice of Appeal, 1980-1983, President Court of Appeal, 1983-1991; Comr for Revision of Laws of Gibraltar, 1981-85; Chief Justice: British Ocean Territory, 1981-1987; St. Helena and its Dependencies, 1983-1992.; President, British Antarctic Territory Court of appeal, and Justice of Court of Appeal, Falkland Islands, 1991-. Married: 1st marriage dissolved 1940: 1 son & 1 daughter; 2nd Stella Marie Fichat (d.1995). Sir John Farley Spry died 17 May 1999.

**Scope and content:** Papers relating to land law and land tenure in Palestine, 1919-1948.

**System of arrangement:**

- |   |   |             |
|---|---|-------------|
| 1 | Reports and notes on Ottoman Land Law and the development of Land Law under the British Administration in Palestine | 1919 – 1920 |
| 2 | Land Ordinances   | 1920-1948   |
| 3 | Department of Land Registration Annual Report   | 1946        |
| 4 | Map of Palestine  | 1946        |
| 5 | Correspondence  | 1938-1948   |
| 6 | End of Mandate Evacuation   | 1948        |
| 7 | Photographs   | 1947        |

**Access conditions:** Open

**Language of material:** Mainly English with a small amount of Arabic

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

**Custodial history:** In the possession of Sir John Spry

**Immediate source of acquisition:** Received from Sir John Spry, May 1979, through the Anglo-Palestine Archives Project. Photographs received from Mrs Jennifer Spring-Smyth (daughter of Sir John Spry) on 1 Feb 2012.

**Related Units of Description:**

**In MEC Archive**

GB165-0181 Huge Le Ray Collection: Annual reports of the Director of Surveys, Palestine, 1920-39; some material on land laws, land tax, cadastral surveys, and the distribution of land in Palestine during the Mandate period; report on "Operation Elephant", 1947

**Finding aids:** In Guide; Handlist

**Archivist's note:** Fonds level description created by Clare Brown 18 Jan 2000 and revised by Debbie Usher 13 Sept 2005. Series and item level description created by Debbie Usher 13 Sept 2005 and revised by Debbie Usher on 3 Feb 2012. Information on the photograph 7/1 provided by Mrs Jennifer Spring-Smyth.

**SERIES AND ITEM LEVEL DESCRIPTION OF THE SIR JOHN SPRY  
COLLECTION**

**FILE 1**

<u>1</u>	<u>Reports and notes on Ottoman Land Law and the development of Land Law under the British Administration in Palestine</u>	<u>1919 – 1929</u>	<u>10 items</u>
1/1	TS 'Note on Land Law' by Judge G.W. Williamson [Registrar General] of Sudan giving an account of land law under the Ottoman Empire	1919	7 sheets
1/2	TS draft on land law entitled 'Land Tenure'	c1920	8 sheets
1/3	TS entitled 'Land Tenure' discussing Ottoman law	c1920	4 sheets
1/4	Annotated TS 'Notes on Land Law in Palestine'	c1924	28 sheets
1/5	Letter from the Attorney General to the Director of Lands commenting on his 'note on the Land Law'	7 Nov 1924	2 sheets
1/6	TS 'Notes on Land Law in Palestine' by J.N.S. [J.N. Stubbs, Director of Land Registration]	8 Sept 1925	32 sheets
1/7	Letter from A. J. Harding (Colonial Office) to J.N. Stubbs dated 17 Sept 1928 enclosing a copy of a report by the Commissioner of Lands on 'the organisation and internal administration of the Lands Department' dated 19 Jul 1928	1928	12 sheets
1/8	Letter signed by the Treasurer, Commissioner of Lands and Director of Agriculture noting their appointment as a committee to consider the establishment of an Agricultural Bank in Palestine giving a detailed account of measures taken by the Ottoman Government, Occupied Enemy Territory Administration (South) and the Palestine Mandatory Government 'to grant and facilitate loans to cultivators'.	22 Nov 1929	15 sheets
1/9	TS 'Land Reg 1 <sup>st</sup> Chapt' outlining procedures for land registration under the Ottomans and the new system of land registration created by the British	not dated, ?1920s	6 sheets
1/10	TS notes on 'Servitudes and Water Rights'; 'Rights of Tapu as between Persons of Different Religions and Different Nationality'; 'Prescription' relating to the titles acquired by prescription; 'Foreign Documents and Judgments'	not dated, ?1920s	6 sheets

## FILE 2

Access: Please note that items 2/3, 2/4, 2/5 and 2/6 are stored separately due to their large size. Access is dependent on there being sufficient table space. These items are fragile and *must* be handled with care.

<u>2</u>	<u>Land Ordinances</u>	<u>1920 – 1948</u>	<u>12 items</u>
2/1	Printed 'Public Notice Survey Fees'	Jul 1920	1 sheet
2/2	Printed 'Public Notice Survey Fees' In Arabic	Jul 1920	1 sheet
2/3	Printed 'Land Transfer Ordinance No. 164' In English and Arabic	Sept 1920	1 sheet
2/4	Printed 'Ordinance no. 179' relating to an amendment of Mortgage Law In English and Arabic	1920	1 sheet
2/5	Printed 'Ordinance no. 181' relating to Land Registration In English and Arabic	23 Sept 1920	1 sheet
2/6	Printed 'Palestine Land Registries Schedule of Fees' In English and Arabic	c1920	1 sheet
2/7	Printed Land Transfers Regulations 1940 in 'Supplement no 2 to the Palestine Gazette Extraordinary no 988'	28 Feb 1940	1 booklet
2/8	Printed Land Transfer (Amendment) Bill 1947 in 'Supplement no 5 to the Palestine Gazette no 1629'	20 Nov 1947	2 sheets
2/9	Printed Land Transfer (Amendment) Ordinance No 69 of 1947 from 'Supplement no 1 to the Palestine Gazette Extraordinary no 1637'	30 Dec 1947	2 sheets
2/10	TS 'Ordinance to provide for the revesting of Lands Registered in the names of Mukhtars'	1947	2 sheets
2/11	TS 'Land Registration (Suspension) Ordinance 1948'	1948	2 sheets
2/12	TS 'Land Registration Ordinance 1948' giving objectives and reasons for a new land registration bill	1948	3 sheets
<u>3</u>	<u>Department of Land Registration Annual Report</u>	<u>1946</u>	<u>1 item</u>
3/1	Printed booklet 'Department of Land Registration, Annual Report for the Year 1946'	14 Oct 1947	1 booklet

<u>4</u>	<u>Map of Palestine</u>	<u>1946</u>	<u>1 item</u>
4/1	Map of Palestine with Index to Villages and Settlements, Compiled Drawn and Printed by Survey of Palestine and including Land Transfer Regulations 1940 zones	April 1946	1 item
<u>5</u>	<u>Correspondence</u>	<u>1938-1948</u>	<u>11 items</u>
5/1	Letter from Director of Land Registration [? J.F. Spry] to the Chief Secretary making an application for the post of Commissioner of Lands and Survey's and giving an account of his work so far in the Land Registry including a history of the development of the Land Registry	Jan 1938	4 sheets
5/2	Memorandum to the Chief Secretary from J.F. Spry (Acting Director of Land Registration) relating to a proposed reform of the Land Registration (Fees) Rules and the proposed Land Registration Ordinance 1948	Jan 1948	6 sheets
5/3	TS Letter from H.A.C. Dobbs (Chief Secretary's Office, Jerusalem) to Director of Land Registration relating to the amendment of Land Registration fees and rules	16 Feb 1948	1 sheet
5/4	TS memorandum to Director of Land Registration 'Subject: C.S.'s file 647/5' commenting on proposals to make land inalienable (the author of this memorandum is not stated)	27 Feb 1947	2 sheets
5/5	TS Letter from H.L.G. Gurney (Chief Secretary) to J.F. Spry appointing Spry as a member 'of the committee to examine applications for permission to transfer land' under the Land Transfers Regulations 1940	14 Apr 1947	1 sheet
5/6	Letter from H. L. Gurney (Chief Secretary's Office, Jerusalem) to J.F. Spry relating to his draft Land Registration Bill	22 Mar 1948	1 sheet
5/7	Letter from G H Curtis (Chief Land Registrar, H.M. Land Registry) to J.F. Spry commenting on an increase in fee income from property registration due to rising property values	17 Apr 1948	1 sheet
5/8	Correspondence between Colonel Seymour (Hirings & Disposals) and the Attorney General's Office relating to the Vesting of Land Ordinance	Apr 1948	5 sheets

5/9	TS Letter from Imperial War Graves Commission to J.F. Spry acknowledging receipt of a letter with enclosures	19 Jun 1948	1 sheet
5/10	Correspondence between J.S. Tamblin (War Office, Lands Branch) and John Spry relating to the status of land acquired for an Army installation at Khayat Beach near Haifa	Jun-Jul 1948	4 sheets
5/11	Two TS letters from W.W. Clark (Colonial Office) to J.F. Spry thanking him for his Report on Palestine Land records and enclosing a typed copy of the report for Spry's records. The report is entitled 'Memorandum on the history, law and practice of land registration in Palestine and the organisation of the Department of Land Registration, with a note on the custody of the records of title to land at the termination of the British Mandate'	Oct 1948	30 sheets
<u>6</u>	<u>End of Mandate Evacuation</u>	<u>1948</u>	<u>1 item</u>
6/1	TS instructions and schedule for the evacuation of the British Administration from Jerusalem planned for 14 May 1948	12 May 1948	3 sheets
<u>7</u>	<u>Photographs</u>	<u>Not dated and 1947</u>	<u>3 items</u>
Access: Please note that the photographs are stored separately.			
7/1	Group photograph of members of the Land Registration Department. Sir John Spry is the tall man wearing glasses in the second row from the front and third person from the right.	Not dated	1 item
7/2	Photograph labelled 'Operation Polly' showing people boarding a bus as part of the evacuation of British non-essential civilians from Palestine.	[1947]	1 item
7/3	Photograph labelled 'Operation Polly' showing people boarding a bus as part of the evacuation of British non-essential civilians from Palestine.	[1947]	1 item