

**Reference code:** GB165-0326

**Title:** Fraser-Tytler Collection

**Name of creator:** Tytler, Sir William Kerr Fraser- (1886-1963) Knight Minister to Afghanistan

**Dates of creation of material:** 1922-1948, 2001

**Level of description:** Fonds

**Extent:** 4 boxes

**Biographical history:** Fraser-Tytler, Lieut-Col. Sir William Kerr (1886-1963)

Born 26 December 1886, son of James Fraser-Tytler and Christian Fraser-Tytler (née Scott-Kerr). Educated Charterhouse; Christ Church, Oxford. Entered Indian Army, 1910; posted to 25<sup>th</sup> Cavalry (Frontier Force), 1911; served on North West Frontier, India, 1911-17; East Africa, 1917-18; 3<sup>rd</sup> Afghan War, 1919; transferred to Foreign and Political Department, 1919; served in various capacities, chiefly on North-West Frontier of India, with HM's Legation at Kabul, Afghanistan and with the Government of India until 1935; CMG 1933; transferred to Diplomatic Service; British Minister to Afghanistan, 1935-41; KBE 1939; Chief Delegate of the Mission of the British Red Cross and Order of St. John at Washington, 1943-46. KstJ 1946. Married, 1<sup>st</sup> Eila Beatrice McLean (d.1951): no children, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1953, Aileen Knox Johnston (b.1907). Died 23 August 1963.

**Scope and content:** MS and TS letters to his mother from Kabul, 1923-1941; additional correspondence with various individuals such as Lord Willingdon and Lord Brabourne; photographs including shots of airplanes, parades, group portraits; articles and lectures by Kerr Fraser-Tytler and others; bound TS Kabul Legation diary 1922-1924; TS article 'The Destruction of the Second British Legation in Kabul' 1926; Note on the political situation in Afghanistan 1941; Note on the expulsion of Axis nationals from Afghanistan 1941, Newspaper article 'La Tristesse posthume de Joseph Hackin' 2001 and a TS "Appendix - An Appreciation of King Nadir Shah's character".

**System of arrangement:**

1. Correspondence
2. Photographs
3. Articles and Lectures
4. Kabul Legation Diary

5. Destruction of the Second British Legation in Kabul
6. Situation in Afghanistan Note
7. The Expulsion of Axis Nationals from Afghanistan
8. Newspaper clipping
9. King Nadir Shah's character

**Access conditions:** Open

**Language of material:** English, small amount of French

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

**Custodial history:** In the possession of the Fraser-Tytler family

**Immediate source of acquisition:** Given by Lady Fraser-Tytler, 5 June 2000. Some photographs given in 1965

**Related Units of Description:**

In other repositories

British Library (GB 59), Asia, Pacific and Africa collections (previously Oriental and India Office Library), 1932-35 correspondence with Sir John Walton, MSS Eur D 545, NRA 30183 Walton

**Finding aids:** In Guide; Handlist

**Archivist's note:** Fonds and file level created by Clare Brown 2000, revised by Faye McLeod, Mar 2005 and revised by Debbie Usher 25 Feb 2014 and 3 Nov 2016.

**SERIES, FILE AND ITEM LEVEL DESCRIPTION OF THE FRASER-TYTLER  
COLLECTION**

**1 Correspondence, 7 Apr 1923 – 27 Dec 1941**

<u>1/1</u>	<u>Letters to his mother</u>	<u>1923-1941</u>	<u>12 files</u>
1/1/1	Letters to his mother	7 Apr 1923 – 17 Sep 1924	74 sheets
1/1/2	Letters to his mother	13 Nov 1927 – 16 Jun 1928	47 sheets
1/1/3	Letters to his mother	26 Sep 1930 – 27 Dec 1930	24 sheets
1/1/4	Letters to his mother	3 Jan 1931 – 27 Dec 1931	64 sheets
1/1/5	Letters to his mother	8 Jan 1932 – 9 Nov 1932	73 sheets
1/1/6	Letters to his mother	3 Mar 1935 – 27 Dec 1935	139 sheets
1/1/7	Letters to his mother	2 Jan 1936 – 25 Dec 1936	190 sheets
1/1/8	Letters to his mother	1 Jan 1937 – 31 Dec 1937	114 sheets
1/1/9	Letters to his mother	7 Jan 1938 – 30 Dec 1938	164 sheets
1/1/10	Letters to his mother	19 Jan 1939 – 15 Dec 1939	160 sheets
1/1/11	Letters to his mother	5 Jan 1940 – 27 Dec 1940	160 sheets
1/1/12	Letters to his mother	4 Jan 1941 – 27 Dec 1941	154 sheets
<u>1/2</u>	<u>Correspondence with Lord Brabourne</u>	<u>1938</u>	<u>3 sheets</u>
1/2/1	Letter to Kerr Fraser-Tytler from Lord Brabourne	9 Jul 1938	1 sheet
1/2/2	Letter from Kerr Fraser-Tytler to Lord Brabourne	16 Jul 1938	2 sheets
<u>1/3</u>	<u>Letter to Mrs Fraser-Tytler</u>	<u>27 Nov 1930</u>	<u>3 sheets</u>
	Letter to Mrs Fraser-Tytler from Kenneth Wigram, with an extract of a letter from Kerr Fraser-Tytler		
<u>1/4</u>	<u>Letter to Kerr Fraser-Tytler</u>	<u>18 Oct 1935</u>	<u>2 sheets</u>
	Letter to Kerr Fraser-Tytler from Lord Willingdon		
<u>1/5</u>	<u>Kabul Farewell Letter</u>	<u>Not dated</u>	<u>1 sheet</u>
	Farewell letter from the Indian Community of Kabul, to Sir Kerr and Lady Fraser-Tytler, on their departure from Kabul		

<u>1/6</u>	<u>Letter to Johnston</u>	<u>21 Aug 1924</u>	<u>2 sheets</u>
	Letter to Wing Commander Johnston, from A. A. ?Weher, marked Peshawar, North West Frontier Province, dated 21 Aug [19]24		

## **2 Photographs**

The unlabelled photographs include, for example, pictures of airplanes, snow scenes, interiors of churches, and landscapes

2/1	Photograph – Parade at a train station “?Amanullal arriving at Karachi Nov. (?) 1928”	?Nov 1928	1 item
2/2	Black & white photograph – “Afghans are collected to clear a runway through the snow and enable our Vicker-Vietnia aeroplanes to take off, taking to Peshawar the last remaining members of the British Legation. This was in 1929”	1929	1 item
2/3	Photograph – Group photograph “Kabul 1935 or 6”	1935 or 1936	1 item
2/4	Photograph – “The Valley of Bamian 1941 Sir Kerr Fraser-Tytler”	1941	1 item
2/5	Black & white photograph – “Military attaches house in Legation grounds, where some of us lived until the big house was ready. It was set on fire by shells after we had moved into the big house”	Not dated	1 item
2/6	Black & white photograph – “The aerodrome at Kabul under snow” [probably taken at the time of the evacuation of Europeans in 1929]	Not dated [?1929]	1 item
2/7	Black & white photograph – “Counsellor’s house in Legation garden hit by several shells, after the occupants had been removed to the big house”	Not dated	1 item
2/8	Photograph – Group photograph “?Amanullal al Karachi. K. J. Ta Mehmanda, (official hosts)”	Not dated	1 item
2/9	Photograph – Stone carving “?Parhes B”	Not dated	1 item

2/10	Photograph – “One of the Vicker-Vietnia’s which flew us from Kabul to Peshawan, loaded only 50% in order to clear 11, 000 foot mountains”	Not dated	1 item
2/11	Unlabelled photograph [Kabul airfield, probably taken at the time of the evacuation of Europeans in 1929]	Not dated [?1929]	1 item
2/12	Unlabelled photograph [Kabul airfield, probably taken at the time of the evacuation of Europeans in 1929]	Not dated [?1929]	1 item
2/13	Unlabelled photograph	Not dated	1 item
2/14	Unlabelled photograph [British Embassy in Kabul, probably taken at the time of the evacuation of Europeans in 1929]	Not dated [?1929]	1 item

### **3 Articles and Lectures**

<u>3/1</u>	<u>Articles by Kerr Fraser-Tytler</u>	<u>1942-1951</u>	<u>4 sheets,</u> <u>3 items</u>
3/1/1	<u>Articles in <i>Eastern World</i></u>	<u>1947-1948</u>	<u>4 sheets</u>
3/1/1/1	Article by Kerr Fraser-Tytler “The Afghan Kingdom in the 18 <sup>th</sup> and 19 <sup>th</sup> Centuries” from the <i>Eastern World</i>	Jul [19]47	1 sheet
3/1/1/2	Article by Kerr Fraser-Tytler “Afghanistan – The problem of the Tribes” from the <i>Eastern World</i>	Aug [19]47	1 sheet
3/1/1/3	Article by Kerr Frazer-Tytler “The Ghilzai-Jew – Turk or Pathan?” from the <i>Eastern World</i>	Apr [19]48	2 sheets
<u>3/1/2</u>	<u>Articles in <i>The Journal of the Royal Central Asian Society</i></u>	<u>1942</u>	<u>3 items</u>
3/1/2/1	Article by Kerr Fraser-Tytler “A Great North Road” reprinted from <i>The Journal of the Royal Central Asian Society</i> vol. xxxix	Apr 1942	1 item

3/1/2/2	Article by Kerr Fraser-Tytler "A Great North Road" reprinted from <i>The Journal of the Royal Central Asian Society</i> vol. xxxix Apr 1942	Apr 1942	1 item
3/1/2/3	Article by Kerr Fraser-Tytler "Afghanistan – A Brief Description (Anniversary Lecture)" reprinted from <i>The Journal of the Royal Central Asian Society</i> vol. xxix	Jul - Oct 1942	1 item
<u>3/1/3</u>	<u>Articles in Blackwood's Magazine</u>	<u>1944-1948</u>	<u>2 items</u>
3/1/3/1	Article by Kerr Fraser-Tytler "The Treasure of Begram" in <i>Blackwood's Magazine</i> no. 1544	Jun 1944	1 item
3/1/3/2	Article by Kerr Fraser-Tytler "Farewell to Bearers" in <i>Blackwood's Magazine</i> , no. 1597	Nov 1948	1 item
3/1/4	<u>Afghanistan article</u> Article by Kerr Fraser-Tytler, "Afghanistan", reprinted from <i>The Scottish Geographical Magazine</i> , vol 59	<u>Apr 1943</u>	<u>1 item</u>
3/1/5	<u>Afghanistan and India Lecture</u> Lecture by Kerr Fraser-Tytler, probably to the Central Asian Society – "Afghanistan and its relations with the new India"	<u>Jan/Feb 1948</u>	<u>3 sheets</u>
3/1/6	<u>Rugby Football on Horseback article</u> Article by Kerr Fraser Tytler, "Rugby Football on Horseback", from <i>Country Life</i>	<u>1 Jun 1951</u>	<u>2 sheets</u>

3/2     Articles by other people

- 3/2/1     Hazara Mongols of Afganistan article     Autumn 1951     1 item
- Article by Elizabeth E. Bacon, "An Inquiry into the History of the Hazara Mongols of Afghanistan", reprinted from *The Southwestern Journal of Anthropology*, vol 7, No 3

**4**     **Kabul Legation diary**

- Bound typescript Kabul Legation diary entitled 'Two years of the B.L.K 1922-1924' given to Kerr Fraser-Tytler by R. 13 Feb 1922 – 1 volume  
8 Mar 1924  
R. Maconachie. The diary provides a detailed account of journeys, meetings and the general work of the Legation.  
Old Ref: 8

**5**     **Destruction of the Second British Legation in Kabul**

- TS article "The Destruction of the Second British Legation in Kabul" recounted by Captain Kirkebride providing a description of the old legation and a detailed account of the fire which destroyed the legation on the 22 Dec 1926 31 Dec 1926     12 sheets  
Old Ref: 9

**6**     **Situation in Afghanistan Note**

- Note by Kerr Fraser-Tytler on the political situation in Afghanistan giving an assessment of the impact of Government of India policy to make a change of Ministers Summer 1941     19 sheets  
Old Ref: 10

**7**     **The Expulsion of Axis Nationals from Afghanistan**

- Note by Kerr Fraser-Tytler on the expulsion of Axis Nationals from Afghanistan Summer 1941     4 sheets  
Old Ref: 11

**8 Newspaper clipping**

Newspaper article 'La Tristesse posthume de Joseph  
Hackin' from Luxemburger Wort  
Language: In French  
Old Ref: 12

7 Jun 2001      1 sheet

**9 King Nadir Shah's character**

TS "Appendix - An Appreciation of King Nadir Shah's  
character"  
Old Ref: 13

Not dated      3 sheets