

Reference code: GB165-0441

Title: Vivian Williams Collection

Name of creator: Williams, Vivian Craddock, Embassy Worker, Yemen.

Dates of creation of material: 1983-1985

Level of description: Fonds

Extent: 1 box

Biographical history: Williams, Vivian Craddock, Embassy Worker, Yemen.

Active in the British Embassy in Sana'a, Yemen between 1983 and 1985. Vivian Williams served as the features writer for Ring Road Rag in March 1985. The Ring Road Rag had a print run of 650 and a readership of 3000 in 1985. In 2008 Vivian Williams was working as Economics Director of Tricontinental Development in Uganda.

Scope and content: Fifteen issues of the Ring Road Rag, a newsletter/magazine produced by members of the British expat community in North Yemen, between June 1984 and December 1985. Contents include local sports and arts news, international and diplomatic developments, descriptions of walks in the area, descriptions of journeys made, cookery suggestions and advertisements. The collection also includes eight drawings made by Vivian Williams during his time in Yemen.

System of arrangement:

- 1 The Ring Road Rag (June 1984 - Dec 1985)
- 2 Drawings of Yemen by Vivian Williams (1983-1984)

Access conditions: Open

Language of material: English with some Arabic words and names.

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

Custodial history: Originally in the possession of Vivian Williams, then passed on to the British Yemeni Society

Immediate source of acquisition: Received as a gift from the British Yemeni Society on 18 October 2008

Related Units of Description:

In MEC Archive:

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|------------|------------------|---|
| GB165-0353 | Antonin Besse | Contemporary of the writers of the Ring Road Rag |
| GB165-0149 | Richard J Holmes | Papers relating to Aden and the development of the region in the pre- and post- independence period |
| GB165-0435 | Hamish Roberts | Papers relating to life and community in Aden, Yemen, pre-independence |

Finding aids: In Guide; Handlist

Archivist's note: Fonds level description created by Thomas Stanbury in March 2010 and revised by Debbie Usher 10 Nov 2016

**SERIES AND ITEM LEVEL DESCRIPTION OF THE VIVIAN WILLIAMS
COLLECTION**

1 The Ring Road Rag, Jun 1984 – Dec 1985

1/1	The Ring Road Rag, June 1984. Includes articles on amateur theatre, sailing, a review of a biography of Arthur Ransome, washing powder, cooking of veal, chicken and husbands, sports, and sundry advertisements for local sales and events	June 1984	12 sheets
1/2	The Ring Road Rag, July 1984. Includes articles on orchids, drying flowers, high altitude cooking, hepatitis, differences between men and women, fish of the Red Sea, poetry, cricket and sundry advertisements.	July 1984	10 sheets
1/3	The Ring Road Rag, Sept 1984. Includes articles on local charities, social events, the Green Flash, gardening, travels to Malta, mousetraps, cost of goods, cookery, art exhibitions, book reviews and advertisements.	Sept 1984	11 sheets
1/4	The Ring Road Rag, Oct 1984. Includes articles on diplomatic news, gardening, a review of a guidebook to Ethiopia, Djiboutie, a purple flash, nature, cookery, cricket, athletics, advertisements and the arts.	Oct 1984	10 sheets
1/5	The Ring Road Rag, Nov 1984. Includes articles on a local tennis tournament, the Yemen Garden Society, a marine park in Egypt, book reviews, the arts, a journey to India, home cooking, and advertisements	Nov 1984	14 sheets
1/6	The Ring Road Rag, Dec 1984. Includes articles on walks around Sana'a, beekeeping in Yemen, diplomatic and international news, book reviews, a production of Puss In Boots, arts, crafts, cricket, a journey to Sadah,	Dec 1984	14 sheets
1/7	The Ring Road Rag, Jan 1985. Includes articles on charitable donations, social events, a charity bazaar, a wildlife park, walks around Sana'a, a visit to China, cooking, theatre review, and advertisements.	Jan 1985	12 sheets

1/8	The Ring Road Rag, Feb 1985. Includes articles on social events, a walk among the blooming mountain lilies, a day in the life of an expat engineer, Francophone events, gardening, cooking, nights out in Sana'a, UN development, a review of a book on Medieval Britain, three notable Yemeni trees, and advertisements	Feb 1985	13 sheets
1/9	The Ring Road Rag, March 1985. Includes articles on development theory in fiction, diplomatic and international news, first impressions of Yemen, a bishop's visit to Sana'a, the arts, poetry, home ideas, cricket, walks in Yemen, the Ornithological Society of North Yemen, tigers in Yemen and advertisements.	Mar 1985	13 sheets
1/10	The Ring Road Rag, April 1985. Includes articles on diplomatic and international news, Yemeni news, home ideas, obituaries and birthdays, gardening, life stories, cooking, arts, Zabid, the Holi Festival, snails, walks in Yemen, the Azal School in Sana'a, the United Nations, sports and advertisements.	Apr 1985	17 sheets
1/11	The Ring Road Rag, May 1985. Includes articles on the arts, gardening, Gulliver's Travels, education in Yemen, news of Yemen, the United Nations, cookery, poetry and advertisements.	May 1985	15 sheets
1/12	The Ring Road Rag, July 1985. Includes articles on diplomatic and international news, Yemeni news, travel from Sana'a to Aden, gardening, Ghayls, arts, an Indian dance recital, British and Dutch theatre, motor sports, football, darts, new library acquisitions, children's corner, home ideas and advertisements	July 1985	17 sheets
1/13	The Ring Road Rag, August 1985. Includes articles on Yemeni, diplomatic and international news, the United Nations, a guide to Sana'a, ghayls, Mysteries of Yemen, icons, national dress of Pakistan, scorpion stings, tennis,	Aug 1985	15 sheets

video copying, cooking, identifying Yemeni birds and advertisements,

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| 1/14 | The Ring Road Rag, October 1985. Includes articles on Yemeni news, arts, 40 year anniversary of the UN, book reviews, parks of Yemen, plastics repair, travels to California, cooking, the Women's International Group, sports, shipping news, articles from previous Rags, children's corner and advertisements. | Oct 1985 | 18 sheets |
| 1/15 | The Ring Road Rag, December 1985. Includes articles on Yemeni news, the United Nations, Diplomatic and International news, a charity raffle, successful Italian Archaeological digs, Under Milk Wood, arts, vacuum cleaners, medicine, tribal dancing at Aiys, Halloween, showings of French films, the Women's International Group, Christmas cookery, travel, Cricket, art and advertisements. | Dec 1985 | 21 sheets |

2 Drawings of Yemen by Vivian Williams

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| 2/1 | Drawing of a view upward across a wooded, terraced hillside, marked "Hadda near Sana'a, YAR, VOW 12 Sept 1983 | 12 Sept 1983 | 1 sheet |
| 2/2 | Drawing of a sunset/sunrise on a mountaintop town, marked "VOCW '82" | 1982 | 1 sheet |
| 2/3 | Drawing of a mountainous desert landscape, marked "VCW Jebel Asser, YAR 8 Dec 1984" | 8 Dec 1984 | 1 sheet |
| 2/4 | Drawing of a farmed, hilly landscape, marked "Wadi near Shibam YAR, VCW 1 April 83" | 1 Apr 1983 | 1 sheet |
| 2/5 | Drawing of a mountain rising over some town buildings, marked "VOW, YAR" | Not dated | 1 sheet |
| 2/6 | Drawing of a thin, looping wall and an attached tower, marked "VCOW, YAR 1983, BabNajran Sa'da" | 1983 | 1 sheet |
| 2/7 | Drawing of a rocky landscape with several outcroppings, marked "Beit Bois 9.3.84" | 9 Mar 1984 | 1 sheet |

2/8 Drawing of a heavily damaged city street, with a group of
women and children in the centre, marked "After the Zilzal,
RISOBAH, 17 Jan 83, VOW" 17 Jan 1983 1 sheet