

Reference code: GB165-0510

Title: John Allan Smith Collection

Name of creator: Smith, John Allan (1894-1966)

Dates of creation of material: c1900s, 1946, 1962

Level of description: Fonds

Extent: 2 files

Biographical history: John Allan Smith (1894-1966)

Born in Glasgow in 1894, his first job was working for the Glasgow ship owners Hogarths. He joined up when World War 1 was declared in 1914, and served in France from 1915 to 1918, mostly with the Highland Light Infantry. He was wounded twice in the battle for Arras in April and May 1917 and was awarded the Military Cross for conspicuous gallantry. In 1921 he joined the shipbrokers Gellatly Hankey and Co and went to Port Sudan. He worked for Gellatly's in Sudan for 25 years, moving to Khartoum as Managing Director in 1933. He returned to the UK in 1946 to join the Gellatly's board of directors. He married Margaret Maud Moffat, then matron of Port Sudan Hospital, in 1929, and they had 2 daughters, Margaret and Jean. He died in 1966 aged 71 of a heart attack the day after England won the World Cup by beating Germany. He died a happy man.

Scope and content: Papers relating to the life and work of John Allan Smith at Gellatly, Hankey and Co (Sudan) Ltd consisting of a newspaper article entitled 'J.A. Smith leaves', along with a 4 sheet extract from a history of the firm that mentions John Allan Smith and his work at Gellatly, Hankey and Co. Souvenir photographs showing the Hajj before the end of Ottoman rule, that were sent to John Allan Smith in 1923 by a friend who had been on the pilgrimage.

Access conditions: Open

Language of material: English with some Arabic

Physical Condition: The photographs are available for viewing via contact sheets

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

Custodial history: In the possession of John Allan Smith and his family

Immediate source of acquisition: Received as a gift from Margaret Anderson (daughter of John Allan Smith) on 10 July and 26 July 2010

Related Units of Description:

In MEC Archive

For a memoir of John Allan Smith's daughter please see:

GB165-0511 Margaret Anderson Collection

For other records relating to Gellatly, Hankey and Co. (Sudan) Ltd see:

GB165-0229 St John Philby Collection: 2/3/3/25 Gellatly Hankey & Co (Sudan) Ltd correspondence, 1926-1939

For other photograph collections relating to Mecca and the pilgrimage see:

GB165-0034 Humphrey Bowman Collection: Photograph Album 1

GB165-0495 H.V. Weakley Collection: Photographs of the Pilgrimage, Mecca c1912

Finding aids: In Guide; Handlist

Archivist's note: Fonds and item level description created by Alastair McInnes 5 Aug 2010 with some help from D. Usher. Biographical history supplied by Margaret Anderson. Arabic captions translated by Dr Ahmed Al-Shahi.

**FILE AND ITEM LEVEL DESCRIPTION OF THE JOHN ALLAN SMITH
COLLECTION**

1 John Allan Smith and his work at Gellatly, Hankey and Co (Sudan) Ltd

- 1/1 Photocopy of newspaper article 'J.A. Smith Leaves' giving an [1946]
account of John Allan Smith's 25 years of service with Gellatly,
Hankey and Co (Sudan) Ltd in Sudan.
- 1/2 Photocopy of four pages from the book 'Gellatly's 1862-1962 A 1962
Short History of the Firm by George Blake' which mentions John
Allan Smith's service with the company.

2 Photographs of Mecca and the Pilgrimage

35 souvenir photographs, some captioned; mostly documenting the Pre 1914
sites and rituals of the Hajj. Other subjects include pilgrims, a c1900s
view of Medina, the Moallah cemetery, the parading of the carpet
and a group photograph of Arab medical officials. Also includes
the original envelope the photographs were sent in to J. Smith in
1923 by a friend who had been on the pilgrimage. The writer of
the original Arabic captions was not a native speaker of Arabic but
probably Turkish.

- 1 No original caption, [A seated man alongside two others who are standing, one
holding a ewer and bowl, perhaps containing blessed water]
- 2 No original caption, [A man, standing, places his hands in blessing upon another who
is seated]
- 3 No original caption, [Moallah]
- 4 Moallah
Language: original caption in Arabic
- 5 No original caption, [Encampment around the walls of an unidentified Mosque]
- 6 Marwah Mecca
Language: original caption in Arabic
- 7 No original caption, [Mecca, the Kaaba from one side]

- 8 The view from Bab al Salam
Language: original caption in Arabic
- 9 No original caption, [Mecca, looking down, pilgrims grouped around the Kaaba's base, showing the mosque of Masjid al Haram and surroundings]
- 10 [View of the Kaaba]
- 11 The view from the minaret of Bab Al-Umrah the ritual circumambulation of the Kaaba
Language: original caption in Arabic
- 12 The view from the minaret of Bab Ali and the sacred Kaaba
Language: original caption in Arabic
- 13 No original caption, [The view from Ibrahim gate and the sacred Kaaba and people praying]
- 14 The view from Ibrahim gate and the sacred Kaaba and people praying
Language: original caption in Arabic
- 15 Mecca, General view of the "Kaba" enclosure. The "Kaba" is the draped stone in the centre and is a sort of "Temple of God". The Pilgrims do the "Sawaf" here, which means several times round the Kaba. All the little domes round about are little praying mosques. This is a very good photograph, the houses behind are exactly like the Jeddah houses
- 16 No original caption, [Mecca, pilgrims grouped around the Kaaba's base]
- 17 [View of the Kaaba]
- 18 The view of Friday prayer from the Prophet's gate
Language: original caption in Arabic
- 19 No original caption, [The view of Friday prayer from the Prophet's gate]
- 20 The view from Al-Ajyad gate and the view from the black sacred stone
Language: original caption in Arabic
- 21 The view from the minaret the Al-Hameedi gate
Language: original caption in Arabic
- 22 The internal passage to the inner sanctum
[The image shows flood waters around the Kaaba]
Language: original caption in Arabic
- 23 Mecca, This [is] a larger view of Mecca, showing the "Kaba" enclosure a little closer with all its funny little mosques. There is only one real entrance, direct to the "Kaba", and you can imagine what a hubbub it is with 60,000 or more people of all nationalities and tongues clamouring for a entrance
- 24 No original caption, [Mecca, view from Abi Qabis mountain over the mosque of

Masjid al Haram, the Kaaba and surroundings]

25 The general view from Abi Qabis mountain

Language: original caption in Arabic

26 The laying of the Egyptian carpet at Arafat in front of Ali's gate

Language: original caption in Arabic

27 The ? photograph of the Syrian carpet

Language: original caption in Arabic

28 [The Syrian carpet on Arafat hill]

29 The Syrian carpet in Arafat hill

Language: original caption in Arabic

30 No original caption, [Arafat]

31 Arafat where pilgrims stand

Language: original caption in Arabic

32 Mount Arafat, This is the place to which the pilgrims come on the 9th of the month after finishing their visits to the Holy Places. Here only religious ceremonies take place on a special plateau on Mount Arafat which appears just at the right of the photograph, where the people with the sunshades are standing

33 The Mosque of Abdullah Ibn Abbas in Taif

Language: original caption in Arabic

34 Medina, This is the other sacred city, and contains the Prophet Mohamed's tomb. It is at the option of the pilgrims whether or not they visit Medina

35 The health organisation group [illegible word]

Language: original caption in Arabic