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Title: Wilfrid Knapp Collection

Name of creator: Knapp, Wilfrid Francis (1924-2011) Academic

Dates of creation of material: c2005

Level of description: Fonds

Extent: 1 file (217 sheets)

Biographical history: Knapp, Wilfrid Francis (1924-2011) Academic

Born 4 Dec 1924. Son of a primary school headmaster, Wilfrid Knapp attended Bishopshalt Grammar School in Middlesex. In 1942 went to study PPE (Philosophy, Politics and Economics) at New College, Oxford. Joined RAF (Royal Air Force) and served in a photographic unit. After demobilisation returned to New College and after graduation in 1948 spent seven months in Paris as an Alexander Korda scholar before taking up a Junior Lectureship at New College in 1949. Junior Lecturer in Politics, New College, 1949-1950. Tutor in Politics, St Catherine's Society 1950-1962. Founding Fellow, St Catherine's College 1962-1992. Emeritus Fellow, St Catherine's College 1992-2001. Wilfrid Knapp served in St Catherine's College as Senior Tutor, Vice-Master and Dean. In the mid-1960s Wilfrid Knapp developed an interest in the Middle East that became central to his career. A University grant and a sabbatical year allowed him to visit the region extensively. In January 1966, along with his family, he spent 7 months driving from Tunis to Tehran (and home through Turkey and Yugoslavia). He later published on the Maghreb (*Tunisia* appeared in 1975; *North-West Africa: a Political and Economic Survey* in 1977) and contributed to the development of Middle Eastern studies at Oxford with colleagues such as Albert Hourani, Elizabeth Monroe and Robert Mabro, with whom he launched the Oxford Energy Seminar in 1978. Died 30 Mar 2011.

Scope and content: Draft manuscript of an unpublished book 'International Politics in the Middle East' by Wilfrid Knapp consisting of 7 chapters covering events from the 1950s to 1991 including Iran (Mossadegh), Egypt (Suez Crisis), the oil revolution, religious fundamentalism, the 1973 October War, Camp David, Afghanistan, the war in Lebanon and Israeli and Syrian relations and the Israeli-Palestinian peace process up until 1991 but with a focus on the 1980s.

Access conditions: Open

Language of material: English

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

Immediate source of acquisition: Received as a gift from Andrew Knapp (son of Wilfrid Knapp) on 6 Sept 2011

Finding aids: In Guide; Handlist

Archivist's note: Fonds level description created by Debbie Usher 3 Feb 2012. Biographical History based on an obituary of Wilfrid Knapp for New College, Oxford that was written by Andrew Knapp.