

Reference code: GB165-0563

Title: Michael Butler Collection

Name of creator: Butler, Michael Paul (b.1940)

Dates of creation of material: 1966-2013

Level of description: Fonds

Extent: 1 file

Biographical history: Butler, Michael Paul (b.1940)

Educated Bradfield College, Berkshire. 1958 commissioned into 13th/18th Royal Hussars (QMO). 1958-1963 served in Malaya, Singapore, British Army of the Rhine (BAOR). 1964-1965 secondment to Sultan's Armed Forces, Recce Platoon Muscat Regiment. 1966-1967 Foreign and Commonwealth Office Political Affairs Staff, HQ MEC, Aden. 1968-1970 Deputy Director Department of Security, al Ain Special Branch, Government of Abu Dhabi. 1970-1977 Deputy Director Dhofar Development Department, Salalah, Sultanate of Oman. 1977-1978 Project Manager for Dalgety Agricultural Development International in Oman. 1978-1979 Project Manager for Dalgety Agricultural Development International on the Damazeen Project, Blue Nile Province, Sudan. 1980-1983 Partner in Omani company – National Company for Agricultural and Livestock Development.

Scope and content: Memoir 'Travels with a Camel' that provides an account of a 6 week trip in 1965 from Dhofar to Ibri, written by Michael Butler in 1966 with some revision and photographs incorporated into the text in 2011. Memoir 'Al Ain 1968-1970' covering Michael Butler's service in Abu Dhabi, mainly as Deputy Director of Security in the police at a Special Branch at Al Ain in the Buraimi Oasis.

Access conditions: Open

Language of material: English

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

Custodial history: In the possession of Michael Butler

Immediate source of acquisition: Received as a gift from Michael Butler in February 2012, Al Ain 1968-1970 received as a gift from Michael Butler in April 2013.

Related Units of Description:

In MEC Archive

The MEC Archive has many collections relating to Oman. Please consult the Guide to Collections relating to Oman for further information.

For other collections relating to travel and exploration please see:

- GB165-0015 Sir John Ardagh Collection
- GB165-0023 Gertrude Bell Collection
- GB165-0088 Catherine Dixon Collection
- GB16-0229 Harry St. John Philby Collection

The MEC Archive also holds the papers of Sir Hugh Boustead, a friend of the Butler family, see GB165-0032 Sir Hugh Boustead Collection

Finding aids: In Guide; Handlist

Archivist's note: Fonds, file and item level description created by Kate Rose, Aug 2012 and revised by Debbie Usher 14 Mar 2013 and 6 May 2013. Biographical history provided by Michael Butler.

ITEM LEVEL DESCRIPTION OF THE MICHAEL BUTLER COLLECTION

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|---|--|---------------|-----------|
| 1 | <u>Travels with a Camel</u> | 1966, 2011 | 1 booklet |
| | <p>‘Travels with a Camel’ gives an account of a 6 week trip in 1965 from Dhofar to Ibri with a party of Harasis and Bait Kathir tribesmen and camels. The account consists of 10 chapters (totalling 129 pages) and is illustrated with photographs taken by Michael Butler. In the back of the account there are currency lists, camel prices, tribe divisions and a map of the route. The account includes chapters on meeting the reclusive Sultan of Muscat Oman Sayyed Said and getting his personal approval to travel. Butler also writes of why he had chosen to travel with the Harasis and Bait Kathir tribes and how learning and understand their customs was one of the most important aspects of his journey; as were discussions on religion, tribal raiding and feuding. The account also describes the art of camel trekking and the survival techniques used by the Harasis and Bait while travelling the desert areas. Butler describes the many different tribes’ people he meets on the journey, their rituals and lifestyles that differ from his own. He also describes one of his objectives for the trek being the observation and data collecting of the Oryx. He describes the life and habits of camels and how in the search for water for camels goes beyond their own food needs.</p> | | |
| 2 | <u>Al Ain 1968-1970</u> | 2013 | 1 booklet |
| | <p>‘Al Ain 1968-1970’ gives an account of Michael Butler’s service in Abu Dhabi, first as 2nd in command of a motorised infantry squadron near to Abu Dhabi town and then as Deputy Director of Security in the police at a Special Branch at Al Ain in the Buraimi Oasis with a focus on intelligence work. The memoir includes an account of a ten day patrol to the Liwa Oasis and mentions the friendship of the Butler family with Sir Hugh Boustead during his retirement.</p> | | |