

Reference code: GB165-0564

Title: Sheilagh Bailey Collection

Name of creator: Bailey, Sheilagh Elizabeth (b.1929)

Dates of creation of material: 1972-1999

Level of description: Fonds

Extent: 3 boxes

Biographical history: Bailey, Sheilagh Elizabeth (b.1929)

Born Tanganyika (now Tanzania) in 1929. Her father was in the Tanganyika Police and retired as Deputy Commissioner. She grew up there until she was seven, when her mother died and she and her sister, Patricia, went to boarding school in Sussex, England. Her father married again and she and Patricia then went to school in Umtali, Zimbabwe. When she left school she joined the Tanganyika Colonial Service and served there until independence in 1963. On leaving the Service she joined the British Government and served with them in London and Sarawak, Borneo. She finally left this Service and went out to the Sultanate of Oman in 1972, just after Sultan Qaboos took over the country from his father in a coup. She served in His Majesty's Palace Office, which she helped to form, under his Chief Adviser, Brigadier J.T.W. Landon until finally retiring to London in 1984. She was awarded The Order of Oman by His Majesty Sultan Qaboos on her retirement in recognition of her services rendered to the Sultanate.

Scope and content: Interview and photographic material relating to Sheilagh Bailey's work in Oman in the Palace Office from 1972-1984 and later visits to Oman. In the interview Sheilagh Bailey discusses her slides and photograph albums and their context. There are two boxes of 35mm slides relating to Sheilagh's work in Oman in 1972, and four photograph albums covering 1972-1980s, as well as later return visits to Oman and Switzerland in 1998-1999.

System of arrangement:

1. Interview
2. Slides
3. Photograph Albums

Access conditions: Open

Language of material: English

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

Custodial history: In the possession of Sheilagh Bailey and John Warner

Immediate source of acquisition: Received as a gift from John Warner on behalf of Sheilagh Bailey 29 Mar 2012

Related Units of Description:

In MEC Archive

The MEC Archive has many collections relating to Oman history in 1970s. Please consult the Guide to Collections relating to Oman for further information.

Finding aids: In Guide; Handlist

Archivist's note: Fonds, file and item level description created by Thomas Stanbury Apr 2012 and revised by Debbie Usher 29 May 2014. Biographical history supplied by Sheilagh Bailey.

**SERIES AND ITEM LEVEL DESCRIPTION OF THE SHEILAGH BAILEY
COLLECTION**

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|------------|--|-------------------|--|
| <u>1</u> | <u>Interview</u> Audio visual interview with Sheilagh Bailey, primarily discussing her slides and photograph albums contained in this collection and their history. Subjects discussed include her arrival in Oman in 1972 to assist Tim Landon following the coup, the establishment of the Palace Office in Muscat, her father's work in Canada and subsequently at Lake Tanganyika in the 1920s, poor quality of roads and difficulties of travel in Oman, the customs house on the beach in Salalah, the royal palace in Salalah, construction, location selection and design of a new Palace Office at Qurum and subsequent meeting with the Sultan, her departure from Oman in the early 80s and subsequent visits to the region Physical Condition: A computer is necessary to watch the interview. Please ask the archivist to arrange a viewing. | <u>1 Dec 2011</u> | <u>1 DVD,</u> <u>1 hour,</u> <u>17 minutes,</u> <u>25 seconds</u> <u>(1:17:25)</u> |
| <u>2</u> | <u>Slides</u> 35mm colour slides containing images from Sheilagh Bailey's time working in Oman in 1972 | <u>1972</u> | <u>80 slides</u> |
| <u>2/1</u> | <u>Slides Box 1</u> Originally labelled "Wadi Mei – Batinah Coast – Rostaq – Sohar – Nakhl – Jebel Akhdhar [illegible] – Gubra Bowl - Oman" | <u>1972</u> | <u>49 slides</u> |
| 2/1/1 | Reflections in Wadi Mai | | |
| 2/1/2 | Oman: River Bed Fish. Wadi Mai | | |
| 2/1/3 | Wadi Mai | | |
| 2/1/4 | Wadi Mai. Divided wadi bed | | |
| 2/1/5 | Mummy –Wadi Mai | | |
| 2/1/6 | Oman coastline. Rocks and caves | | |

- 2/1/7 Batinah coast
- 2/1/8 Houri Batinah coast
- 2/1/9 Fort Batinah Coast
- 2/1/10 Fort Batinah Coast
- 2/1/11 Hazm Fort
- 2/1/12 Rostaq Army Fort
- 2/1/13 Rostaq Fort
- 2/1/14 Rostaq Fort
- 2/1/15 Rostaq Fort
- 2/1/16 Rostaq Souk – Camel
- 2/1/17 Rostaq – Camel in Souk
- 2/1/18 Rostaq – Camel in Souk
- 2/1/19 Loaded Donkey, Rostaq Souk
- 2/1/20 Oman – Arab Women at Rostaq
- 2/1/21 Zanzibar/Omani girl – Rostaq
- 2/1/22 Sohar – Old Omani House and Me
- 2/1/23 Sohar Fort
- 2/1/24 Sohar – Askars-Sohar Fort
- 2/1/25 Young Man at Sohar Fort
- 2/1/26 Old Man at Sohar Fort
- 2/1/27 Sohar children
- 2/1/28 Awabi Fort - Wali's residence
- 2/1/29 Nakhl Fort A.
- 2/1/30 Nakhl Fort B.
- 2/1/31 Nakhl Village C.
- 2/1/32 Nakhl & Batinah plain
- 2/1/33 Nakhl
- 2/1/34 Jebel Akhdar massif and Nizwa/Musert Road
- 2/1/35 Jebel Akhdar
- 2/1/36 Wadi in Jebel Akhar
- 2/1/37 The great ramparts of the Jebel Akhdar rising straight
up from Plain
- 2/1/38 Mountain and village – Jebel Akhdar

- 2/1/39 Jebel Akhdar Massif showing Nizwa/Muscat road
- 2/1/40 Jebel Akhdar – massif & Nizwa/Muscat road.
- 2/1/41 Foorhills of the Jebel Akhdar
- 2/1/42 Maidan Saro from Jebel Akhdar
- 2/1/43 Approaching the Gubra bowl - Jebel Akhdar
- 2/1/44 Gubra bowl – Jebel Akhdar
- 2/1/45 In the Gubra bowl
- 2/1/46 In the Gubra bowl
- 2/1/47 Jebali and his donkey –Saiq
- 2/1/48 Wadi Maidhan Gap
- 2/1/49 Hill with fort on top protecting approach to Wadi
Maidhan

2/2 Slides Box 2

1972

31 slides

Originally labelled “Salalah”

- 2/2/1 Salalah – Beach and ‘lighter’
- 2/2/2 Salalah – Beach and ‘lighter’
- 2/2/3 Salalah – a ‘lighter’ being unloaded on the beach!
- 2/2/4 Salalah– a ‘lighter’ coming thro’ surf on Salalah Beach
- 2/2/5 Salalah – Customs House and goods landed on beach!
- 2/2/6 Salalah – Customs House and goods landed on beach!
- 2/2/7 Salalah – Customs inspection on beach!
- 2/2/8 Salalah – Goods on beach opposite Customs house –
unloaded from dhows
- 2/2/9 Salalah – HM the Sultan's Palace – and Kadhara
- 2/2/10 Salalah – Main gate to Palace
- 2/2/11 Salalah – Palace Askars
- 2/2/12 Salalah – Souq – Man on Camel
- 2/2/13 Salalah Souk and ‘Blue Man’ from the Jebel
- 2/2/14 Salalah Souq – Blue Man from Jebel
- 2/2/15 Salalah – Souq Stall
- 2/2/16 Salalah – Crowd in Souq
- 2/2/17 Salalah – Crowd in Souq

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| 2/2/18 | Salalah. Old 'Harem House' | | |
| 2/2/19 | Salalah – Crowd in Souq | | |
| 2/2/20 | Salalah – Mosque and tomb stones | | |
| 2/2/21 | Salalah – Prophet's grave | | |
| 2/2/22 | Salalah – Coastal Cultivation | | |
| 2/2/23 | Salalah – Banana Trees | | |
| 2/2/24 | Salalah – Banana Trees | | |
| 2/2/25 | Salalah – Tall Grass | | |
| 2/2/26 | Salalah – Robin Butler dressed as a Dhofari Woman! | | |
| 2/2/27 | Salalah – Kadhara! | | |
| 2/2/28 | Salalah – Dhofari girl | | |
| 2/2/29 | Salalah – little Dhofari girl | | |
| 2/2/30 | Salalah – Palm trees on beach | | |
| 2/2/31 | Salalah – Palm trees on beach | | |
| | | | |
| <u>3</u> | <u>Photograph Albums</u> | <u>1972-1999</u> | <u>4 albums</u> |
| | Photograph albums relating to Sheilagh Bailey's work in Oman from 1972 and subsequent visits to the country in 1985, 1986 and 1999, as well as a visit to Switzerland in 1998. | | |
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| 3/1 | <u>Album 1</u> | 1972-1980s | 1 album (62 photos) |
| | Contains photos from Sheilagh's time in Oman from 1972 onwards. Subjects include the new Palace Office building at Qurum, both interior and exterior, Shelagh meeting the Sultan, Shelagh's co-workers, aerial views of Muscat and Omani landscapes, forts and cities, a picnic in an Omani landscape. | | |
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| 3/2 | <u>Album 2</u> | Feb 1986 | 1 album (66 photos, 21 pressed plants) |
| | Labelled "Pat's Holiday in Oman: February 1986, Vol. 1" containing photos and dried plants relating to a visit to Oman by Shelagh's sister in 1986. Subjects include landscapes, Omani street scenes, | | |

- Muscat, the souk, hotels, Omani women and children,
a drive through the interior, Onyx and camels.
- 3/3 Album 3 Dec 1985, 1 album
Labelled "Continued from Vol. 1. 1. Pat's Holiday in Feb 1986 (43 photos,
Oman: February 1986. 2. Christmas Dinner at Ralph and Elizabeth Daly's in Muscat, 1985. Vol. 2" 11 pressed
plants)
Subjects include a trek through the Omani hinterland, abandoned forts, Omani families and children, Omani girls fetching water, palms, street scenes, and a Christmas party.
- 3/4 Album 4 9 Apr 1998 - 1 album
Labelled "1. Switzerland: 9-21 April 1998. 2. Anglo-Omani Visit to the Sultanate of Oman from 28 Feb 1999 (84 photos,
February to 9th March 1999." 5 invitations,
8 postcards)
Subjects include aerial and street views of Zurich, Omani men and women, views of Muscat and its forts and mosques, landscapes, Nizwa fort, mosque and souk, Nakhl fort, plants, journeys through Oman by jeep and camel, views of Hamra.