

Reference code: GB165-0774

Title: Richard Edenborough Collection

Name of creator: Edenborough, Richard Oakley Montagu (1906-1995)

Dates of creation of material: 8 Nov – 20 Dec 1954

Level of description: Fonds

Extent: 1 box

Biographical history: Edenborough, Richard Oakley Montague (1906-1995)

Born in Muswell Hill in 1906, one of five children of Arthur Melville Edenborough and Kate Margaret Walbrook. Known by his initials as "Rome", worked for family cork-importing business, then for the pharmaceutical company Bayer AG, at its headquarters in Leverkusen, Germany. He shuttled between Leverkusen and the London office of its UK subsidiary, Bayer Products, where he met his wife Evelyn Hunt (m. 1933, 1905-1993), a secretary. Based at Bayer Products' Manchester office c. 1935-1939, last pre-WW2 trip to Leverkusen July 1939. Holding a Reserved Occupation, remained with Bayer Products during WW2. Back in WW1 the American pharmaceutical company Sterling Products had acquired American Bayer Co., around which it built a subsidiary, Winthrop Products, which became a joint venture with Bayer AG after 1923, with rights to Bayer's name and patents in the US, UK and Commonwealth. In the 1950s, Richard travelled extensively for Winthrop Products and Bayer Products as a director, vetting prospective agents, before being promoted in 1961 to Managing Director of Sterling Drug International, another subsidiary of Sterling Drug Inc. of New York, which won the Queen's Award for Enterprise (International Trade) in 1966. In 1954 Richard and Evelyn were living at Wychwood, Lynch Road, Farnham, Surrey, with their children Lester (b. 1935) and Ethne (b. 1937).

Scope and content: TS memoir 'Wandering for Winthrop' by Richard Edenborough giving an account of his business trip to the Middle East, 8 Nov – 20 Dec 1954, as part of his work for Winthrop Products, a subsidiary of the American firm Sterling Drug Inc. The memoir consists extracts from letters to his family, illustrated by postcards and photographs and describes his journey and experiences visiting Athens, Damascus, Cairo, Beirut, Tehran, Baghdad, Aden, Karachi, Asmara, Khartoum and London.

Access conditions: Open

Language of material: English

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Custodial history: In the possession of Richard Edenborough and then his family.

Immediate source of acquisition: Received as a gift from Dr Jonathan Conlin (grandson of Richard Edenborough) on 16 Mar 2023.

Finding aids: In Guide; Handlist

Archivist's note: Fonds level description created by Debbie Usher 22 Mar 2023.
Biographical history supplied by Jonathan Conlin.