

Middle East Centre Archive
St Antony's College, Oxford
Guide to collections relating to the Gulf

Introduction

Please note that the following Guide is not comprehensive. It has been compiled from the main Guide to the Middle East Centre Archive and only collections in that catalogue that explicitly mention the Persian Gulf, Abu Dhabi, Bahrain, Kuwait or Qatar have been included. Not included in this Guide are several collections that cover the Middle East as a whole and thus may contain material relevant to Gulf. For example British Diplomatic Perspectives on the Middle East; Chatham House; Clayton; Crow; Dickson, Arthur GM; Dickson and the Mance papers. For these papers please consult the main Guide to the Middle East Centre Archive.

Where a more detailed description of a collection exists, this is indicated in this Guide by the word 'Handlist'.

Please note TS means typescript. MS means manuscript i.e. handwritten.

ARTHUR, Sir Geoffrey. (1920-1984).

GB165-0430

Papers relating to Sir Geoffrey Arthur's service as a senior diplomat in the Persian Gulf, when he engineered negotiations that led to the creation of the United Arab Emirates, 1968-1971. The collection includes agreements, orders, resolutions, laws, statements, memoranda, agendas, minutes and reports produced by or for the Provisional Union Council and the Supreme Council of the Union of Arab Emirates. A small amount of material consists of correspondence between key players in the negotiations, and articles analysing the situation. The papers also contain a certificate from New England College confirming upon Sir Geoffrey Arthur an honorary degree in 1983 and two obituaries for Sir Geoffrey Arthur in 1984. 2 boxes. Handlist.

BEAUMONT, Sir Richard Ashton. (1912-2009).

GB165-0597

Papers mainly relating to Sir Richard Beaumont's service in the Foreign Office, in particular his service as Consul in Jerusalem in 1948 and his role in the Buraimi Oasis dispute with Saudi Arabia in Jan-Oct 1960. Includes a handwritten chronology of events in Palestine and Jerusalem in the period Feb-Dec 1948, with personal diary notes, and photocopies of documents held by The National Archives, perhaps compiled for research purposes. There is also a small amount of material relating to Lebanon and Syria during World War II, as well as a collection of newspaper clippings, 1979-1995, reporting on events in the Middle East. 1 box. Handlist.

BUTLER, Michael Paul. (b.1940).

GB165-0563

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,

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mainly as Deputy Director of Security in the police at a Special Branch at Al Ain in the Buraimi Oasis. 1 file. Handlist.

CHEHAB, Emir Farid. (1908-1985).

GB165-0384

Lebanese intelligence reports and analysis, in Arabic, covering internal Lebanese politics, communist parties in the Middle East and political developments in Syria, Morocco, Turkey, Kuwait, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Jordan and Israeli and Palestinian politics, 1945-1983. 12 boxes. Handlist.

COPPIN, David Middleton. (b.1939).

GB165-0628

Papers and photographs relating to David Coppin's life and service in the Middle East including 35mm colour slides of Bahrain in 1964, photographs from his service in Oman in the Sultan's Armed Forces 1964-1966 and the Soldier's magazine from 1964; papers and photographs relating to his service in the Dubai Defence Force 1973-1974, photographs and an article about a journey in Yemen in 1980; papers and photographs from his time in Oman in 1985-1986 whilst working as an Administration Manager on the Sultan Qaboos University Construction Project (including aerial images of the new University under construction); a collection of maps of Oman, Dubai and the United Arab Emirates 1961-1984 and some printed literature consisting of a booklet on Dhofar 1974 and an exhibition catalogue for 'Weapons of the Islamic World: Swords and Armour' 1991. 4 boxes, 2 folders. Handlist. Photographic collection.

CORKILL, Dr. Norman Lace. (1898-1966).

GB165-0063

Papers relating to the life and work of Dr Norman Corkill, as a Doctor and Health and Hygiene advisor in various parts of the Middle East, including his reports on the health and hygiene situations of Saudi Arabia in 1948, Palestinian refugees in 1951, Eastern Aden in 1953, Iran in 1963 and Abu Dhabi in 1964; his diary and an incomplete draft of his autobiography, correspondence and a printed bound report entitled 'A Nutritional Economic Survey of Wartime Palestine, 1942-1943'. 2 boxes. Handlist. Photographic collection.

DICKSON, Lt.-Colonel Harold Richard Patrick. (1881-1959).

GB165-0085

Childhood; letters from regiment in Ireland, 1903; Gilgit and Bikaner, 1912-14; letters to mother; Mesopotamia campaign: letters to mother, 1914-15; letters home, 1915; letters from D. force, 1915-16; miscellaneous career papers; Suk esh-Shuyukh: letters to mother, 1915-18; pacification of Muntafik, 1918-19; Iraq, 1917-19: events in Nasiriyeh, conditions of service, administration in Basra and Baghdad vilayets; administration reports of the Kuwait Political Agency, 1918, 1921-32; Bahrain, 1920 - Ibn Saud; diaries of mission in Bahrain, 1919-22; private letters of political interest, mostly from Iraq and the Gulf to India, 1920s (including Sir Percy Cox, A.T. Wilson, Philby, Bertram Thomas); reports from Hillah, 1921-22; Ojair conference papers, 1922; Kuwait and the desert: articles and press-cuttings, 1931-48; Kuwait: notes on trade 1932-33, and trade supplies 1942; Kuwait diaries, 1937-58; Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and U.K.: treaties and conventions; notes on Kuwait/Iraq boundaries, 1938; notes for a biography; presscuttings on the Middle East 1937-41 & 53-55. 17 boxes. Handlist. Photographic collection.

DICKSON, Dame Violet Penelope. (1896-1991).

GB165-0364

Photocopy of a TS account of Violet Dickson's family history; MS description of each photograph album; 12 photograph albums, 1956-1981, mainly covering Kuwait but also including a small amount of photographs taken in Abu Dhabi, Bahrain, Dubai, Sharjah, Qatar,

Saudi Arabia, Lebanon, Iran, Iraq, Yemen as well as photographs of European countries and Africa. 12 Albums and 13 sheets. Handlist.

EDWARDS, Francis M. (b. 1886).

GB165-0096

Papers on Egyptian rural problems and provincial taxation reports, 1920s; reports on a visit to Saad Zaghlul in Upper Egypt, October 1921; essays on early Muslim travellers in the Middle East; book reviews; note on the title of the ruler of Muscat; account of a duck shoot in the Libyan desert; letter, 4 July 1959, from L. Lockhart about the Persian claim to Bahrain. 1 box.

GAURY, Gerald Simpson Hillairet Rutland Vere de. (1897-1984).

GB165-0437

Papers and photographs relating to Gerald de Gaury's life, from his activities as a soldier in World War One through his involvement in the Middle East as a soldier, diplomat and friend of the rulers of Iraq and Saudi Arabia to his later activities in the Foreign Office, including correspondence, drawings from various stages in his career, and his research for a number of books and essays. The correspondence includes letters from Lesley Blanch and Freya Stark. 17 boxes, 1 folder. Handlist. Photographic collection.

GIESLER, Rodney William Aldous (1931-2016).

GB165-0508

Papers, slides and films relating to Rodney Giesler's life and work for the Kuwait Oil Company Ltd Film Unit and his later travels in the Middle East consisting of an extract from an oral history transcript 'Memories of Kuwait 1958-61' as well as a collection of 35mm colour slides mainly of the Gulf including images of oil fields and installations, the visit of King Saud to Kuwait in 1961 as well as slides of tourist sites in Iran, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria. Also includes digital copies of the documentary films 'Close up on Kuwait' and 'Dubai' which were directed by Rodney Giesler and focus on the oil industry and the development of Kuwait and Dubai as well as some printed materials including booklets giving a history of the Kuwait oil company. 2 boxes. Handlist.

HAY, Sir William Rupert. (1893-1962).

GB165-0138

Diaries and accounts of tours 1911-56, with correspondence and articles relating to his service in Mesopotamia, Waziristan and Baluchistan, Afghanistan, and the Persian Gulf, including the transfer of the Residence from Bushire to Bahrain. 14 boxes. Handlist.

HENNESSEY, Robert Samuel Fleming. (1905-89).

GB165-0143

TS account of a visit to Riyadh via Baghdad and Bahrain with the Anglo-American (Palestine) Committee, 16-21 March 1946. 9 sheets.

JERUSALEM AND THE EAST MISSION.

GB165-0161

Records, 1841-1970s, including material on Palestine, Syria, Iraq, Jordan, Iran, Gulf, Egypt, Sudan, Cyprus and N. Africa; with correspondence on the political situation in Palestine, 1916-67; presscutting volumes. 256 boxes. Handlist. Photographic collection.

LUCAS, Ivor. (b.1927).

GB165-0561

TS article 'Reflections on a diplomatic career in the Arab and Muslim worlds 1951-84' by Ivor Lucas covering his work in the British Foreign Service relating to the Gulf, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Libya, Aden and Syria and giving his reflections on the changing face of Islam. 1 file. Handlist.

MONROE, Elizabeth. (1905-86).

GB165-0207

Translation of documents from Tsarist archives on the break-up of the Ottoman Empire, 1914-15; a note on the Arab Bureau, 1916-19; letters from C.J. Edmonds on recollections of Mosul Commission, Kurds and Anglo-Iraq treaty of 1926; letters from Freya Stark, 4 November 1943-18 June 1944, on her mission to America; notes on British policy in Palestine 1945-48 with special reference to Ernest Bevin; letters on Jordan Waters situation, 1951-55; Nasser's propaganda in the Persian Gulf, 1955-57; effects of the Suez crisis on Iraqi politics; letters on developments in 1957 in Iraq and Iran; memo "Saudi Arabia 1970-71"; map of the Hijaz railway; material on Egypt's campaign to spread its influence by dispatch of Egyptian teachers abroad; TS copies of 2 letters from Elizabeth Monroe about her travels in Morocco and Algeria in 1935. 1 box. Photographic collection.

MYLREA, Dr. C. Stanley G. (1876-1952).

GB165-0214

"Before oil came to Kuwait" and "Kuwait before oil": two TS versions of the memoirs of Dr. Mylrea, pioneer medical missionary of the Arabian Mission in Bahrain and Kuwait, 1907-47, including comment on local affairs and the ruling families as well as descriptions of the medical work of the mission. 1 box. Handlist.

NELSON, Valerie – please see Robinson, Valerie

RENDEL, Sir George William. (1889-1979).

GB165-0238

"Notes on the proposed Greek participation in the War" TS report written while First Secretary in the British Legation, Athens during the First World War; TS correspondence between Rendel, Abdul Aziz ibn Saud, Amir Saud, Yusuf Yassin and Hafiz Wahba following Rendel's visit to Saudi Arabia, June-July 1937; correspondence with Sir Colin Crowe, December 1964, about his papers, with recollections of Ibn Saud and Saudi Arabia; TS note, 1965, on the modification of the Syria-Iraq frontier, 1929-31; TS note, 1966, on the transfer of the Residency from Bushire to Bahrain; TS note, 1966, on the Kuwait oil concession; photocopied MS diary of his visit to Saudi Arabia, February-March 1937 1 box. Photographic collection.

ROBINSON, Valerie Winifred. (b.1934).

GB165-0594

Papers and photographs relating to the life and work of Valerie Robinson (née Nelson) as a personal assistant in the office Political Residency Bahrain 1968-1972 and The British Embassy, Muscat 1977-1982 consisting of two photograph/scrapbook volumes; an account of 'Life at the Political Residency Persian Gulf 1968-1972 and The British Embassy, Muscat 1977-1982 by Valerie Robinson (née Nelson)' written in 2014 and fifty 35mm colour slides from her service in the Political Residency Persian Gulf 1968-1972. 3 volumes, 50 slides. Handlist. Photographic Collection.

SADLEIR, Capt. George Forster. (1789-1859).

GB165-0250

2 TS copies of P. Ryan's 1866 Byculla edition of *Diary of a journey across Arabia from El Katif in the Persian Gulf to Yambo in the Red Sea, during the year 1819*; F.M. Edwards' research on Sadleir's life (published in the *Journal of the Royal Central Asian Society*, January 1957), his family and the sword presented to him after his Persian mission; photograph of the sword; original lease of Killwine, King's County, Ireland, made between Edward, Earl Digby and the Revd. Dr. Francis Sadleir, 1 September 1825. 1 box.

SEARLE, Pauline. (1922-2011)

GB165-0328

OMAN ARCHIVE: The papers cover the nine year period which Searle spent in Oman as a journalist for Reuters, relating mainly to the Dhofar war in southern Oman, which was ongoing during the time Searle lived there, and military operations connected with the war. A significant part of the papers relate directly to Searle's work for Reuters, and her communications with Reuters personnel in Bahrain and London. Other papers are working notes, and written articles created and collected by Searle in the course of her work. There is a small amount of personal papers and printed material. Some of the materials look at the wider context of life in Oman for the local people. c1968-1979. 4 boxes. Handlist.

UNCATALOGUED MATERIAL

Access to some uncatalogued material is restricted, please contact the archivist for further details. Access is normally possible where draft catalogues are available.

WALKER, Julian Fortay (1929-2018) Diplomat.

GB165-0747

Papers including maps, some books and photographic material (prints and 35mm slides) relating to Julian Walker's life and service in the Middle East mainly consisting of material from after his retirement including his work and interest in boundary disputes. Some of the 35mm slides are from his service in Norway. Draft catalogue. 11 boxes and 3 oversize folders.