

Middle East Centre Archive

St Antony's College, Oxford

Guide to collections relating to Oil and the Oil industry

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 focuses on collections that have some material relating to oil and the oil industry. Collections of note include Andrew Ensor, Rodney Giesler, Alexander Henderson (Faringdon), Julian Paxton, St John Philby and George Tod.

Please note that uncatalogued material appears at the end of this Guide.

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

**ARAMCO.**

GB165-0013

TS report by William Mulligan on the visit of King Abdul Aziz ibn Saud to ARAMCO (Arabian American Oil Company) in January 1947 which was reproduced in 1961 as a memento for Aramco employees and a two page TS 'Program of the reception for H.R.H. Sa'ud Ibn 'Abdul 'Aziz, the crown prince, at the Saudi Arab Airport' on 22 March 1948. 1 vol.; 2 sheets. Handlist.

**BROADHURST, Brig. Ronald Joseph Callender.** (1906-1976).

GB165-0038

Photocopies of papers on customs matters and oil prospection in Egypt, 1886-1887; photocopy of a MS diary of the Nile Expedition of 1889 by a member of the 86th Foot with cuttings of the period; photocopy of reports of handling of smugglers by the Egyptian Coastguard Service, 1889-1890. 1 box. Handlist.

**CAMERON WATT, Prof. Donald.** (b. 1928)

GB165-0296

Press-cutting collection from British newspapers covering: oil; the Arabian peninsula; Middle East (in general); Egypt; Cyprus; Malta; Eisenhower Doctrine; Iran; Lebanon; Libya; Iraq Revolution; Israel; Jordan; Syria; Turkey; Sudan; French North Africa; Somaliland; the Suez Crisis; some maps. 11 boxes. Handlist.

**DEIGHTON, H. S.**

GB165-0081

TS extracts from the 1882 diary of Lady Anne Blunt (copy of MS in the British Library); broadcast of 5 February 1949 "Palestine and the Powers"; TS extracts from papers by A.H.T. Chisholm on the Cairo Arab Petroleum Congress, 1959. 79 sheets.

**ENSOR, Andrew Fisher.** (1918-2008).

GB165-0595

Documents relating to Andrew F. Ensor's career in the oil industry in the 1940s-1970s, including correspondence, memoranda and internal company reports. Also includes a paper he wrote in 1979 about his dealings with OPEC leaders in the 1960s and early 1970s and notes on

the book 'The Prize: the epic quest for oil, money, and power' by Daniel Yergin c1991. 7 boxes. Handlist.

**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.

**KNAPP, Wilfrid Francis.** (1924-2011).

GB165-0554

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. 1 file. Handlist.

**MANCE, Brig.-Gen. Sir H. Osborne.** (1875-1966).

GB165-0200

Papers on the operations of the Ottoman Bank throughout the Middle East, including dealings over railways, trade agreements, oil, mines and other operations, 1911-60. 8 boxes. Handlist.

**MURRAY, Dr. John.** (1912-86)

GB165-0322

"Iran Today: an economic & descriptive survey" prepared by Dr. Murray for the information of delegates to the International Islamic Economic Conference, Tehran, October 1950 and newspaper articles, 1955-1964, relating to oil, economics and development in the Middle East by John Murray and a TS text of a radio broadcast for 'The World Today' on 'Oil – Politics and Power' broadcast in 1966. 1 box. Handlist.

**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.

**NICHOLLS, R.K.** (b.1921)

GB165-0335

OMAN ARCHIVE: Oman Visit Report *1<sup>st</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> June 1964*: Report written by Nicholls for Petroleum Development Oman (PDO). The report considers suitable marine locations in the Saih al Malsh Bay area near Muscat for ocean tanker crude oil loading facilities, a barge jetty, and other problems relating to crude oil off-takes; *Oman '93*: Booklet published by the Ministry of Information about development within Oman. The booklet was sent to Nicholls as a gift from Ayild Waleed a former colleague of Nicholls' and it is annotated to this effect. 1 box. Handlist.

**PAXTON, Julian, F.E.** (b.1937)

GB165-0331

OMAN ARCHIVE: Miscellaneous collection of PDO (Petroleum Development Oman) company files mainly from the PDO office in Muscat, which was closed in 1976. The files were retained by Paxton as part of a salvage operation and would otherwise have been destroyed. The papers contain some reports, but mainly consist of subject and organisational files used by the staff of the Muscat office for reference. The collection also contains a small amount of Paxton's own research papers arising from his interest in Bertram Thomas an early explorer in Oman, and some printed materials relating to Oman and other Middle Eastern countries. 14 boxes. Handlist.

**PHILBY, Harry St. John Bridger.** (1885-1960).

GB165-0229

Political and personal correspondence, memos, travel diaries, exploration reports, engagement books, published and unpublished literary MSS, c.1915-57, covering Transjordan, Iraq, Palestine, Arabia and including correspondence and minutes of meetings of Sharqieh Ltd. and Mitchell Cotts Ltd. Includes papers relating to the oil concessions in Arabia 1906-1960. 89 boxes. Handlist. Photographic collection.

**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.

**RICHARDS, Herbert Arthur.** (1866-1957).

GB165-0241

Notebook and accounts of Herbert Richards' life in Mesopotamia and Persia, 1889-1906, including a journey from Ahwaz to Isfahan, and sighting of oil deposits in Shuster; article from a Persian newspaper on the death of Nasr ed din Shah; valedictory letter from Richards' Persian staff in Tehran, 1904; letter of thanks from the Office of Works to Richards for his report on the Associated Khanats in connection with the water supply to the Legation in Tehran, 1904. Small envelope labelled 'train tickets Tehran' with 3 small train tickets and a diplomatic pass issued by the Department of Police City of Chicago 1928 for Herbert Richards. 1 box. Photographic collection. Handlist.

**SEARLE, David.** (b.1933)

GB165-0562

OMAN ARCHIVE: Papers and photographs relating to David Searle's service in the Royal Oman Police, 1980-1984, including his certificate of service, Royal Oman Police Officer's Club Rules, official parade programmes, a PDO (Petroleum Development Oman) News magazine and digital copies of photographs from his service in Oman. 1 file; 119 digital images. Handlist.

**STANTON, Benjamin Whitelaw.** (1856-1927).

GB165-0270

Baptismal certificate of Elsie Stainton, Shiraz, 1884; 2 menus for dinners given by the Shah, 1901 and 1902; 2 letters from General A. Houtum Schindler to Stainton, 1907 and 1912; MS notes for Stainton's Persian dictionary/grammar; series of articles on Persia by Stainton

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published in *The Financier*, 1912-13; press-cuttings from British newspapers relating to the Anglo-Persian Oil Company, 1914; Persia and the Anglo-Russian Agreement, 1916; the end of British Control of the Indo-European Telegraph, 1931; signed off-prints of 15 articles on Persia, India and Central Asia from *The Scottish Geographical Magazine*, 1916-20, by Lt.-Col. A.C. Yate. 1 folder. Handlist.

**TOD, George** (b.1914)

GB165-0349

Photocopy of 'From Pillar to Post. The family and autobiography of George Tod' who worked in the oil industry, including material on Iraq 1940-1965, Lebanon 1950-1953, Syria 1953-1956 and South East Arabia 1956-1962. 1 box

**WARTON, Keith.** (1940-2010)

GB165-0569

Papers and photographs relating to Keith Warton's secondment from the Royal Air Force to the Sultan of Oman's Air Force (SOAF) between September 1966 and May 1968. The papers include maps of Oman, captions for slides and notes written by Keith Warton for talks given on a trip to Oman in 2008. The notes include general notes on equipment, facilities, tactics and operations; an account of an ambush on an oil convoy in 1967 and an account of evacuating casualties from Raven's Roost airstrip in 1968. The photographs consist of 2 boxes of 35mm colour slides taken by Keith Warton during his service in Oman 1966-1968 and include images of daily life in Oman, army movements, roads, aircraft, street scenes, aerial photography, official ceremonies and landscapes. 2 folders; 2 slide 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.

**HENDERSON, Alexander, 1st Baron Faringdon.** (1850-1934)

GB165-0313

Papers relating to the formation and commercial activities of the National Bank of Turkey, especially in relation to Mesopotamian oil, and various building contracts and loans; negotiations with the Foreign Office over the extent of the bank's influence; correspondents include Louis Mallet, Sir Edward Grey, Sir Arthur Nicholson, Sir Henry Babington Smith, H.P. Kingham, and S. de Bilinski. Draft Catalogue. 50 boxes.