

**Reference code:** GB165-0178

**Title:** Sir Austen Layard Collection

**Name of creator:** Layard, Sir Austen Henry (1817-1894)

**Dates of creation of material:** 1841-1850

**Level of description:** Fonds

**Extent:** 23 sheets

**Biographical history:** Layard, Sir Austen Henry (1817-1894)

Born 5 March 1817, Paris, son of Henry Layard (Ceylon Civil Service) and Marianne Layard (née Austen). Educated privately, mainly in Italy. Entered solicitor's office of his uncle Henry Layard, 1833; left England for Ceylon, 1839, travelling overland with Edward Mitford; parted company with Mitford at Hamadan, August 1840; met Émil Botta who was excavating Nineveh; travelled in Asia Minor under the patronage of Stratford Canning, British Ambassador to Ottoman Empire; excavated Nineveh, Nimrud and Babylon; appointed to the British Embassy at Constantinople, 1849; Liberal MP for Aylesbury, 1852-1857; Undersecretary for Foreign Affairs, 1853; MP for Southwark, 1860; Undersecretary for Foreign Affairs, 1861-1866; Appointed Trustee of the National Gallery, 1866; Chief Commissioner of Works, 1868-69; British Minister at Madrid, 1869. Married, 1869, Mary, daughter of Sir John Guest. Died 5 July 1894.

**Scope and content:** Photocopies of 6 MS letters to Edward Mitford, 1841-1850, on his travels in Persia, Iraq and Turkey.

**System of arrangement:** Chronological.

**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 Gordon Waterfield

**Immediate source of acquisition:** Received from Gordon Waterfield, January 1974, and copied at his request before he donated them to the British Museum Department of Manuscripts.

**Location of originals:** British Library, Layard Papers.

**Finding aids:** In Guide; Handlist

**Archivist's note:** Fonds level description created by Clare Brown 1 Mar 1999 and revised by Debbie Usher 13 Dec 2023