

**Reference code:** GB165-0252

**Title:** Sir Herbert Samuel Collection

**Name of creator:** Samuel, Sir Herbert Louis (1870-1963) 1st Viscount Samuel, statesman

**Dates of creation of material:** 1914-1939

**Level of description:** Fonds

**Extent:** 2 boxes

**Biographical history:** Samuel, Sir Herbert Louis (1870-1963) 1st Viscount Samuel

Born 6 November 1870, son of Edwin Samuel and Clara Samuel (née Yates). Educated University College School; Balliol College, Oxford (BA 1893). Contested S. Oxfordshire 1895 & 1900; Liberal MP Cleveland Division, North Riding of Yorkshire, 1902-18; Liberal MP Darwen Division, Lancs., 1929-35; Parliamentary Under-Secretary Home Dept., 1905-09; Privy Counsellor, 1908; Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancashire, 1909-10 & 1915-16; Postmaster-General, 1910-14 & 1915-16; President of the Local Government Board, 1914-15; Secretary of State for Home Affairs, 1916; Chairman of Select Committee of House of Commons on National Expenditure, 1917-18; British Special Commissioner to Belgium, 1919; GBE 1920; High Commissioner, Palestine, 1920-25; Chairman, High Commissioner on the Coal Industry, 1925; GCB 1926; Chairman of the Liberal Party Organization, 1927-29; Leader of the Liberal Parliamentary Party, 1931-35; Secretary of State for Home Affairs, 1931-32; created Viscount Samuel, 1937; Liberal Leader, House of Lords, 1944-55; OM 1958. Married, 1897, Beatrice Franklin (d. 1959): 3 sons, 1 daughter. Died 5 February 1963.

**Scope and content:** Official papers, 1914-39, (including some photocopies and carbon copies) on the future of Palestine, Zionism, the McMahon Correspondence and a Palestine settlement, also correspondence with Lord Curzon on Arab nationalism, the French in Syria, etc.; photocopies of letters, 1920-22, to the Hon. Philip Samuel written from Jerusalem by his parents and other members of his family.

**System of arrangement:** As received.

**Access conditions:** Open

**Language of material:** English, French

**Physical Condition:** Some fading on the photocopies

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

**Custodial history:** In the possession of Lord Samuel.

**Immediate source of acquisition:** Box 1 compiled by Elizabeth Monroe with the agreement of Lord Samuel, 1962-1963; box 2 received from Prof. Bernard Wasserstein, Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies, Yarnton Manor, 19 Feb 1997.

**Related Units of Description:** Further Herbert Samuel papers are at the House of Lords Records Office and the Israel State Archives.

**Finding aids:** In Guide; Handlist

**Publication note:**

**Archivist's note:** Fonds level description created by Clare Brown 19 Oct 1999 and revised by Debbie Usher 19 May 2014. File level description created by Debbie Usher 19 May 2014 and last revised 13 Jun 2025.

## FILE LEVEL DESCRIPTION OF THE SIR HERBERT SAMEUL COLLECTION

### **Box 1**

|     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |            |                       |
|-----|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|-----------------------|
| 1/1 | <u>Break up of Ottoman Empire (Palestine)</u>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | 1914-1920  | 1 file                |
|     | Old Ref: Break up of Ottoman Empire (Palestine) DR 588.25                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |            |                       |
| 1/2 | <u>Memorandum: Syria, Palestine, Mesopotamia and the Arabian States</u>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | 1919-1920  | 1 file                |
|     | Photocopy of a MS Letter, in French, from Feisal to Samuel 10 Dec 1919 and a photocopy of a TS memorandum entitled 'Syria, Palestine, Mesopotamia and the Arabian States. Memorandum by Mr Herbert Samuel'.                                                                                                                                                                                    |            |                       |
| 1/3 | <u>Feisal and Syria</u>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | 1920-1923  | 1 file                |
|     | Correspondence relating to Feisal, Syria and Feisal's relations with the French as well as a proposed Arab Confederation.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |            |                       |
|     | Old Ref Samuel DS 244.4                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |            |                       |
| 1/4 | <u>Memorandum: Arab Position and Zionism</u>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | 2 Feb 1920 | 1 file<br>(25 sheets) |
|     | Memorandum written to Earl Curzon, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs covering the Arab position in Palestine, the land question, education, the possibilities of Palestine and Zionist plans for development work, especially in agriculture, tackling Malaria, a cadastral survey and immigration. The writer of the Memorandum is not stated but is likely to have been Chaim Weizmann. |            |                       |
|     | Old Ref: Papers of Peel Commission 1937-9. The McMahon Promise DS126                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |            |                       |
| 1/5 | <u>Administration of Transjordan</u>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | 1920-1924  | 1 file                |
|     | Photocopies of a letter from Hubert Young to Mr Samuel giving his view on Philby's suitability (strengths and weaknesses) for work in Transjordan 2 Jun 1920; letter from Lord Milner to Samuel 2 Oct 1922; TS 'Memorandum on Trans-Jordan and other Near East                                                                                                                                 |            |                       |

problems' by St John Philby June 1924 and  
correspondence and papers relating to this memorandum.

Old Ref 'Samuel Folder II. DS 241.5, DS 154.5

- |     |                                                                                                   |               |             |
|-----|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|-------------|
| 1/6 | <u>Palestine Economic and Political Survey</u>                                                    | [25 Jan 1924] | 1 file      |
|     | Photocopy of MS draft letter giving a survey of economic<br>and political conditions in Palestine |               | (24 sheets) |
|     | Old Ref 'Samuel Papers DS 126. I'                                                                 |               |             |
| 1/7 | <u>Personal Letters</u>                                                                           | 1915-1945     | 1 file      |

## **Box 2**

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|-----|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|--------|
| 2/1 | <u>Correspondence: Herbert to Philip Samuel</u>                         | 1920-1922 | 1 file |
|     | Letters to Philip Samuel from his father                                |           |        |
|     | Biographical History: Philip Ellis was the second son of Herbert Samuel |           |        |
| 2/2 | <u>Correspondence: Beatrice to Philip Samuel</u>                        | 1920-1922 | 1 file |
|     | Letters to Philip Samuel from his mother                                |           |        |
| 2/3 | <u>Correspondence: General and Family</u>                               | 1920-1922 | 1 file |
|     | Letters to Philip Samuel from Edwin and Hadassa Samuel and others       |           |        |