

Reference code: GB165-0229

Title: Harry St John Philby Collection

Name of creator: Philby, Harry St John Bridger (1885-1960) Explorer and Orientalist

Dates of creation of material: c1902-1957

Level of description: Fonds

Extent: 89 boxes

Biographical history: PHILBY, Harry St John Bridger (1885-1960)

Born 3 April 1885, St. John's, Badula, Ceylon, son of Henry and May Philby (née Duncan). Educated Westminster School; Trinity College, Cambridge (BA, 1907). Entered Indian Civil Service, 1908; Assistant Commissioner at Jhelum, Rawalpindi, Shahpur, Multan, Ambala, and Dera Ghazi Khan; Deputy Commissioner, Lyallpur, 1914; joined Punjab Government Secretariat, 1914; Secretary to Board of Examiners, Calcutta, 1915; Political Officer, Mesopotamia, MEF, from Nov. 1915, and served as Financial Asst. to Chief Political Officer, officiating Revenue Commissioner for Occupied Territories, Political Officer in charge of Amara district, and special duty at Baghdad; CIE 1917; in charge of British Political Mission to Central Arabia, 1917-18; crossed Arabian Peninsula from Uqair to Jidda; carried out exploration in South Central Arabia; in political charge of Central Arabian Mission to England, 1919; Adviser to Ministry of Interior, Mesopotamia, 1920-21; Chief British Representative, Transjordan, 1921-24; retired from ICS, 1925; elected to Council of Royal Geographical Society, 1925; awarded Sir Richard Burton memorial medal by Royal Asiatic Society, 1925; Resident Director in Arabia of Sharqieh Ltd, 1926-46; further exploration of Arabian Peninsula 1930-55; Director, Mitchell Cotts (Sharqieh) Ltd., Jeddah, 1946-55. Married, 1910, Dora Johnston (d.1957): one son, three daughters.

Scope and content: Political and personal correspondence, memos, travel diaries, exploration reports, engagement books, published and unpublished literary MSS: Transjordan, Iraq, Palestine, Arabia, including correspondence and minutes of meetings of Sharqieh Ltd. and Mitchell Cotts Ltd.

Access conditions: Open

Language of material: English; Latin; French; German; Arabic; Persian; Urdu

Conditions governing reproduction: No restrictions on copying other than statutory regulations and preservation concerns; permission for publication to be sought from the Estate of H. St. J. B. Philby with whom copyright rests.

Custodial history: In the possession of St. John Philby. The collection was purchased from his Saudi heirs by ARAMCO.

Immediate source of acquisition: Received from ARAMCO, 1972.

Related Units of Description:

In the MEC Archive

- GB165-0201 Norman Mayers Papers: Box 2 File 2 Letter from Philby to Norman Mayers
- GB165-0211 Mott-Radclyffe: Richard Mumford Brief Outline of his experiences in Transjordan when confidential secretary to Philby

In other repositories

- Royal Geographical Society: Archon code 0402: Correspondence, journals and papers relating to travel in Arabia, 1924-1955. Reference HSP. The catalogue to this collection is available from *Access to Archives* <http://www.a2a.pro.gov.uk/> cited online 4 March 2003.
- Stanford University, Hoover Institution on War Revolution and Peace Archon Code 1113: Correspondence with Elizabeth Riefstahl, 1933-1960. Reference NUC MS 72-1486
- Trinity College, Cambridge: Material relating to Philby's university career.

Finding aids: In Guide; Handlist

Archivist's note: Fonds level description created by C. Brown 27 July 1999 and revised by D. Usher 9 October 2003.

Conditions in Transjordan 1927

Conditions in Jordan 1955

- 3/4 King Hussein's visit to Transjordan (Jan 1924)
Emir Abdullah's visit to England (Oct 1922)
Emir Abdullah's visit to Palestine (1922 and 1923)
- 3/5 Elizabeth Monroe: "Transjordan; Philby's version of his own affairs"
- 3/6 Diaries: Persia 23 July 1921- 16 Aug 1921
Persia: Account of a journey from Hamadan to Karind via Sennah
Philby: Notes on Persian literature
- 3/7 Persian Gulf treaties 1820-1900

BOX 4

- 4/1 (Gertrude Bell) Arab Bureau, Basra
The Muntafik
Arab aims
Pacification of the tribes
- 4/2 Philby's Mission to Simla, July 1916
- 4/3 Philby's memos. as Revenue Officer, Basra, 1916-1917
- 4/4 Papers on the Amara district, Feb- May 1917
- 4/5 Memo and telegrams re Euphrates Line, 1917
Note on district of Suq al-Shuyukh, (1917)
Note of a tour from Amara to Swaib, 1917
Bonham-Carter: Memo on admin. of civil justice in the Baghdad vilayet
Diary of a trip from Amara to Shatt al-cArab, Jan 1917
- 4/6 Miscellaneous correspondence: Iraq
- 4/7 Miscellaneous correspondence: Iraq

BOX 5

- 5/1 Iraq: diary for 5th-23rd October 1920
"Mesopotamia diary" Oct-Dec 1915
- 5/2 Correspondence re Philby's salary in Iraq, 1917-1918, 1920-1921

- 5/3 Draft mandate from Mesopotamia/Syria
Correspondence with League of Nations Union
Proposals for a Middle East Dept.
Letters to Philby re Mesopotamia from MPs
- 5/4 Sayyid Talib al-Naqib: Letters and papers, 1919-1925
- 5/5 W.S. Blunt: Letters to Philby and a memo on a settlement in Mesopotamia
- 5/6 Cotton growing in Iraq
- 5/7 Note on the proposed railway and pipeline from the Mediterranean to Iraq
- 5/8 Iraq: Development of resources, 1917-1920
Military administration: control of supplies, 1916-1917

BOX 6

- Electoral law of Iraq
- 6/1 Iraq: Civil administration 1919-1920
- 6/2 Articles on Iraq
- 6/3 Arab rebellion 1920
Persian affairs
Military aspect of Mesopotamia/Persia situation
- 6/4 Papers on the Kurdish and Armenian questions, 1919-1920
Papers on the future of Mesopotamia, 1919-1920
- 6/5 Iraq: Appointment of Sir Percy Cox as High Commissioner, 1920
Feisal's candidature for the throne of Iraq, 1920-1921
- 6/6 Iraq Sept/Oct 1920-Jan 1921
- 6/7 Iraq: General correspondence
- 6/8 Electoral Law of Iraq

BOX 7

- Unpublished book: Stepping Stones in Jordan
Unpublished book: Arabian Mandates

BOX 8

Unpublished book: Mesopotage
Unpublished book: Mines of Midian
Unpublished book: More Arabian Days (2 chapters)

BOX 9

Unpublished book: The Legend of Lijman
Unpublished book: Simon Peters Out

BOX 10

- 10/1 Palestine: correspondence 1920-1929
- 10/2 Palestine: correspondence 1929-1960
Syria: Attempt on Colonel Stirling's life, 1949
- 10/3 The "Philby Plan" for Palestine
- 10/4 Palestine: Misc. correspondence
- 10/5 Notes by Mrs Hattis Tolef and Elizabeth Monroe on Philby's involvement in
Palestinian affairs
Philby: 2 lectures on Palestine
- 10/6 Huleh Lake concession
- 10/7 Articles on Palestine 1925-1957

BOX 11

Engagement books and pocket diaries (40 items)

BOX 12

- 12/1 [Capt. W.H.I. Shakespear) Part of an account of a journey from Kuwait to Suez, via
Riyadh, Feb- Mar 1914
- 12/2 Route maps of Philby's journeys in Arabia
- 12/3 Diary of Rub' al- Khali journey 1932 and various journeys in 1931
Notebook 'C' Mecca-Riyadh, Taif-Shifa 9 Aug 1931- 18 Oct 1931
Notebook 'D' Mecca-Riyadh, A....-Dahna, 23 Oct 1931- 3 Jan 1932

- 12/4 Proposed Rub' al-Khali trip 1925
- 12/5 Aftermath of Rub' al-Khali journey
- 12/6 Part of MS of The Empty Quarter
- 12/7 Diary from 1930 (extracts)

BOX 13

- 13/1 Diary 1935-1936
 - Correspondence on journey to S.W. Arabia 1936
 - Notebook "IV" 19 Nov 1934- 11 Feb 1935
 - Notebook "VIII" begins 21 Apr 1936
- 13/2 Diaries for 1938
- 13/3 Diaries for 1945-1950
- 13/4 Diaries for Midian expeditions 1950-1952
- 13/5 Diaries for Midian expeditions 1953
 - Diary 29 December 1952 – 4 Feb 1953, Jidda to Wadi Kibrit
- 13/6 Diaries 1953-1955

BOX 14

- 14/1 Wilfred Thesiger: Letters 1948-1949
 - D. Carruthers: Letters 1919-1958
 - Bertram Thomas: Letters 1922-1932
- 14/2 Correspondence of Norman Stone Pearn, Dr. Hugh Scott
- 14/3 Correspondence of Rosita Forbes, Countess Malmignati, Freya Stark
- 14/4 Correspondence on Midian journeys
 - Miscellaneous travel correspondence and route notes
 - Leopold Weiss: Letters to *Cologne Zeitung* 1930
- 14/5 Philby: Various articles on exploration and travel in Arabia
- 14/6 Philby: Various articles on exploration and travel in Arabia

BOX 15

- 15/1 Basra Times: Special suppl. on Philby's Mission to Ibn Saud Sept/Oct 1918
- 15/2 Nejd affairs 1915-1923
- 15/3 Meeting between Ibn Saud and Sir Percy Cox (1920)
Correspondence between Philby and India Office on Ibn Saud's subsidy (1919,1920)
Philby's return to England 1918
- 15/4 Faisal b. Saud's visit to England 1919
- 15/5 Hejaz/Nejd rivalry 1915-1926

BOX 16

- 16/1 Philby's correspondence with Hugh Dalton 1929-1930
- 16/2 Charles R. Crane: correspondence with Philby on Arabian affairs
Correspondence on his interests in the Yemen
- 16/3 Boundary dispute between Nejd and Iraq, 1928-1930
- 16/4 Kingdom of Hejaz and Nejd, 1926-1932
- 16/5 Kingdom of Saudi Arabia 1932-1958
- 16/6 Articles and letters on the Buraimi dispute
Correspondence on Muscat/Oman dispute, 1957-1958
Copy of Treat of Sib, 1920
- 16/8 The pilgrimage
- 16/9 Philby's researches on the Muslim calendar
- 16/10 British military mission at Taif
- 16/11 Sir A. Ryan: "The Jiddah European cemetery"
- 16/12 British Legation, Jiddah

BOX 17

- 17/1 Gertrude Bell: correspondence
- 17/2 A.T. Wilson: correspondence
Fuad Hamza: correspondence
- 17/3 Sir Percy Cox: correspondence
- 17/4 Sir R. Storrs: misc. correspondence

- Philby: letters and articles about T.E. Lawrence
W.H. Warner: Article on Islam
- 17/5 Geoffrey Stephenson: letters to Philby 1920-1922
Sir R. Bullard: letters to Philby 1916
- 17/6 H.R.P. Dickson: letters to Philby 1921-1959
Glubb Pasha: 4 letters to Philby 1924-1955
- 17/7 Meinertzhagen: Correspondence 1945-1952
F.G. Peake: Correspondence 1922-1929
Sir F.R. Wingate: Correspondence
and Sir R. Wingate
- 17/8 Leachmen correspondence 1917,1927-1948
- 17/9 Max Thornburg: correspondence and memos on oil in the Middle East

BOX 18

- 18/1 An account of the Sharif's expedition to Asir, 1910-1911
- 18/2 Crawford: Notes on Arabia, 1920
- 18/3 The British Club in Jiddah (1930)
- 18/4 Visit of Princess Alice May to Saudi Arabia, 1938
Visit of Emir Feisal and Amir Saud to England 1926 and 1935
Correspondence on the Saudi Royal Family
- 18/5 Slavery in Arabia, 1922-1956
- 18/6 Ethiopia and Eritrea
Somaliland
- 18/7 Egypt
Yemen
Libya
- 18/8 Philby: Articles, lectures, reviews on King Abdul Aziz Ibn Saud
- 18/9 Philby: Articles, lectures, review on Saudi Arabia and the Wahhabi movement

BOX 19

- 19/1 Establishment of Sharqieh Ltd. 1925-1929
- 19/2 Correspondence with R.E. Fisher, 1922-1932

- 19/3 Letters from Kazi, Jiddah, 1930-1944
19/4 Meetings of Sharqieh directors, Jiddah 1940, 1945-1946
Meetings of Sharqieh directors, London 1939-1945

BOX 20

- 20/1 Sharqieh Ltd.: General correspondence Oct- Nov 1928
20/2 Sharqieh Ltd.: General correspondence Dec 1928- Jan 1929
20/3 Sharqieh Ltd.: General correspondence Feb- May 1929

BOX 21

- 21/1 Sharqieh Ltd.: General correspondence June-Aug 1929
21/2 Sharqieh Ltd.: General correspondence Sept- Nov 1929
21/3 Sharqieh Ltd.: General correspondence Dec 1929- Mar 1930

BOX 22

- 22/1 Sharqieh Ltd.: General correspondence Apr-Sept 1930
22/2 Sharqieh Ltd.: General correspondence Oct 1930-Mar 1931
22/3 Sharqieh Ltd.: General correspondence Apr-Dec 1931
22/4 Sharqieh Ltd.: General correspondence Jan 1932- May 1933

BOX 23

- 23/1 Sharqieh Ltd.: General correspondence July 1933- June 1934
23/2 Sharqieh Ltd.: General correspondence July 1934- June 1935
23/3 Sharqieh Ltd.: General correspondence July 1935- Dec 1936
23/4 Sharqieh Ltd.: General correspondence 1937

BOX 24

- 24/1 Sharqieh Ltd.: General correspondence 1938-1940
24/2 Sharqieh Ltd.: Telegrams 1928-1929

24/3 Sharqieh Ltd.: Telegrams 1930-1931

BOX 25

25/1 Sharqieh Ltd.: Telegrams 1931-1934

25/2 Sharqieh Ltd.: Telegrams 1935-1936

25/3 Sharqieh Ltd.: Telegrams 1937-1940

BOX 26

26/1 Sharqieh Ltd.: Correspondence between Philby and the May 1926-June 1928
Directors

26/2 Sharqieh Ltd.: Correspondence between Philby and the July 1928- Apr 1930
Directors

26/3 Sharqieh Ltd.: Correspondence between Philby and the May 1929- Apr 1930
Directors

26/4 Sharqieh Ltd.: Correspondence between Philby and the May 1930- Dec 1931
Directors

BOX 27

27/1 Sharqieh Ltd.: Correspondence between Philby and the 1932-1934, 1938
Directors

27/2 Sharqieh Ltd.: Correspondence between Philby and the 1936-1939
Directors

27/3 Sharqieh Ltd.: Correspondence with Gordon, Woodroffe Nov 1928- Mar 1929
& Co. Ltd.

27/4 Sharqieh Ltd.: Correspondence with Gordon, Woodroffe Apr-Sept 1929
& Co. Ltd.

27/5 Sharqieh Ltd.: Correspondence with Gordon, Woodroffe Jan 1930-Dec 1931
& Co. Ltd.

BOX 28

28/1	Sharqieh Ltd.: Correspondence with Gordon, Woodroffe & Co. Ltd.	Jan 1932- Sept 1935
28/2	Sharqieh Ltd.: Correspondence with Gordon, Woodroffe & Co. Ltd.	Jan 1936- Dec 1937
28/3	Sharqieh Ltd.: Letters to Jiddah Office	1928
28/4	Sharqieh Ltd.: Letters to Jiddah Office	1928-1929
28/5	Sharqieh Ltd.: Head Office letters to Jiddah office	1930-1933

Unboxed (Cupboard I)

	Bound diary of a visit to the Hijaz	20 Oct 1926- 6 June 1931
	Bound diary of a visit to Jiddah and Aden	17 Oct 1924-30 Jan 1925
	Bound diary of a visit to Jiddah and Hijaz	4 Oct 1925- 13 Mar 1926

BOX 29

29/1	Qu'ara gold mine, Iraq	1928-1929
29/2	Qu'ara gold mine, Iraq	1930
29/3	Qu'ara gold mine, Iraq	1930-1935

BOX 30

30/1	Sharqieh Ltd.: Correspondence with Midian Ltd.	
30/2	Sharqieh Ltd.: Oil concessions:Farsan Islands	1926-1927
	Negotiations of Messrs. J. Taylor and Sons	1921-1925
	Asiatic Petroleum Co.	1927
30/3	Sharqieh Ltd.: Philby's correspondence with Col. Etherton re oil and transport concessions	1935-1936
30/4	Sharqieh Ltd.: Correspondence re gold mining concessions	1933-1936
30/5	Arabia: minerals-misc. documents	
30/6	Sharqieh Ltd.: Correspondence with the Marconi Co. Ltd.	
30/7	Sharqieh Ltd.: Correspondence with the Socony	1927-1944

30/8 Sharqieh Ltd.: Negotiations for arms contracts 1927-1935

BOX 31

31/1 Sharqieh Ltd.: Silver recoinage contract 1929-1931
31/2 Sharqieh Ltd.: Agency for Petters Ltd., 1928-1944
31/3 Sharqieh Ltd.: Goodrich tyre agency 1933-1938
31/4 Sharqieh Ltd.: Correspondence on import of matches 1930-1939
31/5 Sharqieh Ltd.: Correspondence with Ford Motor Co. 1929-1934
31/6 Sharqieh Ltd.: Correspondence with Ford Motor Co. and
motor transport agreement

BOX 32

32/1 Sharqieh Ltd.: Correspondence with Ford Motor Co. 1935-1942
32/2 Sharqieh Ltd.: Account with Ford Motor Co. 1932-1940
32/3 Sharqieh Ltd.: Correspondence with Golden Tours, etc. 1930-1933
32/4 Correspondence on Saudi Arabian economic affairs 1929-1959
32/5 Sharqieh Ltd.: Correspondence on Hejaz State Bank 1933-1934
Arabian National Bank of the Hijaz 1922-1929
32/6 Correspondence on aviation in Arabia 1928-1936
32/7 Proposals for construction of Jedda-Mecca railway and
road

BOX 33

33/1 Sharqieh Ltd.: Personnel
33/2 Sharqieh Ltd.: Accounts 1927-1937
33/3 Philby's personal account with Sharqieh
33/4 Elias Atiyeh: Correspondence with Philby 1927-1930
33/5 Mustapha Nadir: correspondence

BOX 34

- 34/1 Sharqieh Ltd.: Misc. projects
34/2 Sharqieh Ltd.: Misc. correspondence
34/3 Sharqieh Ltd.: Correspondence with Sir A.E. Dunbar 1940-1946

BOX 35

- 35/1 Correspondence between D.C. Holmes and Philby 1946-1959
35/2 Local management of Mitchell Cotts
Correspondence between Philby and Macintosh Whyte,
McEwen and Wenham
S. Jaroudi: Business legislation in Saudi Arabia 1956
Minutes and agenda of local board meetings 1950-1953
35/3 Mitchell Cotts Ltd.: Monthly reports from Jeddah Sept 1951- Feb 1955

BOX 36

- 36/1 Mitchell Cotts Ltd.: Jeddah/Medina road contract 1948-1950
36/2 Mitchell Cotts Ltd.: Jeddah/Medina road contract Aug 1950-Apr 1952
36/3 Mitchell Cotts Ltd.: Jeddah/Medina road contract May-Dec 1952
36/4 Mitchell Cotts Ltd.: Jeddah/Medina road contract 1953-1954
36/5 Mitchell Cotts Ltd.: Jeddah/Medina road contract, Drafts
of contract

BOX 37

- 37/1 Mitchell Cotts: Riyadh palace contract 1950-1959
37/2 Mitchell Cotts: Correspondence with Hampton & Sons 1951-1955
Ltd.
37/3 Mitchell Cotts: Correspondence with John Howard Ltd. 1947-1955
37/4 Mitchell Cotts: Socony Vacuum Oil Co. 1946- 1954
37/5 Mitchell Cotts: Correspondence on motor transport (Ford 1946-1947
and Chevrolet agencies)
37/6 Mitchell Cotts: Correspondence on motor transport (Ford 1947-1953

and Chevrolet agencies)

- 37/7 Mitchell Cotts: Correspondence on motor transport 1949-1951
(Land Rovers)
- 37/8 Mitchell Cotts: Correspondence on motor transport 1950-1955
(Rolls Royce Ltd.)

BOX 38

- 38/1 Mitchell Cotts: Correspondence on Tangye Pumps 1946-1949
- 38/2 Mitchell Cotts: Correspondence on Tangye Pumps 1950-1954
- 38/3 Mitchell Cotts: Purchase of silver riyals 1948
R.F. Mikesell: "A program to improve the monetary
system of Saudi Arabia"
- 38/4 Mitchell Cotts: Correspondence on the purchase of arms 1948-1956
- 38/5 Communications; telephone and broadcasting schemes 1947-1955
- 38/6 Mitchell Cotts: Correspondence with Marconi Co. 1951-1955

BOX 39

- 39/1 Saudi Govt. railroad: tariffs and regulations 1951
Jedda/Mecca electrification schemes 1947-1951
- 39/2 Mitchell Cotts: proposed quarantine station at Jidda 1947-1951
- 39/3 Aristotle Onassis: Oil agreement with Saudi Govt 1954
Correspondence re oil tankers 1950
- 39/4 Sulphur in Arabia: Report of exploration by Philby and Mustafa Sadik 1951-1953

BOX 40

- 40/1 Mitchell Cotts: Telegrams
- 40/2 Mitchell Cotts: Miscellaneous
- 40/3 Mitchell Cotts: Miscellaneous
- 40/4 Mitchell Cotts: Miscellaneous

40/5 Mitchell Cotts: Miscellaneous

BOX 41

41/1 Mitchell Cotts: Misc. correspondence

41/2 Mitchell Cotts: Misc. correspondence

41/3 Mitchell Cotts: Misc. correspondence

41/4 Mitchell Cotts: Misc. correspondence

BOX 42

42/1 Philby: Reports on current events in Arabia 1925-1931

42/2 Misc. articles on the Middle East

42/3 Aramco: Mainly Philby's correspondence with George
Rentz

Letter from Kim Philby

42/4 Correspondence on the Emirate of Ja'alan

42/6 Correspondence concerning Philby's conversion to Islam

42/7 Saudi Arabia: Social customs

Arabic poetry

Shelved in Cupboard II

Islam in England and correspondence with Muslims
living in the West.

Social and Aramco

Islamic texts [Philby's studies in Arabic and Persian]

British clubs and societies

Clubs and societies in R.G.S

India

Published books, MSS and proofs:

Notes for a history of Arabia

MS and correspondence of *Pilgrim in Arabia*
Correspondence on *Forty years in the Wilderness Arabian Highlands*
MSS and correspondence of *Heart of Arabia*
Arabia of the Wahabis
Poetry MSS and correspondence
MSS and correspondence of *Haroun al Rashid*
Background of Islam
Book reviews; correspondence with publishers; correspondence on *Land of Midian, Saudi Arabia*
Correspondence on *Arabian Days, Arabian Mandates, Empty Quarter, Arabian Jubilee, Sheba's daughters* (plus part of a second MS of this)
MS of Mesopotamia
File of correspondence with *Encyclopaedia Britannica*

Shelved in Cupboard III

AUB; American Legation
British politics
Travel, epigraphy notebooks, visiting cards
Entomology, Mammals
Botany, Geology, Astronomy
Ornithology
Articles and correspondence with newspapers
Journalism (misc.) and broadcasting
Correspondence with friends (general)
Correspondence with friends (Donald Robertson, Dorothy Ousman, Elisabeth Riefstahl, Tracy Philipps, Bayky Winder, R. Said-Reute)
Report on the operations of the Najd Mission, 29 Oct 1917- 1 Nov 1918 (pencil draft)
Najd Mission: Accounts and financial correspondence, 1918-1926
Najd Mission: Correspondence. 3 bound vols.
Diary of political mission to Central Arabia, 1917-1918. 5 vols
Misc and minor files (French translations from Arabic etc)

Misc. and minor correspondence (4 boxes)

Houses

Personal finance

Presscuttings (only partially arranged)